



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**August 24, 2020**

**10:00 a.m. CDT**

**Pierre, South Dakota**

**Board will participate via Zoom or in person, those wishing to participate in the Open Forum can do so via Zoom or in person, Office will be open to the public, meeting audio will be live-streamed.**

Call the meeting to order and establish a quorum

**Board Members:**

Craig Cassens, Chair- Faulkton High School	Randy Soma, Vice Chair- Brookings High School
Mark Murphy- Aberdeen Central	Barry Mann- Wakpala Marty Weismantel- Groton Area
Dr. Jerry Rasmussen- Dakota Valley	Michael Talley- RC Central Dan Aaker- Winner

ITEM #1 – Approve the agenda.

ITEM #2- Public Forum

ITEM #3 – Consider temporary changes to the SDHSAA Constitution (Via Article VII, Section VII) for students at schools who are unable to compete in Fall 2020 Activities due to County/Community/Tribal/Federal ordinances/orders.

ITEM #4 – Consider playoff qualification changes for Fall 2020.

ITEM #5- Consider request for Cooperative Sponsorship of Activities from St. Thomas More and Douglas in the sport of Competitive Dance, effective the 2020-21 school year.

ITEM #6 – Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Daniel Swartos  
SDHSAA Executive Director

**Little Wound School**  
100 Main Street  
P.O. Box 500  
Kyle, S.D. 57752  
**Superintendent:** Charles Cuny, Jr.  
**Business Manager:** Paula Pourier



**Little Wound School Board**  
Misty Hunter, *chair*  
Cecelia Fire Thunder, *vice-chair*  
Nicole Little Whiteman, *treasurer*  
Raymond Janis  
Linda May

August 12, 2020

To: Dr. Dan Swartos  
Executive Director  
South Dakota High School Activities Association

Re.: COVID-19 Implications on Fall Sports and Native American Student Athletes

In July 2020, the SDHSAA Fall Sports/Activities Task Force Recommendations were published in response to COVID-19. These recommendations permitted fall sports to commence with practices beginning on August 3.

However, at this time, schools on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, including Little Wound School, are operating under tribal regulations in place in response to COVID-19; these include an ongoing shelter-in-place ordinance that prohibits gatherings of more than ten people. At the most recent tribal council meeting, Oglala Sioux Tribe councilmember Nakina Mills—a member of the council’s education committee—noted that “it is unsafe and not in the best interest of our people to proceed with fall sports at this time.” As a tribal grant school operating on the reservation, we have postponed the start of activities to abide by tribal regulations.

Consequently, we are asking the SDHSAA to consider amending its bylaws that affect youth living on reservations subject to tribal laws and regulations that prevent school sports and activities from taking place. On the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation alone, there are five high schools that are subject to tribal ordinances that prevent sports practices and games.

Because of this situation, we are formally submitting some questions and considerations to the South Dakota High School Activity Association for guidance and response.

1. Will students entering 12th grade in the 2020–2021 school year be granted an eligibility exemption to participate in student activities for 2021–2022 school year if they were prohibited from participation due to superseding tribal ordinances?
2. Have equity issues been examined by the SDHSAA, particularly about athletic departments’ ability to contact trace, mitigate test, and ensure that individual student athletes have access to adequate healthcare?
3. Has the SDHSAA published any official statements or contingency plans addressing Native American schools that, subject to tribal laws, have postponed or canceled fall, winter, or spring sports and activities?

4. What justification does the SDHSAA have for not adopting a delayed schedule for sports and events as has been the course of action in other states (including bordering states)?
5. Many NCAA Division I colleges have cancelled or postponed their fall sports in response to COVID-19. Why hasn't the SDHSAA made a similar decision?
6. Does the SDHSAA recognize the health and safety risks facing student athletes living on reservations, such as limited access to healthcare facilities and increased challenges around contact tracing?
7. How does the SDHSAA's decision-making around fall and winter sports address and respond to known inequities between Native American students living in poverty with limited access to Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities (which is a majority of residents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation) and non-Native Americans with access to private healthcare?

Additionally, we have questions about ramifications for our student athletes, including:

1. If a Native American student residing on the reservation transfers to an off-reservation public school to participate in student activities, will he or she be allowed to transfer back to their original on-reservation high school and participate in sports after the tribal ordinances prohibiting sporting events is lifted?
2. If a Native American student living on a reservation followed the SDHSAA's recommendations about returning to play or practice, but did not have access to healthcare or a health provider to give the final clearance of good health, would this be considered an equity issue that was not fair and just when compared to a student who had access to private healthcare?

Thank you for your consideration of these questions and we look forward to your response. We face an unprecedented situation in our state's history as we respond to COVID-19, and your answers to these questions and concerns will be greatly appreciated as we move forward. Our school's unique circumstances—located on sovereign territory and subject to the laws of our tribal council, but eligible to participate in SDHSAA activities—creates an unaddressed situation that only impacts schools on South Dakota's reservations, like Little Wound.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Cuny, Jr.' with a stylized 'JR' monogram at the end.

Charles Cuny, Jr.  
Superintendent, Little Wound School District



**United States Department of Interior**  
**Bureau of Indian Education/Pine Ridge School**  
**Great Plains Region**  
**PO Box 1202**  
**Pine Ridge, SD 57770**



August 12, 2020

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Executive Director  
South Dakota High School Activities Association

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Sincerely,



Michael Carlow

Superintendent, Pine Ridge School



## **South Dakota High School Activities Association**

804 North Euclid, Suite 102 • P.O. Box 1217 • Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Phone: (605) 224-9261 • Fax: (605) 224-9262

### **Fall 2020 Playoff Changes**

#### **Volleyball:**

- Change minimum contests played from 10 matches to 8 matches.
- For each match difference between the actual matches played and the minimum of eight, the team will be granted a Tier 4 power point loss (30 points), for calculation of seeding at Regions. Actual record will be used to calculate power points for opponent wins/losses
  - Example: Team A plays four matches prior to regions and goes 4-0. They would receive their normal Power Point calculations for their four wins and would receive four Tier 4 power point losses (30 points). Their power point average would be determined using a 4-4 record with the four Tier 4 losses. The opponents they actually played would receive Tier 1 power point losses (39 points) due to the 4-0 actual record.
- In any Region where two or fewer teams remain at the start of Region play, they will be paired off with another Region to form a “Super Region”, and the Super Region would play out for four spots in the SoDak16. If necessary, Super Regions would be paired as Regions 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, or 7 and 8.

#### **Football:**

- Change minimum contests played from 6 games to 5 games.
- For each game difference between the actual games played and the minimum of five, the team will be granted a Tier 4 power point loss (30 points), for calculation of playoff seeding points. Actual record will be used to calculate power points for opponent wins/losses
  - Example: Team A plays three games prior to the playoffs and goes 3-0. They would receive their normal Power Point calculations for their three wins and would receive two Tier 4 power point losses (30 points). Their power point average would be determined using a 3-2 record with the two Tier 4 losses. The opponents they actually played would receive Tier 1 power point losses (39 points) due to the 3-0 actual record.

#### **Soccer:**

- No change

#### **Cross Country:**

- No Change

#### **Competitive Cheer/Competitive Dance:**

- No change

#### **Golf:**

- No change

#### **Tennis:**

- No Change

### ***SDHSAA- Serving Students Since 1905***

Board Chairperson – Mr. Craig Cassens

Assistant Director – Ms. Jo Auch

Assistant Director – Mr. Brooks Bowman

Executive Director – Dr. Daniel Swartos

Assistant Director – Dr. John Krogstrand

Finance Director – Mr. Ryan Mikkelsen