



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

Adopted Minutes of the ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting December 8-9, 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 8:30 a.m. December 8, 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 – Leif Konrath-Bera – Present

Approval of the Consent Items –

- a. Approval of Minutes from October 6-7, 2025 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
- Student Government
- State Tournaments
- Finance Committee
- Officials
- Sponsorships/Marketing/Promotions
- Coaches and Admin Trainings
- TAD Reports
- Hall of Fame
- SMAC
- Activities Committees
- Executive Director



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Action Items – The Board of Directors acted as follows:

➤ **DI Baseball At-Large Selection:** motion and second “to utilize a committee comprised of one person from each conference to select the at-large berth recipient for DI baseball. Each conference will report their representative by the February 2026 Board of Directors’ meeting.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Flag Football State Adoptions:** motion and second “to adopt the field size, overtime rules and mercy rules for the activity of flag football as presented”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

NOTE: The presented adoptions are:

1. Field Size: Regulation Football Field (Diagram #3) with the Team Box using the 25 yard lines.
2. Overtime:
 - At the end of regulation when the score is tied:
 - The officials will conduct a coin toss with the team captains.
 - The winner of the toss will have the following options:
 - Offense
 - Defense
 - Designating which end of the field the ball will be put in play
 - The loser of the coin toss will choose from the remaining options.
 - To start the overtime, the offensive team shall put the ball in play, first and goal, on the defensive team’s 10-yard line or succeeding spot if carry-over penalty has been administered anywhere between the hash marks.
 - The line to gain is always the goal line regardless of whether or not a penalty enforcement places the ball more than 10 yards from the goal line to start a new series.
 - The first offensive team shall have a series of four downs. That series shall be terminated by any score by the offensive team. If the defensive team gains possession, the ball becomes dead immediately and the offensive team’s series of downs is ended.
 - If the team on offense scores a touchdown, it is entitled to the opportunity for a try (1 pt or 2 pts) unless the points would not affect the outcome of the game or playoff qualifying.



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- After the first team on offense has completed its series of downs, the first team on defense will become the offensive team with the ball in its possession at the same 10-yard line anywhere between the hash marks. The same end of the field will be used for possessions by both teams during the two sets of downs to ensure equal game conditions and conserve time.
- If the score remains tied after each team has been given one series of downs in an overtime period, then the procedure shall be repeated with other overtime periods until a game winner is determined.
- The loser of the first overtime coin toss will be given first choice of the options.
 - Offense
 - Defense
- If additional overtime periods are required, then first options will be alternated with no coin toss.
- No try will be attempted if the winner of the game has been determined.

3. Mercy Rule: Upon reaching a 25 or more point differential at the end of the third quarter or thereafter, a running clock will be used. Once begun, the running clock will be stopped only for team, official, or injury timeouts and a score.

➤ **2026-2027 ASAA Calendar of Events:** motion and second “to adopt 2026-2027 ASAA Calendar of Events as amended.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: the 2026-2027 ASAA Calendar of Events can be found here:

<https://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2026-2027-ASAA-Calendar.pdf>

➤ **2026-2029 Cross Country Rotation:** motion and second “to rotate the State Cross Country Championships as follows: 2026 and 2027 at Barlett High School and 2028 and 2029 at the Tsalteshi Trails hosted by Soldotna High School”:

Motion passed (5-2)

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



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➤ **2026-2028 State Tennis, Swim & Dive and All-State Music Bids:** motion and second “to accept the bids for hosting the state championships for Tennis, Swim & Dive and All-State Music as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

NOTE: All three tournaments will be hosted by the Anchorage School District

➤ **Flag Football Individual Participation Rule:** motion and second “ to amend the flag football individual participation rules to read, “When playing at two different levels (i.e. varsity and jv) players are limited to 6 quarters of play per day exclusive of invitational, conference and state tournaments. When playing at the same level, there must be a two-hour time lapse between the end of one varsity game and the beginning of the next game. When playing at the same level, there must be a 30-minute time lapse between the end of one sub-varsity game and the beginning of the next game. The maximum number of games a player may participate in a given day is three.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **2027 Spring ASAA Board of Directors’ meeting location :** motion and second “hold the 2027 Spring ASAA Board of Directors’ meeting in Petersburg on a date to be determined by the May 2026 Board of Directors meeting.

