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Randy Soma
Assistant Executive Director

FOOTBALL ADVISORY Minutes

Meeting: December 2, 2024

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.	Pat Ruml, Howard	2027 (1)
11A & B Coach Rep.	Jake Terry, Elk Point Jefferson	2026 (1)
AAA/AA Coach Rep.	Jared Fredenburg, Sioux Falls Lincoln	2026 (1)
Athletic Director	Adam Nowowiejski, Belle Fourche	2025 (1)
Principal/Supt. Rep.	Derek Barrios, Watertown	2026 (2)
Official	Scott Jacobson	2026 (1)
Native Am. Rep.	Lance Witte, Lower Brule	2024 (*)

SDHSAA Staff members present included Dr. Dan Swartos, Kristina Sage and Randy Soma. The agenda was motioned for approval by Barrios and 2nd by Jacobson. **Motion approved 7-0.** Meeting terms and committee terms were reviewed. Swartos was selected as the recording secretary.

Committee action began with review of 2024-25 changes

- a. SDHSAA Rule Changes
 - i. The Head Linesman and the Line Judge will switch sides at half. (This is a mandatory switch)
- b. NFHS Rule Changes
 - i. 1-5-1b(3)— The jerseys of the home team shall all be the same dark color(s) that clearly contrasts with white. Clarified Home Team Uniform Requirement for Each Player

2024 POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- 1. Sportsmanship and Altercation Prevention and Protocol
- 2. Player Equipment and Enforcement
- 3. Formations

Coaches Clinic Reports - No report given

Jared Fredenburg – 11AAA/AA Coach Rep:

Discussion on AAA Games being officiated by 7-man crews. A proposal was discussed but the SDHSAA and the Officials Coordinator will work on a pilot program for next year. This will include only regular season games to begin with. Training of the officials on the 7-man crew mechanics will also need to take place before they are able to work a game. The possibility of games being played on Thursday or Saturday to accommodate the 7-man crews may happen. Cost of the extra officials will be at the expense of the school. We will have further discussion at the AD Conference this Spring.

Jake Terry – 11A/B Coach Rep:

Discussion on the following topics

- All Playoff Games on Friday
 - Proposal coming forward to move Thursday Playoff Football games to Friday for all classes. Issues in the past have been State Cheer/Dance, Cross Country on first playoff date and State Orchestra and Chorus on the second date of the playoffs.
- Defense score on PAT or 2 Point attempt
 - Randy will bring it to the NFHS for discussion. Right now, not a NFHS rule
- Criteria for ADM exemption
 - Discussion on what exemptions are permissible and if the SDHSAA could come up with those that are permissible and create a list for schools. The SDHSAA is already working on a Success Factor Committee for Football to discuss the possibility that may alleviate this issue. The SDHSAA at this time does not plan on providing a list of exceptions. We currently follow the handbook.

Classification Appeal: In alignment years, the Board of Directors may grant adjustments to the current classification formulas. In alignment years, requests for a classification appeal in all activities must be made two (2) weeks prior (to the January meeting of the Board of Directors. (Next such meeting: January 2026) No supporting materials will be accepted following deadline dates. **Basis for Appeal:** 1) A school may appeal to change classification if it feels its classification is unjust. 2) The burden of providing evidence in support of the appeal is on the appealing school. The weight given to any criteria is at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors. No supporting materials will be accepted following deadline dates. 3) Should an appeal be granted, the appeal would apply for one alignment cycle only.

Timeline: 1) SDHSAA office receives ADMs from DOE the first Friday in December. 2) Requests for a classification appeal in all SDHSAA activities must be made two (2) weeks prior to the January meeting of the Board of Directors. No supporting materials will be accepted following deadline dates. 3) Appeal adoption/denial decisions in all SDHSAA activities shall be made at the January meeting of the Board of Directors. 4) Region alignment proposals shall be sent to SDHSAA member schools prior to the March Board of Directors meeting of a given alignment year as part of the meeting materials. 5) Formal Region alignment adoptions to be made during the March meeting of the Board of Directors. Member schools may appeal classifications in all activities, athletic and fine arts, sponsored by the SDHSAA.

- Championship Game (Seating for home team on East side)
 - We will poll the participating schools to get a feel for their preference on this and find out if it is a change that we need.

- Schedule release date/procedure
 - We have made some board action to alleviate this issue. We will release schedules as they are finalized and also changed the coop dates to make changes in order to get schedules out as early as possible.
- Realign from 7 classes to 5 classes
 - Discussion on moving to 5 classes – eliminate one 11man and one 9man class and divide them out equally for scheduling purposes. No action take
- 12 teams make playoffs – top 4 get a 1st round bye
 - We discussed making the adjustment to 12 teams making the playoffs with the point differential being large for first round playoff games. The one issue we kept coming back to is that we cannot guarantee that schools will not have a bye or two at the end of the season.

Pat Ruml – 9man Coach Rep:

Discussion on state football championships and where we can have the parents meet with the athletes after the game is over. Going to the upstairs concord to visit after the game. Dan and Randy continue to work with USD to come up with a better answer. Having them come down to the field after the game is not an option at this time. Discussion on Sate Football Schedule. With USD home or away dictates on when we can have our games to allow them to practice. When we negotiate the contract in 2026, we will look at options to see if we can iron out a schedule that does not change from year to year.

Derek Barrios – Principal/Superintendent Rep:

Discussion on what can we do to decrease the travel for Western schools when scheduling. We also discussed the mileage for playoffs and how that will work moving forward. Dan Swartos discussed that we will align our procedure so that all sports look the same when filling out the mileage report on how schools pay the finances after hosting a playoff game. Discussion on whether officials should be paid before the % of ticket revenue is shared with the SDHSAA will also be worked on for the financial reports.

