



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 16-17, 2026

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. February 16, 2026.

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 – Absent (Excused)
Region 6 – Wayne Sawchuk - Present
AASB – Margo Bellamy – Absent (Excused)
AASA – Luke Meinert – Present
AASG – Leif Konrath-Bera – Present

Region 5 Alternative Representative: motion and second “to allow Julie Herman (Juneau-Douglas High School) to represent Region 5 as their alternative representative for the February 16-17 ASAA Board of Directors’ meeting.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Approval of the Consent Items –

- a. Approval of Minutes from December 8-9, 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:

➤ **Alternative Education Program – Good Cause Determination Policy:** motion and second “to adopt the presented Alternative Education Program – Good Cause Determinations Policy as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The adopted policy reads:

“Alternative Education Program – Good Cause Determinations Policy

The purpose of this policy is to promote consistent statewide application of the “good cause” standard set forth in ASAA Bylaw Article 12, Section 2.b.2.

The authority to determine whether good cause exists rests solely with the boundary school, the requested school, and, where applicable, the local district governing body. ASAA does not make initial determinations of good cause. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to transfer decision-making authority from member schools to ASAA.

For purposes of Article 12, Section 2.b.2, good cause means a legitimate, documented, and non-athletic reason supporting a student’s participation in interscholastic activities at a school other than the student’s boundary school. Good cause should not include reasons based on athletic advantage, team preference, or competitive opportunity.

The following examples identify circumstances under which ASAA would generally concur that a school’s determination of good cause is consistent with the intent of Article 12, Section 2.b.2, provided appropriate documentation exists and both schools approve participation. These examples are illustrative and not exhaustive:

- Documented family or personal hardship, including custody arrangements, transportation limitations, or similar circumstances that render participation at the boundary school impractical.
- Verified safety or student well-being concerns, including bullying, harassment, or related issues, where participation at another school supports the student’s welfare.
- Scheduling or logistical conflicts arising from the structure or schedule of an alternative or online education program that prevent participation at the boundary school but permit participation at the requested school.
- Program availability where the requested school offers an interscholastic activity not available at the boundary school.



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All determinations of good cause shall be made on an individual basis by the involved schools.”

➤ **DI Wrestling Team Point Scoring:** motion and second “For DI wrestling, only the top 14 individual scorers, regardless of weight class, will count towards the school team score.”

Motion passed (4-3)

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

➤ **Music Policy:** motion and second “to add the presented Authority and Conflict Resolution language to the ASAA Music Policy”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note the adopted policy reads:

AUTHORITY AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

1. Music Policy Authority

The ASAA Music Policy governs all ASAA music activities. In the event of a conflict between this Music Policy and the ASAA Music Handbook, this Music Policy shall be the controlling authority.

2. Handbook Purpose

The ASAA Music Handbook provides procedural and operational guidance and does not supersede ASAA Board-approved policy.

3. Executive Director Authority

In the event of conflict, ambiguity, or dispute regarding the interpretation or application of Music Policy or the Music Handbook, the ASAA Executive Director shall have authority to resolve the matter. The Executive Director’s determination shall be final unless otherwise directed by the ASAA Board of Directors.”



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➤ **Cross Country Season Start and State Tournament Date Policy:** motion and second “To revise the State Cross Country Championships Date Policy to read as follows: The State Cross Country Championships will be held on the first Saturday in October. However, if the first Saturday in October falls before October 4, the meet will still be held on that date, and the cross country season will begin two days earlier than the standard season start date to maintain the same number of competition weekends.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **DI baseball individual participation limit:** motion and second “to, for the activity of DI Baseball, limit participation to 10 innings when playing on the same day at different levels (i.e. varsity and junior varsity). This rule would not apply to either courtesy runners or extra innings.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Swim & Dive Policy changes:** motion and second

- “To permit the use of backstroke ledges during the regular season and at the State Championships, but not at Conference Championships.
- To allow alternates to be accepted into the meet up to the time of the coaches’ meeting, provided the alternate has already been properly entered into the meet and
- To schedule the Coaches/Captains Meeting on Thursday evening in order to conduct diving preliminaries on Friday morning prior to the swim preliminary rounds.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **Awards Ceremonies Policy:** motion and second to approve the presented ASAA Awards Ceremonies policy to go into effect on February 23, 2026.

