



ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting Anchorage, Alaska December 15-17, 2013

Note: This synopsis is available on the ASAA web site at <http://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/BOD-December-2013-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:

➤ 2013-14 Budget: Approved amendments to the 2013-14 budget based on additional information - including additional sponsorships and rights fees, reinstatement of the contribution to AASG, sponsorship revenue sharing with regions, and increases in the marketing budget. Also authorized increasing the Legal Defense Fund to \$25,000 after January's reconciliations.
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ Conferences and State Tournament Berths – Individual Sports: Added a third conference in cross-country running for Region 1 while decreasing the number of state qualifiers from the top 15 to top 10 in each conference.
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Approved changes in the structure of the tennis state tournament proposed by state tournament committee and ASAA staff.
(Carried 8-0)

➤ Adoption of 2014-15 Calendar and 3 Year Projection: Adopted the calendar for 2014-15 -

<http://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014-15-ASAA-Calendar-of-Events1.pdf>

and the 3 year projection.

<http://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/ASAA-3-Year-Projected-Calendar-2015-2018.pdf>

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ State Tournament Site Bids: Adopted the following bids:

- All-State Music – Anchorage School District – 2014, 2015, 2016
- 4A Wrestling – Chugiak High School, Eagle River – 2015, 2016, 2017
- Nordic Skiing – Dimond High School, Anchorage – 2015, 2016, 2017
- World Language Declamation, East Anchorage High School – 2015, 2016, 2017
- Baseball – American Legion, Mulcahy Stadium, Anchorage – 2015, 2016, 2017
- Softball – Lathrop High School, South Davis Complex, Fairbanks - 2015, 2016, 2017

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Reclassification Request: Denied a request by Tri-Valley High School to be reclassified from 2A to 1A due to declining enrollment. The board stated that school must follow the adopted procedure.
(Failed)

➤ Appointment of Future Executive Director: Appointed Billy Strickland, Dean of Students at Bethel Regional High School, to replace Gary Matthews who will retire in July.
(Carried)

➤ Election of Officers: Elected Dr. Lance Bowie, AASA representative on the board, as president. Reelected Mike Boyd, Region 3 representative, as vice-president.
(Carried)

➤ Softball Proposal: Adopted a revised game ending procedure for the state softball tournaments, as follows:

“Ending a Regulation Game: By State Association adoption, the game shall end when either team is 15 runs behind after 3 innings, 12 runs behind after 4 innings, or 8 runs behind after 5 innings. A game will end after 7 innings of play if none of the above applies. This will apply to state tournament games only, beginning in 2014.”

(Carried)

Extended the state tournament formats, as follows:

“Both the large and small school state tournaments will be expanded from 2 to 3 days, beginning in 2014-15.”

(Carried)

➤ ”Outstanding” Awards at State Swimming and Diving Tournament: After considerable discussion, voted to approve a new award entitled “Outstanding Competitor.” This will replace the former Outstanding Diver and Outstanding Swimmer awards.

(Carried – 5-3)

➤ Basketball State Tournament Seeding: Following a discussion concerning requests to seed the 1A, 2A and 3A state tournaments, adopted the following position statement:

“Because the board intends to use information entered by the schools to seed and possibly award at-large berths to future state basketball tournaments, it is mandated that teams enter their schedules by January 15, 2014 into www.asaa365.com and their game results within 48 hours after completion. The board authorizes conferences to enforce the provisions of this statement.”

(Carried)

➤ Electronic “E” Cigarettes: Due to the recent increase in the use of electronic “E” cigarettes, amended the “Play for Keeps” TAD policy as follows:

Section 1. Prohibited Conduct: is amended to read:

“ The possession, distribution or use of any tobacco products, **(add) including “E” or electronic cigarettes**, alcohol and controlled substances (as defined in Section 10 of this policy), is prohibited and shall result in the penalties set forth herein.

Section 10. Definitions: is amended as follows:

(add) “Electronic “E” Cigarettes

“E-cigarette” means any electronic oral device, such as one composed of a heating element, battery, and/or electronic circuit, which provides a vapor of nicotine or any other substance, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such device whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, or under any other product name or descriptor.”

