



ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting Anchorage, Alaska February 17-18, 2014

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

➤ **2013-14 Budget:** Adopted the final version of the Employee Manual, effective immediately.
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Softball:** Clarified that the previous board action to eliminate the game time limit in the state tournament goes into effect during the current softball season (2014).
(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Football:** Adopted a revised playoff format for the Medium School classification beginning in 2014-15 as follows:

No Quarter Final Games

Northern Lights Conference – 2 berths
Southeast Conference – 2 berths

Semi Final Game 1 – Northern Lights #1 vs. Southeast #2
Semi Final Game 2 – Southeast #1 vs. Northern Lights #2

Championship Game – Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2

All games will be played in Anchorage.
(Carried – 6-2)

➤ **State Tournament Berths:** Adopted the following changes:

Hockey - Revised the Greatland State Hockey Tournament format due to a decrease in the number of small schools sponsoring hockey teams, as follows:

-Currently – 4 Berths to state tournament

-Beginning in 2014-15 – 2 Berths to state tournament

(Carried – 5-3)

Softball - Revised the Large School State Softball Tournament format due to an imbalance in the number of schools in each conference, as follows:

Currently – Cook Inlet Conference - 4 Berths for 8 teams
Railbelt Conference – 4 Berths for 5 teams

Beginning with 2014 state tournament –
Cook Inlet Conference - 4 Berths for 8 teams
Railbelt Conference – 2 Berths for 5 teams

(Carried – 6-2)

Declined to revise the Small School State Softball Tournament format and to retain the current format, as follows:

Currently – Mid Alaska Conference – 2 Berths for 5 teams
Northern Lights Conference – 2 Berths for 6 teams
Southeast Conference – 2 Berths for 6 teams

➤ **Skyview High School Closing:** Learned that Skyview High School will become a middle school beginning in 2014-15, and that its students will have the option of transferring to any school within the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Beginning in 2014-15, 9th grade students attending Soldotna High School will be housed in a separate building located near the high school.

The school district requested a one-time waiver of the Transfer/Residency Rule in the Fall of 2014-15 for all transferring Skyview students. All other eligibility rules would remain in effect for those students.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) Recommendations:** The BOD acted on the following recommendations:

Concussion Reporting – “To develop a process to ensure more consistent concussion reporting.”

Tabled until the April board meeting. Staff will work to improve the online

reporting system access.

Heat Acclimatization and Illness – “To require all coaches to take the NFHS online Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Illness course.”

The BOD took the following action – “ASAA recommends that the NFHS online Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Illness be taken by football, cross-running and tennis coaches”

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Practice Guidelines for Football and Hockey – “Recommend that the NFHS develop a uniform policy to limit contact during practice.”

The BOD took the following action – “ASAA recommends to the NFHS that it develop practice guidelines for contact sports.”

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **AASG Finances:** After hearing a recommendation of the Finance Committee and considerable discussion, voted to contribute up to \$10,000 from the Gaming Account to the student government association (AASG) to balance the 2013-14 budget.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Endowment Games:** Following discussion concerning the problems caused by not promptly filing Endowment Game request forms, the board imposed a fine of \$100 on a host school for playing an Endowment Game prior to authorization. The board determined that once played, such games will count as Endowment Games regardless of the wishes of the competing schools.

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

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 legal issues.

Workshop The board held a workshop to continue its discussion on the Transfer/Residency Rule and the Employees Manual. Following discussion, the board authorized formation of a **Transfer Committee** with membership as follows:

Chair – Rus Schreckenghost – Associate Director - ASAA
Andrew Friske – Principal - Mt. Edgecumbe High School - Region 5
Dan Gallego – Principal – Barlett High School - Region 4
Mike Boyd – AD – Colony High School - Region 3
Billy Strickland – Region 1/Future ASAA Executive Director

The committee will report to the board during a future meeting.

Student Eligibility Hearing An eligibility hearing was held at the request of an Angoon School student appealing the Executive Director’s decision to deny a waiver of the Boarding School Transfer Rule.

Tabled Items The board tabled until the April board meeting, action on a SMAC recommendation that there be more consistent concussion reporting by schools.

