



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SDHSAA OFFICE BUILDING**

January 14, 2015

9:00 a.m.

Pierre, South Dakota

The Board of Directors held a regular meeting on January 14, 2015, at the SDHSAA Office Building in Pierre, South Dakota with members present as follows:

Rick Weber	Todd Trask	Linda Whitney	Dr. Jason Uttermark
Sandy Klatt	Dan Whalen	Dr. Roger Bordeaux	Steve Morford

Staff members present included Wayne Carney, Jo Auch, James Weaver, and John Krogstrand.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rick Weber at 9:05 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved by Dr. Roger Bordeaux, seconded by Linda Whitney, to approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed 8-0.

**Approval of Minutes from the November 5, 2014 Regular Meeting**

It was moved by Todd Trask, seconded by Dr. Jason Uttermark, to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2014, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

The motion passed 8-0.

**Approval of the Financial Reports as Submitted**

Following a review of all financial reports, it was moved by Steve Morford, seconded by Dan Whalen, to approve the following financial reports as submitted:

- A. Income statements for October and November of 2014
- B. Balance sheets for October and November of 2014
- C. Cash flow chart
- D. Financial reports for substate football, and district/region/state volleyball
- E. Financial report from Reinke Gray Wealth Management

The motion passed 8-0.

**Consent Agenda**

Chairman Weber asked if there were any items on the consent agenda that any Board member wished to move to the regular agenda.

Hearing no requests, it was moved by Todd Trask, seconded by Linda Whitney, to approve the agenda items as presented.

- A. Approved the vouchers paid as follows:  
October of 2014--\$209,469.63

November of 2014--\$152,545.39

- B. Approved an Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between St. Francis Indian School and Todd Country High School in the sport of wrestling effective the 2014-2015 school year.
- C. Approved an Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between DeSmet High School and Iroquois High School in the sport of football effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- D. Approved an Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Corsica High School and Stickney High School in the sports of football, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' track, volleyball, and boys' and girls' golf effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- E. Approved an Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Platte-Geddes High School and Dakota Christian High School in the sports of football, competitive cheer, and competitive dance effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- F. Approved an Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Little Wound High School and Crazy Horse High School in the sports of wrestling and football effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- G. Approved an Application for Dissolution of Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Grant-Deuel High School and Deuel High School in the sport of gymnastics effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- H. Approved an Application for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Arlington High School and Lake Preston High School in the sport of football effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- I. Approved an Application for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Wilmot High School, Waubay High School, and Summit High School in the sport of football effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- J. Approved an Application for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Waubay High School and Summit High School in the sports of boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' track, boys' and girls' cross country, and volleyball effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- K. Approved an Application for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Dakota Christian High School and Andes Central High School in the sports of boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' cross country, football, boys' and girls' golf, boys' and girls' track, volleyball, competitive cheer, competitive dance, and wrestling effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- L. Approved an Application for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Grant-Deuel High School and Milbank High School in the sports of girls' basketball, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' and girls' golf, boys' and girls' track & field, volleyball, gymnastics, boys' and girls' tennis, and wrestling effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- M. Approved an Application for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Jones County High School and White River High School in the sport of football effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- N. Approved an Application for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities between Estelline High School and Castlewood High School in the sport of football effective the 2015-2016 school year.
- O. Approved the following penalty for Canton High School for athletes attending a volleyball skills camp during the in-season time period:
  - 1) Place the volleyball program at Canton High School on probation for a period of one year, January 14, 2015, to January 15, 2016.
  - 2) A letter of reprimand shall be sent to the administration of Canton High School requesting detailed steps to be taken to assure such oversight are in place so as to insure that this situation does not happen in the future. This letter should arrive in the SDHSAA office prior to the March 4, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors.
- P. Approved the following penalty for Elkton High School for exceeding the number of matches in the sport of volleyball during the 2014-2015 season:
  - 1) Place the volleyball program at Elkton High School on probation for a period of one year, January 14, 2015, to January 15, 2016.
  - 2) The number of allowable matches for Elkton High School for the 2015-2016 season shall be:

