



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

Adopted Minutes of the ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting October 7-8, 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. October 7, 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

Approval of the Consent Items –

- a. Approval of Minutes from April 28-30, 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”
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items – the ASAA Board heard public comments from Joanna Livaudais.

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:

➤ **Statewide Air Quality Policy:** motion and second “to approve the statewide air quality policy as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: the Statewide Air Quality Policy can be found here:

<https://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/ASAA-Air-Quality-Policy-v2.pdf>

➤ **DII Football Season and Playoff berths:** motion and second “to return to an 8-week regular season game schedule with the top four teams advancing to the playoffs.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **Soccer Jamboree Policy:** motion and second “add soccer to the list of activities allowed to conduct a jamboree. Soccer Jamborees shall include three (3) or more teams. All players must have five (5) separate days of practice prior to the first day of a Jamboree. A team is limited to no more than four (4) 30-minute halves with no more than one (1) half against any other team. A team may only play in one jamboree each season.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **4A Basketball Berth Proposal:** motion and second “to change the berths for 4A basketball to one berth for each conference champion and four (4) at-large berths to be determined by the RPI.”

Motion failed (6-2)

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

➤ **BEHS/North Pole High School Wrestling:** motion “to allow students in grades 10-12 who attended Ben Eielson High School last year to continue to wrestle as a “Ben Eielson” wrestler during the 2024 season.”

Motion died for lack of a second



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➤ **BEHS/North Pole High School Wrestling:** motion and second “to require seniors (12th grade) students who attended Ben Eielson High School last year to wrestle as a “Ben Eielson” wrestler during the 2024 season.”

Motion failed (5-3)

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

➤ **Article 12 Section 2.B.3:** motion and second “to approve the amendments to the Article 12 Section 2.B.3 bylaw as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The changes to the bylaw can be found here:

<https://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/Bylaw-Change-Bylaw-Article-12-Section-2B3.pdf>

➤ **Article 12 Section 2.A:** motion and second “to approve the amendments to the Article 12 Section 2.A bylaw as presented.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Note: The changes to the bylaw can be found here:

<https://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/Bylaw-Change-Bylaw-Article-12-Section-2A.pdf>

➤ **Bartlett/BDEA Hockey Co-op:** motion and second “to approve a co-op for the activity of hockey between Bartlett and Bettye Davis East Anchorage high schools for the 2024-25 season.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ **West Valley/Lathrop Hockey Co-op:** motion and second “to approve a co-op for the activity of hockey between West Valley and Lathrop high schools for the 2024-25 season.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **DI Soccer Conferences:** motion and second “to change the conferences and berths for DI Soccer to:

- Two conferences –

The Cook Inlet Conference comprised of: Bartlett, Bettye Davis East Anchorage, Chugiak, Dimond, Eagle River, Service, South and West Anchorage High Schools.

and

The Railbelt will be comprised of: Colony, Juneau-Douglas, Lathrop, Wasilla and West Valley High Schools

- State Berths –

4 berths to the Cook Inlet Conference, 3 berths Railbelt Conference, with 1 at-large berth based on the RPI.

However, if the Cook Inlet fails to annually send two (2) CIC teams to Fairbanks to play each Fairbanks school, and two (2) CIC teams to Juneau to play Juneau-Douglas, with at least 3 to 4 CIC teams playing the Mat-Su schools either at home or away, the at-large berth will automatically go to the Railbelt Conference.

- State Seeding – State Seeding will be based on the RPI”

Motion passed (6-2)

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

➤ **Election of Association President:** motion and second “to elect Stacia Rustad to the position of Board President for the 2024-2025 school year.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)



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➤ **Election of Association Vice President:** motion and second “to elect Patrick Callahan to the position of Board Vice President for the 2024-2025 school year.”

(Motion Carried - Unanimous Consent)

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

➤ **Sanctioning of Powerlifting:** The Board discussed that if the rules, divisions, and events for powerlifting are not finalized by the December 2024 Board meeting, the ASAA staff will recommend suspending powerlifting sanctioning for the remainder of the 2024-25 school year.

