



4048 Laurel St. #203, Anchorage, AK 99508 / Phone: 907-563-3723 / Fax: 907-563-3739 / Web: www.asaa.org

Adopted Minutes of the ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting February 20-21, 2023

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 20, 2023

Roll Call:

- Region 1 – Patrick Callahan - Present
- Region 2 – Jeff Ambrosier for James Sickler - Present
- Region 3 – Stacia Rustad - Present
- Region 4 – Tim Helvey - Present
- Region 5 – Jaime Cabral - Present
- Region 6 – Steve Zanazzo - Present
- AASB – Dana Mock - Present
- AASA – Jim Holien – Present
- AASG – Rhianonn Dobbins - Present

Approval of the Consent Items –

- a. Approval of Minutes from the December 5-6, 2022, Board meeting
- b. Wavier 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)

Ordering and Approval of the Agenda–

Motion and second “to approve the agenda”
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items – None

Reports – The Board of Directors was provided with the following reports:

- Board Members
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- State Tournaments
- Officials and Coaches
- Sponsorships/Marketing/Promotions
- Student Services
- Hall of Fame
- SMAC
- Executive Director



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Action Items – The Board of Directors acted as follows:

➤ **Hooper Bay 2A Volleyball Conference placement:** motion and second “to place Hooper Bay in to the Southwest 2A Volleyball conference and to move the Western Conference berth to the Aurora Conference.”

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: This action results in there no longer being a Western Conference.

➤ **North Pole/Student Wrestler Development Program Football Co-op Request:** motion and second “approve the football co-op request between North Pole High School and the Student Wrestler Development Program for the 2023 season.”

Motion passed (7-1)

- (Y) AASG (advisory)
- (Y) Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, AASA, AASB
- (N) Region 1

➤ **North Pole/Ben Eielson High School Baseball Co-op Request:** motion and second “approve the baseball co-op request for North Pole and Ben Eielson High Schools for the 2023 season.”

Motion passed (7-1)

- (Y) AASG (advisory)
- (Y) Region 2, Region 3, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, AASA, AASB
- (N) Region 1

➤ **North Pole/Ben Eielson High School Girls Soccer Co-op Request:** motion and second “approve the girls soccer co-op request for North Pole and Ben Eielson High Schools for the 2023 season.”

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **DII Football Conference Name:** motion and second “to name the DII Football Conference the “Railbelt Conference.”

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **Tennis Jewelry Policy:** motion and second “to remove the prohibition on the wearing of jewelry from the tennis policy.”

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Baseball Jamboree Policy:** motion and second “to allow for the use of the proposed Baseball Jamboree format during the baseball jamboree to be held in Sitka, April 5-8, 2023.”

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: the adopted format is as follows:

Jamboree Format

- *Max pitch count per inning, with any combination of pitchers, may not exceed 25 pitches.
- Innings will end either by 3 outs OR maximum pitch count of 25 total pitches in that half-inning has been met.
- The Official Baseball Rule Book of the NFHS shall govern all situations.
- Pitch count will be those adopted by ASAA.
- Drop dead time limit of 1 hour and 45 minutes per game or 7 innings whichever occurs first.

*If during a half-inning, the current pitch count has reached 25, the pitcher may complete that at-bat without a pitch count penalty and the inning would end at the conclusion of that at bat.

➤ **3A/4A Basketball Seeding:** motion and second “to seed the 3A and 4A basketball tournaments solely using the results of the RPI.”

Motion passed (7-1)

- (N) AASG (advisory)
- (Y) Region 1, Region 2, Region 4, Region 5, Region 6, AASA, AASB
- (N) Region 3



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Board Directives and Discussions: The Board of Directors had discussion and gave direction as follows:

- **Constitutional Amendments:** directed the Executive Director to begin the process to amend the ASAA Constitution to reflect the change in name of the Superintendent’s Association and to list the various regional association.

- **TAD Policy Review:** discussed report submitted by the TAD Policy Review Committee. The Committee believes the consequences for a violation should result in game suspensions rather than “days”. The Executive Director is working with DEED and the American Lung Association to find better educational materials to replace those being currently used. The goal is to have a program any school can use, but to also allow schools to build their own programs if their community has better resources.

- **Spring 2023 Board Meeting:** discussed the plans regarding the Spring 2023 Board of Directors meeting being held in Valdez. ASAA will arrange the Board’s hotel rooms during the meeting. The rooms will be booked for arrival on Saturday (April 29) and departure on Tuesday (May 2). The Board will meet on Sunday night for the purpose of performing the Executive Director’s evaluation.

- **Upcoming State Tournament Bids:** discussed the following state tournament bids coming due by April 1, 2023
 - (1) Track & Field
 - (2) Soccer
 - (3) DI Baseball
 - (4) DII Baseball

- **Girls Wrestling Conference:** discussed the potential of splitting the Denali Girls Wrestling Conference into two conferences to mirror the conferences of the DI and DII Boys Wrestling conferences of the same schools. As this would create a ninth conference, there would also be the need to shift conference berths. ASAA provided the Board with the participation numbers from the past two season and recommended conference with less than 30 girl wrestlers drop to one berth. This would result in three at-large berths.



