

Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting

Nome, Alaska

April 27-28, 2009

Note: This synopsis is available on the ASAA web site at www.asaa.org. More information on agenda items may be obtained from an ASAA Board member (listed on web site) or from the ASAA office (907) 563-3723.

Action Items The Board of Directors (BOD) took the following action:

➤ Seating of New Board Member: Welcomed new Region 3 board member, Dan Michael, assistant principal at Wasilla High School, who will complete the remainder of the term left vacant when Allan Howard of Soldotna announced his retirement.

➤ Awards: Thanked outgoing board president, Allan Howard, for his many years of service to the high school students of Alaska.

➤ Minutes: Approved minutes of the February 22-23, 2009 regular meeting and the March 31, 2009 special teleconference meeting. (Consensus)

➤ Adopted Bylaw Amendments: Moved to adopt the following bylaw amendments, effective as stated:

1. This amends Bylaw Article 6, **Contest Rules**, to clarify how ASAA deals with appeals of game suspensions.

Game Suspension as a Result of Contest Ejection (see specific Supplementary Rules for hockey):

“A player or coach shall serve a one game suspension as a result of the first game ejection during a specific sport season; a two game suspension as a result of a second game ejection, and subsequent cumulative suspensions for additional ejections during the season.”

The following wording was added to Section 6 to clarify the board's intent:

(Add) – “Appeal of a Game Suspension:

The Board of Directors will not hear an appeal of a game suspension penalty under this section, from either a player, a coach or other affected individual, if the contest ejection which caused the suspension was based on a judgement call of an official. The Executive Director will waive a game suspension under this section only if the game ejection was a result of a misapplication of a rule by a contest official. Any misapplication of a rule which results in a game ejection must be reported by the calling official, by no later than noon of the next business day following the end of a contest, by notifying ASAA verbally and by following up in writing.”

2. This amends Bylaw Article 4, Appeal Procedure, to clarify how ASAA deals with appeals of decisions of the Executive Director.

ARTICLE 4

APPEAL PROCEDURE

Section 1 Appeals from Executive Director Decisions to Appeals Board

A. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days of receipt of a decision of the Executive Director, a member school or an individual may appeal such decision by requesting, in writing, that the case be presented to the Board of Directors, which shall act as the Appeals Board. When requested by an individual student or by the parent or guardian of the student, the student's school shall submit the student's appeal to the Appeals Board.

B. The written appeal shall specifically set forth the grounds for the appeal, and include all relevant factual matters and citations to applicable provisions of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws, and to State or Federal statutes or constitutions.

C. **(Add) – The Appeals Board shall not be bound by the provisions of this section in an appeal of a game suspension of a player, or of a coach, when the suspension resulted from a game ejection which was based on the judgement call of a contest official. The Appeals Board will hear an appeal of a game suspension under this section, only, if the game ejection which caused the suspension, was a result of a misapplication of a rule. A misapplication of a rule which results in a game ejection, must be reported to ASAA by the contest official, by no later than noon of the next business day following the end of a contest, with a subsequent follow-up in writing.**

Section 2 Appeals Board Procedures

A. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Executive Director shall promptly transmit to Appeals Board members a copy of the Executive Director's decision from which the appeal is taken, all relevant documents upon which the Executive Director's decision was based, copies of the applicable provisions of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws, State or Federal statutes or constitutions upon which the Executive Director's decision was based, and copies of all written materials provided by the appellant in support of the appeal. The Appeals Board may receive additional evidence not considered by the Executive Director. All additional evidence submitted by the appealing party, including evidence submitted in response to any requests by the Appeals Board for additional information pertaining to the appeal, shall be promptly supplied by the affected student, member school or school personnel.

B. The Appeals Board may review the appeal and render a decision thereon on the basis of only the written materials provided to it in connection with the appeal. Oral hearings are not a matter of right, but may be granted, in the discretion of the Appeals Board, upon request by the appellant student or school, by the Executive Director, or by the Appeals Board itself, for good

cause shown. A hearing, if granted, will be held during the next regular meeting of the ASAA Board of Directors, unless an expedited hearing is granted.