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

➤ **Football “Byes” Due to Out-of-State Travel:** The Board discussed how, when teams travel out of state, other teams may be forced to take a “bye” that week. With only 22 schools participating in 11-man football, the Board directed ASAA staff to develop language to ensure that if a team’s out-of-state travel forces a “bye,” the affected team will be from the same district before it impacts a team from another district.

➤ **Classification Committee:** The Board reviewed the committee’s report and heard from its members. The committee was directed to proceed with lowering the enrollment cutoffs for Division I and Division II baseball, hockey, soccer, and softball from 850 to between 600-650 students. Additionally, the committee was asked to explore how a 5A division might work for volleyball, including conference and berth structures, before focusing on a 5A system for basketball.

➤ **State Softball, Baseball, and Soccer Conferences/Berths:** The Board discussed the impact of Thunder Mountain High School’s closure on statewide softball, baseball, and soccer conferences. After significant discussion, the Board decided not to make changes to softball, baseball, or Division II soccer. For Division II soccer, particularly since Ketchikan is the only remaining team in Southeast Alaska, the Board felt financial agreements with Ketchikan should be considered before adding them to another conference.

➤ **Multiple Transfers in the Same School Year:** The Board directed the Executive Director to propose a bylaw revision that would make a student ineligible to participate at any level (varsity or sub-varsity) if they transfer for a second time in the same school year. Students may seek a waiver in cases of documented hardship.



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- **State Swim and Dive Concern:** Due to concerns from ASAA swim officials about the safety risk posed by the newly installed 3-meter diving board near the starting blocks, the Board reviewed the issue. Despite attempts to raise the diving board, concerns persisted. ASAA met with the Swim & Dive Coaches' Committee, and the recommended solution is to use the other end of the pool, which meets NFHS depth requirements for relay races.

- **4A Basketball Shot Clock Proposal:** The Board reviewed a proposal to require shot clocks in all 4A basketball games. A decision on this requirement may be made at the December 2024 meeting.

- **State Roster Deadlines for Team Sport Events:** The Board discussed a proposal from the ASAA staff to require schools to submit rosters for team sport events (flag football, football, volleyball, hockey, basketball, soccer, softball, and baseball) two weeks before the start of state tournaments. Schools failing to meet this deadline would be fined.

- **Hall of Fame Committee:** The Board discussed the need to extend the terms or replace the Region 1 and one of the At-Large Committee members. One At-Large representative will need to be replaced.

- **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.

- **Public Comments Policy:** The Board discussed proposed changes to the policy governing public comments.

- **Reduction of Practice Requirements:** The Board referred a request to the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to consider reducing the number of required practices before a student can participate in their first game. The Board also discussed the possibility of recognizing practices from other organizations.

- **Adding/Deleting Activities:** The Board discussed the ASAA policy on adding activities for sanctioning, suggesting a possible requirement that a certain number of schools operate a "club" version of the activity before it can be sanctioned by ASAA.

- **State Bids:** The Board discussed that state bids for Mix-6/2A Volleyball, Division I Hockey, DDF, and World Language are due by November 1, 2024, and will be awarded during the December Board meeting.



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- **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.

- **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.

- **Tennis Events:** The Board discussed prohibiting students from competing in both “girls” and “boys” events during the same tennis season.

- **Spring 2026 Board Meeting Location:** The Board discussed the possibility of holding the Spring 2026 Board meeting in Kodiak.

Hearings –

- The ASAA Board of Directors held two hearings during the meeting.

Recognition - none

Motion to Adjourn

Motion and second to Adjourn
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Upcoming Board Meetings and Workshops

- December 9-10, 2024 – Board Meeting - Anchorage
- February 17-18, 2025, – Board Meeting - Anchorage
- May 4-6, 2025 – Board Meeting - Cordova