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Jo Auch  
Assistant Executive Director

## 2021-22 Volleyball Advisory Minutes Zoom Meeting – **December 1, 2021 @10:30 a.m.**

“AA” Coach:	Kevin Vanderwal, SF Roosevelt	2023 (1)
“A” Coach:	Darcy Deinert, MV/Plank	2022 (1)
“B” Coach:	Jean O’Hara, Chester	2024 (2)
Athletic Director:	Mandie Menzel, Phillip	2023 (1)
Principal:	Christena Schultz, Bridgewater-Emery	2024 (2)
Official:	Kelley Devine, Sioux Falls	2024 (2)
Native Am. Rep:	Dale Pine Jr, Pine Ridge	2024 (1)

- Welcome- Assistant Director Auch welcomed the group at 10:34 a.m. via Zoom with all present. Dale Pine, Jr. was excused.
- Motion to approve agenda by Devine, second by Deinert. Motion passed unanimously.
- Select a Recording Secretary- O’Hara kindly agreed to take notes of the meeting.
- Auch reviewed the Advisory Committee membership, terms, duties and responsibilities. Deinert just completed her first term is eligible to remain on the committee for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term, which she confirmed she was happy to do.
- Motion to approve last year’s minutes by Schultz, second by Deinert. Motion passed unanimously.
- Auch reviewed the proposal that passed the SDHSAA Board last year:
  - Allow for Class AA volleyball teams to play up to 3 matches vs. a Class A or Class B opponent, or in an “out-of-state” tournament, without a deduction of seed points. These would be the first three contests vs. Class A and B opponents as they happen on the team schedule. Any other contests after the three allowed, would result in a deduction of seed points as defined in seed point system.
- State Volleyball Tournament report/review- everyone wanted to thank Jordan Bauer and Jared Vasquez for the fine hospitality and organization at the State Volleyball Tournament. The Summit Arena at the Monument was a great venue and everyone appreciated how efficiently the tournament was run.
- Advisory Committee Member reports –

- a. B Report – Jean O’Hara received a concern about these items which were brought forward from a single school:
  - i. This coach was not in favor of playing SoDak 16 matches at the higher seed, which led to great discussion. The advisory group was split about 50/50 on this one as some felt that we need a fair way to get into the state event and playing on neutral ground seems to be fairer. The other arguments let to if you have earned that high seed you should have the advantage and ability to host as you have earned that spot. Schultz stated that she wonders why we fight it so hard in Volleyball when it does not seem to matter in Football. We also discussed that if this were to happen that we would have to have regulations as to what is required of the gym to host if they are the high seed. For example, ceiling height free of overhead obstructions (20 feet), clearance of a minimum of 6-10 ft. around the boundary line, seating capacity, etc.
  - ii. Not to reseed following the SoDak 16 matches (AA example). Auch suggested that this be a topic that is brought to the SDVBCA for further discussion as to what the majority of the coaches might think rather than push something through at this time without much input from both classes. Some felt that this might be a great idea if you pull off the upset, you go in at that spot in the bracket. It was noted that we are then seeding the state tourney based on one contest (SoDak contest) vs. your entire season record, which could make for an interesting state tournament. Most felt we needed more information from coaches to see where we wanted to go with this.
  - iii. Potential to start the tournament before noon and 6 possible 11 and 5. Auch stated she is considering a time change to the schedule along with the potential to play all three classes at the same time through the championship matches.
- b. A Report – Darcy Deinert had one item submitted by a single school:
  - i. Consider going back to switching sides of the court for teams, gives them more of a mental break when switching sides. Committee had no interest in going back to switching sides. Coaches and officials seem to like the way we are doing this at this time.
- c. AA Report- Kevin Vanderwal
  - i. Proposal submitted to allow AA schools to play unlimited matches vs. Class A or Class B opponents without penalty. When you play out of state opponents or in tournament play, you may play several schools of a different class and it uses up the three opponents rather quickly and there are many Class A and B schools that are very competitive. It would allow for more flexibility in scheduling matches outside of the common AA opponents.