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note the adopted policy reads:

ASAA Awards Ceremonies Policy

1. Purpose

The Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) is committed to upholding the integrity, professionalism, and sportsmanship of all championship events. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear standards for student-athlete attire and conduct during official awards and podium photo ceremonies at ASAA-sanctioned state tournaments. These standards are intended to ensure that all participants represent their schools and communities with respect, dignity, and pride.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all school personnel and student-athletes participating in ASAA state championship events who appear on the awards podium, during official awards ceremonies, or in associated ASAA photographs.

3. Acceptable Attire

Student-athletes shall appear in attire that reflects the standards of their school and the Association. Acceptable attire includes:

1. The official competition uniform as worn during the event.
2. School warm-up suits, jackets, or team-issued apparel representing the athlete's school.
3. Clothing permitted under the school district's regular dress code for the school day.

All attire must be clean, neat, and worn in the manner intended by the manufacturer.

4. Prohibited Attire

The following are expressly prohibited during podium or awards presentations:



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1. Clothing, symbols, or accessories that promote or reference alcohol, drugs, tobacco, vaping products, or other controlled substances.
2. Clothing containing vulgar, obscene, discriminatory, or otherwise unsportsmanlike language or imagery.
3. Clothing or accessories that fail to meet school-appropriate standards.
4. Altered uniforms or garments modified in a way that violates competition or dress standards.

5. Podium Conduct and Decorum

Athletes are representatives of their schools, communities, and the Association. During official ceremonies:

1. Athletes shall conduct themselves with decorum, sportsmanship, and respect.
2. Attire must present a professional and unified appearance consistent with team identity.
3. Unsportsmanlike behavior—including inappropriate gestures, signs, language, or actions—is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, obscene gestures, taunting other athletes, or displaying any conduct that disrespects the event, fellow competitors, officials, or spectators.
4. Athletes should demonstrate positive sportsmanship and respect during the entire ceremony and photo session.

6. Enforcement

ASAA staff are authorized to review attire and conduct prior to and during the awards ceremony.

1. ASAA will make every reasonable effort to notify the student and/or coach of a violation prior to the awards presentation to provide an opportunity for immediate correction.
2. However, ASAA may, at its discretion, allow the presentation to proceed in order to maintain the orderly flow of the ceremony or to avoid publicly calling attention to a student-athlete.
3. Schools will be notified of any violations and may be subject to disciplinary review.
4. A fine of \$500 per occurrence shall be assessed to the school of any athlete or team found to be in violation of this policy. Each separate violation during a championship event will be considered an independent occurrence.



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7. Additional Guidelines

1. Schools are encouraged to coordinate team attire for ceremonies to promote a cohesive and professional presentation.
2. Props, signs, or gestures that detract from the dignity of the awards ceremony are not permitted.
3. Coaches and administrators are responsible for ensuring that student-athletes are informed of and comply with this policy prior to state competition.

➤ **Volleyball At-large Selection and seeding Policy:** motion and second “to adopt for 3A and 4A volleyball an RPI system. The volleyball RPI will use only 2-0, 2-1, 3-0, 3-1, and 3-2 scores and combine both 3A and 4A matches. This RPI will then be used to determine the at-large berths and to seed the opening round of the state tournament.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **State Solo & Ensemble Command Performance Policy:** motion and second “to amend the Solo & Ensemble Command Performance Policy to read: The State Solo & Ensemble Festival will close with a Command Performance Concert by selected students nominated by the adjudicators on both Friday and Saturday evenings. An Exhibition ensemble (ensemble entries involving students from more than one school) may not be awarded a Command Performance over an ensemble entry involving students from one school, unless the Exhibition ensemble is the only ensemble awarded a Superior Rating.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **2026-2027 ASAA Calendar Revisions:** motion and second “to change the first contest day for Flag Football to August 13, 2026 and the World Language State event to March 6, 2027.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **DI Softball State Tournament Brackets and Seeds:** motion and second “to adopt option #4 for the DI State Softball Bracket with the seeds being determined by the RPI.

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: Option #4 uses a modified pool play to determine the placement of the teams on a double-elimination bracket.