**Classes B**

- 18 duals – no tournaments
  - 17 duals – 1 tournament
  - 16 duals – 2 tournaments
  - 15 duals – 3 tournaments
- 3) A letter of reprimand shall be sent to the administration of Elkton High School requesting detailed steps to be taken to assure such oversight are in place so as to insure that this situation does not happen in the future. This letter should arrive in the SDHSAA office prior to the March 4, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Q. Approved the following penalty for Chester Area High School for exceeding the number of matches in the sport of volleyball during the 2014-2015 season:
- 1) Place the volleyball program at Chester Area High School on probation for a period of one year, January 14, 2015, to January 15, 2016.
  - 2) The number of allowable matches for Chester Area High School for the 2015-2016 season shall be:

**Classes B**

- 18 duals – no tournaments
  - 17 duals – 1 tournament
  - 16 duals – 2 tournaments
  - 15 duals – 3 tournaments
- 3) A letter of reprimand shall be sent to the administration of Chester Area High School requesting detailed steps to be taken to assure such oversight are in place so as to insure that this situation does not happen in the future. This letter should arrive in the SDHSAA office prior to the March 4, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors.

The motion passed 8-0.

**Set Board Meeting dates and sites for the 2015-2016 school year**

The following dates and sites were presented for approval:

- Wednesday-Thursday, August 26-27, 2015. Strategic Planning Meeting to begin at 1:00 p.m. in the SDHSAA office on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, with the Regular Meeting of the Board to be held in the SDHSAA office beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2015.
- Wednesday, November 4, 2015. Regular meeting held in Pierre at the SDHSAA office beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 13, 2016. Regular meeting held in Pierre at the SDHSAA office beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 2, 2016. Regular meeting held in Pierre at the SDHSAA office beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday-Wednesday, April 19-20, 2016. Regular meeting held in Pierre at the SDHSAA Office Building, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, with the Annual Meeting of the Association scheduled for 2:00 p.m. The Regular meeting will resume at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, 2016.
- Tuesday-Wednesday, June 7-8, 2016. Tuesday, June 7—Board dinner to honor those retiring Board members beginning with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. followed by supper at 6:00 p.m. Regular meeting held in Pierre at the SDHSAA beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

Following discussion, it was moved by Linda Whitney, seconded by Sandy Klatt, to approve the sites and dates for the 2015-2016 meetings of the Board of Directors.

The motion passed 8-0.

### **Consider constitutional changes for 2015-2016**

As per the SDHSAA Constitution, Article X, page 12, the constitution may be amended in two ways:

**SECTION 1. METHOD OF PROPOSING.** Amendments to this Constitution or any set of Bylaws hereinafter included may be proposed by the Board of Directors, or by member schools through presentation of a petition signed by the administrators of thirty or more member schools. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director thirty days or more prior to the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting in order to be considered at that meeting.

Areas of possible concern discussed during the November 5, 2014, meeting of the BOD's were the timeline relative to Level Three appeals to the Board of Directors and the non-school team/individual participation rule. The appeal process currently in place specifically states that any appeal from the decision of the Appeal Committee will be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. It was suggested that the Board consider the following: The Board of Directors will hear appeals during their next regularly scheduled meeting. This would allow the Board the flexibility to conduct a teleconference call should they deem it necessary. Steve Morford cautioned against such a change due to the increased number of appeals that may be filed that are unfounded.

The second issue that was discussed during the teleconference meeting was Chapter II, Part I, Section 7 of the Bylaws:

**SECTION 7. NON-SCHOOL TEAM/INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION.** A student who is a member of a high school team may not participate in that particular sport during the "in-season" time period on an independent or non-high school team or as a member of any "All-Star" team, or completely unattached on an individual basis.

NOTE: The penalty for violation of this Bylaw is loss of eligibility for the remainder of that sports season.

Assistant Executive Directors Auch, Weaver, and Krogstrand will be taking this to their respective advisory committees for further discussion and input. The research that was done on this language dates back to the 1982-83 Constitution and Bylaws. Discussion should include a definition/determination as to which events are considered competitive in nature vs. which events are considered non-competitive in nature. As Assistant Executive Directors Auch, Weaver, and Krogstrand conduct their advisory committee meetings they will report back to the Board during SDHSAA Board meetings on their findings and suggested language changes.