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

➤ **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) Recommendations:** Revisited and discussed the committee concerns/recommendations that there be more consistent concussion reporting, that coaches be required to take an online NFHS course on Heat Acclimatization and Illness, and that the NFHS develop practice guidelines for contact sports.

➤ **Wrestling:** Continued discussion on the staff proposal on girls wrestling. Board members requested additional time for regional input and that this be an action item during the April board meeting.

Heard comments from Ketchikan wrestling coach Rick Collins on the problems facing the three 4A schools in Region 5 because of the split wrestling seasons. These included the lack of wrestlers within the Region during the later season and the additional travel costs to schools who must leave the Region to compete. He requested that Ketchikan, Juneau-Douglas and Thunder Mountain be allowed to wrestle with the 1A, 2A, 3A schools during their season.

Heard comments from Chugiak wrestling coach, Tom Huffer Jr., on the problems associated with the split seasons. Heard a staff suggestion to consider reuniting the seasons under a mid-October to a mid/late-January format. The board authorized the formation of a **Calendar Committee** to study the issues and to develop a long-term solution. Committee members are:

Chair - Isaiah Vreeman – Director of Special Events - ASAA
Tom Huffer Jr. – Wrestling Coach – Chugiak High School – Region 4

Andrew Friske – Principal - Mt. Edgecumbe High School – Region 5
Dan Carstens – Principal - Nikiski High School – Region 3
TBD – Wrestling Coach – Mat-Su School District – Region 3
TBD – Wrestling Coach – Fairbank School District – Region 6
Walt Armstrong – AD - North Pole High School – Region 6
Jeff Erickson – AD – Bering Strait School District – Region 1
James Sickler – AD – Susitna Valley High School - Region 2

This will be a discussion item during the April board meeting.

Reviewed the state tournament seeding process using the TrackWrestling program. ASAA will work with the software company to further develop the seeding program for 2014-15 using a point system. The board will consider implementing penalties for coaches who do not enter their wrestlers match records into the system. This will be an action item during the April board meeting. The board also asked that staff develop a process in which school and student names can be standardized in the Track Wrestling program.

➤ **Girls Hockey Update:** Heard a short update on girls hockey in Anchorage from Daryll Thompson and Carlos Gomez. They are optimistic about the future of the program and that interest from other parts of the state may be increasing.

➤ **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.

➤ **Nordic Skiing State Tournament Berths/Format:** Continued discussion on a staff proposal for the state tournament, as follows:

- 3 races – 1 per day – no change
- Berths (current) -open qualification for each school - 6 girls and 6 boys
 - (proposed) – Region 2 - TBD
 - 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

This will be a discussion/possible action item during the April 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).

Continued discussion on recommended changes in Greatland hockey and softball, as follows:

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

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

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

➤ **School Classification:** Revisited the revised Reclassification Policy which was adopted last school year. It goes into effect beginning in April of 2014 and includes a review of 3 years of enrollment, an appeal process, and a process to seek forgiveness for enrolled ineligible 5th year seniors. This will be a discussion/action item during the April board meeting.

➤ **Budget Development/Adoption Process:** Discussed the process that will be used to develop and adopt the 2014-15 ASAA operating budget. The board will review the draft and discuss the budget during its April meeting, and will adopt the final budget during a special teleconference meeting which will be held in late May.

➤ **ASAA Board Composition:** Continued discussion on the composition of the board. The board will invite a representative of the AASSP (principals association) to be in attendance at each meeting and to report on pertinent topics. At this time, the board does not support adding additional members, neither voting nor ex-officio.

➤ **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 FOR EJECTIONS/SUSPENSIONS (Per Sport Season)

STUDENT:

FIRST EJECTION: No change (removal from the rest of the current game and suspended until completion of next scheduled game at the same level).

SECOND EJECTION: Removal from the rest of the current game plus ineligible to play until after a two additional game suspension at the same level is complete. Prior to returning to competition, the student must complete the on-line NFHS Course entitled, “Sportsmanship” (free).

THIRD EJECTION: Student is ineligible for the remainder of the sport season.

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

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

COACH:

FIRST EJECTION: No change (removal from the rest of the current game and suspended until completion of next scheduled game at the same level). The Coach may not be within sight or sound of the contest.

