

SOUTH DAKOTA

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION



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Dr. Daniel Swartos
Executive Director

2021 Gymnastic Advisory Minutes SDHSAA Office Building, Pierre, SD 10:30 a.m. (CT) via Zoom February 24, 2021

Advisory Committee Members

AA Coach	Vicky Fisher, Watertown	2023 (2)
A Coach	Angela Grupe, Britton-Hecla	2021 (1)
Ath. Director	Randy Soma, Brookings	2021 (2)
Principal	Neil Goter, Wagner	2022 (2)
Official	Kelli Hanson, Groton	2022 (1)

1. Assistant Executive Directors, Jo Auch called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. All committee members were present.
2. Select a Recording Secretary- Auch will record the minutes for the meeting.
3. Auch went over committee terms and noted that Angela Grupe's first term has ended and is eligible for serving another 3 year term. Grupe happily accepted to serve the second term.; Randy Soma's term as Athletic Director for the Gymnastics Advisory committee will expire this year. Auch thanked Soma for his commitment to making gymnastics better during his tenure on the committee. His dedication and leadership on this committee was appreciated.
4. Auch reviewed the proposals that passed last year's SDHSAA Board
 - a. Top nine teams from each (Class AA and A) will qualify to the State Meet. The Champion from each Region/State Qualifying Meet will advance to the State Competition with the next seven (7) highest scores from each class advancing as wildcards, regardless of region, to make up the nine-team qualifiers in each class.
 - b. Remove All-Around in-season qualifying standards. The All-Around division at the state meet will simply be those participants that qualified for state in each of the four events.
5. State meet review – Auch reviewed the State Gymnastics Meet in Watertown and thanked Craig Boyens and his staff and workers for doing such a great job in a challenging year. Most felt the event went very well. We all wish we could have had the event as we normally do and we are hopeful we will be back to normal next year.

6. Advisory Committee member reports

Angela Grupe - Class "A"

- a. Pod System going forward and overall thoughts- Grupe noted that there were many positives to the pod system. Most coaches liked the format at the meet. You didn't have to be in the gym 3 hours prior to the event beginning for warm-up. Parents got to watch them during warm-up as well as when they performed their routine. Athletes seemed to do better based on the warmup and immediately then competing. They were more focused and many coaches thought that the pod system was good for athletes. Some of the negatives of the Pod system were that they missed seeing the other teams perform. There was not an opening ceremony or awards ceremony. There needed to be a standard pattern as far as how meets were going to be run in regards to stretch time, warmup time, time on the spring floor, how much warm up they were going to receive on each apparatus etc. Some thoughts if we were going to move forward with pod system was that we:
 1. Have different types of meet patterns based on when and how many teams are competing in a meet.
 - a. Capital cup format option (Invites with a larger number of teams)
 - b. Traditional with pre-warmup prior to competition
 - c. Pods for 4-6 team meets
 - d. Pods for weekend meets
- b. All Around qualifying- some coaches did not like that all around did not have a chance to preseason qualify. They all have the ability to qualify, they just need to qualify in each region. We were reminded that the reason we have a preseason qualifier is to allow for the injured or ill athlete that cannot compete at regions and thus will not have an opportunity to qualify, gives them that chance. The committee felt that maybe what we need to do is look at why kids maybe did not qualify as an all-around and coaches felt that the problem was the bars score.

PROPOSAL: Adjust the Class A Bars Individual Qualifying score from 8.3 to 8.0, and adjust the Class AA Bars score from 8.8 to 8.7 for the 2021-22 school year. Motion by Goter, second by Hanson. Motion passed unanimously.

Rationale: we had a lower number of individuals that preseason qualified with the existing numbers, thus to balance that the committee felt then need to lower the bars score.

The committee also wanted us to look into the "possibility" of averaging the scores from each event over the last 4 years to determine what that average should be. Auch will prepare that information for the next advisory meeting for the committee to review.

Inquiry time

Vicky Fischer - Class AA – Fisher noted that the AA coaches are super happy as she had received nothing from them other than the following! She received a proposal to look at a different format for the State Event based on things we learned this past year that might make our event better. The committee saw some advantages to this proposal and thought they should move it forward for consideration with the membership. A schedule will be forthcoming.