Constitutional amendments may also be proposed by the member schools through presentation of a petition signed by the administrators of thirty or more member schools. On December 17, 2014, a petition signed by thirty-eight administrators was received in the SDHSAA office which would amend Article VI, Sections 1 and 2, pages 8-9 of the SDHSAA Constitution as follows:

**SECTION 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** For the purpose of administering the affairs of the Association under the powers granted by this Constitution and the Bylaws of this Association there is hereby created a separate administrative entity designated as the Board of Directors of the South Dakota High School Activities Association. The Board of Directors shall consist of ~~eight~~ **nine** members.

~~Six~~ **Seven** of these shall be Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic/Activity Directors of member schools and two shall be members of the Board of Education of a member school. One member shall be a

Native American Superintendent, Principal or Athletic/Activity Director from a Native American member school. The composition of the ~~six~~ **seven** administrative positions shall occur in such manner that at no time shall any of the three groups be represented by more than three persons. Representation will be in a ratio system with Superintendents, Principals, and Athletic/Activities Directors being rotated through the ratios.

The term of a Board of Directors member will be five years in length. No member of the Board of Directors will be eligible to be elected to consecutive terms. A Board of Directors member may be elected or appointed to fill an unexpired term.

No (1) member public school district, OR, (2) private/parochial school shall be represented by more than one person on the Board of Directors. **Adopted 5-27-14**

**NOTE:** See Administrative Procedure Policy at the end of this document.

**SECTION 2. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS.** Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to five-year terms. Nominations for membership on the Board of Directors shall be made orally at the annual meeting of the Association. An election shall be determined by a majority of votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority a run-off election shall be held between the top two vote getters.

Election of the members of the Board of Directors shall be governed as follows:

- A. One member of the Board of Directors shall be elected as an At-Large member from the west river, and one member of the Board of Directors shall be elected as an At-Large member from the east river, with said position filled by either a superintendent, principal, or athletic/activity director from a member school. The west river At-Large Board of Directors member must be elected from the west river region, and the east river At-Large Board of Directors member must be elected from the east river region of the state. The Missouri River shall be the dividing line between the east and west regions. In the event that the boundaries of a school district are located on both sides of the Missouri River, the physical location of the high school shall determine whether said school district is east river or west river. Should the east or west river Board of Directors member move to a school on the opposite side of the river, membership on the Board of Directors shall be forfeited.
- B. ~~Three~~ **Four** members of the Board of Directors shall be elected according to ~~three~~ **four** divisions of school enrollment **grades nine through eleven. These divisions shall be determined based upon school district enrollment as determined by the Average Daily Membership number as used in classification as identified by the South Dakota Department of Education for the previous school year.**
- C. Two members of the Board of Directors shall be Board of Education Members. One Board of Education member shall be from the large-school group which comprises approximately one-half of the school enrollment (Grades 9-11). The other Board of Education member shall be from the small-school group which comprises approximately the other half of the school enrollment (Grades 9-11).
- D. One member shall be elected as an At-Large member from a SDHSAA member Native American school. Native American school shall be defined as any SDHSAA member school with a Native American student population of at least 50% in grades 9-12 as determined by the SD Department of Education. The At-Large position shall be filled by a Native American Superintendent, Principal or Athletic/Activity Director.
- E. When a representative of the Board of Directors loses the qualifications for which he or she was elected or appointed; such as resignation, removal from a district or category, withdrawal from the profession or any other reason which might make one ineligible to serve, he or she no longer remains eligible to serve on the Board of Directors. **Adopted 5-27-14**

The Board of Directors shall be empowered to determine the ~~three~~ **four** divisions of school enrollment (9-11), such divisions **will be created beginning with the school districts that have the highest enrollment being placed in the following divisions to be outlined as follows:**

- 1) Division I to include **at least one-fourth** of the total student enrollment. **SF Roosevelt-RC Stevens**  
Current # of students: 9,791.210—eight member schools.  
Proposed # of students: 7,529.123—six member schools  
Current Ratio—1 in 8                      Proposed Ratio—1 in 6
- 2) Division II shall include the next-highest enrolled group of school districts to include **at least one-fourth** of the total student enrollment. **Aberdeen Central-Harrisburg**  
Current # of students: 10,072.778—twenty nine member schools.  
Proposed # of students: 7,655.909—twelve member schools  
Current Ratio—1 in 29                      Proposed Ratio—1 in 12
- 3) Division III shall include the next-highest enrolled group of school districts in terms of enrollment to include **at least one-fourth** of the total student enrollment. **Spearfish-Bon Homme**  
Current # of students: 10,181.387—one hundred and forty three member schools. Proposed # of students: 7,610.323—thirty six member schools  
Current Ratio—1 in 143                      Proposed Ratio—1 in 36
- 4) Division IV shall contain all remaining school districts. **Sioux Valley-School for the Blind/VI**  
Proposed # of students: 7,475.235 - one hundred and twenty six member schools  
Current Ratio—1 in 143                      Proposed Ratio—1 in 126

