



ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

4048 Laurel Street Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99508 • PHONE: 907-563-3723 • FAX: 907-561-0720

Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting King Salmon, Alaska April 27-29, 2014 (revised 5-28-14)

Note: This synopsis is available on the ASAA web site at <http://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/BOD-April-2014-Synopsis/pdf>. 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 actions:

- **Concussion Reporting:** Adopted a recommendation of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) to develop a more effective process for concussion reporting. This will be a staff project that will be launched during the 2014-15 school year.
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

- **Girls Wrestling:** Adopted a revised proposal to hold state wrestling tournaments for girls beginning in 2014-15, on a one year trial basis, contingent upon the number of girls participating in wrestling per classification.

Highlights include:

- The minimum number of girls statewide needed to trigger a state tournament in 1A-2A-3A is 100 participants and in 4A, 50 participants.
- State tournament weight classes will be as follows – 98, 106, 120, 132, 145, 160, 182, 220.
- Girls may only wrestle other girls during conference qualifying tournaments and the state tournament.
- Girls may wrestle either girls or boys during the regular season.
- All matches must be entered into TrackWrestling.
- There must be a minimum of 4 girls in a respective weight class statewide who wrestle at conference tournaments for that weight class to be included at the state tournament.
- Conference champions and others selected for at-large berths will fill the 6 person bracket, seeding using Track Wrestling.
- State tournaments will be incorporated into the respective boys tournaments.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Wrestling:** Adopted a Region 5 proposal beginning in 2014-15, for one year only, that will authorize the 4A school teams in the Region (Ketchikan, Juneau-Douglas, and Thunder Mountain High Schools) to wrestle during the 1A-2A-3A season, including participation at the conference and state tournaments. Region 5's two 4A berths will be redistributed as follows:

- Cook Inlet Conference (6 berths per weight class – no change)
- Northern Lights Conference (increase from 5 to 6 berths per weight class)
- Mid-Alaska Conference (increase from 3 to 4 berths per weight class)

(Carried 5-3)

Determined that the Region 5, 4A schools, would not be eligible for team awards during the 1A-2A-3A state tournament.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Revisited the state tournament seeding process and adopted the following recommendations:

Seeding Qualifications:

1. Wrestler must have winning record
2. Wrestler must have wrestled at least 8 varsity matches
3. All matches must have been entered into Track Wrestling, including dual and tournament matches
4. Matches must have been designated as either Varsity or Junior Varsity

Seeding Process:

The Track Wrestling round robin algorithm goes through each wrestler to compare that wrestler to every other seedable wrestler in that weight class. When comparing the wrestlers, it goes through the criteria in order. If one wrestler is better than the other based on the criteria, that wrestler receives a point, otherwise it goes to the next criteria. If all criteria is exhausted, each wrestler receives ½ point. Once every wrestler is compared to every other wrestler, the wrestlers are sorted by the points they accumulated during that process. If two wrestlers are tied on points, it goes to the head to head comparison between those two wrestlers. If more than two are tied based on points, it sorts them by the criteria until they are separated or a two-way tie occurs at which point the head to head comparison is used. If two wrestlers remain tied after a head to head comparison, there will be a coin toss at the ASAA office to break the tie.

Seeding Criteria:

1. Head to head – strictly head to head record
2. Record Against Common Opponents – based on winning percentage against an individual common opponent
3. Previous State Champion or Runner Up – first or second place from the previous year, state champion first – then runner up
4. Overall Varsity Record – overall winning percentage for varsity matches only
5. Varsity Record at Weight – minimum of 4 matches at state tournament weight class

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Football:** Adopted a playoff schedule for Medium Schools, beginning in 2014-15, as follows:

August 4 – Season begins

August 15 – First contest date

October 4 - Last regular season game

October 10-11 – Semi-final games in Anchorage

October 18 – Championship game in Anchorage

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Nordic Skiing:** Took no action to adopt a proposal that would have limited the number of qualifying teams or individual entries per region. Therefore, the existing process will remain in effect.

(No motion)

➤ **Bylaw Amendment:** After further discussion, approved the posting of a proposed amendment dealing with game ejections/suspensions and other penalties. Proposed wording will be sent out to schools and districts and this will be an action item during the May special teleconference board meeting.

(Board Directive)

➤ **Concussion Policy and Related Documents:** Following discussion, adopted ASAA's legal counsel's recommendation to amend the wording in sections of the ASAA Concussion Policy, the Parents' Guide to Concussion in Sports and the Student-Athlete Fact Sheet. These are intended to more consistently reflect the wording and intent of the statute. These updates will be posted at <http://asaa.org/sports-medicine/>

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **School Reclassification:** Discussed the initial implementation of the new Reclassification Policy and reviewed school enrollments for this school year. The board reviews school enrollments every 3 years, beginning in the spring of 2014, then again in the spring of 2017, and so on.

