

Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting December 14-15, 2008

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:

New Board Members: Welcomed and seated the following new board members:

- Region 1 – Billy Strickland – Bethel High School
- Region 4 – Michael Graham – East Anchorage High School
- Region 6 – Conrad Gonzalez – Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District
- AASG – Ryan Varela – student - Ketchikan High School
- AASB – Roseann Demmert – board member – Klawock City School District

Recognized Outgoing Board Members: The president and executive director recognized the following outgoing members and thanked them for their outstanding service to ASAA and the students of Alaska:

- Region 1 – Jim Hickerson – 6 years
- Region 4 – Todd Arndt – 6 years
- Region 6 – Walt Armstrong – 2 years
- AASG – Annie Bartholomew – 2 years
- AASG – Debbie Mullins – 1 year

Minutes: Approved minutes of the October 5-6, 2008 regular meeting. (Consensus)

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

1. Recruiting/Undue Influence Amendment - The amendment which go into effect on June 1, 2009, applies to certain students who play on out-of-school teams coached by another school's coach.

Article 12, **High School Student Eligibility Requirements**, Section 5, Recruiting/Undue Influence, is amended as follows:

“A. Undue influence is defined as the attempt to secure the attendance of a student for athletic reasons. Any verbal or written recruiting contact initiated by a representative of another school will be considered as asserting undue influence. If the contact is initiated by an individual who is not a representative of a school, that individual's name shall be recorded and a warning issued. If a further violation is reported relative to this individual, he/she will be considered to be a representative of the school, and the school may be

subjected to the prescribed penalties.

(NEW B). (ADD) A student who participates as a member of an out-of-school team coached by another school's coach, and who subsequently transfers to that coach's school, will be ineligible in that sport for one full season at the receiving school.

Reorder existing Sections B., C. and D. to new Sections C., D. and E

2. Applicability of Enrollment Rule to Graduated Students - The amendment which goes into effect on January 15, 2009, clarifies the eligibility of certain seniors who graduate near the end of the school year and who wish to compete in interscholastic competition.

Article 12, **High School Student Eligibility Requirements**, Section 2, Enrollment Rules, is amended as follows:

“A. To be eligible during a school semester for participation in interscholastic activities,

1. a student must:

(ADD) new c. Not be a graduated senior, with the exception that the eligibility of a senior graduating near the end of a regular school year, shall extend through the conclusion of any current school athletic season in which he or she is participating.

(ADD) B. Alternative Schools

(Reorder)

1. A student attending a non-member alternative school...

2. The School of Eligibility of a student, other than a first semester freshman,...

3. A student attending a non-member charter school,..."

3. Requirement to Report Coaches to ASAA - The amendment which goes into effect on March 2, 2009, establishes that it is the responsibility of a member school's principal to annually report the name of all coaches and their positions to the Association within a specified timeframe.

Article 10, **Qualification of Coaches**,

(New) Section 4, Reporting of Coaches, states:

“The principal or designee of each member school or district shall annually

report the names of all coaches and their positions, in the manner requested by the Association, within two weeks of the beginning of their respective seasons.”

4. Amendment to Appeal Procedure - Effective immediately, the amendment clarifies an individual’s right to appeal a decision of the Appeals Board to the Superior Court of the State of Alaska.

Article 4, **Appeals Procedure**, Section 2, Appeals Board, is amended as follows:

“C. All appeals, including all relevant factual matter and legal arguments, must be presented to the Appeals Board in writing. Oral arguments are not a matter of right, but will be granted for good cause shown. The Appeals Board may receive additional evidence not considered by the Executive Director. Any requests by the Appeals Board for additional information pertaining to an appeal shall be promptly supplied by the affected students, coaches and member schools. In considering evidence provided in favor or opposed to the determination of an appeal, and in investigating the matter, 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 on 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 in a civil action. Written decisions will be made by the Appeals Board setting forth findings of fact, conclusions based on the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws, other relevant Federal or State law, and shall include any resulting order. Such findings, conclusions and orders shall be submitted to all appropriate and relevant parties within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the receipt of all materials and other additional information. (ADD) **All findings, conclusions and orders issued by the Appeals Board shall contain a notice stating that any party aggrieved by this decision may appeal to the Superior Court of the State of Alaska, within thirty days from the date this decision is mailed or otherwise distributed.**”

5. Amendment to Transfer Rule for Private Schools – Effective immediately, the amendment clarifies how a “transfer as a result of a move of parents” is applied to member private schools.