**NOTE:** The ADM's for classification purposes for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years will be used to determine the four divisions.

Following discussion, no further action was taken.

### **2015 Legislative Session**

As per discussion during the November 5, 2014, meeting of the BOD's, no proposed legislation that would directly affect the SDHSAA had been brought to our attention.

However, State Representative Jim Bolin sent the following to our office on Friday, January 9, 2015:

Here is a summary of what bills that I will be introducing relating to the SDHSAA.

1. A bill that will require the SDHSAA and all other state authorized boards to list in the minutes, immediately after a split vote is recorded, the vote of each member by name. Both yea and nay.
2. A bill removing from the SDHSAA any authority or responsibility for those who claim the status of transgendered to be involved in any sanctioned sport of the SDHSAA. This responsibility would fall to the state legislature and the governor as the bodies most responsible to the people of the state. The current policy adopted in June, 2014 would be declared null and void.
3. A bill that would declare the policy adopted in June, 2014 null and void for the sports of boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' and girls' tennis, boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' track, and boys' and girls' golf. All other sports sanctioned by the association would be governed by the policy adopted in June, 2014.

Other proposals may come forward as the fate of these bills is decided by the legislature. Please let the board know that my feeling about the SDHSAA is that it is an excellent organization that

has made a very bad decision with little or no publicity or public input on this question that raises profound issues about the nature of high school sports in our state. Jim Bolin

Following discussion, no further action was taken.

Chairman Weber declared the Board in recess at 9:58 a.m.

Chairman Weber declared the Board back in session at 10:09 a.m.

### **First reading on proposed Class 11 “A” football post-season playoff format**

The Football Advisory Committee discussed a re-structuring of Class 11 “A” football post-season playoff format. The following proposal was considered as a first reading:

Re-structuring Class 11 “A” Football from an eight-game regular season with 16 teams in the playoffs to a nine-game regular season with eight teams in the playoffs.

Upon receiving preliminary, and now final, numbers from the South Dakota Department of Education, concerns were raised from the membership and football advisory committee regarding the format of 11A Football, given the geographic location of where anticipated schools/teams were going to be located, and the difficulty therein of creating region alignments that were fair, equitable, and would not include drives of over 300 miles for preliminary round of post-season play.

The discussion yielded one option that the 11A coaches had previously discussed as a change, even before the alignment question came to fruition: using 11AA/AAA as a model and copying that season format of nine regular season games and only taking eight teams to the playoffs.

#### Rationale for Change:

- Less travel on school nights for Class 11A Teams. This past year, the first two rounds of playoffs were conducted on Tuesday and Monday nights, respectively. The average distance/time for these games was over two hours of travel on a school night, with some trips in the past years being as far as six-to-eight hour trips. The “new” system would limit travel for Class 11A to a Thursday (quarter-finals) and Friday/Saturday (semi-finals, date by school choice) prior to games in the Dome.
- Competitive nature of the contests. Rather than continuing with the Round-of-Sixteen games which yielded an average 36.4 point margin of victory, we would eliminate the bye from each teams’ regular season schedule and provide them another regular season contest, which is more likely to be more competitive.
- Financial benefit to schools. This plan would also serve as a financial benefit to schools, knowing that each team/school would have the opportunity to help offset costs with an additional home game per two years. Also inclusive in this plan would be financial benefits through reduced travel by way of another regular season contest versus the potential for state-wide bracket games through use of wildcard and regional alignment system.
- Removal of regional system which is troublesome at this level. Last alignment period, we had a region that ran from Hartford to Eagle Butte, Chamberlain and Mission, guaranteeing us at least one major trip of over 300-plus miles on the first night of playoffs. Continuing the regional alignments would ensure at least two of these school-night trips in not only the first round, but also the second as well. The new method gives us the best chance of eliminating a good portion of these trips, with an absolute cap of four such school-night games taking place, with the likelihood being much lower for a higher frequency.

