

# **SPORTS OFFICIALS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Meeting: Wednesday, April 3, 2024

Location: Zoom Meeting

Time: 10:30 am

Sports Officials Council Advisory Committee Members:

Basketball	Jeremy Mikkelsen, Pierre	2026 (2)
Cheer/Dance	Christina Bennett, Pierre	2026 (2)
Football	Scott Jacobson, Rapid City	2025 (1)
Gymnastics	Jenny Christian, SF	2026 (1)
Track/XC	Tim Casper, Lake Preston	2026 (2)
Volleyball	Kelley Devine, Sioux Falls	2024 (2)
Wrestling	Bud Postma, Madison	2025 (1)
Athletic Director	Mike King, Irene/Wakonda	2025 (1)
Native Am. Rep.	John Long, Lakota Tech	2024 (1)
Soccer	Guy McNeely, Yankton	2025 (2)
Softball	Brett Distel, Box Elder	2026 (1)
Secretary	Bo Beck, Aberdeen	
Treasurer	Terry Duffy, Brookings	
Official Coordinator	Justin Ingalls, Sioux Falls	

## **1. Call Meeting to Order/Attendance**

Meeting was called to order by Assistant Executive Director Jo Auch at 10:31 am. Absent was Jeremy Mikkelsen, John Long (arrived at 10:55 am), and Guy McNeely. Jo Auch, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director and Randy Soma, SDHSAA Assistant Executive Director were also present at the meeting. President Devine was having audio issues with Zoom so Jo Auch will conduct the meeting until the audio issue is resolved.

## **2. Approval of the Agenda**

Motion by Casper, second by Postma to approve the agenda with the addition of “Softball report by Brett Distel” added to the Sports Rep Reports and “Spring Officials Appreciation Week is April 21-27” added to the SDHSAA Report. Motion approved 8-0.

## **3. Renewing/Expiring Terms**

Renewing Terms: John Long

Expiring Term: Kelley Devine – Jo Auch thanked Kelley for her years of service to this committee. Nick Huntimer will be replacing Devine in Volleyball.

## **4. Approval of Minutes from November 23, 2023**

Motion by Distel, second by Bennett to approve the meeting minutes from 11/23/2023. Motion approved 8-0.

## **5. Financial Report**

Treasurer Terry Duffy reviewed the financial report.

1. Checking account for FY 2023-2024 (Balance on 3/27/2024 is \$41,706.70).
2. Budget to Actual for 2023-2024 (SDHSAA support of \$2,600.00 has not been requested).
3. Preliminary Budget for 2024-2025 (\$13,600.00).

Motion by Distel, second by Postma to approve the Financial Report. Motion approved 8-0.

Motion by King, second by Casper to approve the 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget. Motion approved 8-0.

## 6. **NASO Update**

Jo Auch stated that SPOC will pay registration fees (and possibly other expenses) for SPOC committee members and to let her know if anyone is interested in attending.

“Sustain Officials, Retain Officials”

a. Dates: July 28-30, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia

b. Registration: <https://www.sportsofficiatingsummit.com/>

## 7. **Sports Reps – Current Season Reports/State Events**

### \*\* Basketball – Jeremy Mikkelsen

- Jeremy Mikkelsen was absent, so Jo Auch gave the report.
- Jo commented that all the state basketball tournaments went well and that all the officials did a great job at the state tournaments.
- Jo Auch also stated that the SODAK 16 has helped to make the state tournaments better by having closer/more competitive games.

### \*\* Gymnastics – Jenny Christian

- Jenny Christian stated that all-in-all the state gymnastics meet in Pierre went well with the exception of a few hiccups.
- Jenny stated that 3 of the 5 new judges/officials returned this year.
- Jo Auch added that the SDHSAA rented equipment this year for the state meet so there were two (2) sets of equipment available. The cost of the rental equipment was \$15,000.
- Jenny added that the new technology used this year went well.

\*\* President Devine resolved her Zoom audio issues and Jo Auch turned over the meeting to her at 10:55 am.

### \*\* Wrestling – Bud Postma

- Bud Postma stated that this was the first year that the State Duals were split away to a different weekend from the state tournament. It went well but would like to see better attendance at the State Dual Meet. Bud said that we need to keep promoting the event.
- Bud commented that the state tournament was held as a three-day event with three divisions (Class A Boys, Class B Boys, Class A/B Girls).
- Girls Regions will be added next year.
- Bud discussed that wrestling was proposing new officials shirts.
- Jo Auch suggested that the SDHSAA send out a survey to wrestling officials with pictures of both the current and the proposed new shirt.

Following a group discussion, Motion by Postma, second by Bennett to replace the current wrestling officials shirt beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Officials will have the option to wear the current officials shirt during the 2024-2025 season/post season and the 2025-2026 season. The new shirt will be mandated for the 2025-2026 post season and following years (both season and post season). Motion approved 9-0.

