

## Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting September 30-October 1, 2007

Note: This synopsis will be available on the ASAA web site at [www.asaa.org](http://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:

Application for Membership: The Board approved the application for membership from Klukwan School, Chatham School District in Region 5. The school was placed in Region 5, 2A. (Carried 7-0)

New Conference Placement: Approved the following conference placements for Hooper Bay High School effective this school year: – Wrestling – Great Alaska Conference, Volleyball – Great Alaska Conference. (Carried 5-2)

Minutes: Approved minutes of the April 29-30, 2007 regular meeting. (Consensus)

Resolution to Amend 401 K Plan: Approved a revision to the Association's 401 K plan for staff members. (Carried 7-0)

Requests to Extend Cross-Country Running Season for Out-of-State Competition: Approved requests from Juneau-Douglas, West Valley, West Anchorage, Palmer and Wasilla High Schools to compete out of state after the end of ASAA's season. (Carried 7-0)

The Board also granted authority to Gary Matthews to rule on such requests in the future.

Conference Change: Approved a request to move Houston High School from the Greatland Football Conference to the Northern Lights Football Conference. (Carried 7-0)

Fairbanks Northstar Borough School District Request: Denied a request from the school district under which a student at Eielson High School would be allowed to play on the North Pole High School hockey team. (Failed 2-5)

Alaska Basketball Federation Issue: Approved a process under which students who have unknowingly violated the Association's amateurism rule may be granted one-time forgiveness for competing for cash prizes since the end of the 2006-07 basketball season. (Carried 6-1)

Adding a Berth to the 1A, 2A, 3A State Cross-Country Running Championships: Denied a request from Region 6 to add a berth to the tournament. The Board decided that the request lacked merit due to the limited number of student runners in the regional meet. (Failed 2-5)

Executive Session: The Board moved into executive session to discuss an issue that could affect the eligibility of certain high school students.

**Reports** The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournament
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches
- Marketing
- Executive Director

### **Workshop Items**

Review of Proposed Bylaw and Policy Revisions: The Board conducted a work session on the educational component of the pending Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy with Eddie Bonine of the Nevada Interscholastic Athletic Association and Cindy Cashen of the State Dept. of Transportation.

**Discussion Items** The BOD discussed the following items:

Review of 2008-09 Draft Calendar: Reviewed and discussed the first draft of the calendar, as well as a three year projection. Next year's calendar will be adopted at the December board meeting.

Upcoming Requests for State Tournament Bids: Asked that the following state tournament bids be awarded by the Board at its December meeting:

- Tennis
- All-State Music
- 1A-2A-3A Wrestling
- Nordic Skiing
- Softball
- Baseball
- Drama, Debate, Forensics

Review of 2007-08 Goals: Reviewed the Association goals for 2007-08. They are, in no particular order:

1. continue to implement and monitor the Association's marketing plan
2. continue to implement the Strategic Plan for 2005 -08
3. implement the procedure for rotation of certain state tournaments to rural Alaska on an occasional basis

4. continue to seek opportunities to showcase the cultural diversity of Alaska
5. seek ways to promote expansion of the Association's citizenship/sportsmanship efforts with parents, students, officials and other groups
6. continue to develop the educational component of the Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy and test its application through pilot projects with selected member schools prior to the August 2008 implementation
7. implement the new NFHS Coaches Education Program

Further Clarification of Regional Association Relationship to ASAA: Discussed the potential impacts of regional associations using ASAA's Employer Identification Number (EIN) on their own bank accounts and reports. At least four of the six regional associations have been doing this. ASAA's attorney, James Brennan, recommended that each regional association apply for its own number as an "Other nonprofit organization" (unincorporated).

Orientation for New and/or Inexperienced Athletic Administrators: Heard a report from staff about the inaugural orientation day in late August which was attended by 30 people. All in attendance commented that it was worthwhile.

Adding Drill and Dance to State Cheerleading Competition: Once again discussed the possibility of adding these events to the state competition. Region 5 may submit a proposal during the December meeting.

Sunday Competition/Religious Holidays: Reviewed the recent issues surrounding the denial of a school district request to approve holding a regional cross-country running championship on Sunday because the traditional Saturday date created a conflict with a religious holiday. Reviewed the results of a nationwide survey on Sunday competition and accommodations for religious holidays. No further action is planned at this time.

Sports Officials – Independent Contractors or Employees: Heard a presentation by Rosalie Nadeau of the Anchorage Hockey Officials Association concerning a recent state Department of Labor determination that the association's officials are employees. This decision has been appealed without a clear resolution at this time. The official's association may approach the legislature for a solution that will clarify officials as contractors. An adverse decision could be detrimental to other officials associations and school districts throughout the state.

Master Eligibility List (MEL) Update: Discussed a staff report on progress to date in implementing the new MEL accountability program. As of the time of the board meeting, only one violation had occurred.

Request to Change Conferences: Discussed a request from Lumen Christi High School in Anchorage to change from Fall to Spring soccer. This will be an action item at the December meeting.

Girls Coop Hockey: Discussed the status of girls hockey as an emerging sport. All school teams are multi-school cooperative teams. It had been suggested that during the past four years, the

sport has had enough time to develop - that stand-alone teams might be possible. But, after additional discussion, it was decided that the sport is still emerging and that cooperative teams are still necessary.