This was something that was just put in place last year and seemed to work well. Maybe we need to keep an eye on this and see how it goes before we continue to make changes that we may not like. We had been down this road before with concerns of AA schools scheduling too many Class A and Class B opponents which caused concerns with the seed points when seeding for SoDak. That was one of the reason we have the deduction of points as we do.
- d. Native Am. Representative-Dale Pine, Jr.- no report
- e. AD – Mandie Menzel- item of concern was already discussed.
- f. Official – Kelley Devine –
  - i. Devine gave an update on the discussion of background checks for officials,
  - ii. Discussed that various groups and the SDHSAA are looking at ways to recruit and retain officials. SDHSAA did a survey of officials pay and discovered that officials pay for the regular season is all over the place. This will be discussed with AD’s at the conference.

- iii. Discussion will also be had with member schools about a riding allowance for officials who leave work early and travel a great distance and don't get anything for their time. We are finding that is one of the reasons we have a hard time keeping officials, so this will be discussed with the AD's as well.
- iv. Noted that officials would appreciate if teams that are the same school colors do NOT wear the same colored uniforms when playing. Maybe the home team wears the lighter color and the visiting team wear the dark colored jerseys. She noted that announcers have mentioned that would be nice for them as well. It becomes confusing for many.
- g. Principal- Christena Schultz
  - i. Someone asked to consider switching to a 32 team format after the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of region play. We have many regions that have more than two teams that could move on. It was mentioned that we have not been in the SoDak mode with 16 teams very long, we felt we needed to stay where we are at the present time as it seems to be working well.
  - ii. To take an intermission between sets like they do in college. When this came out, we opted not to do that as everyone felt 3 minutes between sets was plenty and it kept the game moving.
- h. SDHSAA- Jo Auch
  - i. SoDak 16 sites - Can we go to the higher seed and pay the traveling team mileage like we do in football? This item has already been discussed and the committee is split on what to do with it.
  - ii. Concern over tournaments that are played out-of-state and the scoring format that is used. The NFHS Rule book states the following and we are out of compliance with the rule code based on the 1-2-1 NOTE below. The NFHS will be discussing this at Volleyball Rules Committee the meeting in January and there may be an interpretation put out to make the change to allow states to modify their scoring format for these contest, but until we know where that goes, the committee felt we needed to make the change IF the interpretation in January does not come back to allow the 3<sup>rd</sup> set to be played to anything other than 25 points. If NFHS Rules committee allows matches to be played to less than 25, this proposal will be removed.

NFHS Rule 1-2-1 NOTES:

1. By state association adoption, teams may play a best two of three sets match in which a team is considered the winner of the match when it wins two sets. **All sets shall be 25 points (no cap).** The third set shall not be played unless it is necessary to determine the winner of the match. If a third set is necessary a coin toss shall be conducted prior to that set.
2. By state association adoption, modification of match format is permitted for series other than dual varsity matches.

Motion by O'Hara, second by Devine to change the language in our handbook to be consistent with the language used by the NFHS rule code.

**PROPOSED Handbook change (awaiting interpretation from NFHS): Out of state matches played to a different format (2/3) will not be counted toward seed points unless the final match in a 2/3 contest is played to 25 points.**

Motion passed 5-1 with Vanderwal dissenting.

- iii. We are finding a growing concern to seek out of state opponents records as there is not a standard place to get this information at this time for out of state opponents. This year we had 111 out of state opponents that we needed to find records for before we could complete our seeding for Region play. Aaron Magnuson spoke to

the fact that it is very time consuming to get all of these records and offered some suggestions that other states are using to help solve this problem:

1. Don't count any out of state matches in seed points. Committee did not like this idea as it would not be a true reflection of everyone's schedule.
2. Find a common seed point average that we would give to each out of state opponent and if they win they get "x" amount of points, and if they lose they receive "x" amount of points and it would not matter what their record would be as all out of state opponents receive the same point value. Again, the committee did not like this for the same reason above.
3. Can we count post season matches up to the South Dakota cutoff date? That way we don't have to continue to seek information about their record if they are in post season. Whatever their record is on South Dakota's cutoff date will be the record that we would use. Aaron felt this would help in the process in seeking records for out of state opponents.