Schools whose enrollments will move them to a higher or lower classification will remain at the current classification during the 2014-15 school year but will change to the new classification, for 3 years, beginning in 2015-16, after which the cycle begins again.

Schools which are scheduled to move to a higher classification beginning in 2015-16 may request forgiveness for ineligible 5th year seniors enrolled during the 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 years (ASAA Handbook Reclassification Policy

http://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/handbook/1314handbook/asaa/section/General_Information_Policies.pdf)

in attempting to lower their enrollments, upon providing documentation. Requests for forgiveness and other appeals must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director, by no later than September 15, 2014.

Schools requesting to “opt up” must request to do so in writing to the Executive Director by September 15, 2014 but will remain at the current classification through 2014-15. Schools may “opt up” on a sport by sport basis, but requests to “opt up” in a sport that has both boys and girls teams must do so for both teams. “Opting up” will be in effect for 3 years, beginning in 2015-16.

Beginning in 2015-16, the following schools will be moved to a higher classification based on the 2013-14 enrollments in grades 9-12.

<u>School</u>	<u>3 year average enrollment</u>
1A Schools – Davis-Ramoth (Selawik)	68
Kotlik	67
Scammon Bay	63
2A Schools - Dillingham	172
3A Schools - None	
4A Schools - None	

Beginning in 2015-16, the following schools will be moved to a lower classification based on the 2013-14 enrollments in grades 9-12, unless they “opt up” to a higher classification

1A Schools – None	
2A Schools - Bristol Bay	44
Tikigaq (Point Hope) (opting up approved)	40
Tok	33
Tri-Valley	54
Unalakleet	46
Walter Northway	9
3A Schools - Cordova	101
Monroe Catholic	94
Petersburg	144
4A Schools - None	

The affected schools will be notified.
(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Galena Request:** Approved a request from Galena High School and Region 6 to have Galena reassigned from Region 2 to Region 6, 1A-2A-3A cross-country running, beginning in 2014-15. The move includes these provisions:

1. Region 2 will maintain its current state tournament berths (top 2 teams and top 10 runners not on the top 2 teams)
2. Region 6 will gain an additional berth and 5 runners (top 2 teams and top 15 runners not on the top 2 teams)

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Susitna Valley Soccer Request:** Approved a request from Su-Valley High School to be placed in the fall coed soccer conference beginning in 2014-15.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Holy Rosary Academy Request:** Approved a request from Holy Rosary Academy to join the Kachemak conference in 1A-2A-3A wrestling beginning in 2014-15.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Point Hope (Tikigaq) Request:** Approved a request from Point Hope School to “opt up” to 2A in boys and girls basketball beginning in 2015-16 which will extend through 2017-18. The school currently plays at the 2A level in basketball.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Gold Lifetime Pass Recipients:** Approved nominations from regions and staff for Gold Lifetime Passes.

- Region 1 – Bruce Lee – Sand Point
- Region 2 – Bruce Gunderson – Talkeetna
- Region 3 – Lebron McPhail – Palmer
- Region 5 – Rod Nutting – Sitka
- Region 6 – Vince Fantazzi – Fairbanks
- Other – Renee Henderson - Kenai

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Date of Special Meeting:** Set the date and time of the Special Teleconference board meeting as May 27, 2014 from 2-4 p.m.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **2014-15 Meeting Location and Dates:** Approved the dates and location for the 4 regular board meetings in 2014-15.

- Fall Meeting – October 5-6, 2014 – Spring Hill Suites, University Lake Hotel, Anchorage
- Early Winter Meeting – December 14-16, 2014 – Spring Hill Suites, University Lake Hotel, Anchorage
- Late Winter Meeting – February 16-17, 2015 – Spring Hill Suites, University Lake Hotel, Anchorage
- Spring Meeting – April 26-28, 2015 – either Kodiak or Fairbanks

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **3A Basketball:** Approved the seeding of the 3A state basketball tournament using the WPI method based on in-season play only against other 3A schools in Alaska, beginning in 2014-15.
(Carried – 8-0)

Defeated a motion to create one at-large berth at the 3A state tournament, with the berth coming from the Southcentral Conference. The at-large berth would be awarded to the team with the highest ranking in the WPI which is not an automatic qualifier.
(Failed – 1-7)

The board president directed that the “at-large berth” concept be discussed during the fall region meetings with possible action at the October board meeting.