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➤ **State Nordic Ski Race Distances:** discussed changing the distances for both the boys and girls so that both genders are racing the same distances. Coaches will be surveyed during the 2023 State Race and the results will be shared with the Board once compiled.

For the 2023 meet the distances were:

- Day 1: Individual Classic Race (7.5k boys / 5k girls)
- Day 2: Mass Start Freestyle Race (7.5k girls / 10k boys)
- Day 3: Team Relays (4x3k girls / 4x5k boys)

➤ **Out of Season and Open Facility Policies:** reviewed a policy rewrite for possible adoption during the May Board Meeting.

➤ **Classification Policy:** reviewed a policy rewrite for possible adoption during the May Board Meeting. Also due to the interruption of seasons caused by COVID, the Board determined the policy will use the 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019 and 2018 seasons when analyzing the regular seasons, and the 2023, 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, and 2014 seasons when analyzing the state tournament results.

➤ **Out of Season and Open Facility Policies:** reviewed a policy rewrite for possible adoption during the May Board Meeting.

➤ **Wrestlers not eligible at State due to the 50% rule:** discussed that if a wrestler is unable to participate at state due to not having the required number of weigh-ins, then the wrestler is to be considered as a “scratch” with the replacement coming from the statewide alternate pool.

➤ **Practice Waiver Rule:** directed ASAA to send out a bylaw amendment to no longer require schools to seek a “5 practice waiver” from the Executive Director for students who have already been participating in an ASAA sport which overlaps the beginning of another ASAA sport.

➤ **Nine Week/Nine Game Season for Football:** discussed extending the season for DII and DI football by one week to allow for an additional non-conference game. This would extend the DII season by one week and eliminate the quarterfinal games for DI.

➤ **Hall of Fame Selection Committee:** the terms and term limits for the Region 3, Region 4 and Region 5 Committee members have expired. These Regions will need to nominate a replacement by the May Meeting. The term for the Region 6 and one of the At-Large Committee Members has expired, both may serve another term.



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➤ **Sub-Varsity only transfer rule for Individual Sports:** direct the Executive Director to send out a bylaw revision to both the transfer rule and boarding school transfer rule. These revisions would allow students who transfer to compete as a member of their school's varsity program in individual sports until the state qualifying or state competition.

➤ **Hockey Dual Participation Rule:** discussed the current policy and the possibility of modifying it. Generally, the Board felt the high school programs have made several concessions, but haven't seen the comp hockey programs willing to work with the high schools to develop a better system.

➤ **Gold Lifetime Pass:** discussed the Gold Lifetime Pass and asked each Region and Association to bring their nominations to the May Board meeting.

➤ **Volleyball Classifications:** discussed the current volleyball classifications after hearing a request from region 5 to allow their current 4A teams to move to the 3A classifications. Regions are asked to discuss this during their upcoming meeting to see if there is interest in forming a committee to possibly change the current system.

➤ **Mental Health Training for Coaches:** discussed a program currently being required by the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The "be nice" program trains coaches/advisors on how to recognize and respond to potential mental health issues. ASAA is looking to covering the cost for school districts wishing to offer this training to their coaches/advisors.

➤ **State Wrestling Team Scoring:** discussed changing the system for scoring team points during the State Wrestling Tournaments. The potential change would limit the number of "scorers" a school could enter. This limit could be done in several ways. Examples could include:

- A school would need to designate one wrestler per weight class as the team's scorer.
- The points earned by a school's top 14 "scorers" would be totaled to determine the team's score.
- Teams would declare 14 "scorers" regardless of weigh class prior to the brackets being finalized. The points earned by these wrestlers would be totaled to determine the team's score.
- At the conclusion of the tournament, the points earned by a school's top 14 "scorers" would be totaled to determine the team's score.

The number of "scorers" could vary based on division. In addition, the number 14 could be lower or higher and is only being used as an example.



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➤ **DI Hockey At-Large Pool:** discussed no longer having the DII Hockey Champion in the DI Hockey at-large pool. Discussed the process of allowing current DII teams to “opt-up” into DI Hockey if this were to happen.

➤ **CHAP’s ability to perform pre-participation physicals:** discussed having to remove Community Health Aide’s from those being able to perform pre-participation physicals.

Executive Session: Motion and second “to go into executive session”
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Hearings –

- none

Motion to Adjourn

Motion and second to Adjourn
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Upcoming Board Meetings and Workshops

- April 30, 2023 – Special Meeting
- May 1-2, 2023 – Meeting in Valdez
- October 8, 2023 – Board Workshop
- October 9-10, 2023 – Anchorage
- December 4-5, 2023 – Anchorage
- February 19-20, 2024 – Anchorage
- April 28-30, 2024 - TBD