C. The appellant may request that the Board of Appeals conduct an expedited oral hearing. Such a request will be promptly reviewed by the Chair of the Appeals Board, who will approve or deny the request. If approved, an expedited oral hearing will be scheduled at the earliest available time consistent with the requirement that a quorum of the Appeals Board be present. An expedited hearing may be conducted by teleconference. When an expedited hearing is requested, the Appeals Board may assess the costs of the appeal against the member school or individual. Assessable costs may include travel, telephonic and copying costs, including teleconferences, and other related expenses. If the decision of Executive Director is overturned by the Appeals Board, these costs may be waived.

D. All hearings conducted by the Appeals Board will be held in executive session, unless an open public session is requested by the school or by the individual bringing forth the appeal. Audio recordings of hearings will be made by the Association. Deliberations of the Appeals Board following hearings will be in executive session, which will not be recorded.

E. The Executive Director will participate in the hearing for the purpose of providing information but will be excluded from participating in deliberations. Once the Appeals Board has reached its decision, it may invite the Executive Director to join the Board prior to moving out of Executive Session, if the Board decides that it needs assistance with the wording of the decision.

F. In considering evidence provided in favor of or in opposition to the appeal, including written documents, and, if applicable, testimony at any hearing, the Appeals Board shall not be bound by the technical rules relating to evidence and witnesses. Relevant evidence will be considered if it is the sort of evidence upon which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of a common law or statutory rule that makes improper the admission of the evidence over objection into civil action. Issues regarding consideration of evidence will be resolved by the Chair of the Appeals Board, unless a member of the Board objects to the Chair's ruling, in which case the evidentiary issue will be resolved by majority vote of the Appeals Board. Any such ruling pertaining to evidence or testimony submitted at a hearing shall be made during the hearing.

G. Following its deliberations, the Appeals Board shall make a written decision setting forth its findings of fact, conclusions based on the Association's Constitution, Bylaws and/or any other relevant Federal or State law, and shall include any resulting order. Such findings, conclusions and order shall be entered no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the Appeals Board's receipt of all materials and any additional information submitted in response to a request by the Board, and shall be signed by the Chair or, in the Chair's absence, by an alternate Chair selected by the Appeals Board.

H. All decisions of the Appeals Board will be promptly transmitted by facsimile to the affected school and mailed to the home addresses, as provided by the school, of the affected student and the student's parent or guardian. The decision shall contain an express notice that it

constitutes a final decision of the Appeals Board and that any party wishing to appeal the decision to the Superior Court for the State of Alaska must file such an appeal within thirty (30) days from the date of the decision. (Carried – 8-0)

➤ 2010 State Basketball Tournament Format: After hearing a proposal from the state tournament bid committee to repeat the 2009 tournament format in 2010, the board voted to change the order of the tournaments in 2010, on a one year trial basis, as follows: play the 3A/4A games on Monday-Wednesday, March 15-17, and the 1A/2A games on Thursday-Saturday, March 18-20. (Carried 6-2)

➤ 2009 State Wrestling Tournament Format: After hearing various proposals for 2 day and 2 ½ day tournaments, the board voted to keep the format identical to 2008. This means that the 1A-3A tournament will be held in Anchorage at Bartlett High School on December 11-12, 2009, while the 4A tournament will be held in Eagle River at Chugiak High School on the same dates. There will not be a combined final day as had been proposed by staff. (Carried 5-3)

➤ Taunting Policy: Adopted the following policy on taunting:

“Any school wishing to incorporate a celebratory or motivational routine into an interscholastic activity (ie. Haka Dance) must adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) may only be performed as part of a pre-game or post-game activity,
- 2) may only be performed on the sidelines facing its own fans,
- 3) may not include taunting, disrobing or other inappropriate behaviors, and
- 4) must conform to sportsmanship values established by school districts, ASAA and the NFHS.