➤ **Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug (TAD) Policy Amendment:** The board reviewed a legal opinion as to whether ASAA should assume an enforcement role if there is a complaint that a school is not following and enforcing the policy. After considerable discussion, the board agreed with counsel that ASAA should not have an enforcement role. Rationale for the amendment and the adopted wording follows:

No Enforcement Role for ASAA

Rationale: When ASAA required schools to adopt its TAD policy, the expectation was, and remains, that individual schools must be responsible for investigation, determination of a violation and enforcement of its own Policy. The facts relating to these violations are very local in nature, and ASAA is not in a position to investigate them and fairly resolve disputes. At some point, ASAA and its member schools must rely upon the individual school’s responsibility and accountability. ASAA cannot be the inter-school arbiter of all matters, and entering into these issues will be overstepping ASAA’s bounds. Additionally, ASAA does not have the resources to fairly investigate and determine these local issues.

Amended Language: The following will be added to the TAD Policy (Handbook p. 50), at the end of the first paragraph of Section 6:

“Alleged failure of a member school or district to enforce this policy may not be the basis for either a report of rules violation to the ASAA Executive Director or of a member school’s protest against another school, under the ASAA Bylaws.”

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Employee Handbook Amendments:** Agreed to amend the employee handbook to provide

for a payout for up to 5 days of unused annual leave each year, on August 1, beginning in 2015.

➤ **AASG Committee:** Established a board committee to work with the AASG leadership to revisit the purpose of the organization, and to provide guidance on issues such as declining membership and budgetary concerns. Committee members are:

Co-Chair – Billy Strickland – Incoming ED
Co-Chair - Miles King - AASG
Dan Gallego – Region 4
Teresa Johnson – ASAA staff
Denise Greene-Wikinson – AASG ED

The committee will report during the May Special Teleconference Board meeting.

Reports: The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournaments
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches
- Sponsorships/Marketing/Promotions
- Play for Keeps, Win for Life/Hall of Fame
- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)
- Executive Director

Public Comments: No members of the public spoke on agenda or non-agenda items during this designated time.

Executive Session: The board moved into executive session to discuss financial and personnel matters.

Workshop: The board held a workshop to review and discuss the 2014-15 budget. Final adoption will be during the May 27th special teleconference meeting.

Student Eligibility Hearing: None

Tabled Items: No items were tabled.

Discussion Items: The BOD discussed the following items:

➤ **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) Recommendations:** Revisited and discussed the recommendation that a system be developed to ensure more consistent reporting of concussion. Dr. Don Lehman, SMAC member, spoke to the board.

➤ **Wrestling:** Continued discussion on the proposed adoption of girls state wrestling tournaments prior to action later in the meeting, on the continuing problems facing the three 4A schools in Region 5 because of the split wrestling seasons and continued discussion of the state tournament seeding process using the TrackWrestling program.

➤ **Basketball:** Continued discussion on the status of using www.asaa365.com to record and track game scores which might be used to seed future 1A, 2A and 3A state tournaments. Staff reported that the website is seeing increased usage by basketball coaches, students and fans. It is ASAA's intent that the site will be expanded to include all sports for the 2014-15 school year. The board will continue to receive updates at its future meetings.

Region 1 also proposed to divide the 16 teams in the 1A state tournament into 2 categories, Division 1 (8 largest schools) and Division 2 (8 smallest schools), thereby shortening the overall length of the tournament by one day which would reduce time out of school and decrease costs to schools. Continued discussion will occur during the October board meeting.

Continued discussion on the venue for the 2014-15 1A and 2A state tournaments. This may be an Action Item during the October 2014 board meeting.

Received a letter from Region 1 AD's stating concerns with the format and various other aspects of the 1A and 2A state basketball tournaments. This was referred to staff and the basketball steering committee.

➤ **Nordic Skiing State Tournament Berths/Format:** Continued discussion prior to taking action on a staff proposal for the state tournament.

➤ **School Classification:** Revisited the Reclassification Policy which was adopted last school year.

➤ **Game Ejections/Suspensions:** Continued discussion on a staff proposal to increase the penalties for repetitive ejections during a season, for both coaches and students. The proposal with revisions follows:

Proposal to Amend Bylaws for Ejections/Suspensions
(During a Season)

Proposed Changes –

Student: First Ejection – For a first ejection during a respective sport season, a student shall be removed for the remainder of the contest and shall serve a one game suspension. (See Section 5, **Personal Conduct, Penalty for Player Ejection**)

Second Ejection - For a second ejection during a respective sport season, a student shall be removed for the remainder of the contest and shall serve

a two game suspension. (add) **Prior to returning to competition, the student must complete the on-line NFHS Course entitled, “Sportsmanship.”**

<http://www.nfhslern.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=37000>

Third Ejection – For a third ejection during a respective sport season, a student shall be removed for the remainder of the contest and becomes ineligible for the remainder of that sport season.