Article 12, **High School Student Eligibility Requirements**, Section 9, Transfer/Residency Rule, is amended as follows:

A. 2. “Transfer as a Result of a Move of Parents: A student who transfers from one school’s attendance area to another’s with a bona fide change of residence of the parents, legal guardians (or other persons with whom the student has resided for a period of time to be determined by the Association) shall be eligible for interscholastic competition at the new school as soon as properly certified. Bona Fide Change of Residence – For the purposes of this section, a bona fide change of residence means the moving of the permanent residence of the entire family of the student and his/her parents or guardians (or other person with whom the student has resided for a period of time approved by the Association) from one school’s attendance area into another school’s attendance area

prior to a change in enrollment of the student. **(ADD) For the purposes of this section, a student’s transfer to or from a private school shall be treated the same as a transfer to or from the public school attendance area in which the private school is located.** Schools must verify that a bona fide change of residence has occurred and must report this to the Association on the Bona Fide Change of Residence Form, before the student is allowed to participate.”

6. Amendment to Maximum Participation Rule - The amendment which goes into effect on January 15, 2009, clarifies the meaning and intent of “consecutive” in the Maximum Participation Rule.

Article 12, **High School Student Eligibility Requirements**, Section 3, Maximum Participation, is amended as follows:

“A. No student enrolled in a four (4) year high school, or member statewide correspondence program, may participate in more than four (4) seasons in any specific interscholastic activity. No student enrolled in a three (3) year high school, or member statewide correspondence program, may participate in more than three (3) seasons in any specific interscholastic activity. ~~(DELETE B)~~. Participation in any interscholastic contest during a season shall be considered as one (1) season in that activity.

(NEW B.) No student, including those enrolled in member statewide correspondence programs, will have more than eight (8) consecutive semesters of eligibility. **(ADD) “Consecutive” semesters include all semesters, including semesters in which the student is not enrolled in any school or is enrolled in another school, after the student’s initial enrollment in 9th grade.”**

(All six amendments - Carried – Unanimous Consent).

2009-10 Calendar: Moved to adopt the statewide calendar for 2009-10 and the three year calendar by extension. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

State Tournament Bid Proposals: Delayed action on the 2009 state wrestling tournament site until the February meeting.

Accepted a bid from East Anchorage High School to host the 2010 state DDF tournament on March 4-6. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

State Tournament Officials Policy: Adopted a staff proposal to reduce the number of on-field officials from 6 to 5 for the football playoffs. This was in response to concerns that since officials never have the opportunity to work 6-official mechanics during the regular season, adding an additional official during the playoffs creates a new officiating challenge on the field. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Adopted a proposal to increase the state tournament officials pay and travel cost reimbursement

beginning in 2009-10. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Application for Membership: Approved an application for membership from Thunder Mountain High School in Juneau, effective in 2009-10. The school was placed in Region 5 as a 4A school. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Tabled action on a school request for a blanket waiver of the transfer rule for 2009-10 only.

2009-10 Volleyball Conferences: Approved the realignment model for 1A, 2A and 3A schools beginning in 2009-10. (Carried – 7-1, AASG - yes)

Hearing Policy Amendments: Tabled action until the February meeting on proposed amendments to the Hearing Policy pending legal review.

Amendments to 401(k) Plan: Approved amendments to staff 401(k) plan required by the 2007 statute. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Election of President and Vice-President: Elected Region 4 representative, Al Howard, as president, and Region 6 representative, Conrad Gonzalez, as vice-president. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

McKinney-Vento Act: Approved sending out a proposed bylaw amendment dealing with the eligibility of homeless students as defined by the Act. This may be an action item at the February meeting. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Finance Committee Appointments: Appointed Al Howard, Roseann Demmert and Jim Hickerson (ex-officio), to the finance committee. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Reports The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournaments
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches
- Marketing
- Executive Director

Public Comments Heard from a parent of a student who participated in swimming and wrestling concurrently and how the scheduling conflict effected her son. She would like to see the 4A wrestling season move to a later time in the school year.

