



ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

4048 Laurel Street Suite 203 Anchorage, AK 99508 • PHONE: 907-563-3723 • FAX: 907-561-0720

Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting Anchorage, Alaska October 5-6, 2014

Note: This synopsis is available on the ASAA web site at:

<http://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/BOD-October-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:

➤ **1A/2A Basketball State Tournament Venue:** took action to move the 1A/2A Basketball State Tournament to the Alaska Airlines Arena.

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Approved Schools choosing to "Opt Up:**

1. Monroe from 2A to 3A –for all sports remain in current conference
2. Bristol Bay from 1A to 2A – for all sports remain in current conference
3. Unalakleet from 1A to 2A – for B& G basketball and remain 1A for Mix Six volleyball in current conferences

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Approved Schools Request to subtract 5th year seniors to remain at current classification (pending final notification from District Superintendents):**

1. Dillingham from 3A to 2A/ remain in current 2A conference for all activities
2. Selawik from 2A to 1A /remain in current conference
3. Scammon Bay from 2A to 1A/ remain in current conference
4. Kotlik from 2A to 1A/ remain in current conference

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Approved Schools changing classification due lower enrollement:**

1. Petersburg from 3A to 2A – placed in SE Conference for volleyball & basketball
2. Walter Northway from 2A to 1A – for basketball move to Golden Heart/ Denali for Mix Six volleyball
3. Tri-Valley from 2A to 1A – for basketball move to Golden Heart/ Denali for Mix Six volleyball
4. Tok from 2A to 1A – for basketball move to Golden Heart/ Denali for Mix Six volleyball
5. Cordova from 3A to 2A – basketball move to Interior Conference/ Borealis for volleyball

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Transfer Bylaw Changes:** After further discussion, approved the posting of a proposed amendment dealing **Transfers Without a Bona Fide Change of Residence of Parents**. Proposed wording will be sent out to schools and districts and this will be an action item during the December board meeting.:

Article 12, Section 9, A. 3 **Transfer Without a Bona Fide Change of Residence of Parents:**

3. **Transfer Without a Bona Fide Change of Residence of Parents:** A student who transfers without a bona fide change of residence of parents or guardians, is ineligible for interscholastic competition for ~~(delete) ninety school days (add) one calendar year (delete), including state approved in-service days~~, from the date of first attendance in the new school. Students who live with coaches are ineligible (see Section 5, C). ~~(delete) Summer school attendance will not be considered in determining the date of first attendance for the purposes of this section. Practices before classes begin in the fall do not count as part of the ninety school days.~~

The revised section would read as follows:

3. **Transfer Without a Bona Fide Change of Residence of Parents:** A student who transfers without a bona fide change of residence of parents or guardians, is ineligible for interscholastic competition for **one calendar year**, from the date of first attendance in the new school. Students who live with coaches are ineligible (see Section 5, C).

(Carried 6-2)

➤ **FY15 Budget Amendment:** move to accept Budget Revisions for 2014-15

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Kodiak Soccer Placement:** move to place Kodiak in Northern Lights South conference for soccer

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Cheer Practice Extension:** moved all cheer squads participating in UAA Shootout Event be allowed to start practice on November 10, 2014.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **8 Man Football:** moved to change the enrollment number to 350 for 8 man football teams

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Reg 3 Softball Request:** moved that with consent of both coaches in small schools could play 7 innings (which could go beyond 90 min)

(Carried 5-3)

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
- 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 financial and personnel matters.

Workshop: The board held a workshop to review the Committee Reports from the Transfer, Calendar and Football Committees

Student Eligibility Hearing: None

Tabled Items: No items were tabled.