Wrestling Coaches Proposals: Discussed a proposal by Norm Davis, president of the state 4A wrestling coaches association, who made the following two proposals:

1. Due to the overlap between football and wrestling, there is not enough time for football-playing wrestlers to get to their minimum wrestling weight under the current rules which prohibit weighing in more than one weight class above minimum weight without recertifying at a higher weight. This request will provide a 35 day grace period from the beginning of the season before that part of the weigh-in rule goes into effect.
2. The coaches propose to give the state tournament seeding committee the option of seeding the top seven or eight wrestlers, instead of six, because the top six finishers earn team points and there are frequently ties in the seeding for sixth place.

The Board decided that more discussion was needed prior to any action being taken since many small school coaches had not had the opportunity to have input into the recommendations. The board asked that the proposal be discussed at both state wrestling coaches' meetings with further discussion to occur at the February board meeting.

Rifle Issues: Discussed a report from the State concerning the occurrence of increased blood lead levels occurring in some high school shooters and coaches, and the State's recommendations to increase safety. Range management practices have been brought into focus.

Region 6 also proposed to shift the season which currently runs from Sept. 10-Dec. 8. The Board directed that a Rifle Steering Committee be formed to discuss such issues as safety, seasons and shooting guidelines. This will be a discussion item on the December meeting agenda.

Proposal to Restructure the 3A-West Volleyball Season: Discussed a continuing proposal to restructure the 3A - West conference schools into the same season as other 3A schools, beginning in 2008-09. The BOD will take action on the proposal during its December meeting.

National Wood Baseball Bat Study: Continued to discuss a proposal from Region 6 to adopt non-metal baseball bats for high school games. Based on the results of a recent comparative study of Illinois high school baseball teams using wood bats and non-wood bats during the same season which found "no statistically significant difference in injuries", the Board decided to take no action on the proposal.

Football: Heard a staff report that the Association has been receiving requests to rename the classifications, and drop the titles "small schools" and "large schools." Further discussion will occur during the December meeting.

Reviewed a proposal from the smaller schools to restructure their playoffs by adding an

additional week and by cross-bracketing during the earlier rounds.

Heard about the small schools on the North Slope which are sponsoring eight-player football.

Basketball: Discussed the impending enforcement of the revised uniform rule which goes into effect this season. Each player wearing an illegal uniform will be charged with a technical foul. The major change is that the home team's uniform shall be predominantly white in color.

Reviewed a Region 5 proposal which would move the 1A/2A basketball season to a early January start date with a mid-April ending date. This will be an action item at the December meeting.

Reviewed a proposal from Region 5 which would revise the way that 4A basketball teams qualify to the state tournament. Under the proposal, one team each would qualify from the Southeast and Mid Alaska conferences, and two each from the Cook Inlet and Northern Lights conferences. The other two teams would be selected from among all remaining 4A teams according to the WPI. This will be an action item during the December meeting.

Discussed a proposal from Region I to rotate the tournament dates for 1A-2A, with 3A-4A, on an every other year basis.

Discussed a request from Region 3 to move Cordova into the Southcentral Conference. This will be an action item at the December meeting.

Small School Softball State Tournament Berth Allocation: Revisited a proposal from Region 5 which would reallocate berths based on the number of participating teams per conference; Northern Lights – 2 berths, Mid Alaska – 2 berths, Southeast – 1 berth, and 1 at-large berth. The Board intends to act on the proposal at the December meeting.

All-State Music Festival: Heard a report from Cam Bohman, ASAA Music Coordinator, on festival finances. The Board is interested in finding ways to make the festival more self-supporting.

Reclassification: Reviewed the Reclassification Policy which was adopted previously, to see if it is meeting its intended purpose. There has been some uncertainty about some of the aspects of the policy. These will be clarified during the December meeting,

Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy Implementation: Following a workshop on the previous day, discussed the issue of tracking violations. Directed ED to apply for a start-up grant, proceed with the hire of a part-time coordinator and lay out a flow chart for implementation. This will be the subject of the workshop during the December meeting.

Hockey Penalties: Discussed a proposal brought forth through Region 3 that would change the penalty for schools which accumulate 15 or more penalties during a game. This will be an item of additional discussion at the December meeting.

## **STUDENT HEARING**

None

## **Items for December Meeting:**

### **Workshop**

1. Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy Educational Component

### **Action**

1. Adoption of 2008-09 Calendar
2. Cordova Request to Change Conferences
3. State Tournament Bids
4. Lumen Christi High School Request fo Change Soccer Conferences
5. Realignment of 1A, 2A, 3A – West Volleyball
6. Region 5 - 1A/2A Basketball Season Proposal
7. Region 5 - 4A Basketball Berth Proposal
8. Small School State Softball Tournament Berths
9. Election of Officers

### **Discussion**

1. Staff Salary Proposal
2. Region 1 - 1A/2A State Basketball Tournament Request
3. State Dance/Drill Team Competition
4. Wrestling Coaches Proposals
5. Rifle Steering Committee Progress
6. Names of Football Classifications
7. Small School Football Playoff Structure
8. Officials Issue – Contractor / Employee
9. Examination of Teams in Conferences and Berths to State Tournaments in Team Sports
10. Reclassification Policy – School Requests
11. Girls Coop Hockey Waivers
12. Insurance Issues
13. IMPACT – Concussion Testing Program

### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

November 30 – December 1, 2007 – Anchorage – Millennium Hotel