



4048 Laurel St. #203, Anchorage, AK 99508 / Phone: 907-563-3723 / Web: www.asaa.org

Un-Adopted Minutes of the ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting February 17-18, 2025

More information may be obtained from an ASAA Board member (board@asaa.org) or from the ASAA office (907) 563-3723.

Call to Order — the meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. February 17, 2025.

Roll Call:

Region 1 – Patrick Callahan - Present
Region 2 – James Sickler - Present
Region 3 – Stacia Rustad - Present
Region 4 – Tim Helvey - Present
Region 5 – Jaime Cabral - Present
Region 6 – Wayne Sawchuk - Present
AASB – Margo Bellamy - Present
AASA – Jim Holien – Present
AASG – and Leif Konrath-Bera – Present

Approval of the Consent Items –

- a. Approval of Minutes from December 9-10, 2024, Meeting
- b. Waiver Report
- c. Out-of-State Travel
- d. Contest Ejection Report
- e. Financial Report
- f. Cooperative Schools Report
- g. Endowment Report
- h. Eighth Grade Student Eligibility Request Report

Motion and second “to approve the consent items”
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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Ordering and Approval of the Agenda–

Motion and second “to approve the agenda as amended”
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items – none

Reports – The Board of Directors was provided with the following reports:

- Board Members
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- State Tournaments
- Officials and Coaches
- Sponsorships/Marketing/Promotions
- Student Services
- Hall of Fame
- SMAC
- Executive Director



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Action Items – The Board of Directors acted as follows:

➤ **ASAA Article 10 Sections 1 and 2 amendments:** motion and second “to adopt the changes to Article 10 Sections 1 and 2 as presented beginning August 1, 2025.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The changes to the bylaw now require coaches and volunteer coaches to complete the NFHSLearn Protecting Students from Abuse course every three years. The bylaw allows for the coaches who believe they have completed an equivalent certification program to request a waiver of this requirement.

➤ **ASAA Article 7 Sections 7.A and B amendment:** motion and second “to adopt the changes to Article 7 Section 7.A and 7.B as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The change to the bylaw allows the Executive Director to grant waivers of up to three days to the practice rule requirement in the event of circumstances beyond the control of the student and their school.

➤ **Twindly Bridge Charter School Membership request:** motion and second “accept Twindly Bridges Charter School membership request, place them into Region 2 and into the logical Region 2 conferences. In addition, to allow students attending the Twindly Bridge Charter School to participate in activities not offered by the Twindly Bridge Charter School, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough District school for which the student’s home is zoned. This agreement expires at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.”

Motion passed (7-1)

- Advisory: (Y) AASG
- (Y) Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, ASA, AASB
- (N) Region 1



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➤ **ASAA Article 12 Section 2.A.3 amendment:** motion and second “to adopt the changes to Article 12 Section 2.A.3 bylaw as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The change to the bylaw causes a student who competes in a college program within an activity to lose their high school eligibility in that particular activity.

➤ **Football Scheduling Policy:** motion and second “adopt the revisions to rule #5 of the football scheduling policy.

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The revised policy now reads:

5. Teams requesting byes or seeking to compete against an out-of-state team must submit their requests by November 30. If a team’s out-of-state competition causes another school to take a 'bye,' every effort will be made to:

a. Assign the 'bye' to a team within the same division and school district as the team competing out of state.

b. If that is not possible, assign the 'bye' to another school within the same school district before considering other schools.

➤ **FY24 Audit Report:** motion and second “accept the FY24 Audit Report.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **First Contest date for DI, DII, DIII Football, Flag Football and Football Cheer:** motion and second “change the first contest date for DI, DII, DIII Football, Flag Football and Football Cheer to Thursday, August 14, 2025.

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Review of Executive Director’s Evaluation Document:** motion and second “to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the Executive Director’s evaluation document.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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Board Directives and Discussions: The Board of Directors engaged in discussions and provided direction as follows:

➤ **Spring Board Meeting Location:** The Board discussed travel arrangements for the Spring 2025 Board meeting, which will be held in Cordova.

➤ **Classification Committee:** The Board reviewed the committee's updated report and heard input from its members. The Board agreed with the Classification Committee's recommendations of not going to a 5A volleyball system, and maintaining the status quo in soccer and softball. The Board did feel the current softball soccer DII conferences could possibly be realigned.

The Board did feel baseball could benefit by moving to 650 enrollment number (to include alternative education students). The primary remaining issue at DI was whether or not to have an "at-large" berth coming from the current two berth three team Southeast Conference. The primary issue with D2 baseball was whether to put Petersburg into a conference or to assign them to a one berth one team conference.

The Board discussed the need to develop a more viable system in which teams would be allowed to "opt-down". This system could include a condition of the team not being eligible for post-season play during their first year. The Board is now asking the Classification Committee to review what other state associations are doing and to make a recommendation for the Board to consider during its May 2025 meeting.