Adam Nowowiejski – Athletic Director Rep:

Discussed the possibility of having a Western Football League to alleviate the travel issue that most West River schools have. No formal proposal, just discussion.

Lance Witte – Native American Rep:

Discussion on when official assignments will be out. The SDHSAA will have them out before school has closed for the summer (May).

Scott Jacobson – Official Rep:

Discussion

- Increase pay from \$125 to \$150 per official per game. Has not been an increase in 6 years or so.
 - This will be a proposal brought forward to the AD's this Spring.
- Increase pay for Championship games to \$175 per official
 - Discussion item that will be taken up by the SDHSAA for consideration
- Pay alternate official for Championship games the same as all crew officials. The “alternate” official is very much involved in the game in every play, communicating with the review team and the officials on the field. The “Alternate” is no longer an official that just stands on the sideline waiting for another official to go down
 - Discussion item that will be taken up by the SDHSAA for consideration

- Make rider mileage mandatory for all schools to pay. Seems most do, but there must be a few that don't. Maybe SDHSAA leadership can visit individually with schools that don't .. rather than going "mandatory"
 - This will be a proposal brought forward to the AD's this Spring.
- Provide officials from their respective sport a free pass to enter championship games. This is really a nice way to give something back to officials for their work during the season and wouldn't cost anything
 - Discussion item that will be taken up by the SDHSAA for consideration
- Provide all football officials with access to HUDL for all games. Similar to what other states do (not sure which states do this, however)
 - Randy is continuing to look at this. He has been in contact with HUDL and will have the SDHSAA marketing group look at it to see if we can get something worked out.
- The FB officials would like to change the Jamboree requirement from once every 3 years to once every 2 years. This will be brought to Officials Advisory to be looked at.
- NFHS All Access
 - This will be back up and running for Football next year. Currently was not working in the Fall but has been restored and is working for Winter and Spring Sports.

SDHSAA Representatives

Randy discussed the usage of Pom Poms for fans at state Football. Due to the large amount of time to clean up after the games. USD and the SDHSAA have decided not to allow fans to bring in Pom Poms for any State Football Championship Game.

Review SDHSAA Handbook Sections for Football

No Changes

ADVISORY RULE PROPOSAL CHANGE



Schools wishing to make a rules proposal change for the advisory committee to consider shall complete this form and submit to the SDHSAA office preferably two weeks PRIOR to the meeting date so the proposal may be added to the agenda.

Please select the sport in which the rules proposal is being submitted.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Basketball | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Football | <input type="radio"/> Soccer | <input type="radio"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="radio"/> Comp. Cheer | <input type="radio"/> Golf | <input type="radio"/> Softball | <input type="radio"/> Wrestling |
| <input type="radio"/> Comp Dance | <input type="radio"/> Gymnastics | <input type="radio"/> Tennis | <input type="radio"/> In/Out-of-Season |
| <input type="radio"/> Cross Country/Track | | | |

Title of Proposal: Friday Post-Season

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

- ☒ Class B
- ☒ Class A
- ☒ Class AA

Proposed Rule Change:

SDHSAA Playoff Games are currently scheduled for Thursday evenings in October. Revise calendar to create Friday night playoff games.

Rationale for Rule Change:

Due to common injuries and long return trips, Thursday night playoff games create obstacles for students that can be eliminated by moving games to Friday evening.

-Learning
-Attendance

Other prominent obstacles specific to each school district do exist as well.

Conflicting SDHSAA Activities, such as State Choir, do not carry the same risk of injury that exists in football.

Dan Hughes
Print Coach Name

Sioux Valley
Member School

[Signature]
Coach Signature

Moe Ruesink
Print Athletic Director Name

Sioux Valley
Member School

[Signature]
Athletic Director Signature

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| <input type="radio"/> Cross Country/Track | | | |

Title of Proposal: Increase pay from \$125 to \$150 per official per game.

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

- ☒ Class B
- ☒ Class A
- ☒ Class AA

Proposed Rule Change:

Increase pay for football officials from \$125 to \$150 per game.

Rationale for Rule Change:

This request is for all classes of football (the form does not specify 9 man vs. 11 man or AAA).

Football officials have received the same pay for 6+ years and numerous officials have requested a moderate increase to \$150 per game (regular season and post season, excluding championship games).

Increasing pay show an investment in officials. Many officials must leave work early to travel to games and take vacation or leave without pay to officiate.

An increase in pay would also an effective measure to help recruit new officials, as well as retain

Scott Jacobson
Print Coach Name

SDHSAA
Member School

[Signature]
Coach Signature

Print Athletic Director Name

Member School

Athletic Director Signature

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| <input type="radio"/> Cross Country/Track | | | |

Title of Proposal: Make rider mileage mandatory.

Proposal will affect the following classes (please check all that apply):

- ☒ Class B
- ☒ Class A
- ☒ Class AA

Proposed Rule Change:

Make rider mileage mandatory.

Rationale for Rule Change:

This proposal is for all classes of football (the form does not specify 9 man vs 11 man or AAA).

Football officials greatly appreciate the effort put forth by SDHSAA and member schools for paying officials "rider mileage". While most schools participate, some do not. Like other sports officials, football officials often travel long distances to contests. Officials must arrive at the game site an hour before game time. Traveling a distance requires them to depart from home even earlier. This causes them to leave work early and take time off, or time off without pay. Compensating officials for riding to contests allows them to be paid for their time. Requiring all schools to participate would ensure all officials are compensated for their time.

Scott JA Cobson
Print Coach Name

SDHSAA
Member School

[Signature]
Coach Signature

Print Athletic Director Name

Member School

Athletic Director Signature

Meeting Adjourn Motion by Jacobson. Motion Carries