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➤ **DII State Softball Championships Rotations:** motion and second “to adopt the new rotations for DII softball for determining the placement of teams into pools.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: for the 2026 DII Softball State Championship, the pools will be as follows:

Pool A: Mid Alaska #1, Northern Lights #2 and Northern Lights #3

Pool B: Northern Lights #1, Mid-Alaska #2 and the At-Large team

Pools are subject to change in the event there are more than one at-large team.

➤ **Basketball Classification Policy:** motion and second “that due to the season interruptions and modifications caused by COVID, that for the portion of the ASAA Basketball Classification system using eight years, the following years should be used: Season ending 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2019, 2018 and 2017”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: There was no state basketball tournament for the 2020 season and the 2021 tournament was played using a modified format with no determination of places 3-8.

➤ **DII State Baseball Tournament Location:** motion and second “to hold the 2026 DII State Baseball Tournament in Kenai with the 2027 and 2028 tournaments being held in Fairbanks.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **2026 DII Track & Field Conference Placement for Dillingham:** motion and second “to for the 2026 season to place Dillingham into the Region 6 DII conference for the activity of track & field.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **2026 DII Track & Field Conference Placement for Unalakleet:** motion and second “to for the 2026 season to place Unalakleet into the Region 6 DII conference for the activity of track & field.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **Soldotna/Seward Baseball Co-op:** motion and second “to for the 2026 season allow Soldotna and Seward to co-op for the activity of DI baseball.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

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

➤ **Student Eligibility Committee:** directed the Executive Director to send out the member schools a proposed bylaw amendment to the Article 12 Section 7 bylaw. This amendment would create a system in which some students failing to pass the required courses to be eligible could participate at the sub-varsity level and possibly regain varsity eligibility by the end of the first and third quarters of the school year.

➤ **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 and Southeast conference should drop from two to one 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.

➤ **Soccer Mercy Rule:** The Board discussed continuing to monitor the scores in soccer games to determine the need to impose a mercy rule.

➤ **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. The Board requested the schools to work on a multi-year rotation to make sure this concept would work, prior to adoption during its next meeting.

➤ **Solo & Ensemble Venue Issue:** discussed how a miscommunication in the reservation process resulted in the UAA Fine Arts Building being booked by another outside group during the dates of the state event. The building is uniquely suited to this event due to its multiple



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equipped performance spaces, and rescheduling to later weekends is not feasible because of statewide conflicts with graduations, finals, and other end-of-year academic commitments.

The ASAA staff is actively working with UAA leadership to identify alternative solutions that preserve the integrity of the event and minimize disruption for students and schools.

➤ **State Bid April 1, 2026 Deadline:** discussed that the state bids for Track & Field, Soccer and DI Baseball are due to ASAA by April 1, 2026.

➤ **Baseball Stats Platform:** discussed the ASAA is looking into a baseball stats program (Athletes GoLive) which could help track pitch counts statewide. ASAA understand most teams utilize Gamechanger to score their games, but that it does not have a pitch count component. ASAA is currently under contract with Gamechanger so there will be plenty of time to get schools' input.

➤ **Impact on allowing students to play on varsity teams, when the school does not have sub-varsity:** discuss a possible issue regarding schools with no sub- varsity team sports, being allowed to have a student participate on the varsity team during the regular season, but not at either conference or state tournaments. While this does allow for participation, the student could possibly impact the selection of an at-large berth and/or seeding at conference events.

➤ **State Event for Rifle:** discussed the desire of some high school rifle teams to have a state championship. Currently it is not believed the activity meets the ASAA policy for a state championship. ASAA will contact schools to see if they are offering rifle.

➤ **Shot Clock Issues:** discussed some unique situations that have arose during the year. ASAA will ask schools and officials to send in any situations that have happened this year. Overall, the implementation has gone well.

➤ **State Bids:** discussed the pro and cons of mixing state bids verse only awarding a bid to one school. Also discussed, not going beyond three years in the future when bids are awarded.

Executive Session – The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel and financial matters.

Hearings –

- an appeal was held during the meeting



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Motion to Adjourn

Motion and second to Adjourn
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Upcoming Board Meetings and Workshops

1. May 4-5, 2026 Board Meeting (Kodiak)