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **DI Softball Conferences and Berths:** motion and second “to starting with the 2026 season, to place Juneau-Douglas, Ketchikan and Sitka into the DI Southeast conference with 2 berths.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The DI Tournament will now include 8 schools, with the Board determining the format during the February Board of Directors’ meeting.

➤ **DII Softball Conferences and Berths:** motion and second “to beginning with the 2026 season, if either conference drops to 3 or less teams, then that conference will be reduced to one automatic qualifier with the rest of their berths becoming “at-large” berths.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **Cross Country and Nordic Ski “Open Races”**: motion and second “to adopt the following policy for the activities of Cross Country and Nordic Ski, “An ineligible student shall not compete alongside eligible students in any interscholastic Cross Country or Nordic Ski race. This includes students who have not met the minimum practice requirement or who are otherwise restricted from competition under ASAA bylaws.

For the purposes of this rule, “compete” means running in the same race or heat as eligible student-athletes representing their schools. Ineligible students may participate in separate, non-scored training runs or time trials arranged outside of official competition, provided such activities are clearly distinguished from sanctioned races and do not involve athletes representing other schools.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **State Cheer Competition Awards and Format**: motion and second “ to award plaques recognizing the top squad in both the 'Game Day' and 'Halftime Routine' categories during the State Cheer Competition in both divisions. The State Championship Team awards will continue to be awarded to the squads with the highest combined scores across both categories. Teams may enter one or both categories.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Alaska High School Hall of Fame Bylaw revision**: motion and second “ to change the Article 3 Section 4 bylaw of the Alaka High School Hall of Fame to read, “No more than twelve individuals will be selected annually. There is no limit to the number of times a person may be nominated. No member, while serving as an appointed member on the Selection Committee, shall be eligible for nomination. If the Selection Committee chooses to give the Lifetime Achievement or Major Contributor/Sponsor Award, it may be above and beyond the limit of awards as stated above in this section.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Region 1 School Track and Field Placement**: motion and second “to place all Region 1 Track & Field schools into the Region 2 Track & Field Conference meet. By doing so, the former Region 1 Track & Field automatic qualifying policy will no longer exist.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **Football Scheduling policy** motion and second “ to change the Football Scheduling policy ticket allocations as follows:

- Barrow: from 22 to 18 tickets
- Juneau-Douglas: from 36 to 30 tickets (JV & Varsity) or from 22 to 18 tickets (Varsity only)
- Kodiak: from 22 to 18 tickets

Motion failed (2-6)

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

➤ **Capitalization Policy:** motion and second “to amend the ASAA Capitalization policy to read: Fixed assets are stated at cost. Expense for maintenance and repairs are charged to expense as incurred and major renovations are capitalized. All expense for equipment in excess of \$5000 are capitalized and depreciation is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets on a straight-line basis. All donated fixed assets are capitalized at fair market value or estimated value at time of receipt.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Lumen Christi/ASD MOA Amendment:** motion and second “to add the activity of cheer to the list of activities for which Lumen Christi students may participate with the ASD school for which their home is zoned.”

Motion passed (7-1)

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

➤ **Anchor Lutheran/ASD MOA:** motion and second “to approve the MOA agreement between Anchor Lutheran and the Anchorage School District to sunset at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **Potential Prince of Wales Island Schools Co-op:** motion and second “to allow the schools of Klawock, Hydaburg, Thorne Bay and Kasaan to co-op for the activity of girls’ basketball with 8th grade girls who are enrolled at Klawock to continue to participate. ”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

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

➤ **Student Eligibility Committee:** Discuss the committee’s focus on looking for a pathway for students, who lose their semester eligibility due to not earning 2.5 credits, to be able to regain their eligibility. The Board was overall not in favor of mandating a mid-quarter grade check, but did direct the committee to begin working on a proposal on how students could regain their eligibility during the current semester.

➤ **State Berth Analysis of Team Sports Berths** The Board discussed the proposed changes to the allocation of Flag Football berths, which would reduce the CIC from 4 to 3 berths, with the reduced berth becoming an at-large berth to be determined by the RPI formula. In addition, the Board reviewed a proposal to change the berths in 3A/4A basketball to the four conference champions and four at-large berths as determined by the RPI. Finally, the Board reviewed the current Mix-6 berths feeling the Denali Conference should drop from two to one berth, but was not sure which other conference should gain a berth.

