



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 Anchorage, Alaska February 18-19, 2013

Note: This synopsis is available on the ASAA web site at <http://asaa.org/about-asaa/bod-meetings/>. 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:

➤ **Classification Policy:** Adopted amendments to the Reclassification Policy as proposed. The policy now reads:

1. Schools are classified by their enrollments in grades 9-12 according to the October OASIS report to the Department of Education (DEED) on a three year cycle.
2. Geographic and competitive considerations are not determining factors for classification placement.

Reclassification Enrollment Policy

The following wording replaces the existing wording.

During its spring 2014 meeting, the board will analyze enrollments of member schools based on the October 2013 OASIS report, adding the participation numbers of alternative education program students participating under AS.14.30.365 and AS 14.45.350 (if enacted). After requests for forgiveness for ineligible 5th year students have been granted, schools will then be assigned to classifications. Schools which will be reclassified to a higher level under this policy may appeal the reclassification based on the average enrollment data for the current and 2 previous years. Schools which are reclassified will remain in their current classifications until the beginning of the second school year (2015-16), at which time they will move to their new classifications. Schools will remain in their new classifications for three years, at which time the cycle begins again.

Sample Schedule

April 2014 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal
2014-15 – schools remain at current classifications
2015-16 – schools move to new classifications
2016-17 – schools remain at current classifications
April 2017 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal
2017-18 – schools remain at current classifications
2018-19 – schools move to new classifications
2019-20 – schools remain at current classifications
April 2020 – check enrollments/reclassify schools/schools may appeal
2020-21 – schools remain at current classification
2021-22 – schools move to new classifications
etc.

Example

Smith High School is a 2A school with an enrollment of 155 in April of 2014 (including alternative education program students). There is no request for forgiveness so the board reclassifies Smith High School to 3A beginning in 2015-16 (the school remains at the 2A level in 2014-15). Smith High School is 3A school in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18. During the April 2017 board meeting, the school’s enrollment is 149 and the board reclassifies the school to 2A beginning in the 2018-19 school year. The school remains at the 2A level for 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. During the April 2020 board meeting, the school’s enrollment is 145 and so the school remains in the 2A classification and a new three year cycle begins in the 2021-22 school year.

(Carried 7-1)

➤ Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) Recommendations: The board took the following actions:

1. Dr. Keller/Dr. Brand moved:
“to recommend to the ASAA Board of Directors that the team medical staff be permitted to freely move outside of the team box while respecting the 2 yard barrier from the sideline for football. And that this policy be disseminated to all football officials associations throughout the state.”

Approved the motion with the following provisions:

Football – from 20 yard line to 20 yard line
Soccer – add 5 yards to each end of the team space

(Carried)

2. Dr. Brand/Dr. Lehman moved:

“to recommend to the ASAA BOD that up to 2 medical personnel be allowed into the hockey coach box in addition to the 5 team personnel as allowed by the NFHS.”

(Carried)

3. Dr. Brand/Dr. Lehman moved:

“to recommend that the ASAA Board adopt the following the NFHS position statements.”

“The NFHS regularly distributes position statements and guidelines to promote public awareness of certain health and safety-related issues. Such information is neither exhaustive nor necessarily applicable to all circumstances or individuals, and is no substitute for consultation with appropriate health-care professionals. Statutes, codes or environmental conditions may be relevant. NFHS position statements or guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other pertinent materials when taking action or planning care. The NFHS reserves the right to rescind or modify any such document at any time. “

Position Statements

- *Anabolic Steroid Use*
- *Energy Drinks*
- *Lightning Protocol*
- *Hydration*
- *Medical Appliances*
- *Mouth Guards*
- *Heat Acclimatization*
- *Wrestling Skin Concerns*
- *Supplements*
- *Athlete Hygiene*
- *Soccer Headgear*
- *Emerging Technology*

(Carried)

4. “ASAA should penalize schools for violation of the concussion policy.”