Penalties for failing to adhere to the above guidelines will be imposed by the contest officials using NFHS rules. The Head Official for the game will notify ASAA of any infraction of the rule. ASAA and school districts may impose additional sanctions for violations.” (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Region 5 Football Conference: Approved a request from Region 5 to form a football conference involving Sitka High School, Ketchikan High School and Thunder Mountain High School beginning in 2009-10. After 2 years, the board will review the conference status and determine if a berth to the state playoffs is warranted. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Changing Volleyball Conferences: Approved a request from Nikolaevsk School to be moved from the Borealis Conference in 1A-2A volleyball, to the Southwest Conference in mixed-six volleyball due to declining enrollment of girls in the school. (Carried - 8-0)

➤ School Classification: Took the following action on school classification:

-Placed on Step One in 2008-09 – Kwethluk – 1A and Mt. Edgecumbe – 3A

-Placed on Step Two in 2008-09 – Alakanuk – 1A and St. Mary’s – 1A
Both of these schools will be reclassified as 2A beginning in 2009-10 and will be placed in the Yukon/Kuskokwim basketball conference.

-Placed Pilot station in the 1A classification beginning in 2009-10 due to a history of declining enrollment. The school was placed in the Yukon Delta basketball conference.

-Placed Craig High School in the 3A classification upon school request to “opt up.” Since the school has been playing at this level, a change of conferences is not necessary.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ State Tournament Berths for Individual Sports: Took the following action:

Basketball

-2A conference state tournament berths in 2010 – no change, so they will remain-

- Great Northwest 2
- Yukon/Kuskokwim 1
- Central Interior 1
- Peninsula 2
- Southeast 2

Wrestling

-1A, 2A, 3A conference state tournament berths were amended -

- Combine Kachmak and Denali conferences – reduce from 6 to 5 berths
- Great Alaska – increase from 3 to 4 berths
- Others – no changes

-4A conference state tournament berths were amended –

- Southeast – decrease from 2 berths to 1
- Cook Inlet Conference – increase from 5 berths to 6
- Others – no changes

Cross-country Running

-1A, 2A, 3A conference state tournament berths were amended –

- Region 1 North – increase to one team and top 15 individuals
- Region 1 South - increase to one team and top 15 individuals
- Region 5 – increase to 3 teams and top 15 individuals
- Others – no changes

-4A conference state tournament berths were amended –

- Region 5 – decrease to 1 team and top 10 individuals
- Others – no change

Diving

-All regions – reduce to top 2 divers from each region and next best 8 scorers for

a total of 16 qualifiers

Tennis, Swimming, Nordic skiing, Track and field – no changes (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Amendments to “Play for Keeps” (TAD) Policy: Adopted the following amendment to the policy which will now require that both the student and parent/guardian view the pre-participation DVD (video) **only once each school year** at the beginning of the first season (previously the student was required to view the video prior to each activity season). The revised wording is as follows:

10. Definitions: Educational Component –

“Pre-Participation Orientation: The Orientation is required of **all each** student participant **(s) (delete) prior to each season of participation, and of a (add) and** parent/guardian annually, **(add) at the beginning of the student’s first season of the school year**, before the student is eligible to participate. This session is a short informative presentation designed to encourage students to maintain a chemical-free lifestyle, and to ensure that students and parents/guardians understand the policy and the consequences for violation. Upon completion of the Orientation, the student and parent/guardian must sign *the Student/Parent/Legal Guardian TAD Acknowledgement Form* as stated in B. 2. above for the student to gain eligibility. Schools will affirm that this has happened by marking the designated field on the Master Eligibility List.”

(Clarification – The board did not change the following provision).

“Prior to each season in which a student participates in interscholastic activities, a copy of the signed form must be returned to the school before the student is permitted to participate. Member schools shall keep a copy of the signed forms on file.”

This means that although a student will be required to view the orientation video only once per year, the signed acknowledgement form must still be turned into the office prior to each season of participation.