Discussion Items: The BOD discussed the following items:

- **Football Committee:** Discussed the need to set a higher number for the 8-man football to see how many of the current small schools would make the change. Executive Director will contact schools currently below 350 students to determine how many would rather now play 8-man. School will have until December 1 to declare either 8-man. Depending on how many schools then remain in the Small School Division, the Board will then have to determine how to re-do the current Medium enrollment numbers. The Board does not see having 4 divisions for football
- **Transfer Committee:** Discussed revising the Transfer without Bona Fide Move of Parents Bylaw. Discussed allowing students transferring without a move of parents to be able to participate at “sub-varsity or in non-State Qualifying competitions. Discussed not all activities have “sub-varsity” levels. Discussed how the “Transfer Committee” will need to now look at the entire “Waiver” process. Students/Parents have found ways to circumvent the system by claiming a variety of hard to verify hardships (academic needs, harassment, depression, etc.). Discussed need to add additional language to Transfer Wavier form to have the sending school give input on if the transfer is athletically motivated.
- **Calendar:** Reviewed the recommendation of the Calendar Committee. The Committee would prefer to see a pre-1997 calendar, but see this recommendation as better than the current one which has separate Small and Large School Wrestling season.

Executive Director directed to send out to the Board Members those recommendations so the Board can review it at their next Regional meetings. The Board will adopt the 2015-16 Calendar at the December Board Meeting.

- **Out-of-Season Coaching/Contact Committee Report:** Discussed how since many schools hire their high school coaches who are also comp coaches, it make “Out of Season Contact” a almost impossible rule to enforce. Committee will discuss times for camps and clinics. Committee wants to encourage multiple sport athletes. The Committee will meet again prior to the December meeting to make a final recommendation.

➤ **First Draft of 2015-16 Season Calendar:** ASAA will send out as per recommendation of Calendar Committee with the following additions:
adding a week a to Nordic
Coed Soccer will end one week earlier

➤ **Student Government Committee:** Reviewed the history from last year. Became apparent that there were some financial struggles; ASAA agreed to provide \$10,000 if AASG would be needing financial support. Fortunately, AASG did not need to use the \$10,000.

The Committee has only met once to discuss several items:

No defined mission for Student Government in many member schools.

The advisors role has diminished over the past few years to a role of a chaperone. The committee determined that AASG need to provide advisor training for their role as “advisor.”

AASG’s Executive Director will be looking for resources while attending the National Conference .

The Committee will also be looking to find more members from schools currently doing well in Student Government.

➤ **Basketball:**

Mandatory Reporting of Scores: Discussed the need to have all 3A and 4A schools report their game scores within 48 hours using ASAA365, so that the ASAA can gather the information need for managing the WPI. Also noted ASAA365 has been expanded to add “C” and “JV” team for all 3A and 4A schools.

1A and 2A Tournament Format: Review the proposal of Region 1 to split the 1A Tournament into two separate tournaments based on school size. These proposal was withdrawn pending the outcome of the proposed calendar change. If the basketball tournament is split into separate weekends for the 1A/2A and 3A/4A tournaments, there would be no reason to change format.

1A/2A Tournament Venue: The Board had toured the Alaska Airlines Arena the night prior to this discussion. While there are concerns related to the lack of parking, the pros of hosting the tournament in the new arena outweigh the cons.

3A “at large” berths: Board Members reported how their Regions felt about the concept. Most reported they wanted to see how the WPI works this year before taking additional action.

Seeding the 1A and 2A Tournaments: Discussed ways to improve the current system by having a committee seed the 1A and 2A Basketball Tournaments. What would the criteria be for seeding for committee to follow? BOD authorized ASAA to form a committee as to how seeding will work. Executive Director will chair a committee to develop a system for seeding the 2A & 1A basketball tournaments. Further discussion and possible action for December meeting.

➤ **Girls Wrestling Update:** Board reviewed a request to add a 113 weight class but decided not to make a change since the season had already started. Discussed that after this season changes would most likely be needed. Clarified that girls were allowed to wrestle against boys during the regular season, but not at the conference tournaments. Clarified that 100 girls must be on school’s master eligibility list by October 17 for small schools and November 21 for Large schools in order for the girls tournament to proceed.