(Carried)

5. “Recommend that all coaches, team physicians, trainers, school nurses and AD’s be required to take the NFHS’s “Concussion in Sport: What You Need to Know” course and review the CDC information.”

(Carried)

6. “ASAA continue to provide appropriate medical coverage for state championships. Care providers should be compensated for expenses and recognized for their service.”

(Carried)

7. “ASAA should review the ASAA Concussion Policy to make sure that it is clearly stated that the policy and forms are minimum for schools.”

(Carried)

8. “The SMAC recommended a uniform policy for wrestling mat clean up procedures. The NFHS General Guidelines for Sports Hygiene, Skin Infections and Communicable Diseases states, in part:”

“...Clean all (contaminated surfaces) and equipment with disinfectant before competition or before returning to competition...”

It was reported that some schools are using Simple Green to clean mats – not a disinfectant.

(Carried)

9. “SMAC asked ASAA to consider having a “dead week” between regional and state tournaments to let injured students heal.”

(Defeated)

10. “SMAC asked for clarification that a student who returns to competition prior to completing the RTP protocol is ineligible.”

(Carried)

11. “SMAC asked ASAA to support the development of an Athletic Training Program at UAF.” (The executive director wrote a letter of support.)

(Carried)

12. “SMAC asked Board to encourage schools to hire athletic trainers.”

(Carried)

13. “SMAC recommends that ASAA contact youth sports organizations on concussion management and offer use of materials.”

(Carried)

14. “SMAC recommends that ASAA’s concussion policy require schools to report concussions through the on-line system upon completion of the RTP protocol.”

(Carried)

15. “SMAC recommends that coaches be mandated to take the NFHS course- “Concussion in Sports-What You need to Know” when recertifying for first aid.”

(Carried)

16. “SMAC recommends that all schools should make every attempt to have qualified medical personnel on site for games with high level of risk – football, wrestling, hockey. Also, that schools have specific Emergency Action Plans for each athletic site and that they rehearse the plans.”

(Tabled)

17. Following a discussion on SMAC’s recommendation that each school district sponsor an updated Concussion Awareness symposium at least once every 4 years and work with ASAA to develop a product to meet this standard, the board adopted the following statement:

“Each ASAA region will review and discuss concussion awareness at least once every 4 years and will work with ASAA to develop a product to meet this standard.”

(Carried)

➤ Membership Application: Approved the membership application for the the Kuskokwim Learning Academy effective in 2013-14. The school will be a 2A school in Region 1.

(Carried)

➤ Calendar Revisions: Adopted revised dates for the 2013-14 statewide calendar.

Nordic Skiing – Kincaid Park – from February 27-28, March 1 to
February 20-22, 2014 (date conflict for site host)

World Language Declamation – East Anchorage High School – from February 22 to
March 1, 2014 (date conflicted with new state DDF site)

ASAA Board Meeting – Anchorage – from December 9-10 to December 15-17, 2013,
From April 21-22 to April 27-29, 2014

Statewide Scheduling Meeting – Anchorage – from February 5 to January 29, 2014

(Carried)

➤ State Tournament Bids – Accepted the following bids for state tournaments:

Baseball – 2014 – accepted the bid from Sitka High School

(Carried 6-1, Region 2 absent)

DDF – 2014-16 – accepted the amended bid from UAA/ASD

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ Bylaw Amendment Article 12, Sections 5 and 9, Undue Influence: Defeated a proposal from Region 3 that would have amended the bylaw to to permit foreign exchange students who live with a member of a school’s coaching staff to be eligible for all sports except those coached by the host coach.

(Failed 3-4)

The board directed the ED to send out a proposed amendment which would authorize a school to request a waiver for a foreign exchange student who lives with a school coach when it can be demonstrated that that student was not recruited.

Reports The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournaments
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches/WPI
- Marketing
- Play for Keeps, Win for Life
- Technology
- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), Concussions
- Executive Director

Public Comments Many students and adults testified in support of girls hockey, both in person and by phone.