Workshop Items The BOD discussed the following items in workshop:

Economic Issues Effecting Activities Programs at the Local, Regional and State Levels: This session began with the presentation of the FY 2008 audit for ASAA and a financial review of AASG. Alex Beckman of Mikunda, Cottrell & Co. made the presentation and answered questions for the board. For the first time in a number of years, ASAA finished the year ending July 31, 2008 with a deficit. This is mainly due to the expense of developing the educational components of the “Play for Keeps” program.

Next the board reviewed staff proposals to increase income and reduce expenses for the current fiscal year, and suggestions on how to increase income and reduce expenses for the long term. This will continue to be a workshop topic during the February meeting.

The board also encouraged individuals to donate part of their PFD’S to ASAA to help complete the “Play for Keeps” program.

Tabled Items Tabled action on Thunder Mountain High School’s request for a blanket waiver of the transfer rule in 2009-10 only.

Tabled adopting proposed amendments to the Hearing Policy pending legal review.

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

2009-10 Draft Calendar and Three Year Projection: Heard input from a parent and board members on the proposed 2009-10 season calendar. These included a request to remove the season overlap between swimming and diving and 4A wrestling by creating a three season calendar, putting swimming and diving in the fall, and wrestling in the winter. Region 6 proposed to move the football season and the 4A wrestling season. Region 1 proposed that the state 1A-2A volleyball and mixed-six volleyball tournaments be held on the same weekend as the state wrestling tournaments The board took action on the calendar under item 9b.

2009 State Basketball Tournament Schedule: Revisited a discussion that took place during the two previous meetings concerning the rotation of the starting dates for the 2009 1A/2A and 3A/4A state tournaments.

Held a discussion with the organizers of the Anchorage basketball bid committee. The current 5 year bid ends after the 2009 tournaments and the organizers are working with the Anchorage School District, Municipality of Anchorage and the Sullivan Arena to prepare a new 5 year proposal. The groups efforts in getting financial support from the Municipality are being hampered at this time due to a change of administration resulting in an interim mayor and the election of a replacement in April.

Wrestling Minimum Weight Rule Clarification: Discussed conflicting rules in different sections of the ASAA Handbook and staff efforts to clarify and notify schools prior to the state tournament series.

Incidents at Hockey Game: Heard reports on the November 8 hockey game when Colony High School visited Juneau-Douglas High School. During the game Colony accumulated 28 penalties and Juneau accumulated 10. Two players and a coach were ejected from the contest and a Colony player was assaulted by a Juneau fan when leaving the locker room. There was an altercation between fans and Colony players during the handshake at the end.

In a letter following the incident, the executive director asked Juneau-Douglas High School to respond to reports that there was inadequate administrative supervision during the contest which may have contributed to the problems. Under Article 6, Sections 4 and 5, the host school is responsible to have adequate supervision at home games.

School administrators reported that there was an administrator in charge during the game but some changes will be incorporated for the future. The guest locker room will be moved away from the fans. There will be two administrators on duty for the remainder of the season. A letter was sent to hockey parents from the coaches and players. Arena rules will be posted conspicuously around the arena and will be read prior to each game. The ASAA Sportsmanship Creed will be read publicly before each game. Five additional volunteers with radios will be stationed at various places throughout the arena to monitor fan behavior. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated and violators will be removed.

Under the hockey Supplementary Rules, Colony was fined \$250 for accumulating 15 or more penalties.

State Cheerleading Championship: Heard a proposal from the organizing committee to hold the championship on March 17, 2009 at Dimond High School. The board also discussed financial considerations and heard a proposal to charge a participation fee for the event.

All-State Music Festival Report: Heard and discussed a report from Cam Bohman, music coordinator, on the 2008 festival held in November. Cam also reported on recent innovations which help students become better prepared to perform within their groups. She also explained a future proposal in which students could audition on-line instead of submitting CD's. The board also discussed existing festival participation fees and whether they should be increased.

Football: Heard a proposal from Region 6 and the football coaches' association that would begin 4A playoff cross-bracketing in the quarterfinals. This will be taken to the regions for input and possible future action.

Heard from staff and others about a sportsmanship concern involving the haka dance performed by some of the teams during the playoffs. The NFHS football rules committee will discuss this during its January meeting. Current playing rules prohibit taunting. The board will revisit this during the February meeting.