➤ **TAD Policy:** The Board discussed revising the policy to focus on consequences for violations while allowing schools to develop educational programs that could reduce suspension lengths. Staff present possible language change and was directed to provide additional information in February.

➤ **Waivers citing Student Mental Health:** The Board reviewed input from the Sport Medicine Advisory Committee, which acknowledged the difficulty in determining the legitimacy of mental-health-related claims and noted that there is no reliable method for verifying such claims.

➤ **Soccer Mercy Rule:** The Board reviewed the input from the Soccer Coaches Committee and determined it would continue to consider implementing a soccer mercy rule, if teams continue to run up the scores on opponents.

➤ **Good Cause:** The Board reviewed a list developed by ASAA of circumstances that may qualify as “good cause” to promote consistency across districts when evaluating eligibility for students in alternative education programs.



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- **DI Wrestling Team Point Scoring:** A proposed change was discussed to modify team scoring. Currently, two wrestlers per weight class may score; the proposal would instead count the top 14 wrestlers overall regardless of weight class. The Board will review the outcomes of the 2025 DI State Tournament and discuss this proposal again in February.
- **Music Deadline Fine Policy:** The Board reviewed a proposal to fine schools that miss music event deadlines rather than deny student participation. The policy would include a waiver process for exceptional cases. The ASAA Staff also reported it realizes the need to provide Activity Principal/Directors and especially new Music Teachers more information on when the deadlines are.
- **State Wrestling Qualifying:** Reviewed an “open” state qualifying format as another way students could qualify for the state tournament.
- **Ketchikan DII Soccer Conferences Proposal:** Ketchikan, currently the only DII soccer program in Region 5, proposed creating two conferences with Kodiak and Ketchikan as separate groups. Ketchikan offered to subsidize visiting team travel costs. This proposal was reviewed and Ketchikan was asked to provide examples of scheduling rotations.
- **Cross Country Start Date Policy:** reviewed a change to the current cross country start date policy. This revision would have the cross country season start two days earlier when the state cross country championship fell earlier than October 4th.
- **Reviewed an individual participation limit for the activity of baseball:** The Board reviewed a proposal to limit to 10 innings as the total amount of innings a student may play in one day when playing at two different levels, i.e. varsity and jv.
- **Use of the backstroke ledge in Swim & Dive:** discussed the adopting of the backstroke ledge for Swim & Dive. The Swim & Dive Committee supported it being adopted for the regular season and state tournament, but not at the conference tournaments. This is due to the Region 6 pool not meeting the requirements to do so. Also discussed the need to require coaches additional training on how to instruct the use of the backstroke ledge in a safe manner.
- **Podium Policy:** discussed the need to establish clear standards for student-athlete attire and conduct during official awards and podium photo ceremonies at ASAA-sanctioned state tournaments.
- **Volleyball At-large Selection Policy:** discussed how the current system could be replaced by a RPI system in which all 2-0, 2-1, 3-0, 3-1, and 3-2 outcomes would be considered matches.



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Also discussed how “timed matches” or games only going to 15 should not be entered into Maxpreps.

➤ **Modified baseball games:** discussed how baseball games with modified rules, scrimmages and/or jamborees will not be used by the At-Large selection committee for determining the at-large team.

➤ **Solo & Ensemble Exhibition Groups:** discussed whether or not Exhibition Groups being adjudicated at the State Solo & Ensemble Festival are able to displace an ensemble group made up of students from a single high school for the Command Performance.

➤ **Soccer RPI:** discussed a proposal from Region 4 to have the RPI only factor in each conferences games against each other to then be compared to the whole. The Board and Staff also discussed the difficulty in doing so and how changes to the RPI weights might be leading to the outcome Region 4 is hoping to accomplish.

Hearings –

- two appeals were held during the meeting

Recognition – Jim Holien, was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his service to the school and students of the State of Alaska while serving as the ASA Representative on the ASAA Board of Directors.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion and second to Adjourn
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Upcoming Board Meetings and Workshops

1. February 16-17, 2026 Board Meeting (Anchorage)
2. May 4-5, 2026 Board Meeting (Kodiak)