➤ **Policy – Transgender Students in Interscholastic Athletics:** The SMAC Committee discussed the issue and will help in the development of a policy. In a review of several state policies there seem to be two basic systems for determining which gender a trans-gendering student may participate: Either require those student to follow NCAA guidelines (if trans-gendering from female to male can start playing immediately; if transitioning from male to female must follow and present medical procedures for one year.) or let schools determine the gender (by considering how has student self identified and which gender the parents consider the student.)

Executive Director would like ASAA Board to allow schools to make determination. This issue is about inclusion for students to participate without crossing the line for competitive advantage

Other challenge – what do you do when another school challenges the decision/determination of allowing a student to play on a team that may seem to create a competitive advantage.

Will continue to work with School Board Association and other agencies to develop a policy for ASAA. The goal is to have a policy by the end of the school year.

➤ **Alaska Youth Military:** The Executive Director noted at since there is long-standing history of granting academic waivers for students returning from the AYM, it should be included in the handbook so all school were aware of the practice. The issue is students leaving AYM often have no grades for the spring semester. The Board discussed the concept of waiving the 10 practice rule as the students engage in physical training while at AYM. However, since the activities in PT differ from those in sport practice no waiver should be granted for practices.

➤ **World Language Declamation Directors:** ASAA is happy to report that two new WLD Directors have been hired. Kristi Sendan from Chugiak High and Elizabeth Dick from South High will be directing the event this year.

➤ **Special Olympics Update:** Sarah Arts and Jim Balamaci presented an update the Unified Track Program. There were 76 students that participated last year and of those 32 athletes advanced to the state track meet. Plans are now to work on eligibility for Unified Sport Athletes, adding some schools in Fairbanks and Region 1 and adding basketball as a sanctioned sport. In addition Special Olympics is hoping to add more culminating events throughout the year for Unified Sport athletes in various sports.

➤ **State 1/2/3A Track and Field- Discussed a request from Region 3** to qualify 16 athletes to the state track meet. The ASAA Staff and Board discussed how this would this affect the length of time for the meet. ASAA staff believes this would either create the need for a three-day meet or a meet with “no down time between events.” It would also impact the number of volunteers needed. Discussed how originally the BOD did not include extra athletes because they were not competitive. ASAA Staff noted the improvement in competitiveness in 3A, but also noted the number of small schools participating has grown. ASAA Staff will develop a schedule and the Board will discuss this in their regional meetings. Discussion for December meeting.

➤ **8th Grade Student Eligibility:** Reviewed a letter from Ninilchik requesting all 1A Schools be allowed to use 8th grade students for team sports. Region 1 does not support such a change as the intent of the 8th grade rule is to allow teams to form for participation, not displace high school students. Unless a Region ask for it to be discussed again, this item will be dropped.

➤ **Mixed Six Volleyball:** Due to the increase in schools participating Region 1 requested the Kuskokwim Conference to be split into two conference with one berth each. Currently there are 18 schools that may be participating in the conference tournament. This creates difficulty in both cost of travel and length of tournament. ASAA Staff noted that concerns that increasing team might make it impossible for the teams eliminated by Thursday to have the time to get an additional game later in the tournament. Region 2 is also in favor expanding the tournament, but

would like to remain as is for 2014 and have the ASAA Staff put together a schedule for 2015-16. The ASAA Staff also noted a larger tournament may require its own venue. Region 1 asked for the expansion be moved to an Action Item, but there was no second. It was then approved to move this to an action item for the December meeting.

Items for December 14-16, 2014 - Regular Meeting

Spring Hill Suites, University Lake Hotel, Anchorage

Tabled Items

1. None

Discussion Items

- 1) Seeding for the 1A/2A Basketball Tournament
- 2) Football Classifications
- 3) Transgender Policy Update
- 4) 3A Basketball At-Large Berths
- 5) Out of Season Contact
- 6) Girls Wrestling
- 7) Small School Track and Field Berths
- 8) Mixed-6 Volleyball Tournament Expansion
- 9) State Tournament Bid Proposals Due this Year

Action Items

- 1) Transfer without Bona Fide Move of Parent Bylaw Change
- 2) Activity Calendar
- 3) Football Classifications