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Jo Auch
Assistant Executive Director

2023-24 Volleyball Advisory Minutes ZOOM MEETING – November 29, 2023 @ 10:30 a.m.

“AA” Coach:	Kevin Vanderwal, SF Roosevelt	2026 (2)
“A” Coach:	Darcy Deinert, MV/Plank	2025 (2)
“B” Coach:	Jean O’Hara, Chester	2024 (2)
Athletic Director:	Mandie Menzel, Phillip	2025 (2)
Principal:	Christena Schultz, Bridgewater-Emery	2024 (2)
Official:	Kelley Devine, Sioux Falls	2024 (2)
Native Am. Rep:	Nellie Long, Pine Ridge	2024 (*)

1. Welcome- Auch welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 10:32 am. All were present with Nellie Long joining the meeting at 10:55 a.m.
2. Approve agenda- Devine motioned to approve the agenda, second to the motion by Deinert. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Procedure for the meeting- Auch explained the meeting procedures and that nothing we do here today is binding. We simply bring thoughts/proposals forward for the membership to consider at the AD’s conference in March, and then our BOD will have 2 readings on the proposals that are brought forth to them.
4. Select a Recording Secretary- Deinert volunteered to help take notes from the meeting.
5. Review Advisory Committee membership, terms, duties and responsibilities: Auch thanked the committee members whose terms are expiring, noting that they will be missed greatly- Jean O’Hara, Christena Schultz, and Kelley Devine. Nellie Lon will be renewing her term of service to the committee.
6. Approve minutes from last year’s meeting- Menzel made the motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting with Vanderwal seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Auch reviewed the proposals that we put forward last year and that none of them passed last year.
 - a. Allow AA to play 5 matches (instead of 3) without having to take deductions.
 - b. Moving the AA SoDak date.
 - c. Play SoDak contests at high seed.
8. State Volleyball Tournament report/review

The committee thought the state tournament ran very well and wanted to thank Rapid City and the Monument for a great event. They were very complimentary of the video that was shown prior to each contest promoting women's sports and teams in the tourney.

We talked about the start times and everyone seemed to like the 11 and 5 start. We discussed whether there should be a break in between and the committee felt the break should stay, as it is a good idea. They liked that we started matches together. They realize that announcing all athletes takes time before matches begin, but did not want to see a change there either.

9. Advisory Committee Member reports – (expand agenda based on reports)

a. B Report – Jean O'Hara- O'Hara indicated two items to discuss.

- i. An AD wanted to begin the discussion on moving Volleyball forward or Basketball back. Auch stated that the calendar committee was looking at several items concerning the calendar. It was noted by the committee that maybe the issue should be address on the other side of it, ie. If you know you have a team that has the potential to be involved in the state volleyball tournament, then don't schedule games right away when the first allowable contest is to be played, or simply don't start basketball practice right away, give those girls a few days off and have them come back after Thanksgiving. Menzel thought this could be handled internally in each school without moving the season at all. It potentially affects 24 schools.
- ii. Discussion on high seed being the host for SoDak 16 contests instead of neutral sites. Auch stated it was better this year, as more schools put in to host, but we struggle to have locations to house all of the contests to find common ground for traveling purposes. As a result we continue to see a loss in financial reports where schools have to travel a great distance and still lose money and have to pay the host site to accommodate expenses. Out of the 16 contests played in Class A and B only 2 showed a minimal profit, with 14 showing a substantial loss. AA travels to the high seed for volleyball, why not Class A and B? AA shows a profit overall in the 8 SoDak Contests. It was noted that 9-man football travels to host sites for three rounds of their football contests and no one bats an eye when it comes to travel expenses and traveling across the state on a Thursday, Thursday and Friday of the weeks traveling. We all say, we need to do what is best for the kids. 50% of the kids are going to be happy, they don't have to travel. In our scenario, not many people are happy when it comes to traveling the distances they need to if we have schools competing on the east vs. west side of the state. When only making one team travel we are guaranteed of at least having one side with great attendance to help with financials. It was also discussed that it makes teams work harder to compete EVERY CONTEST because seed point matter. Vanderwal stated that at the AA level we fight for every contest so we can potentially be in the top 8 and put ourselves in a position to host rather than to travel. The committee felt that having continuity amongst the sports would be good also. Football, Soccer, and Softball all travel to high seed to play contests. The committee felt it was only fair to treat VB the same. We also discussed the various gyms and regulations that each facility would need to have. Auch stated that the facility would have to have a ceiling height minimum of 23 feet with a minimum of 6 ft. (preferably 10 feet) free space around the court without obstruction. The gym should be able to seat 700 people. If we have a facility that would not have those specifications, the host site would choose a site suitable to meet the accommodations with the distance being no further in mileage than the host site. We also wanted to include mileage begin paid to the team traveling, so those expenses are paid. Round trip mileage at 60 cents which is what the AA pays for Volleyball.

After much discussion the committee wanted to move this forward again. Devine made the motion with Schultz adding the second to the motion.

Proposal: High seed will host the SoDak 16 contest for volleyball.

Mileage will be paid at .60/mile (round trip).