Conference Policy Proposal: Reviewed a policy proposal dealing with conferences. Currently, there are 68 different conferences, 13 of which involve 2 or more regions. There are growing governance concerns within these conferences that require board policy. The board members will

discuss the proposed policy at upcoming regional meetings. It will be a discussion item during the February meeting.

“Play for Keeps” Update: Heard a progress report on the “Play for Keeps” tobacco, alcohol and controlled substances program from project coordinator Teresa Johnson. The executive director has made a number of public presentations on the program in the past few months. The board will begin a review of the program during the February meeting.

Heard of current efforts to secure funding to complete the programs’s educational components. Staff is continuing to seek grants and will solicit a legislative appropriation in the 2009 capital budget. Staff will also continue to seek support for the program from the Governor’s office.

Heard of plans to hold a “health fair” during the state basketball tournament in conjunction with the “Play for Keeps” program.

Coaching Out-of-Season: Heard recurring concerns about fairness when high school coaches coach their high school athletes in fall basketball leagues, winter soccer leagues and winter volleyball leagues. Staff has asked the NFHS to survey other state associations to see how they deal with this issue. This will be a discussion item at the February meeting.

Bylaw Amendment Proposals: Revisited a prior board’s decision to not hear an appeal of a official’s judgement call during a contest in which a student or player is ejected for a rules violation. When it was previously decided by the board, the bylaw was not amended to specify this. This will be a discussion item during the February meeting.

Heard that the bylaws must be interpreted to clarify the amateur status of music students who are paid to play in community performances. This will be a discussion item during the February meeting.

Discussed with counsel the applicability of the McKinney-Vento act to homeless student eligibility. The board moved this to action item 9j.

Coaches Education Program: Heard an update on the current program and the opportunity for a coach to apply for an equivalency determination. Also agreed that the current sport safety is required for initial certification. Also agreed to editorial changes in the bylaw to bring it in line with the current program.

Statewide Scheduling Meeting: Heard a report on the statewide scheduling meeting to be held at the Millennium Hotel on February 18.

Training for New Board Members: Heard of plans to train new board members on February 21, the day prior to the next meeting. Former board president, Jim Hickerson, and current president, Al Howard, will assist staff in bringing the new members up to speed on Association issues.

April Board Meeting in Nome: Discussed the spring meeting which will be held in Nome on

April 26-27. Due to hotel room availability, the board will fly into Nome on Sunday morning and will fly out on Tuesday evening, thus possibly changing the meeting dates to April 27-28. The board will make its final plans during the February meeting.

Electronic Packet Distribution: Expressed satisfaction with the electronic distribution of board meeting packets for the December meeting. Agreed to continue with this in the future.

Wrestling – Cordova School District Concern: Discussed a letter from the district concerning a wrestling injury incurred at the ACS tournament in November, and requesting that medical personnel be present at athletic contests throughout the state. Although there is no ASAA policy in place, having medical personnel on site is current practice in some areas and not in others, frequently depending on availability. Some rules books require that medical personnel be on hand. Note: ASAA has medical personnel on hand at most state athletic championships.

The district also asked that ASAA require wrestling officials to attend annual training clinics. The board felt that this request was impractical and expressed satisfaction with the status quo.

STUDENT HEARING

No hearing was requested or conducted.

Items for February Meeting

February 22-23, 2009 – Millennium Hotel - Anchorage

Workshop

1. Continue to Address Association Financial Concerns
2. Begin a Review and Evaluation of “Play for Keeps” Policy and Procedures

Executive Session

1. Executive Director’s Evaluation

Reports

1. Statewide Scheduling Meeting

Discussion

1. Future State Basketball Tournament Format
2. Analysis of State Tournament Berths for Individual Sports
3. Hall of Fame Report
4. 2009-10 Draft Budget Presentation
5. Thunder Mountain High School Waiver Request
6. Music Amateurism Interpretation
7. 4A Football Playoff Format
8. Haka Dance Sportsmanship Concern
9. Conference Policy

10. Coaching Out-of-Season Concern
11. Appeal of Game Suspensions
12. April Board Meeting Details

Action

1. Bylaw Amendment Adoptions
 - a. McKinney-Vento Act Implications
2. Adoption of State Tournament Bids
 - a. Wrestling
3. Hearing Policy Amendment