SECOND EJECTION: Removal from the rest of the current game plus suspended until after an additional two games at the same level is complete. The Coach may not be within sight or sound of the contest. The Coach may not coach during a game until the NFHS Course of "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" (\$20 cost) is completed.

THIRD EJECTION: The Coach is ineligible for the remainder of the sport season.

A Jamboree/pool play does not count as a contest for the purposes of meeting the suspension period.

SCHOOL:

The Principal of a school whose students and/or coaches accumulate 10 or more ejections during the current school year will be expected to explain to the ASAA Board of Directors a plan of action to reduce their number of ejections. This explanation must be presented in person at the next Board Meeting.

This will be an action item during the April board meeting.

➤ **Football Proposal:** Revisited a portion of a staff proposal concerning 8-man football that was first presented during the December board meeting. Sami King-AD, Seward High School, and David Porter-AD, Houston High School, spoke in favor of replacing the Greatland 11-man conference with an 8-man conference. Based on their comments and the discussion in general, the board authorized the formation of a **Football Task Force** to study the issue and make recommendations for the future. 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

Discussed the future playoff format for the Medium Size Conferences since this year's format was for 2013-14 only.

Discussed the existing process used to develop the statewide football master schedule. There is confusion as to ASAA's role in the scheduling process. The board asked that the process be written and placed on the website and in future handbooks.

➤ **Out-of-Season Contact and Participation:** Continued the discussion on the potential unfair advantage that out-of-season contact between players and their school coaches can create for certain school teams. 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. The board agreed that this is an appropriate time to consider stiffening up ASAA's policy and authorized the formation of an **Out-of-Season Coaching/Contact Committee** which will study the issue and make recommendations to the board at a future meeting.

Chair - Billy Strickland – Future Executive Director - ASAA
TBD – Region 1 representative
TBD – Region 4 representative
TBD – Region 5 representative
Isaiah Vreeman – Director of Special Events - ASAA

➤ **Policy - Transgender Students in Interscholastic Activities:** There is a growing nationwide discussion on eligibility determinations of transgender students. The Executive Director is working with his counterpart at AASB to research existing school district and state association policies in anticipation of an adoption for Alaska. This will continue to be an item of discussion during the April board meeting.

➤ **April Board Meeting Update:** Discussed plans for the April board meeting which will be held in King Salmon on April 27-29.

➤ **AASG Budget/Finances:** Discussed the financial status of AASG, including the need for increased sustainable income and cost reductions. This was moved to an action item.

➤ **1A State Basketball Tournament Format:** Heard a proposal from Region 1 to divide the teams into brackets for the state tournament based on the 8 smallest and 8 largest. This will receive further discussion during the April board meeting.

➤ **Coaches First Aid Course:** Questioned staff as to whether expiration dates for the required first aid courses can be placed on the coaches education website. Staff will research this and report during the April board meeting.

➤ **Payment of Region Tournament Fees:** Discussed a Region 2 question on the payment of tournament fees.

➤ **Endowment Game Policy:** Reconfirmed the wording of the policy:

“13... Schools wishing to host Endowment Games must apply in writing to ASAA prior to the date (s) of the game (s). (Under no circumstances may an Endowment Game be played until the form is received by ASAA)...”

The board agreed that a penalty for not requesting an Endowment Game should be imposed and that scheduled games be posted on the website. This was moved to an action item.

Items for Next Regular Meeting – April 27-29, 2014

King Salmon Lodge, King Salmon, Alaska

Tabled Items

1. Concussion Reporting Process

Action Items

1. Concussion Reporting
2. Girls Wrestling
3. Ketchikan Wrestling Request
4. Game Ejection/Suspension, Bylaw Article 6, Sections 5 and 6, and Sports Related Policy #8
5. Setting Date of Special Teleconference Meeting to Adopt Budget
6. Selection of Gold Lifetime Pass Recipients
7. Adopting Next Year’s Meeting Dates

Discussion Items

1. Calendar Committee Report
2. Track Wrestling Seeding System and Name Standardization
3. Nordic Skiing State Tournament Berths
4. School Reclassification
5. 2014-15 Budget
6. Football Task Force Report
7. Out-of-Season Coaching/Contact Committee Report
8. Transgender Student Participation
9. 1A State Basketball Tournament Format
10. 2014-15 Board Goals
11. Summer Contact Info.