NOTE: A jamboree/pool play does not count as a contest for the purpose of meeting the suspension requirement.

Should a student be unable to complete a suspension during the sports season in which the ejection occurs, the suspension shall be carried over into the student’s succeeding season of participation. In order for the suspension in the succeeding season of participation to meet this requirement, the student must be a member of the team for the entire season for that sport.

Coach: **First Ejection – For a first ejection during a respective sport season, a coach shall be removed for the remainder of the contest and shall serve a one game suspension. (See Section 5, Personal Conduct, Penalty for Coach Ejection)**

Second Ejection - For a second ejection during a respective sport season, a coach shall be removed for remainder of the contest and shall serve a two game suspension. (add) **Prior to returning to coaching, the coach must complete the on-line NFHS Course entitled, “Teaching and Modeling Behavior.”**
<http://www.nfhslern.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=8000>

Third Ejection – For a third ejection during a respective sport season, a coach shall be removed for the remainder of the contest and becomes ineligible for the remainder of that sport season.

NOTE: A jamboree/pool play does not count as a contest for the purpose of meeting the suspension requirement.

School: **The principal of a school whose students and/or coaches accumulate 10 or more ejections during a school year will be expected to explain to the ASAA Board of Directors, a Plan of Action to reduce the number of ejections. This explanation must be presented in person at the next Board meeting.**

This will be an action item during the May special board meeting.

➤ **Football Proposal:** Heard a report from the **8-Man Football Task Force** on the feasibility and potential interest of creating an 8-man conference to replace the current small school (Greatland) conference. Task Force members are:

Chair - Rus Shreckenghost – Associate Director - ASAA
Dave Porter – AD – Houston High School
Sandi Wagner – AD – Juneau School District
Steve Zanazzo – AD – Fairbanks School District
Dan Gallego – Principal – Anchorage School District
Michael Wojciak – Principal – Voznesenka School
Sami King – AD – Seward High School
TBD – Football Coach

After discussion, the proposed enrollment cut-offs for 3 classifications beginning in 2015-16 are:

- 8-Man Schools – up to 350 students in grades 9-12
- Small Schools – 351 to 650 students in grades 9-12
- Large Schools – 651 and up in grades 9-12

Staff was asked to prepare a memo to be sent out to schools and districts with this information and asking for a commitment by October 1 of this year from the schools choosing to play in the 8-man conference which would begin in 2015-16. For the board to adopt the 8-man conference proposal, there must be a commitment of an adequate number of teams.

The task force will continue to meet during the fall of 2014-15 to develop a final recommendation for possible action during the October board meeting.

Other:

Reviewed the existing process used to develop the statewide football master schedule. It will be placed on the ASAA website and in future handbooks.

Postponed further discussion on the SMAC recommendation that the NFHS develop practice guidelines for contact sports since the NFHS is currently a party to concussion litigation.

➤ **Transfer Committee Report:** Heard a report from the newly formed Transfer Committee. The committee may recommend that the 90 day sit-out period following a transfer be extended to one calendar year and that the definition of “residence” be revised, among other changes. The committee will continue to meet and will report again during the October board meeting. Committee members are:

Chair - Rus Shreckenghost – Associate Director - ASAA
Billy Strickland – Region 1 Board Member
Sandi Wagner – AD – Juneau School District

Mike Boyd – Region 3 Board Member
Dan Gallego – Region 4 Board Member
Andrew Friske – Region 5 Board Member

➤ **Calendar Committee Report:** Heard a report from the newly formed Calendar Committee which has been charged with studying the wrestling seasons and those of other winter sports. Due to time constraints, the committee has met only one time and has discussed the following topics:

- Split wrestling seasons
- Soccer season placement (spring vs. fall)
- Overlap in various sports seasons
- Length of some seasons
- Region requests for calendar changes
- How changes in the number of required practices for contact sports might affect the statewide calendar

Committee members are:

Chair –Isaiah Vreeman, ASAA
Milo Griffin – Fairbanks – Coach
Walt Armstrong – North Pole High School – AD
Andrew Friske – Region 5 Board Member
Troy Thain – Craig High School – AD/Coach
Tom Huffer, Jr. – Chugiak High School – Teacher/Coach
Kathleen Navarre- Dimond High School – Teacher/Coach
Dan Carstens – Nikiski High School – Principal
Jason Hofacker – Anchorage Christian School – AD/Coach
Dale Ewart – Palmer High School – AD
Steve Klaich – Region 2 Board Member
Jeff Erickson – Bering Strait SD - AD

It will meet again and report to the board during the October meeting.