(Carried – 8-0)

➤ Gold Lifetime Pass Selection: Selected the following individuals to receive Gold Lifetime Passes for their outstanding long term interscholastic service to their school/communities:

Region 1	Robert Rychnovsky
Region 2	Larry and Jane Buskirk
Region 3	Roger Steinbrecher
Region 4	Larry Whitmore
Region 5	Doug Rhodes
Region 6	Gary Drexler

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ 2009-10 Association Goals: Developed and adopted the following Association goals for 2009-10:

1. Continue full statewide implementation of the “Play for Keeps” Tobacco, Alcohol and Controlled Substances policy and program.
2. Continue to seek ways to promote expansion of the Association’s citizenship/sportsmanship efforts with parents, students, officials and other groups.
3. Continue to seek opportunities to showcase the cultural diversity of Alaska.
4. Continue to monitor the Association’s marketing plan.
5. To review the school classification system.
6. To review the Association’s season calendar.
7. To reestablish financial stability. (Carried – 8-0)

➤ 2009-10 Meeting Dates and Locations: Adopted the following dates:

Fall 2009	October 4-5, Millennium Hotel – Anchorage
Early Winter 2009	December 14-15, Millennium Hotel – Anchorage
Winter 2010	February 21-22, Millennium Hotel – Anchorage
Spring 2010	April 25-26, – Homer - (Site to be determined)

(Carried – 8-0)

➤ Special Meeting Date: Set the date and time for a special teleconference meeting to adopt the 2009-10 operating budget and for bylaw review – May 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

➤ Election of Officers: Elected the following officers to complete the current terms of president and vice-president which expire in December, 2009 – President, Conrad Gonzalez – Region 6, and VP, Billy Strickland, Region 1. (Carried – Acclamation)

➤ Establishment of Swimming/Diving Conferences: Established the following conferences – Cook Inlet, Northern Lights, Mid-Alaska and Southeast. (Carried - 8-0)

➤ Tennis/Nordic Skiing: Added tennis and Nordic skiing to the list of sports available to students enrolled in member statewide correspondence programs. (Carried - 8-0)

➤ Softball Game Limitations: Adopted an amendment to Softball Additional Rules H., **Invitational Tournaments**, which was proposed by Region 6.

“Each team will be allowed to attend one invitational tournament (pool play) per season, with games limited to no more than 1 hour-5 minutes (allowing the teams to finish the inning), which will not be considered full games and do not count against the 22 game limit. The Mercy Rule will be in effect. During these regular season tournaments, each day of a tournament involving pool play shall count as one game against the 22 game limit.”

(Carried 8-0)

➤ Policy on Conferences: Adopted the following policy -

1. Establishment: The Board of Directors has established athletic conferences:
 1. to provide competitive opportunities for its member schools when they are limited,
 2. to provide for the equitable administration of these activities throughout the state,
 3. and to provide a post season qualification process for those teams which must compete against teams outside of their assigned regions.

The Board has established conferences in Baseball, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Swimming/Diving, Volleyball and Wrestling. The board may establish additional conferences or eliminate conferences as it determines.

2. Decision Making: The Board of Directors grants decision making authority to each conference to manage its own affairs. A decision of a conference is subject to board oversight to ensure the decision serves the best interests of member schools and ASAA. Conferences should adopt written bylaws and policies. Copies of these bylaws and policies must be on file at the ASAA office, or be currently available on the web.

Conferences comprised of schools from multiple regions must make every effort to make decisions which fairly represent the interests of each conference member. A school in a multi-region conference who determines that a conference decision is not in the school's best interest, may bring the complaint to the board for resolution. Fees imposed by conferences, or regions within a conference, must be fair and equitable to all conference members.

3. Conference Placement: The Board of Directors places schools in conferences for the sports listed in 1. above. Schools requesting conference placement, or change in conference placement, must submit their requests in writing to the Executive Director in a timely manner. Although input from other conference members will be considered, final conference placement will be determined by the board. ASAA will print a list of conferences and members each year in the Directory section of the Handbook. Any errors or omissions should be immediately reported to ASAA.

4. Conference Administration: The Board of Directors has determined that a Conference Commissioner, or contact person, must be selected by each conference. This person must be willing to assume the administrative duties of the conference and to communicate conference business to ASAA. It is crucial that ASAA staff have complete contact information for the Commissioner to ensure that state tournament qualifying information is received in the office in a timely manner, and to have a resource when seeking other information on the conference.

