



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 9-10, 2024

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 9, 2024.

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 – Dana Mock - Present
AASA – Jim Holien – Present
AASG – Rhianonn Dobbins – Present

Note: Incoming Board members Margo Bellamy (AASB) and Leif Konrath-Bera (AASG) attended the meeting as well.

Approval of the Consent Items –

- a. Approval of Minutes from October 7-8, 2024, 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
- 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:

➤ **Powerlifting:** motion and second “to suspend the activity of powerlifting for the 2024-2025 season.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Multi transfers in the same school year:** motion and second “adopt the revisions to the Article 12 Section 9.C.10 bylaw.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The revised bylaw now reads, with changes emphasized:

*“10. Transfer Without a Bona Fide Change of Residence of Parents: A student who transfers their “school of eligibility” without a bona fide change of residence of parents or guardians, is ineligible for Varsity, State Qualifying and State Championship interscholastic competition for one calendar year, from the date of first attendance in the new school in team sports. Students participating in individual sports may compete on varsity during regular season, but are ineligible for State Qualifying and State Championship 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, E). At schools with no sub-varsity team sports, the student could ask for a waiver to participate on the varsity team during the regular season, but would not be able to participate at either conference or state tournaments. **Students requesting a second transfer under this section must provide evidence of a “hardship” to be eligible for participation at any level.**”*

➤ **2025-2026 ASAA Calendar:** motion and second “adopt the 2025-2026 Calendar as amended.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: the approved 2025-26 Calendar can be found here:

<https://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/2025-26-ASAA-Calendar-of-Events.pdf>



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➤ **DII Soccer Conferences and Berths:** motion and second “adopt the following proposal:

"Ketchikan High School is placed into the Northern Lights Division II Soccer Conference, with Ketchikan committing to the following:

1. **Travel Commitment:**

- Ketchikan will travel at least twice a year to play against the other conference schools.
- Example schedule:
 - **Trip One:** Games against Grace, Houston, and Redington.
 - **Trip Two:** Games against Kodiak and Palmer.

2. **Two Conference teams will travel on separate weekends to Ketchikan.**

3. **Support for Visiting Teams:**

- Ketchikan will provide 10 roundtrip tickets from Anchorage to Ketchikan each visiting team.
- Example rotation:
 - **Year 1:** Kodiak and Grace travel to Ketchikan.
 - **Year 2:** Redington and Palmer travel to Ketchikan.

4. **Hospitality:**

- Ketchikan will provide housing at the school, one meal per day, and vans for local transportation.

5. **Scheduling Request:**

- One weekend of games in Ketchikan to be scheduled in May for a senior night celebration.

In return, the Northern Lights Conference would receive an additional playoff berth."

Motion failed (7-1)

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

➤ **Flag Football Roster:** motion and second “to set the maximum state roster size for Flag Football at 30 players”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **3A Volleyball State Roster Size:** motion and second “to change the maximum state team roster size for 3A Volleyball to 12 players.”

Motion passed (6-2)

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

➤ **State Roster Policy for Team Sports:** motion and second “change the roster policy for team sports to read:

B. Team Sports:

Teams must submit their state tournament roster via the School Activities Reporting System (SARS) no later than two weeks before the start of the tournament. This roster must include each athlete's uniform number. Player positions and height are not required, but will be included in the tournament program if provided. Teams are allowed to list up to three (3) additional athletes beyond the maximum roster size for submission. The official roster will be finalized by ASAA at the coaches' meeting, after which no substitutions are allowed.

Penalty:

Schools that do not submit their roster by the two-week deadline will receive a warning. If the roster is not submitted within an additional week, the school will be fined \$250.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Hall of Fame Selection Committee:** motion and second “appoint Tim Helvey as the Region 4 Hall of Fame Representative, Todd Wegner as the Region 6 Hall of Fame Representative, Archie Young as an At-Large Hall of Fame Representative and Steve Zanazzo as the Standing Interior Hall of Fame Representative”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Public Comments Policy:** motion and second “to approve the ASAA public comments policy as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: the public comments policy can be found here:

<https://asaa.org/about/board-of-directors/bod-meetings/>



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➤ **State Bids for DDF, World Language and Mix-6/2A Volleyball:** motion and second “accept the submitted bids for Mix-6/2A Volleyball, DDF and World Language.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: for the 2025, 2026, and 2027 tournaments, Dimond High School will host the Mix-6/2A Volleyball tournament, the Anchorage School District will host DDF at Bettye Davis and World Language at Dimond High School.

➤ **State Bid for DI Hockey:** motion and second “accept the submitted bid from the Sullivan Arena to host the 2026, 2027 and 2028 DI Hockey Tournament.”

Motion passed (5-3)

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

➤ **4A Shot Clock:** motion and second “starting with the 2025-2026 season to require all games involving two 4A schools to utilize the 35-second shot clock.”