➤ **Football Scheduling Policy:** discussed a request from the Juneau School District to reduce from 36 to 22 the number of roundtrip tickets from Anchorage to Juneau for team bringing both JV and Varsity teams. Juneau's concern was tickets were being purchased by both themselves and the Anchorage School District for students not participating in the games.

➤ **Wrestling Duels:** The Board discussed concerns with how wrestling duels are being conducted. These concerns included the combination of the girls' and "boys'" weights into a single score to determine the winning team, duels being scheduled prior to conference tournaments, and how some duels have more forfeits than actual matches involving two students. The issue will be referred to the Wrestling Coaches' Committee for their input.

➤ **Wrestling Weight Classes:** discussed a request from Region 3 to adopt the 14 weight classes in the NFHS Wrestling Handbook. The Wrestling Coaches' Committee did not support this request so it will be removed from the agenda.

➤ **Adding/Deleting Activities:** Discussed and made modifications to a presented ASAA bylaw revision on adding activities for sanctioning. This revision would require a certain number of schools to operate an activity at a "club" level before it can be sanctioned by ASAA. Directed the ASAA Staff to send out a bylaw revision to the membership.



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- **State Roster Size:** The Board discussed allowing schools to bring additional students to state tournament events so that a team could substitute other players to their rosters during a tournament.

- **State Berth Analysis of Individual Sports:** Currently the two activities which the ASAA Staff feels could be changing their current berths allocated to the conferences are wrestling and cross country running. Regions wishing to have changes to their cross country berths need to contact ASAA with those requests by mid-April. The Wrestling committee will be asked to review the current berths by early April to be shared with the ASAA Board members prior to their spring meeting. The ASAA Board will act on the assigning of berths during its May 2025 meeting.

- **Student Eligibility Committee:** A committee made up of two individuals from each Region was formed to review the eligibility requirements for student participation. Committee members from Region 3, Region 4 and Region 5 were appointed. Region 1, Region 2 and Region 6 will notify ASAA of their appointments by the end of February.

- **DII Wrestling Conference:** reviewed and discussed the number of students participating in the six DII Wrestling conferences. Direct the ASAA to determine if there is interest/willingness from Cordova, Houston and/or Redington in moving into the Denali Conference and to work with the Wrestling Committee on how such a move would impact the berth allocations.

- **Contract Violation:** discussed the need for Activities Administrators to honor agreements whether agreed to by contract or not. The ASAA Staff was directed to send out to membership a bylaw revision increasing the penalty to include game forfeitures. Additionally, to clarify the penalty would be fined by the number of games not played by breaking the contract.

- **Volleyball Teams switching benches:** discussed the pro and cons of having teams switch benches between sets in the activity of volleyball. Board Members are asked to find out how their schools feel about this issue. Currently teams remain on one bench unless the official believes there is a competitive disadvantage created for not doing so.



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- **Cross Country Start Date:** discussed changing the first practice date to Monday, July 28 and the first contest date to August 9 for the activity of cross country running. Board members are asked to poll their schools to determine interest as this would allow for one more weekend of competition.
- **Notification Platform:** discussed having ASAA recommend the use of a notification application, such as sportsYou, for schools to use to communicate with each other. A common platform would help schools better be able to push out critical information such as event cancelations to those involved.
- **Shot Clock Supplemental Rules:** discussed the need to develop the ASAA Supplemental rules needed to accompany the 35-second shot clock being introduced next year at the 4A basketball level. Each 4A conference will be asked to provide one 4A coach and one 4A girls coach to sit on this committee. The committee will meet in late March or early April to make recommendations to be adopted by ASAA.
- **Hockey Seeding:** discussed changing current hockey seeding policy with a RPI or RPI plus committee system. The ASAA was asked to provide what the RPI would have looked like with the DI and DII games being combined and also with each division being calculated separately.
- **3A Volleyball roster size:** directed the ASAA Staff to send out a change in the roster size bylaw to return 3A volleyball to a roster size of 14.
- **Technology:** discussed the forming of a committee made up of several school district's IT departments to review other school activities reporting systems. The work of this group is to determine if reviewed system would be compatible with the district's requirements. If approved by the committee, the ASAA Board will then review the product in terms of how it compares to our existing systems.
- **ASD Resolution:** reviewed and discussed a resolution from the Anchorage School District to require ASAA to expanded remote access to its meetings through digital platforms such as Zoom or via teleconference when Zoom is not logistically feasible. Board members were asked to take this back to their respective regions and associations for their thoughts.

Hearings –

- none



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Recognition - none

Motion to Adjourn

Motion and second to Adjourn
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Upcoming Board Meetings and Workshops

- May 4-6, 2025 – Board Meeting - Cordova