Workshop Items Held a workshop on finances and pending legislation that may effect interscholastic activities.

Student Eligibility Hearing No hearing was conducted.

Tabled Items Moved the following items to the discussion or action agenda –

1. SMAC recommendations
2. Bylaw Article 12, Section 2. D., Use of Junior High-Middle School Students (8th graders)
3. Football playoff format

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

➤ State Tournament Bids: Reviewed and discussed a bid for the 2014 state baseball tournament from Sitka High School, and a bid from UAA/Anchorage School District to host the 2014-16 state DDF tournament. This bid replaced an earlier bid rejected by the board. Reviewed a staff analysis of the anticipated financial impacts on the Association. Action will be taken later in the agenda.

➤ Media Sponsorships: Heard and discussed a staff report on the agreements recently signed with GCI and PlayOnSports to provide television and webstream coverage of the upcoming March Madness Alaska state basketball tournament. GCI will televise the 8 championship games throughout the state with a delay in the Anchorage market. PlayOnSports will webstream all 118 games under a pay per view model. This will all be done at no cost to ASAA. If the venture is successful, all parties will seek a multi-year agreement with rights fees paid to ASAA.

➤ Conferences and State Tournament Berths: Postponed discussion on the analysis of conferences and state tournament berths in individual sports until the April meeting. Staff had not had the opportunity to compile all the data prior to the meeting.

➤ USDOE, OCR Announcement – Students with Disabilities: Discussed this recent interpretation by OCR which specifies accommodations which must be made for disabled students to participate in interscholastic activities. Jim Brennan, ASAA legal counsel, presented his opinion on bylaw amendments which should be made to clarify OCR's intent under the interpretation. This will be an action item during the April board meeting.

➤ Legislation: Reviewed SB41 by Senator Dyson, which if passed, will amend SB119 (the homeschool bill) to include private and religious schools as potential schools of eligibility for students enrolled in "alternative education programs" as defined in AS 14.30.365. No opposition to the bill was expressed. The bylaws will be amended to reflect these changes during the April board meeting.

Discussed a Governor's bill which amends AS 47.17.020 to add athletic coaches to the list of those must report to the State if they have a reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered harm as a result of child abuse or neglect. No opposition to the bill was expressed.

Reviewed and commented on documents prepared to assist students, families, schools and districts in the implementation of AS 14.30.365 (the homeschool bill) which becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

➤ Bylaw Article 12, Sections 5 and 9 – Foreign Exchange Students Living with a School's Coach: Continued discussion on the current rules which deny athletic eligibility to a foreign exchange student who lives with a member of the school's coaching staff or whose housing is arranged by a coach. Region 3 proposed that the rule apply only to those sports actually coached by the host coach. Realizing that dropping the rule could have negative consequences throughout the state, the board asked staff to develop an amendment which would authorize schools who have an exchange student living with a coach, to request a waiver by demonstrating that the student had not been recruited. This will be an action item during the April meeting.

➤ Bylaw Article 7, Section 9 – Joint Participation and Cooperative School Programs: Reviewed a rewrite of this Article done at the board's request to make it more concise. This will be an action item during the April board meeting.

➤ Bylaw Article 2, Section 3 – Self-Reporting of Violations: Continued discussion on the current wording which states, in part:

“C. Self-Reporting: A member school shall report its own violations for any infraction of the Bylaws or rules. Some degree of leniency, including waiver of minimum mandatory penalties, may be made in self-reporting cases since the majority of such infractions may not otherwise come to light...”

The board asked staff to rewrite the wording to clarify that financial penalties may be waived but not a game forfeiture under the "waiver of minimum mandatory penalties." This will be an action item during the April meeting.

➤ Football Playoffs: Discussed requests for conference and playoff realignment from Medium and Large schools following the placement of Juneau-Douglas High School and North Pole High School into the Medium School classification, Southeast Conference. The board asked that these proposals be discussed at upcoming regional meetings with action to be taken during the April board meeting.