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

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
- Tech Talk
- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)
- Executive Director
- Auditor’s Report

Public Comments A large group of wrestling students and their coaches from Mt.

Edgecumbe High School attended the meeting and spoke in support of a girls state wrestling tournament.

Executive Session The board moved into executive session to discuss the Executive Director succession/transition process.

Workshop The board conducted a workshop to review and discuss growing concerns with the Transfer/Residency Rule and the Waiver Process.

Student Eligibility Hearing No hearing was requested.

Tabled Items None

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

➤ Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) Recommendations: Discussed committee concerns/recommendations as follows:

- Concussion Reporting- SMAC expressed concern that the concussion reporting in Alaska has not been consistent by all schools. Many schools do not seem to realize the importance of reporting, not a high priority. SMAC recommended that ASAA develop a process to ensure more consistent concussion reporting.
- Heat Acclimatization and Illness: SMAC recommended that all coaches take the on-line NFHS Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Illness course.
- Contact During Football and Hockey Practice: SMAC recommended that the NFHS develop a uniform policy (rule) to limit contact in football and hockey practices, and also apply it to flag football.

These recommendations will be action items during the February board meeting.

➤ Football Proposal: Revisited a staff proposal that was first presented during the previous board meeting. It was proposed:

1. to revise the playoff structure in Small, Medium and Large School classifications,
2. to change the format of small school football from 11-player to either 9- or 8-player, with Small Schools opting to continue to play 11-player football, being required to move up to the Medium School classification,
3. to increase the cutoff number between Small and Medium classifications from 326 to 350 students, and
4. to change the calendar dates of Large School football to weeks 4-15, of Medium

School football to weeks 5-15, and of Small School football to weeks 5-13.

Following discussion, there was insufficient interest from the board members to advance the proposals.

The board agreed to discuss the playoff format for Medium Schools during the February meeting since this year's format was for one year only.

➤ Girls Wrestling: During its October meeting, following considerable discussion, the board directed staff to "flesh out" a proposal for a girls state wrestling tournament to be presented during the December meeting. Staff carried out this request and presented its proposal. The board commented and agreed to take the proposal to the region meetings for input and further discussion during its February meeting.

➤ Softball: Heard and discussed a proposal from Region 3 to do away with the 1 ½ hour game time limit in effect during the state tournaments. This was moved to an action item.

➤ Basketball: Continued discussion, without consensus, on a Region 6 proposal to seed the 3A state basketball tournament teams using a panel comprised of regional representation – a separate panel for girls and boys teams.

Continued discussion, without consensus, on a Region 1 proposal to seed the top 4 teams (boys and girls) in the 1A, 2A and 3A state basketball tournaments, possibly using similar panels of experts.

Concluded discussion by agreeing that future seeding is only possible if accurate seeding data is available. Adopted a position statement (see action items) that paves the road for future seeding and possible at-large berths based on seeding results by requiring schools to enter basketball game results at www.asaa365.com so that information is available for committee use. The board asked schools to begin entering data this season so that any unforeseen difficulties with the website can be solved prior to potential state tournament seeding for the 2014-15 season.

Continued discussion on this item will be held during the February board meeting.

➤ Girls Hockey Update: Heard a short update on girls hockey from Region 4. This will be a discussion item during the February board meeting.

➤ Conferences and State Tournament Berths – Team Sports: ASAA reviews team sports during school years which begin with an odd number. This year's review included baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, softball, 3A/4A volleyball and 2A/mixed/six volleyball.

Discussed recommended changes in Greatland hockey and softball.

Greatland hockey – due to a decrease in the number of schools sponsoring teams, decrease the teams in the state tournament from 4 to 2.

Softball – due to a decrease in the number of Large School teams, decrease the teams in the state tournament from 8 to 6.

Softball - due to changes in the number of teams in the Small School conferences, reallocate berths from 2-2-2 to 3-2-1.

These items will receive further discussion/action during the February board meeting.

➤ Alternative Education Program Update: Heard that implementation of the new eligibility rules applying to alternative education program students throughout the state is moving along smoothly.

