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Randy Soma
Assistant Executive Director

FOOTBALL ADVISORY MINUTES

Meeting: November 27, 2023

Zoom

10:30 AM CT

The Football Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM CT with the following present via zoom.

9-man Coach Rep.	Byron Pudwill, Bon Homme	
11A & B Coach Rep.	Jake Terry, Elk Point Jefferson	
AAA/AA Coach Rep.	Jared Fredenburg, Sioux Falls Lincoln	(Not in attendance)
Athletic Director	Adam Nowowiejski, Belle Fourche	
Principal/Supt. Rep.	Derek Barrios, Watertown	
Official	Scott Jacobson, Rapid City	
Native Am. Rep.	Lance Witte, Lower Brule	

SDHSAA Staff members present included Dr. Dan Swartos and Randy Soma. The agenda was motioned for approval by Barrios and 2nd by Witte. **Motion approved 6-0.** Meeting terms and committee terms were reviewed. Swartos was selected as the recording secretary.

Committee action began with review of 2023-24 changes

a. SDHSAA Rule Changes

None

b. NFHS Rule Changes

Clarified That Towels Do Not Have To Be The Same Solid Color For Each Player [1- 5-3a(5)a 4, 5 (NEW)]

Player towels may contain one manufacturer's logo and/or one school logo neither exceeding 2 1/4 square inches. Towels must be a solid color but now do not have to be the same solid color for each player. Towels may not be ball- or penalty-flag colored.

Clarified When a Player Is Inbounds After Being Out of Bounds [2-29-1]

This change clarifies when a player is inbounds after being out of bounds. There is no change to any foul or subsequent penalty provisions, or any rules related to illegal participation or the provisions regarding eligibility to catch a pass.

Added A List of Criteria to Help Identify Players Who Should Be Defined as Defenseless Receivers [2-32-16d(NEW), 9-4-

3g] This change adds to the list of criteria to help identify players who should be defined as defenseless receivers related to application of unnecessary or excessive contact. This clarification should help game officials and coaches by defining allowable contact against defenseless receivers.

Intentional Grounding Exception Changed [7-5-2d EXCEPTION 2a, c (NEW), TABLE 7-5-2 d EXCEPTION 2a, c (NEW), TABLE 7-5 (1)d EXCEPTION 2a, c (NEW)]

This change permits the exception for intentional grounding to the first and only player to possess the ball after the snap ends.

Removed “Intentional” From Pass Interference in TABLE 7-5 [TABLE 7-5 2c (DELETED), 7-5 PENALTY]

By removing “intentional” from pass interference, this change puts the rule in line with how it is already enforced which is a 15-yard penalty.

Changes In Basic Spot Penalty Enforcement [10-4, TABLE 10-4 (NEW), 10-6 (DELETED)]

This change restructures and clarifies the amendments to Rule 10 to eliminate the excessive penalty enforcements for offensive fouls that occur behind the line of scrimmage. This revision stipulates the basic spot for enforcement of fouls behind the line of scrimmage is the previous spot rather than the spot of the foul unless otherwise specified by rule. Current penalties for illegal kicking, batting and participation fouls, and provisions for offensive fouls occurring in the end zone that may result in a safety remain intact.

Clarification On The Ball Being Handed Forward On A Running Play [Six-Player – Rule 7g (NEW)]

The change allows the ball to be handed forward on a running play, including to the guards/ends, while prohibiting handing the ball to the snapper provided both players are behind the neutral zone.

2023 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Helping the Runner
2. Communication Between Coaches and Game Officials
3. Game Management

Coaches Clinic Reports - Coaches commented on the lack of attendees to the coach’s clinic. More coaches attend the March clinic that is held during the school year and not the summer.