Motion by O'Hara, second by Menzel:

**PROPOSAL: Out-of-State Opponents: Seed point averages for out-of-state opponents will be calculated to include all contests (regular or postseason) through the South Dakota cutoff date.** Motion passed unanimously.

Seed point averages will be calculated to include all regular season contest for all in-state opponents.

- iv. We have some issues with teams playing contest AFTER the cutoff date for their class. It becomes a problem as those contests then become exhibition contests or scrimmage contests as they cannot be used for seed point, PLUS it falls into the All State Chorus and Orchestra time frame as to when ASCO groups are traveling to their State event. This committee feels that the cutoff date is cutoff date and no regular season contests should be played after the cutoff date. Region chairs need to have that information so they can get Region pairing and brackets set for the Region play.

Motion by Schultz, second by Menzel.

**PROPOSAL: No regular season contests may be played after the cutoff date set by the SDHSAA.** Motion passed unanimously.

- v. Auch had a discussion about the Volleyball State event schedule. Are we doing what is best for athletes when we start games at 9 a.m. on Saturday and rush through the contests by shortening warmup time and with how we do our awards? The atmosphere that we have on semi-final night is electrifying. Could we potentially have that same atmosphere all day on Saturday if we played all three classes at one time throughout the day and did not play one class at a time for championship matches, but rather played Class B, A and AA championships all at the same time? Potentially have two session on championship day, just like we do on Thursday and Friday. Play games at with a start time of 11:30 and 5:30.

The consensus of the committee was they thought it would be worth a try and see how we like it and if we don't like it, we can always go back to the other option. Auch shared she would need to visit with SDPB to see if they would be able to accommodate such a format and will move forward with a plan if that is the case.

9. Auch reviewed the NFHS Rule proposal changes with the group. One of the proposed changes that caused a little discussion was to eliminate the need for a roster to be turned in. Coaches were concerned about how we would track set limitation for those athletes that play more than one level of competition.

10. Other items to be discussed:

- a. Are we handling the not switching bench protocols properly? If the home team chooses side, should the visiting team choose serve or receive and eliminate the coin toss? The committee felt comfortable with where we were at in the prematch conference to keep the coin toss procedure as we have it.
- b. The topic has been brought up about since we are not switching sides of the court any longer, should the LINE JUDGES switch side? Some areas of the state were having them do that so wanted to get the opinion of the committee so we are consistent across the state. The committee felt that we **SHOULD NOT** have line judges switch sides as the officials do not exchange positions and since the line judges are part of the officiating crew, generally the officials place line judges where they want them and create confidence in the officiating team as they stay in their areas and everyone knows their duties that remain the “same” throughout the match. **South Dakota will not be switching sides for line judges in the future.**

11. Proposed recommendations

- a. **“Potential” PROPOSED Handbook change (awaiting interpretation from NFHS in January): Out of state matches played to a different format (2/3) will not be counted toward seed points unless the final match in a 2/3 contest is played to 25 points. (Follow-up after the NFHS VB Rules Committee meeting based on interpretation from NFHS)**
- b. **PROPOSAL: Out-of-State Opponents: Seed point averages for out-of-state opponents will be calculated to include all contests (regular or postseason) through the South Dakota cutoff date.**
- c. **PROPOSAL: No regular season contests may be played after the cutoff date set by the SDHSAA.**

12. Adjournment- With no other items to discuss, motion by Menzel, second by Schultz to adjourn the meeting at 1:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Auch  
Assistant Executive Director  
South Dakota High School Activities Association