Carried (8-0)

➤ Classification Committee: Approved formation of a 9 member Classification Committee with the following membership -

- Board Members - Billy Strickland, Region 1-chair
Dan Michael, Region 3
- Region 1 – Region 4 -
- Region 2 – Region 5 -
- Region 3 - Region 6 – Kelly Growden, Eielson
- ASAA Staff Member- John Andrews

The committee will hold its first full meeting in October in conjunction with the ASAA board meeting. (Carried - 8-0)

➤ Season Calendar Review Committee: Approved formation of a 9 member Season Calendar Review Committee with the following membership -

- Board Members - Sandi Wagner, Region 5 -chair
Conrad Gonzalez, Region 6
- Region 1 – Region 4 -
- Region 2 – Region 5 -
- Region 3 - Region 6 – Walt Armstrong, North Pole
- ASAA Staff Member- Rus Schreckenghost

The committee will determine its first meeting date. (Carried - 8-0)

➤ Endowment Game Policy Amendments: Amended the policy as follows –

“L. Endowment Game Policy (with revisions in bold)

“ASAA encourages each school basketball and volleyball team to play ~~one~~ **two** Endowment Games during the season, above and beyond the 22-game limit. The Endowment Game is a fund-raiser for the Alaska Endowment for Youth Activities. **(add) School teams may play Endowment Games at any time during the regular season, beginning with the date of the 1st Contest, and extending through the “dead time” between the conference qualifying tournament and the respective state tournament in basketball. Endowment Games do not count in a team’s overall season record or for seeding purposes.**

Schools wishing to ~~play~~ **(add) host** Endowment Games must apply **(add) in writing** to ASAA ~~before the season begins~~ **(add) by submitting the Endowment Game Application Form by no later than one week prior to the game. (Under under no circumstances may an Endowment Game be played until this form is received by ASAA). The form must be accompanied by a check for \$200 for one game or \$350 for two games. Without the check, the application will not be approved.**

Schools hosting Endowment Games may choose to either donate \$500 to the Endowment Fund, or to contribute 75% of the gross gate income to the Endowment, whichever is greater.”

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Request by Southeast Islands School District: Granted a waiver of the **Transfer Without a Bona Fide Move of Parents Rule**, for the 2009-10 school year only, to permit students from Port Alexander School and Hyder School to transfer to Thorne Bay School without parents/guardians, and be eligible. These two small schools have no activities programs.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Reports The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournaments
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches/WPI/NFHS Leadership Conference
- Marketing
- Executive Director

Public Comments Heard from school staff, school board members, community members and ASAA staff.

Workshop Items The BOD discussed the following items in workshop:

1. Participation by 8th Grade Students: Discussed the potential for letting 8th grade students participate at very small high schools in basketball and/or volleyball when there are not enough eligible high school students to form teams. The proposal would limit this to high schools of 20 or less students, of which there are 40 throughout the state. These small high schools frequently cannot form cooperative agreements with other small schools because of their remoteness. The board discussed potential changes to the bylaws and policies that might be required by such a change. The board will review draft bylaw wording at its special teleconference meeting on May 12. If adopted, there is a possibility that 8th grade students could participate in 2009-10.

2. Review of 2009-10 Draft Operating and Grants Budgets: The executive director presented the first draft of the budget to the board and finance committee. Following a discussion in executive session, the board asked the executive director to revise a few line items and bring forth a final draft for the special teleconference meeting on May 12.

3. Review of Financial Policies Required Under New Accounting Rules: Due to time restraints, this item was postponed until the October 2009 board meeting.

Tabled Items: Tabled discussion on Region 6’s proposal to adopt a bylaw to limit the number of students that a coach may coach outside of the high school season. The board asked that an update be presented at the October meeting.

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

Basketball: Heard a concern from Region 1, that Article 6, Section 5, **Personal Conduct/Sportsmanship**, does not take into consideration those situations in which a team is traveling with only one coach and the coach is ejected from a contest. If the coach sits out the next contest according to the rule, it could leave the students without a coach. When the rule was adopted years ago, it was understood at the time that in situations like this, the coach could continue to coach his/her students until such time that the team returns to its home community. The game suspension would then occur prior to coaching another game at that level. An amendment clarifying the rule will be prepared for the October board meeting.