Reports from Committee Members

Byron Pudwill – 9man Coach Rep:

Discussion on scheduling and the upcoming schedule. Discussion on 9 game schedule or 8 game schedules for 9-man and eliminate the bye and start the season at the same time as the other classes. What do we look at when scheduling in the future? Geography, Classification, Conferences. Discussion on 9-man classification. With the survey that was sent out to Athletic Directors, Head Coaches and Superintendents – Feel we should adjust the number from 65-60 and keep the 3 classes of 9-man. All other Committee members feel it’s a 9-man decision on whether they would like to keep 9-man three classes or move it to two classes. We also discussed the proposal of 12 team playoff in 9-man football.

Jake Terry – 11A/B Coach Rep:

Discussion on scheduling. Can schools request teams to play. Schools are able to send requests to Randy Soma for scheduling. Randy will keep them in mind when scheduling but does not guarantee that during the scheduling procedure that all requests and recommendations will be able to be used. Discussion on Private Schools and their classification. Should all private schools move up one classification? Similar to what Kansas does with their private school classification. System to allow teams that are struggling to move down a classification for a period of time to build their program. Discussion on North Dakotas classification procedure. North Dakota allows teams to opt down as well as opt up depending on their previous year’s record and playoff record. If teams opt down they would be granted it for a two year period, North Dakota looks at this every year. In the discussion we talked about how many could opt down and how that would look for teams especially at the top 3 classes of 11-man, Classification numbers for ADM/s should be sent to the SDHSAA Office in mid-December. Discussed scheduling within Regions to cut down on travel for 11A and 11B. A proposal will be brought forward. Would like all playoff games held on Friday or Saturday. Schedule within your classification to get a true measure for power points.

Jared Fredenburg – 11AAA/AA Coach Rep:

Jared was not in attendance but did send in some items to be discussed. 11AAA discussion on scheduling schools from North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa came up and how that would work with the scheduling we have now. Dan Swartos had been in contact with North Dakota to see if

that was a possibility. The SDHSAA office will explore the possibility of playing games in other states for the 11AAA class thus allowing the 11AA to play just AA or below. Discussion also on adding a game to the schedule. 11AAA would like a 10-game schedule. Would like us to look at a possible rule change to allow defensive substitution if offense substitutes. This would be similar to what the college rule is. Would like to see a change in the seeding playoff format. Discussed numerous options.

Adam Nowowiejski – Athletic Director Rep:

Discussed bye week and its elimination. Play 9 games. The Langford letter discussion scheduling. Discussion on allowing schools to opt down for teams that are struggling. How will the ADM numbers and Reduced lunch count be factored in. Would still like to see conferences and Region scheduling (i.e. West River schools play as many West River schools as possible) to cut down on travel expense.

Derek Barrios – Principal/Superintendent Rep:

Derek wanted to inform the group and those that were in attendance that the items brought forward are not his own but that of the schools that reached out to him to bring forward for discussion. Discussion on scheduling and reclassification. 9-man stay at 3 classes and either move the 64 number down to 60 or lower. Reduce the number of teams that qualify in 9-man from 16-12 with the top 4 receiving a bye first round. Eliminate Class 11AAA and combine with the 6 11AA largest schools and then the 5 smallest 11AA schools move into class 11A. Discussion on how this would look and if it was feasible.

Lance Witte – Native American Rep:

Discussion on the All Nations Conference and the scheduling. They cut playoffs down this year and would still like to schedule games in line with the SDHSAA classifications. The ANFC has the possibility expansion of two more teams next year. Both from out of state. All schools currently in the ANFC are staying and numbers are starting to level off but still have seen very good numbers and feel the ANFC is getting stronger each year. Had a very successful championship in vermillion and was televised by SDPB. Lance also thanked the SDHSAA for their help and guidance with schedules, officials and posting on the website.