PROPOSAL:

State Meet Format Proposal

- **8 teams would qualify for the state event. Top team from each region and the next 6 highest overall team scores to advance 8 teams to the state event.**
- **Separate A and AA session each day**
- **Schedule:**

Team Day - Friday

- **Morning Session- Class A Team Competition**
- **Afternoon Session- Class AA Team Competition**

Individual Day- Saturday

- **Morning Session- Class A Individual Competition**
- **Afternoon Session- Class AA Individual Competition**

***Alternate Class A and AA each year as to who will go first on each day.**

- **Change number of judges to 12 plus the meet referee (use 3 judges per event)**

Benefits:

- **8 teams flow better than 9 teams with 4 teams warming up then competing, followed by the next 4 teams warming up while first group competes. Currently 9 out of 14 teams qualify which is the highest state championship qualification percentage of any sport (8 teams qualify in most sports with a region/state qualifier in place)**
- **Only requires 2 sets of equipment (competition and warm-up) providing better spacing for competition set up and possibly allows more schools the ability to host a state event.**
- **Would allow teams to attend the other class session to watch.**
- **Does not make for such a long day for teams at the event.**

Motion by Fisher, second by Soma. Motion passed unanimously.

Kelli Hanson, Groton - Official - nothing to add.

Randy Soma, Brookings – AD

- a. Regular invites vs. Pod invites- Soma noted the same concern as addressed earlier about trying to find a standard unified schedule for hosting meets with pods, meaning how we are going to use warmup, what type of warmup we will have on the spring floor, followed by on each event, how long the touch warmup will be, etc. Auch tasked the two coaches on the advisory Grupe and Fisher to put together a consistent format for the AD's to review at the AD's conference. The state would then post this information on the website and all schools will follow the same format based on the type of meet they hosting. This will allow everyone to know ahead of time what to expect at each event.

Neil Goter, Wagner -Principal

- a. Goter stated the he too would like to see a standardized schedule to be used across the board for meets.
- b. Goter asked about the potential to start the Region Meets at 5. Auch will check with judges as to the time in which they can get to the meet for next year.

SDHSAA Report- Auch

- a. Covid year considerations- how did we do? Goter wanted to thank the SDHSAA for a great job in getting us to the final event and thanked us for the protocols put in place to allow for the safety of everyone concerned. Auch too would have like to see an award ceremony that allowed for ALL athletes to be honored but with the pod system and the safety of all, we did what we felt was best given the year.
- b. What adjustments to Covid need to be made "if" we have a similar year? Auch stated that if we needed to do this again, we would put all the teams competing for individual honors alone without team honors in the first pod and then make the next two pods with the teams to compete. She thought that would allow the meet to have a better flow so we had athletes on each apparatus as we went through rotations.
- c. Draw for team rotations:
8 team rotation: 1-4-5-7-8-6-2-3.
9 Team Rotation: 1-4-5-7-8-6-2-3-9.

7. Formal proposals from the committee.

PROPOSAL 1: Adjust the Class A Bars Individual Qualifying score from 8.3 to 8.0, and adjust the Class AA Bars score from 8.8 to 8.7 for the 2021-22 school year.

PROPOSAL 2:

State Meet Format Proposal

- **8 teams would qualify for the state event. Top team from each region and the next 6 highest overall team scores to advance 8 teams to the state event.**
- **Separate A and AA session each day**
- **Schedule:**

Team Day - Friday

- **Morning Session- Class A Team Competition**
- **Afternoon Session- Class AA Team Competition**

Individual Day- Saturday

- **Morning Session- Class A Individual Competition**
- **Afternoon Session- Class AA Individual Competition**

***Alternate Class A and AA each year as to who will go first on each day.**

- **Change number of judges to 12 plus the meet referee (use 3 judges per event)**

Benefits:

- **8 teams flow better than 9 teams with 4 teams warming up then competing, followed by the next 4 teams warming up while first group competes. Currently 9 out of 14 teams qualify which is the highest state championship qualification percentage of any sport (8 teams qualify in most sports with a region/state qualifier in place)**
- **Only requires 2 sets of equipment (competition and warm-up) providing better spacing for competition set up and possibly allows more schools the ability to host a state event.**
- **Would allow teams to attend the other class session to watch.**
- **Does not make for such a long day for teams at the event.**

8. Review Handbook- Auch encouraged the committee to review the handbook and let her know if there are any corrections that need to be made.
9. Auch again thanks Randy Soma for his leadership and dedication to this committee. She will contact Jim Dorman to see who would might like to serve as the AD on this committee in the future.
10. Meeting date next year.... will be Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.
11. Motion to adjourn Goter, second by Soma. Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Auch
Assistant Executive Director/SDHSAA