➤ Boarding School Transfer Rule: Heard that the new form/process seems to be working and that the number of requests is increasing. It is expected that a large number will be received beginning with second semester.

➤ State Tournament Site Bids: Discussed bids which were submitted for the All-State Music Festival, 4A Wrestling, Nordic Skiing, Softball, Baseball and World Language Declamation, prior to taking action later in the meeting.

Moved into executive session to discuss the financial implications of potentially moving the March Madness Alaska state basketball tournament from the Sullivan Arena to UAA’s Alaska Airlines Center in the future.

➤ ASAA Board Composition: Continued discussion on the Region 1 proposal to analyze the composition of the board in light of concerns expressed that the makeup of the board does not represent a broad base of Alaskans; that it lacks representation by various constituencies. This will receive further discussion during the February board meeting.

➤ Game Ejections/Suspensions: Continued discussion on the high number of coach/player game ejections. Reviewed a staff proposal to increase the penalties for repetitive ejections during a season. This will receive further discussion during the February board meeting.

Proposed Changes –

- Student:
- First Ejection – No change (sit out next contest)
 - Second Ejection - Removal for rest of the current contest plus an additional two contest suspension. Prior to returning to competition, the student must complete the on-line NFHS Course entitled, “Sportsmanship.”
 - Third Ejection – Student is ineligible for remainder of that sport season.

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 ejection 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 – No change (sit out next contest)
Second Ejection - Removal for rest of the current contest plus an additional two contest suspension. Coach may not coach again during a contest until completing the on-line NFHS Course entitled, "Teaching and Modeling Behavior."
Third Ejection – Coach is ineligible for remainder of that sport season.

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

School: A school whose students and or coaches accumulate (number ??) or more ejections during the current school year will be fined a maximum of \$1,000 which is reducible by the ASAA board of directors if the school submits a written plan to reduce its number of ejections.

➤ School Classification: Discussed a request by Tri-Valley High School to be reclassified from 2A to 1A beginning in 2014-15 due to declining enrollment. This was moved to an action item.

➤ Policy- Transgender/Trasnsexual Students in Interscholastic Activities: Discussed the growing nationwide discussion on eligibility determinations for these students. It was decided to contact AASB in researching existing school district policies in the state for continued discussion during the February board meeting.

➤ Employee Manual: Heard a brief report from the Executive Director on the newly written ASAA employee manual. This will be a workshop item during the February board meeting, prior to adoption.

➤ Out-of-Season Contact: Began a new discussion on the potential unfair advantage that out-of-season contact between players and their school coaches can create for certain school teams. This came out of discussions held concerning a pre-season tournament held at a member school in Anchorage. 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. The board asked staff to investigate policies of other state associations for comparison. This will be a topic of continued discussion during the February board meeting.

➤ Presentation – UAA Athletic Staff: Heard a presentation from Keith Hackett and Tim McDiffett of UAA, concerning the potential of using the future Alaska Airlines Center as a venue for state tournaments.

➤ TAD Policy: Discussed a Region 1 concern about the penalties for violating the chewing/smoking tobacco section of the TAD policy. Mt. Edgecumbe High School also expressed concern on behalf of its students. Discussion evolved into the potential for development of a chewing tobacco video educational component.

Also discussed a staff request to include “e” cigarettes, etc., in the TAD policy. This was moved to an action item.

➤ State Tournament “Outstanding Diver” Award: Discussed a staff concern about the way that award recipient is selected and in the award itself, compared to other state tournament “outstanding” awards. This was moved to an action item.

➤ Nordic Skiing State Tournament: Revisited a staff proposal as follows:

- 3 races per day – no change
- Berths (current) -open qualification for each school - 6 girls and 6 boys
(proposed) – Region 2 - ??
Region 3 - Top 4 teams + top 25 skiers not on those teams
Region 4 – Top 4 teams + top 25 skiers not on those teams
Region 6 – Top 2 teams + top 15 skiers not on those teams

Items for Next Regular Meeting – February 17-18, 2014

University Lake Springhill Suites, Anchorage

Action Items

- 1.

Tabled Items

- 1.

Discussion Items

1.