➤ Wrestling: Discussed the possibility of using the national TrackWresting software program to record season match results and seed wrestlers for the two state tournaments. Staff is to send a proposal to the board prior to the state basketball tournament. This will be an agenda item during the April board meeting.

Region 1 asked that wrestling practice begin on a Wednesday, instead of the traditional Monday start of all sports seasons. This will be an agenda item during the April board meeting.

Discussed the policy which specifies the penalty imposed on coaches who are ejected from matches. The board agreed that the current written policy is the correct interpretation.

➤ Hockey: The board has been discussing girls hockey for the past few meetings. There have been requests to consider girls hockey as a separate sport under the Supplemental Rules while others want both boys and girls hockey to be treated the same. The board reviewed the following proposal which will be an agenda item during the April board meeting. There was considerable discussion on the “windows” in which high school players can play games with their “comp” teams. Many supporters, including students, parents and coaches, spoke in favor of keeping a girls hockey program.

Recommendation – It is recommended that ASAA make the following changes to girls hockey, beginning in 2013-14.

1. ASAA sanction Girls Hockey as a separate sport. Girls who attend schools which have both girls and boys hockey teams would only be able to play on the the girls team (as in basketball, soccer, etc.) Girls who attend a school which has only boys hockey, may play on that team making it co-ed.

2. Modify the supplemental rules in that two windows for dual participation be adopted which apply to all girls teams. Girls who play on boys (co-ed) teams must follow the dual participation windows in effect for the boys teams.

3. Rename the girls teams to reflect that they are school teams.

4. Accept the fact that all the teams are cooperatives and that they will stay that way for the foreseeable future. Grant an indefinite waiver to the cooperative rule.

5. ASAA form one conference of all 6 girls teams in the state (4 - Anchorage, 1 - Mat-Su, and 1-Fairbanks). Any additional teams in the future would join this conference. Conference bylaws and a game schedule be adopted, and a conference commissioner be

selected. Develop a conference playoff system leading up to a state championship game.

6. Consider Region 6's state tournament proposal.

7. Seek regional input on this proposal. If supported, adopt for 2013-14. If not, drop girls hockey as a separate sport.

The board also reviewed and discussed a proposed amendment to the Supplemental Rules for hockey which might clarify the intent of the dual participation rule. The amendment states:

“ASAA prohibits students **(add) participating in high school hockey** from competing **(add) in any games** as a member of a non-school competitive or junior hockey team beginning with the first day **(add) of the high school hockey season, including tryouts**, until a school as completed its season...”

➤ Special Olympics-Unified Sports: Heard an update from Sarah Arts, Special Olympics Alaska, on the progress to date on developing Unified Sports teams at high schools in both 3 on 3 basketball and track and field. There will be track and field competition during both regional and state tournaments.

➤ Gymnastics: Tabled further discussion, at the request of Region 6, to move the gymnastics season from fall to spring. This may be a discussion item during the April board meeting.

➤ Mixed-Six Volleyball State Tournament and Berths: Board asked staff to finalize a 9 team state tournament proposal and cost analysis based on the growth of the sport in Region 2. This will be a discussion item during the April board meeting with potential action during the special board meeting in May.

➤ Length of Board Meeting: Discussed the past few meetings where the board failed to complete its agenda items due to time constraints, postponing some important items to a later meeting. The board agreed to extend the December and April meetings from 2 to 2 ½ days, while keeping the October and February meetings in their 2 day formats.

➤ Gold Lifetime Pass: Reminded the board members to submit their nominations for the ASAA Gold Lifetime Pass. Each region may nominate one individual per year who meets the stated qualifications under ASAA policy.