Staff indicated the potential for this change to the schools that are potential Class 11A football schools and received the following responses:

Class 11A Responses to Proposal as of 10 AM on Jan. 12				
School	In Favor?	From?	Method	Notes
Belle Fourche	In Favor	AD	E-Mail	Would like second game to be open to Friday OR Saturday
Canton	x	Supt.	E-Mail	Favors 8 to playoffs; would prefer shorter regular season to accomplish
Cheyenne-EB	X	AD	E-Mail	Split among admin; Supt favors, AD unsure, Coach in favor
Dakota Valley	x	Supt.	E-Mail	Would prefer playing all playoff games on Fri/Sat to avoid travel issue, regardless of other State events
Dell Rapids	no	Supt.	E-Mail	Concern change would limit best teams from making playoffs
Hot Springs	X	AD	Phone	Fine either way; concerned ninth opponent might hurt schedule strength
Lennox	In Favor	AD	E-Mail	Not opposed to this plan'
Madison	In Favor	AD	E-Mail	Most likely will need future adjustment, but ok with something being done now
Milbank Area	In Favor	Supt.	E-Mail	In conjunction with AD
Pine Ridge				
SF Christian	In Favor	AD	E-Mail	In favor of the changes as presented
Sisseton	n/a			Moving to 11-B; opted to not respond
St. Thomas More	x	AD	E-Mail	OK with whatever comes up; would prefer staying same playoff system incorporating equal split of 11A & 11B squads between classes
Tea Area	In Favor	AD	Phone	AD in favor; Supt. To discuss with BOE and confirm at later date
Todd County	In Favor	AD	Phone	Phone call from Chuck on 12/1/14
Vermillion	In Favor	AD/Coach	E-Mail	In conjunction with one another; notes that coaches are strongly in favor
West Central	In Favor	AD	E-Mail	In conjunction with Supt/Principal on issue

Following discussion, it was moved by Dr. Roger Bordeaux, seconded by Linda Whitney, to approve the proposal as a first reading with the second reading and vote to be taken during the March 4, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors.

The motion passed 8-0.

### **Consider classification appeals for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 alignment years**

Every alignment year, the SDHSAA reviews applications for classification appeals based on the average daily membership (ADM) numbers reported by the member schools to the SD Department of Education. The following classification appeals were submitted for consideration:

- 1) Hamlin High School requested a classification appeal in the sport of football.
- 2) Spearfish High School is petitioning to move from Class 11 AA football to Class 11 A.
- 3) Canistota High School and Marion High School are appealing their co-op classification in the sports of basketball, volleyball, track & field, and cross country.

Mr. Jeff Sheehan, Hamlin High School Principal, presented and reviewed with the Board of Directors the classification appeal from Hamlin High School. The male only ADM count for Hamlin High School, 55.061, placed Hamlin in the 9 AA class of football. However, due to religious belief and practice the actual number of male students who are able to participate is 26. That ADM number, 26, places Hamlin in the 9B classification.



Following discussion, it was moved by Dr. Roger Bordeaux, seconded by Dr. Jason Uttermark, to approve the classification appeal for Hamlin High School in the sport of football only, using the ADM number of 26 for classification.

The motion passed 8-0.

Spearfish High School filed a petition to move from Class 11 AA to Class 11 A in the sport of football. Ms. Karen Hahn, Spearfish High School Activities Director, was present to articulate the position of Spearfish High School on the basis for the appeal. The number of students identified in the appeal request was not sufficient enough to move Spearfish High School below the 225,000 ADM number used to differentiate Class 11 AA from Class 11 A in the sport of football.

Following discussion, it was moved by Dr. Roger Bordeaux, seconded by Linda Whitney, to deny the classification appeal for Spearfish High School.

The motion passed on a 5-3 roll call vote with the following voting aye: Dan Whalen, Dr. Roger Bordeaux, Linda Whitney, Dr. Jason Uttermark, and Rick Weber. Those voting nay: Todd Trask, Steve Morford, and Sandy Klatt.

