

Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting October 5-6, 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 Region 2 Representative: Welcomed and seated Terry Martin, principal at Ninilchik School, as the new Region 2 representative, completing the term of Matt Clark. Mr. Martin will begin his own two year term following the December meeting.

Minutes: Approved minutes of the April 27-28, 2008 regular meeting, the June 18 special meeting, and the August 7 and August 28, 2008 special teleconference appeal hearings. (Consensus)

Proposed Bylaw Amendments: Moved to send out a number of proposed bylaw amendments for comment, with possible action at the December board meeting. The proposed amendments will be sent to principals, superintendents and school board presidents. The proposals amend the following:

- Article 12, Section 5, Recruiting/Undue Influence – This amendment applies to students who play on a travel team or other out-of-school team coached by another school's coach, then subsequently transfer to that coach's school. (Proposed wording in **bold**).

(Add D). **“Because it is not feasible to determine whether recruiting or undue influence is involved, 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, is ineligible in that sport for one full season at the receiving school.”**

- Article 12, Section 2, Enrollment Rules – This amendment clarifies the eligibility of graduated students (Proposed wording in **bold**).

“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 at the end of a regular school year, shall extend through the conclusion of any current school sport season in which he or she is participating.**”

- Article 10, Qualification of Coaches – This amendment will require schools to report their coaches to the Association each year.

“(Add New) Section 4, Reporting of Coaches. 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.”

- Article 4, Section 2 (c), Appeals Board – This amendment will clarify that findings from appeals hearings must include notice of right to appeal to Superior Court.

(Add) the following wording at the end of the section, “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 for State of Alaska, within thirty days from the date this decision is mailed or otherwise distributed to the parties.”

- Article 12, Section 9 (A)(2), Transfer Rule – This amendment will clarify the rule pertaining to transfers to or from a private school.

(Add) insert the following language prior to the final language, “For 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.”

- Article 12, Section 3, Maximum Participation – This amendment will define “consecutive semesters” as it applies to the Maximum Participation Rule.

(Add to B.) insert the following sentence, after the first sentence but before the bullet points. “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.”

(Carried – Unanimous Consent).

2A Basketball Conference Formation: The board approved splitting the Northwest Conference into two - 2A basketball conferences beginning in 2008-09, due to the large number of teams involved. The new conference will be called the Yukon-Kuskokwim Conference. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

The board reallocated 2A basketball state tournament berths, removing a berth from the Central Interior Conference leaving it with one berth, and adding a second berth to the Northwest Conference for 2008-09 only. (Carried - 7-1).

State Basketball Tournament:

The board approved adding an extra day to the March Madness state basketball tournament beginning this school year. The tournament will be 6 days, Monday through Saturday. (Carried – 8-0).

The board defeated a request from Regions 1 and 2 to rotate the tournament days of the 1A and 2A state tournaments with the 3A and 4A tournaments in 2008-09. (Failed – 4-4).

State Tournament Officials Policy: Approved updates to the State Tournament Officials Allocation and Selection Policy as proposed by staff. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Approved the adoption of an Experience Ranking System for officials to help in the state tournament selection process based on information provided by officials during the registration process. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Tabled action until the December meeting on the Financial aspects of the revised policy, including pay differentials, travel costs, meal reimbursement and other related expenses. The board asked staff to prepare a financial cost projection for the current year prior to any action. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

State DDF Tournament Site Agreement: Tabled action until the December meeting on the Anchorage School District's proposal to house the 2010 and 2011 state tournaments at East Anchorage High School. This is a facility only proposal and does not include tournament personnel. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Application for Membership: Approved an application for membership from Far North Christian School in Fairbanks. The school's current enrollment in grades 9-12 is 26. The board placed the school in Region 2, 1A classification. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Appointment of Ex-Officio Board Members: Approved the appointment of Teresa Johnson and Peggy Robinson, both of Anchorage, as ex-officio members for check signing purposes. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Letter of Engagement with Auditor: Authorized the Executive Director to sign a Letter of Engagement with Mikunda, Cottrell and Company. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Election of Vice-President: Elected Region 1 representative, Jim Hickerson, as interim vice-president through the December meeting. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Legal Defense Fund: Directed that a discussion on rebuilding the Legal Defense Fund be referred to the Finance Committee for direction. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

1A/2A Volleyball Conference Reorganization: Approved the alignment of four 1A/2A conferences with each having 2 berths to the 1A/2A state tournament beginning in 2009-10. (Carried – Unanimous Consent).

Reports The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournament (Postponed until December meeting)
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches
- Marketing
- Executive Director

Public Comments Heard testimony from private home school and statewide correspondence school parents on the limited opportunities for activities participation for their students.

Heard from a parent with a student who is participating in swimming and wrestling concurrently and how the scheduling conflict is effecting her son.

Workshop Items

“Play for Keeps” Program Development: With project coordinator Teresa Johnson and staff, the board reviewed progress to date on the development and statewide implementation of the “Play for Keeps” tobacco, alcohol and drug program, including the educational components. The board and staff also brainstormed additional fund raising ideas that will be investigated as the program moves forth, including seeking additional state funding.

State Tournament Officials Policy: Reviewed and commented on the proposed changes to the policy which has been in effect for at least 10 years with a few exceptions. The policy includes procedures for selecting officials for state tournaments, financial considerations, and a system to rank officials based on their prior officiating experience.

Economic Issues Effecting Activities Programs at the Local, Regional and State Levels: Due to time constraints, the board delayed this discussion until a later meeting.

Executive Session: The Board met in executive session with Association attorney, James Brennan, to discuss legal matters that could negatively affect the Association.