Host site must meet the minimum accommodations of:

- a) **Minimum ceiling height of 23 ft. without obstruction**

b) 700 seating capacity

c) 6 ft. of unobstructed space outside of the court boundaries

If these gym requirements cannot be met by the host site, the host site will determine a site that is no further in travel distance than the host site for the contest.

The committee would like to try this for a year and review the data.

Motion passed the committee unanimously.

b. A Report – Darcy Deinert

i. Someone had posed the idea of private school and how they are classified with three options:

1. Private schools use a multiplier of 1.5 when counting their ADM
2. A school would have to move up a class when they win 4 state tournaments in a row.
3. Private schools take the ADM of the closest town.

ii. Round of 32 was brought up and Jake Versteeg was on the call to discuss his proposal and this round of 32 proposal has 3 options:

1. Option one: Play on Tues. of wk. 18 with the top 32 team by power points against opponents with the higher seed hosting. Committee did not like that we would be eliminating over 40 schools in one class from the tourney, kids would have nothing to play their season for if that were the case.
2. Second option: Play your first round(s) on Mon., and Tues. of wk. 18, then for the Thursday games, we would reseed and play Round of 32 with the 4 teams left in each region with 1 vs. 32, 2 vs. 31 etc. with SoDak 16 contest being played on the Tues. of Wk. 19 being played at the high seed. (Same as where we presently play) Committee feels travel will be an issue traveling two times and the committee is not sure we are ready for this yet. We have a proposal in to see if we can get the SoDak contests to play at the high seed and with this proposal we would be asking teams to do that twice. Vanderwal's suggestion is to be patient with this. Give it some time and see if we can get the SoDak playing at high seed to pass, and then be patient and years down the road we may be ready for something like this. Things take time!
3. Third option: Play the same way as in (2), but when you get to your final 4 in each region, you would reseed all the 1's from each region, 2 seeds, 3 seeds and 4 seeds. The 1 seed with the highest seed points would play the 4 seed with the lowest seed points and you would continue on seeding as such with all the 1 and 4 seeds and then you would do the 2 and 3 seeds the same way. The higher seed would host in this format as well.

The committee had many concerns with these proposals, and the first concern was that no one wanted to play on Tuesday and then wait to play the following Tuesday for the SoDak. VB wants to play and play, not wait a week. Football waits for safety reasons, volleyball does not have that issue. Menzel felt this would lead more to schools being more selective as to whom they will and will not play, and feared that there will be teams that will be left without games as a result. The volleyball committee has many concerns with these option of the Round of 32 proposal and did not feel that they were ready to pass this forward at this time.

c. AA Report- Kevin Vanderwal- All is well in the AA world. He had no comments or concerns.

d. Native Am. Representative- Nellie Long- Long stated that all was good with the group she represents as well.

e. AD – Mandie Menzel

i. Mandatory heat timeouts- some officials are not offering heat time-outs and Auch stated that we will be sure to discuss that with the officials for the months of August and Sept. If one teams thinks we should have them, then we should be taking them.

ii. Roster sheets at start of prematch- many feel that this serves no purpose, you hand it to the official and they hand it right back when the coin toss is done. Devine stated that we need to

educate our officials a bit more on this process. We should be collecting the roster, R2 should be counting the number of players on the roster and compare to the number on the floor to ensure we have everyone accounted for. Then when the coin toss is complete, we do not have to collect the roster and verify number of athletes, now we only have to worry about the line up at the two-minute mark.

iii. Round of 32- PROPOSAL #1- already discussed.

f. Official – Kelley Devine – nothing more to add.

g. Principal- Christena Schultz

- i. Fans sitting opposite their team or with team. Seems that we have some unsporting things happening and it could be rectified based on the placement of fans by schools. O'Hara also asked about student sections yelling serving signals to the their team. Devine mentioned that she had that happen in a contest and she notified host management and it stopped.
- ii. Some are wondering why Class AA does not reseed after the SoDak? Auch stated this was voted on years ago by the AA schools as they only have one round of playoffs and that is what they wanted to do.
- iii. Someone asked the committee to consider reducing the time between sets in VB. Auch stated this is NFHS rule to have 3 minutes between sets. She stated that there is the ability to have a 5-minute intermission which SD does not do, but coaches need time to get their lineup submitted between sets and get team ready to be on the floor to play. Most teams are out prior to the 3 minutes anyway.

h. SDHSAA- Jo Auch

- i. Home and away jerseys for VB- This was a suggestion brought to her. **This is not mandatory, just a suggestion: IF, and I repeat IF** your school has two sets of uniforms, could the home team wear white when at home and the visiting team wear dark? Would be easier on scorekeeper, etc. **THIS IS NOT MANDATORY, just a suggestion if you have two uniforms. No one needs to go out and buy a second set of uniforms.**

10. Auch reviewed the NFHS Questionnaire, discussed what some of the proposals were, and noted that she will update schools as rules are finalized for the upcoming year.

11. The lone proposal the came out of this committee is:

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The committee would like to try this for a year and review the data.

Motion passed the committee unanimously.

12. Auch thanked the committee members for their work and with no further business, Menzel made the motion to adjourn with O'Hara granting the second. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Auch

Assistant Executive Director

South Dakota High School Activities Association