Heard a proposal from Region 1 to amend Article 7, Section 6, **Number of Games or Periods of Play per Day or Week**. The Region would like to remove the current per student limit in basketball of 6 periods of play per day, since the rule does not apply to invitational or conference tournaments. This will be a discussion item at the October meeting.

Read a proposal from Don Kassube, head official at the state basketball tournament, to increase the number of officials in the 2A state tournament from 2 to 3. After considerable discussion, the board thanked Mr. Kassube for his efforts and input and stated that it would take his request under advisement.

Bylaw on Amateurism: Revisited the interpretation of Article 8, Section 2, **Other Amateurs**, as it applies to music students who personally receive money for performing. (Note: Music students are subject to ASAA eligibility rules when participating in the All-State Music Festival and in the State Solo and Ensemble Festival). At the conclusion of the discussion, the board decided to take no action to clarify the intent of the rule and directed that the status quo is acceptable.

DDF: Briefly discussed a proposal to add “Student Congress” to the list of approved events in Drama, Debate and Forensics. This will be taken back to the regions for possible discussion at a later meeting.

Hockey – Cooperative Program Waiver: Discussed a request from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education to waive the Cooperative Rule, Article 7, Section 9, to permit students enrolled in small village schools near Homer to play on the Homer High School hockey team. None of the schools involved had sent written comments or requests to waive the rule. Also, since this had not been discussed at regional meetings this spring, board members asked for time to discuss the request with their schools prior to taking action. It will be on the agenda for the board’s October meeting.

Enrollment/Classification Review: Region 1 requested a review of Akaichak School’s enrollment since the executive director had not listed the school with those 1A’s exceeding the classification cutoff.

Citizenship/Equity: Discussed examples of good sportsmanship and heard about staff’s recommendation to nominate a team for the NFHS “Spirit of Sport” award following the state basketball championships.

Alaska High School Hall of Fame: Heard a report on the April 19 induction ceremony and upcoming vacancies on the Selection Committee.

Class of 2009 Inductees:

- Activity Participants - Peter Hilts – Susan B. English School – Seldovia
Michael More – West Anchorage High School

- Athletes - Myra Harris – Frank A. Degnan School – Unalakleet
Matt Matson – West Valley High School – Fairbanks
Mara Rabinowitz – West Valley High School
Mao Tosi – East Anchorage High School

- Coaches - Dan Eide – Valdez High School
Lynn Roumagoux – Dimond High School – Anchorage

- Official - John Jones (deceased) – Anchorage Basketball Officials

- Contributor - Stan Smith (deceased) – Spenard Builders Supply – Anchorage

- Lifetime Achievement - Richard McCormick – Douglas/Lathrop/Nome/Wrangell

Kodiak Island Borough School District Request: Discussed a request to revise the season calendar to place more activities during the winter. This request will be considered by the newly forming “Season Calendar Committee.”

Sports Medicine: Discussed adding a sportsmedicine report as an agenda item at future board meetings. Dr. Cary Keller of Sportsmedicine Fairbanks, is Alaska’s representative on the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and has volunteered to report to the board.

The board also discussed the use of medical providers at state tournaments and asked that staff be proactive in coordinating medical coverage through improved communication prior to state tournaments.

Student Hearing

No hearing was held.

Items for October Meeting

October 4-5, 2009 – Anchorage – Millennium Hotel

Workshop

1. TBD

Reports

1. Sportsmedicine

Discussion

1. Coaching Out of Season – Region 6
2. 2010-11 Draft Season Calendar
- 3.

Action

1. Bylaw, Article 6, Section 5, **Personal Conduct/Sportsmanship** – Coach ejection while traveling – Region 1
2. Bylaw, Article 7, Section 6, **Number of Games or Periods of Play per Day or Week** – Region 1
3. Cooperative School Hockey Team Waiver – KPBSD Request
4. 2010 All-State Art Competition Host and Site
- 5.