Tabled Items Tabled the selection of the site for the 2010 and 2011 state DDF tournament.

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

2009-10 Draft Calendar and Three Year Projection: Took input from parents and board members on the proposed 2009-10 season calendar. This 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. The board also heard a proposal from Region 1 to delay the start of the 3A/4A volleyball season to coincide with the September start of the 1A and 2A volleyball seasons. This would reduce the overlap with the 3A cross-

country running season. The board intends to adopt the 2009-10 calendar during its December meeting.

2009 State Basketball Tournament Schedule: Revisited a discussion that took place at the Spring 2008 meeting in Petersburg in April concerning the rotation of the starting dates for the 1A/2A and 3A/4A state tournaments.

Heard a proposal from the Northwest Arctic Borough School Board President, Sandy Shroyer-Beaver, that supported rotating the starting of the 1A/A tournament with the 3A/4A tournament on an alternating basis.

Heard an additional proposal from the District to expand the current 1A state tournament format from eight to sixteen teams, based on the number of participating schools, and to increase the number of 2A teams proportionally.

Final Conference Placements for 2008-09: Approved final revisions to conferences for current school year. These are listed at www.asaa.org.

Incidents at Football Games This Year: Heard reports on the off-field brawl during the West Valley/Lathrop High School football game and the school district's reaction. Also heard a report on on-field incidents during the West Anchorage/Eagle River football game.

Severe Weather Conditions Policy: After discussion, decided not to pursue a statewide policy on severe weather conditions, leaving those decisions at the district level.

Anchorage School District 2008 Softball Tie Breaker/Season Extension: Discussed a situation in which the 2008 softball season was unilaterally extended to select a state qualifier when two teams ended in a tie.

Private School Enrollment/Correspondence Programs: Discussed the clarification that students enrolled in public district correspondence programs may not be dual enrolled in the same courses at private schools and thus gain eligibility.

Rifle Health Issues: Heard a report following last April's meeting, that the Dept. of Health has contacted districts with small bore rifle programs to promote healthy range and shooting practices, including blood lead level testing of coaches.

Pre-Participation Athletic Physical Exam: Discussed recent recommendations on ASAA's existing form which has been used for many years. The board recommended that we ask for input from the Orthopedic Physicians Anchorage which provides health services for state championship events.

Board Term Limits: Reviewed and discussed the term limit policy which limits board members to six consecutive years of service on the board of directors. The following members will reach their limits at the December meeting – Jim Hickerson-Region 1, Todd Arndt-Region 4 and

student Annie Bartholamew (2 year term). Also leaving the board will be Debbie Mullins, AASB representative.

Electronic Packet Distribution: Approved the plan to begin distributing the board meeting packets electronically to board members instead of through the mail.

Seeding of 3A and 4A State Basketball Tournaments: Following discussion, agreed to continue using the WPI to seed the state 4A basketball tournament. Also discussed a possible system to begin seeding the 3A state tournament in the future. Staff will continue to develop the system and report at the December meeting. The 2009 3A tournament matchings will continue as before, using the annual rotation basis while a system undergoes experimentation.

Reclassification Proposal: Heard a proposal from Region 3 to raise the cutoff for 3A from 401 to 500. The board did not ask that this be discussed further at the December meeting.

Statewide Scheduling Meeting: Discussed and approved a request that ASAA lead the statewide scheduling meeting.

Amateurism Rule: Heard a question from Region 3 on the interpretation of the Amateurism rule and decided that the question was covered under the \$250 limit, or principal's approval.

State Tournament Bid Processes: The current five year bid for the state basketball tournaments goes through 2009. Discussed the possibility of incorporating flexibility into the new 5 year basketball bidding process beginning in 2009-10 which may include rotating the 1A and 2A tournament dates with the 3A and 4A dates on any every other year basis.

Cross-Country Running Berths: Heard a proposal from Region 5 to increase the Region's 2A-3A berth's from 2 teams and the top ten runners, to three teams and the top fifteen. This will be reviewed during the February meeting under the analysis of individual sports berths.

Regions Charging Multi-Region Conference Fees: Heard of a situation in which Region 3 is charging non-region schools for participation in conference tournaments in which some Region 3 schools are involved. Region 2 schools will confer with Region 3 on this.

Equity Issues: Region 5 representative, Sandi Wagner, serves as section 8 representative on the NFHS Equity Committee. She reported that the committee is grappling with equity policies and procedures for transgender/transsexual students who seek to participate in high school athletics. A number of state associations have adopted policies and procedures to deal with this increasing phenomenon. At this time, her report was for information purposes only.

STUDENT HEARING

No hearing was requested or conducted.

Items for December Meeting

Workshop

1. Continue development of the State Tournament Officials Policy
- 2.

Discussion

1. Future State Basketball Tournament Format
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Action

1. 2009-2010 Calendar Adoption
2. Bylaw Amendment Adoptions
 - a. Recruiting/Undue Influence Rule
 - b. Enrollment Rule for Graduated Seniors
 - c. Reporting of Coaches
 - d. Appeals Board
 - e. Transfer Rule
 - f. Maximum Participation Rule
3. Adoption of State Tournament Bids
 - a. Basketball
 - b. Wrestling
 - c. DDF
4. Election of President and Vice-President
- 5.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

December 14-15, 2008 – Millennium Hotel - Anchorage

Items for February Meeting – February 22-23, 2009

Workshop for New Members

Proposed for late afternoon/evening on Saturday, February 21

Discussion

1. Review and Possible Action on State Tournament Berth Allocations for Individual Events
2. Review of Draft 2009-10 Budget