Scott Jacobson – Official Rep:

Discussion on Targeting. Officials feel we need to take the crown off the helmet out of the game. If a player is penalized for illegal helmet contact by hitting the opponent anywhere on the body with the crown of the helmet, that player should be disqualified. No more distinguishing between targeting and spearing, or the official interpreted the hit as flagrant or not. This is a significant safety concern and would be great to see High School follow college on this rule. Let's get this redefined and put some teeth into it. Knees covered with pads / pants. While it is unlikely the NFHS will alter rule 1-5 (Player Equipment), many officials feel high school should follow college in allowing the players to wear the pants above the knees. If players, parents and coaches are ok with it, why are officials the ones having to deal with it? If officials are required to enforce the rule, then let's put teeth into proper wear of the uniform by penalizing if the rule is not followed. Some crews will enforce, while others do not. This is much like the restricted box on the sideline; some crews enforce, some do not. Officials do not want to be uniform police, they want to focus on officiating action on the field to ensure a fair game. There are too many critical pre-snap and post-snap actions to tend to, besides looking at 18-22 players to see if their knees are covered. Sending players off the field for 1 play for not following the rule irritates fans and coaches. If the rule requires officials to enforce knees being covered, let's get serious about it and go back to penalizing it – or – see if NFHS would consider a change? Randy will add this to the slides for next year coaches' online rules meeting. Restricted box: Another safety issue here. Coaches, players and all others that might be on or near the sideline must not be in the restricted

box during a live ball. Only 3 coaches may be in the restricted box on a dead ball. Nobody should be on the field between plays unless there is a timeout. This must be enforced by all crews and understood by every coach and game administrator. Need to get better at enforcing this statewide (all crews) and understanding by all coaches. Randy will add this to the slides for next year coaches' online rules meeting Wing officials changing sides at the half: Several officials expressed an interest in having wing officials switch sidelines in the second half. The benefit is that if there is something that happens between the coach/sideline and the official, such as an unsportsmanlike penalty, there would be a different official involved if something were to happen in the second half. This would be similar to what happens when a technical foul is issued in basketball. You try to have a different official give the second technical if one is warranted. Randy will bring this forward to the NFHS rules committee in January. Use of Stadium Field Microphone for referees. Crews would like to see more high schools using stadium field microphones for the referee to announce penalties, etc. Referees should take advantage of all high schools that provide microphones to enhance the communication of the game with coaches and fans. Discussed and thanked schools for paying riding time for officials. Wanted the Alternate at the state football championship pay to be looked at and raised. Currently it is \$52.50 and the SDHSAA is looking at raising that to what the other officials are getting paid.

SDHSAA Representatives

Dan and Randy both touched the process of classification, calendar and schedules. We will look to possible have a Separate Football Classification meeting and a Separate Football Scheduling meeting once the numbers come in.

Review SDHSAA Handbook Sections for Football

No Changes

Byron Pudwill will be going off the Football Advisory Committee. We would like to thank Byron for his service to the committee and to the students and schools of South Dakota

Proposals

Team Playoff in 9-Man Football -The current playoff format for 9-man football involves 16-teams making the playoffs each year. This proposal recommends a 12-team playoff format in all 9-man football classes. This format proposal would allow the top 4-teams seeded by the SDHSAA to receive a first-round bye. Teams seeded 5 through 12 would play based on the SDHSAA bracket format (5 vs 12, 6 vs 11, 7 vs 10, 8 vs 9) during the first round. To ensure that the top 4 seeds are rewarded for their efforts throughout the year, the second round of playoffs would be reseeded. The remaining teams would be placed in a 2nd round bracket (1 seed vs. the lowest seed remaining, 2 seed vs. the second lowest seed remaining, 3 seed vs. the third lowest seed remaining, and the 4 seed vs. the fourth lowest seed remaining etc.) based on seeding from the SDHSAA. This proposal would only go into effect if the 9-man stays in 3 class classification. **Motion by: Pudwill, 2nd by Nowowiejski. 5 yes, 1 abstain and 1 not present. Motion Carries.**

Scheduling Regions 11B/11A – This proposal did not receive a motion and did not move forward.

Adjourn : **Motion by: Witte, 2nd by Barrios**