Canistota High School filed a classification waiver request in the sports of basketball, volleyball, track & field, and cross country. The ADM used to differentiate between Class A and Class B in basketball, volleyball, track & field, and cross country is 89,999. The combined ADM used for classification purposes for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 alignment years for the Canistota/Marion cooperative is 90,855. Canistota Superintendent Mr. Larry Nebelsick proposed three students not be used in the ADM count, one student from Marion and two students from Canistota.

Following discussion, it was moved by Dan Whalen, seconded by Steve Morford, to deny the classification appeal for Canistota High School and Marion High School.

The motion passed 8-0.

Chairman Weber declared the Board in recess at 11:53 a.m.

Chairman Weber declared the Board back in session at 12:21 p.m.

### **Review NFHS recommendations and guidelines for minimizing head impact exposure and concussion risk in football**

In the fall of 2014, the NFHS released its "Position Statement" resulting from the 2014 NFHS Concussion Summit. This document was released to "assist (member associations) in planning for the 2015 football season and beyond" with official release to the public to occur in January 2015. This task force consisted of medical professionals, athletic administrators and coaches from across the country with a vested interest in safety in football.

Of note, this document outlines a new set of "best practices" regarding "Recommendations and Guidelines for Minimizing Head Impact Exposure and Concussion Risk in Football." The document may be viewed by going to the SDHSAA web site, [www.sdhsaa.com](http://www.sdhsaa.com), click on the Athletics Tab on the main bar, click on the Health and Safety Tab and under Sports Concussions click on the Recommendations and Guidelines for Minimizing Head Impact Exposure and Concussion risk in Football.

The position statement was shared with the members of the SDHSAA Football Advisory Committee who took no formal action or stance on the document, but rather stated the discussion was perhaps best suited for the Board of Directors level due to the far-ranging consequences of the proposed action items.

To voluntarily be in line with this NFHS Position Statement, the SDHSAA Executive Staff recommends the following changes, effective with the 2015-16 School year for football as an effort to demonstrate active response to concerns specific to the sport:

1. Limiting contact in-season. Member schools should be limited to no more than three non-consecutive days in a given calendar week of “full-contact” action, with no more than 30 minutes allowed in a single day in a practice setting. Full-contact action is defined as any “thud action” (initiation of contact at, or up to, full speed with no pre-determined winner and no take-down to the ground), or live action play/practice. Contact during the week with “air, bags or control” as defined by USA Football are considered no-contact or light-contact and not limited.
2. Limiting contact during pre-season practice. Member schools are limited so that in a single given day, only one practice may feature full-contact action. Specifically, if two-a-days are utilized, only one of those practices may feature full-contact given the additional guidelines in recommendation #1.
3. Limiting quarters played per-week to eight quarters per individual. As the position statement states, games at multiple levels of competition during a single week increases risk for head injury and unnecessarily increases head impact exposure. Recovery time is also a concern, and consideration of the quarter limitation is necessary.

Following discussion, staff will continue to research and refine these recommendations with input from administrators and coaches, create a question and answer fact sheet to assist in defining the recommendations, and bring back to the Board for further discussion at future meetings.

### **Consider options for official’s background checks**

SDHSAA executive staff, along with the Sport Officials Council, is looking to implement background checks for all licensed officials who work with the member schools and high school student athletes. The goal would be to have this process in place for the 2015-16 school year.

In researching several companies, South Dakota has a unique unified court system that charges a \$20 state fee for background information. To ensure the best background check, to get nationwide coverage, and statewide criminal searches, along with possible aliases with felony and sex offender status, the cost associated with this check would be \$29 per official. The SDHSAA registered 1170 officials this past year which would put the cost of the background checks at approximately \$33,930.

Staff proposed that each official pay the initial background check package, \$29, for the 2015-16 school year with the offer that anyone officiating more than one sport will receive a decreased fee for additional sports for one year. With that in mind, it would be a onetime fee for background checks assessed for the 2015-2016 school year. Following the 2015-2016 school year, the fees associated with officiating would go back to the fees charged for during the 2014-2015 school year. All new officials would be required to pay for the initial background check upon any registration process.

Following discussion, staff was directed to consult with legal counsel and others, relative to SDCL 13-10-12 and report back to the Board of their findings.

No further action was taken.