Motion passed (5-3)

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

➤ **Tennis and Badminton Policy:** motion and second “to approve the changes to the Tennis and Badminton Policies to read:

“ALL CLASSIFICATIONS

Participation in girls’ events shall be limited to individuals who were assigned female at birth. To align with ASAA bylaws regarding double division sports, students assigned female at birth are prohibited from competing in both Singles and Girls Singles events during the same school year. In Mixed Doubles, where one teammate must be a female assigned female at birth, a player cannot fill both an open spot in Mixed Doubles and a spot reserved for females assigned female at birth during the same season.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **2026 Spring ASAA Board Meeting location:** motion and second “to conduct the Spring 2026 Board of Directors meeting in Kodiak, Alaska.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Knik Charter School participation request:** motion and second “to allow students attending the Knik Charter School to participate in activities not offered by the Knik Charter School, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough District school for which the student’s home is zoned. This agreement expires at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Change to the Spring 2025 practice start dates:** motion “to change the first practice dates for soccer, baseball, softball and track & field to March 5, 2025”

Motion Failed for lack of a second

➤ **Change to ASD/Private School MOA’s:** motion and second “to add the activity of bowling to all the approved MOA agreements between the Anchorage School District and the involved private schools.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

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

➤ **Spring Board Meeting Location:** The Board discussed travel arrangements for the Spring 2025 Board meeting, which will be held in Cordova.

➤ **State Berth Analysis of Individual Sports:** Currently the two activities which the ASAA Staff feels could be changing their current berths allocated to the conferences are wrestling and cross country running. ASAA will work with the Wrestling Coaches’ Activities Committee to suggest changes to the current structure. Board members were asked to forward to ASAA any request for changing cross country berths to ASAA by February 1, 2025. If any Region feels other activities needed changes, they are to contact ASAA by February 1, 2025.



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➤ **Football Scheduling Policy:** The Board discussed how, when an ASAA football team plays an out of state school, other ASAA teams may be forced to take a “bye” that week. The Board reviewed language to ensure that if a team’s out-of-state competition forces a “bye,” the affected team should be from the same district and at the same division before it impacts a team from another district.

➤ **Classification Committee:** The Board reviewed the committee’s updated report and heard input from its members. The committee was instructed to develop conference alignments and berth recommendations for Division I and Division II baseball, soccer, and softball, using an enrollment threshold of 650 students. Additionally, the committee was tasked with refining the five division volleyball proposal based on feedback from the ASAA Board. This proposal includes placing Juneau-Douglas, Soldotna High, and Palmer into the 5A level, while moving Seward and Dillingham to the 3A level. Board members are asked to inform ASAA staff if any other schools wish to request a classification change from what was presented during the meeting. An in-person meeting with the Classification Committee is planned for early January 2025.

Additionally, the committee discussed how a 5A system for basketball would be much more difficult to create due to it involving many more teams and two divisions (“girls” and “boys”). The Board does want the membership to assume a change to five divisions in volleyball would result in five divisions for basketball.

➤ **State Roster Size:** The Board discussed allowing schools to bring additional students to state tournament events so that a team could substitute other players to their rosters during a tournament.

➤ **Educational Requirements for Coaches/Sponsors:** The Board discussed revising educational requirements for coaches, proposing they meet the Level 1 NFHS Coach Certification standards and hold current first aid certification. The ASAA Staff was directed to send out a bylaw revision to the membership changing the current requirements to a Level 1 NFHS Coach Certification standards and hold current first aid certification. In addition, the revised language would require coaches granted a waiver of the educational requirements to have a current first aid certification.

➤ **Reduction of Practice Requirements:** The Board directed the ASAA Staff to send out a bylaw revision which would allow the Executive Director to wave up to three practices in the event of school closure or school trip related travel issues which cause a student to miss practices. Waivers for students making the choice to miss practice for non-school reasons would not be considered.



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- **Adding/Deleting Activities:** The ASAA Staff was directed to present an ASAA bylaw revision on adding activities for sanctioning. This revision would require a certain number of school or districts to operate an activity at a “club” level before it can be sanctioned by ASAA.

- **Post Gradation and College/High School Dual Participation:** The ASAA Staff was directed to send out a revision to the Article 12 Section 2.A.3 bylaw. The proposed change would not allow students to participate at both the college and high school level in an activity.

- **Championship Cheer Squads:** The Board discussed how ASAA allows free entry for cheerleaders in uniform for football and hockey games, but does not recognize them as participants, making them ineligible for academic or other participant awards. They are also not charged participation fees. This issue will be forwarded to the Cheerleader Coaches’ Committee to gain their insights.

- **Lowering School Costs:** The Board discussed ASAA bylaws and policies that affect school costs, including the number of allowable games, travel to conferences and state tournaments, and the length of seasons. The ASAA Staff was directed to work on proposals on how some qualifying events in individual sports could be changed or eliminated.

- **Student Eligibility Committee:** A committee made up of two individuals from each Region was formed to review the eligibility requirements for student participation. Board members were asked to send their selections to the Executive Director by the first of January.

- **School Membership Request:** discussed the school membership request made by Twindly Bridge Charter School which is located in Wasilla, Alaska. The Board will determine which region and conference to assign this new member school to during a future meeting.

- **Wrestling Duels:** The Board discussed concerns with how wrestling duels are being conducted. These concerns included the combination of the girls’ and “boys” weights into a single score to determine the winning team, and how some duels have more forfeits than actual matches involving two students. The issue will be referred to the Wrestling Coaches’ Committee for their input.

- **Wrestling Weight Classes:** discussed a request from Region 3 to adopt the 14 weight classes in the NFHS Wrestling Handbook. The issue will be referred to the Wrestling Coaches’ Committee for their input.



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Hearings –

- The ASAA Board of Directors held one hearing during the meeting.

Recognition - none

Motion to Adjourn

Motion and second to Adjourn
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Upcoming Board Meetings and Workshops

- February 16, 2025 – Board Workshop
- February 17-18, 2025, – Board Meeting - Anchorage
- May 4-6, 2025 – Board Meeting - Cordova