➤ Youth Sports Safety Alliance: Discussed a recent document from the recently formed Youth Sports Safety Alliance which met in Washington, DC in early February. The board agreed that the idea of promoting student safety is important but that many aspects of the policy are not feasible in Alaska. The NFHS, representing all state high school associations, has also expressed serious concerns with the policy. The document begins with the “Secondary School Student Athletes’ Bill of Rights.” ASAA considers interscholastic activity participation to be a privilege, not a right, for those students who want to participate and who can meet school district and ASAA eligibility standards. The document specifies 9 General Recommended Actions, only 5 of

which might be achievable in Alaska schools. Items under the Specific Recommended Actions include Cardiac Events, Neurologic Injuries, Environmental/Exertional Conditions and Dietary/Substance-Induced Conditions. Staff was directed to send a letter of concern to the NFHS. This document was previously sent to school superintendents.

➤ Article 12, Section 9, 16. Boarding School Transfer Rule: Discussed the rule with representatives of the three boarding schools, Mt. Edgecumbe, GILA (Galena Interior Learning Academy, and Nenana. The increasing number of mid-year waiver requests is causing alarm and the fear that based on the stated hardships, inconsistent waiver decisions are being made. Board members, school representatives and staff agreed that a major revision of the process needs to be undertaken and that a proposal will be presented during the April meeting. Some of the points included:

1. boarding schools must be more thorough in notifying parents and students of transfer rules
2. all correspondence from both the sending and receiving schools must be exchanged
3. boarding schools must elaborate on the reason(s) for transfer
4. both schools must state in writing whether they support the waiver and whether it meets the hardship criteria,
5. whether either school has a reason to believe that undue influence was involved in the transfer
6. revise the transfer form to include the following questions:
 - a. what sport is the student seeking to play?
 - b. has the student started the season at the boarding school prior to the transfer?
 - c. how many students are on the receiving school's team?
 - d. has the student been asked to join the team?
 - e. is the student practicing with the team?

➤ Coaches First Aid: Region 3 requested that the board consider amending Bylaw Article 10 pertaining to coaches certification requirements, specifically the sports first aid component. The board was made aware that a number of additional training opportunities have been developed since the coaches certification program was first adopted in 1999. The board agreed that it's time to review the entire program and authorized the formation of an ad hoc coaches education committee which is to meet and develop a recommendation prior to the April board meeting.

Workshop

1. The board and staff conducted a financial workshop. Staff predicts that the January budget revisions will nearly all be realized. Everyone is hoping for good fan attendance during the March Madness Alaska state basketball tournament which will compensate for the costs of adding 30 additional games to the 1A tournament. It appears that basketball sponsorships are increasing.

Items for Next Meeting – April 21-22, 2013

Cordova – Mount Eccles Elementary School

Tabled Items

1. SMAC Recommendation
2. Gymnastics Season – Region 6

Discussion

1. Conferences and State Tournament Berths for Individual Sports
2. Mixed-six Volleyball – State Tournament Format
3. State Tournament Wrestling Seeding
4. Special Olympics – Unified Sports Report
5. Beginning Day of Wrestling Practice – Region 1
6. Girls Hockey Recommendations
7. Article 12, Section 9.16 – Boarding School Transfer Rule
8. Recommendations – Coaches Certification Ad Hoc Committee
9. 2013-14 Operating Budget

Action

1. Hockey Dual Participation Rule Clarification
2. Reclassification Policy
3. Article 12, Section 2. D. – 8th Grade Student Participation
4. Article 7, Section 9 – Joint Participation and Cooperative School Programs
5. Article 12, Sections 5 and 9 – Foreign Student Eligibility
6. Article 2, Section 3 – Self Reporting of Violations
7. Bylaw Amendments to Comply with the USDOE-OCR Determination on the Eligibility of Students with Disabilities
8. Bylaw Amendments to Comply with Amendments to SB119 and to SB41
9. Football Classification Playoff Format – Medium and Large Schools
10. Gold Lifetime Pass Selections
11. Setting of Date and Time for May Special Board Teleconference Meeting