➤ **Out-of-Season Coaching/Contact Committee Report:** This committee was authorized by the board because of concern about the potential unfair advantage that out-of-season contact between players and their school coaches can create for school teams in the more populated areas of the state. Over the years, the ASAA board has chosen to not impose strict regulations on this contact, although it has considered doing so on a number of occasions. Staff investigated policies of other state associations for comparison with ASAA's, which is one of the most liberal in the nation.

Some points discussed by the committee were:

- Establishment of a “dead period” in which no practicing or playing could occur
- Review of spring and fall basketball leagues
- Review of regulations in other states
- Contact between school coaches and their teams outside of the high school season

Committee members are:

- Chair - Billy Strickland – Future Executive Director - ASAA
 Paul Cossette – Wasilla High School - AD
 Josh Green – Chugiak High School - AP
 Kathleen Navarre – Dimond High School – Teacher/Coach
 Sandi Wagner – Juneau School District – AD
 Missy Poeschel – West Valley High School - AD
 Isaiah Vreeman – ASAA

The committee will continue to work on recommendations and report to the board during the October meeting.

➤ **Policy – Transgender Students in Interscholastic Athletics:** Reviewed a sample policy for consideration and discussion, in cooperation with the Alaska Association of School Boards. Policy components include:

- Statement on Gender Identity Participation
- Notice to the school
 - Documentation
- Notice to ASAA
- First level of review
 - Gender Identity Eligibility Committee
- Second level of review (appeal if needed)
- Final determination

This will continue to be an ongoing discussion item during the October board meeting.

➤ **ASAA Concussion Policy Amendments:** Discussed amendments suggested by ASAA’s legal counsel to reduce risks to ASAA in light of ongoing litigation involving the Mississippi High School Association, the NFHS and the NCAA.

➤ **TAD (Play for Keeps) Policy Amendment:** Discussed whether ASAA should assume an investigative/enforcement role in the administration of the policy when a school complains that another school is not following the policy. Reviewed legal counsel’s recommendation that the board did not consider such a role when the policy was originally adopted. This was moved to Action Items.

➤ **School Reclassification:** Reviewed the Reclassification Policy and school enrollments prior to taking action later in the meeting.

➤ **Coach Education:** Heard a report from Teresa Johnson on pending improvements to the coach education on-line reporting system that will make access to data easier for school administrators and ASAA staff.

➤ **Value of Interscholastic Athletic Participation:** Region 5 presented an article from the AIAAA magazine on the value of activities participation. This included a request that each state high school association conduct its own research. Teresa Johnson and other staff members agreed to do this and report during the October board meeting.

➤ **Dimond High School Track Lanes:** Heard a Region 3 concern that the lanes on the 8 lane track at Dimond High School (state tournament venue) are only 36 inches wide as opposed to the more common 42 inch width, and that this might create a problem for the hurdle events. Staff commented that the lane widths meet the minimum width rule and that schools will be notified prior to the meet. Staff will report on this issue during the May board meeting.

Items for May 27, 2014 – Special Teleconference Meeting

Discussion Items

1. State World Language Declamation Directors' Resignations
2. State Track and Field Lane Width Concern – Dimond High School Track
3. AASG Committee Report

Action Items

1. Board Goals for 2014-15
2. 2014-15 ASAA Budget
3. 2014-15 AASG Budget
4. Game Ejection/Suspension, Bylaw Article 6, Sections 5 and 6, and Sports Related Policy #8
5. Mixed-Six Volleyball Request – Fort Yukon School
6. Spring 2015 Board Meeting Location

Items for October 5-6, 2014 - Regular Meeting

Spring Hill Suites, University Lake Hotel, Anchorage

Tabled Items

1. None

Discussion Items

1. Calendar Committee Report
2. 8-Man Football Task Force Report
3. Out-of-Season Coaching/Contact Committee Report
4. Transfer Committee Report
5. 1A State Basketball Tournament Format
6. 3A State Basketball Tournament “at-large” Berths
7. 1A, 2A, 3A Girls Wrestling Participation Numbers

8. Concussion Reporting
9. Transgender Students Participation in Interscholastic Athletics Policy
10. Value of Interscholastic Athletic/Activities Participation
11. First Draft of 2015-16 Season Calendar

Action Items

1. 1A/2A Basketball State Tournament Venue
2. School Reclassification Appeals