- Justin Ingalls asked the following questions:
  1. What happens when out of state officials work in South Dakota?
  2. What happens when South Dakota officials work out of state?
  3. What happens with only one supplier and the availability of local suppliers?
- Jo Auch answered all three questions:

Question #1 – In South Dakota, reciprocity officials must wear the official South Dakota shirt. This is written in the SDHSAA handbook.

Question #2 – In other states, officials should check with the other state associations on their rules.

Question #3 – Local suppliers should work with the supply company(s).

**\*\* Athletic Director Conference Update – Mike King**

- Mike King stated that the Annual Athletic Directors conference was shortened due to the weather.
- He added that there were excellent speakers and breakout sessions.
- One of the major topics that was discussed with the proposals was neutral sites hosting the SODAK 16 contests vs. higher seeds hosting the SODAK 16 contests.

**\*\* Track – Tim Casper**

- Tim Casper stated that they are gearing up for the season and the weather is affecting the early season meets with a number of cancellations.
- Tim commented that the officials organization is set-up and clinics are now required for officials and that four clinics were held this year around the state.
- He also stated that there are 90 registered officials in the state and that a total of 41 officials, 2 AD's, and 11 coaches attended the clinics this year.
- Tim discussed officials pay, mileage (both ways), riding mileage, the website is up and running, and that they are ready for the season.

**\*\* Native American Rep: John Long**

- John Long stated that they are working on recruiting/retaining Native American Officials.
- John added that there were five (5) new Native American Officials this year and they are continuing to recruit new officials.

**\*\* Softball – Brett Distel**

- Brett Distel stated that they are starting the 2<sup>nd</sup> season of softball in South Dakota and the weather is affecting the early season games with a number of cancellations.
- Brett stated that the state tournament will be held in Aberdeen again this year and that Aberdeen did an excellent job of hosting last year.
- He discussed that they are still recruiting officials as there is a shortage statewide to cover all of the games.
- Brett commented that he would like three officials at the state tournament games instead of two. Jo Auch stated that it is a goal, but we are currently short of officials, and we definitely need to progress toward using three officials in the upcoming years.

**\*\* SDHSAA Report – Jo Auch & Randy Soma – Discussion was held on the following:**

- a. Proposals at AD conference
- b. Officials Pay/Riding update from Board Minutes January 2023
- c. Remove the requirement for Mechanics Tests for Basketball and Football due to the NFHS no longer producing a test for that.
- d. Basketball officials shirts survey results.
- e. Ref Reps update – grant, USD enrollment, etc.
- f. Discussion on 5-year sit-out rule in basketball (potential survey).
- g. Spring Officials Appreciation Week is April 21-27.

Following a lengthy group discussion, the following motions were made:

Motion by Long, second by King to remove the requirement for Mechanics Tests for Basketball and Football due to the NFHS no longer producing a test for that. Motion approved 9-0.

Motion by Distel, second by Long to have the SDHSAA conduct a survey of basketball officials to see what the “temperature” of officials is on the 5-year sit-out rule for officiating the state basketball tournament. Motion approved 9-0.

Mike King left the meeting at 12:10 pm

## 8. Reports Already Given – Anything to Add

### \*\* Football – Scott Jacobson

- No report.

### \*\* Competitive Cheer/Dance – Christina Bennett

- Christina Bennett reported that they are trying to put together an in-person training for judges.

### \*\* Soccer – Guy McNeely

- No report.

### \*\* Volleyball – Kelly Devine

- No report.

## 9. Other Items of Concern

### a. Handbook discussion

- None – All items discussed earlier in the meeting.

### b. PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION – all proposals listed below were approved earlier in the meeting and will move forward to the SDHSAA April Board Meeting:

1. Replace the current wrestling officials shirt beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Officials will have the option to wear the current officials shirt during the 2024-2025 season/post season and the 2025-2026 season. The new shirt will be mandated for the 2025-2026 post season and following years (both season and post season).
2. Remove the requirement for Mechanics Tests for Basketball and Football due to the NFHS no longer producing a test for that.

## 10. Other business

### a. Steve Withorne Award

The annual award winner will be selected at the November 26, 2024 SPOC meeting. Gary Duffy was the recipient this past year. Jo Auch stated that she would like all nominations for the Steve Withorne Award sent to Marsha by November 19, 2024.

### b. Policy Reminder: Elect the President-Elect in April, to take over at the November meeting – Motion by Distel, second by Bennett to nominate John Long as the 2024-2025 SPOC president. Motion approved 8-0.

## 11. Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next meeting of the Sports Officials Advisory Council will be held by Zoom on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 beginning at 10:30 AM.

Motion by Distel, second by Postma to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 pm. Motion approved 8-0.