**Staff reports:**

## A. Board positions for 2015-2016—Wayne

The following Board positions will be open at the conclusion of the 2015-2016 school year:

**East River At-Large Representative**—Representative to be filled by an athletic/activities director. An assistant or vice principal/athletic or activities director who devotes time to athletics/activities would be eligible for the seats open to athletic/activities directors; athletic/activities directors who teach would be eligible for those seats open to athletic/activities directors. The east river At-Large Board of Directors member must be elected from the east river region. The Missouri River shall be the dividing line between the east and west regions. In the event that the boundaries of a school district are located on both sides of the Missouri River, the physical location of the high school shall determine whether said school district is east river or West River. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** The person elected will serve a five year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and unable to run for reelection.

**Small School Group Board of Education**—Representative to be filled by a school board member. The Small School Group Board of Education member may be nominated from any SDHSAA member school with a 2012-2013 ADM from 458.989 to 7.000. This position is currently held by Mr. Todd Trask, School Board Member from the Wall School District. The small school group includes those schools from Spearfish High School with a 2012-2013 ADM of 458.989 to School for the Blind/VI with a 2012-2013 ADM of 7.000. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** The person elected will serve a five year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and unable to run for reelection.

## B. Staff reported on the following state events held since the November 5, 2014, Board of Directors Meeting:

- Football
- Volleyball
- Oral Interpretation

## C. Staff reported on the Soccer, Volleyball, Football, Cheer/Dance, and Golf Advisory Committees and Sports Officials Advisory Council Meeting Reports. All Advisory Committee Meeting minutes are available on the SDHSAA website for review.

## D. Review final ADM numbers to be used for classification during the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years in all activities with the exception of football where a male only count will be used.

Assistant Executive Director Krogstrand informed the Board that two member schools, Canistota and Philip had a male only ADM of 33.000. With the current policy for classification of nine man football teams: “If the number of nine-man teams is not divisible by three (not including teams ineligible for the playoffs), the odd number will go to the lower classes.” After determining the number of nine man teams eligible for the playoffs, 79, the question of classification became an issue with the member schools with identical male ADM numbers with one possible being placed in 9A and one in 9B following the appeal adoptions. If both schools were placed in 9B, the classification for 9 man football would be: 26 playoff eligible schools in 9AA, 25 in 9A and 28 schools in 9B. If both schools were placed in 9A, the classification for 9 man football would be: 26 playoff eligible schools in 9AA, 27 schools in 9A and 26 schools in 9B.

Following discussion, and in an attempt to keep the number of teams in each classification as equal as possible, it was moved by Linda Whitney, seconded by Todd Trask, to place both Canistota and Philip in the 9A classification in the sport of football.

The motion passed on a 7-1 roll call vote with the following voting aye: Dan Whalen, Steve Morford, Linda Whitney, Dr. Jason Uttermark, Sandy Klatt, Todd Trask, and Rick Weber. Those voting nay: Dr. Roger Bordeaux.

**Other business that the Board of Directors and/or membership might wish to consider**

- A. Fall Calendar Committee: The Board of Directors directed the executive staff to form a fall calendar to be composed of administrators, coaches, directors for both fine arts and athletics. Staff will report back to the Board during the March 4, 2015, meeting of the Board.

**Board Sharing**

- A. Site Selection Committee Report. Board members Weber, Whitney, and Dr. Bordeaux, along with Site Selection Committee Member Terry Rotert, reported on the second meeting of the Committee and will report further in March.
- B. Executive Director Carney reported on the potential of joining a Joint Defense Agreement with the other state associations to address concerns filed in a class action lawsuit related to concussions. Once the final agreement has been approved by legal counsel, South Dakota will sign the agreement.

Chairman Weber declared the Board in recess at 1:50 p.m.

Chairman Weber declared the Board back in session at 2:04 p.m.

**Executive Session—Personnel SDCL 1-25-2.4**

It was moved by Dan Whalen, seconded by Sandy Klatt, to enter executive session at 2:05 p.m.

The motion passed 8-0.

Chairman Weber declared the Board out of executive session at 3:41 p.m.

No action was taken.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Linda Whitney, seconded by Dr. Roger Bordeaux, to adjourn at 3:41 p.m.

The motion passed 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Carney  
Executive Director