2019-20 Volleyball Advisory Minutes
SDHSAA Office Building – December 4, 2019 @10:30 a.m.

“AA” Coach: Shelly Buddenhagen, Huron 2020 (1)
“A” Coach: Darcy Deinert, MV/Plank 2022 (1)
“B” Coach: Jean Benson, Chester 2021 (1)
Athletic Director: Mandie Menzel, Phillip 2020 (*)
Principal: Christena Schultz, Bridgewater-Emery 2021 (1)
Official: Kelley Devine, Sioux Falls 2021 (1)
Native Am. Rep: Peri Strain, White River 2021 (2)

1. Welcome- Auch welcomed the group. All attended except Peri Strain.

2. Review Advisory Committee membership, terms, duties and responsibilities- Auch reviewed duties and responsibilities of the group.

3. Approve minutes from last year’s meeting – Devine moved to approve minutes of the 2018 meeting, second from Schultz. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Auch reviewed the proposals that were adopted by the SDHSAA Board
   a. Coaches Evaluations of officials- $50 fine for each dual in which an evaluation was not completed.
   b. Eliminate handshake after the introduction of players.
   c. Revised Warm-up time to 15 minutes (3-6-6)
   d. Any matches played after the cut-off date will not count toward seed points for post season (Class A & B)
   Committee felt these were all good changes.

5. State Volleyball Tournament report/review
   Committee discussed the 2019 State Volleyball Tournament and all agreed that this was one of most competitive tournaments to date, with all the matches being very competitive. Committee felt it is a credit to the SoDak 16, and adjustments that we have made to qualifying for the state event. Auch discussed the time frame in which the tournament is played as we had all consolation matches in which one or more classes went the distance with their opponents, which caused a delay in the start of the Championship Match for Class B. We started that match around 4:30. We will discuss thoughts on that later in the meeting.
6. Advisory Committee Member reports – (including meeting from State Volleyball – expand agenda based on reports)
      i. Substitution limit of 18- there was a discussion at the coaches meeting that coaches believe it may be time for us to move away from the 18-substitute limit and go to unlimited subs. Auch explained that would take a rule proposal to change the NFHS rule. There was a concern of “gamesmanship” at inopportune times that could delay a match based on unlimited substitutions. The point was that when you get to the close of a match, (the score is 23-24), and you are at your 18-substitute limit, coaches are asked to decide if it is best for them to sub out at defensive player who is needed or leave them in at a crucial time of the set. Every coach wants their best players on the court at the end of a set and it is not best for kids or programs to have matches decided when there are limits to how many times you can sub. Benson added that maybe the proposal needs to read that you are only allowed unlimited subs if the score reaches a certain point in the set such as 22 or 23 points. Buddenhagen asked what do college rules state and why do not try to match college rule code? Auch stated that when the NFHS writes rules, we write rules for athletes in grade 9-12 (knowing that there are also some 7-8 grade athletes participating). The goal of the NFHS is ALWAYS “safety of the players first” and keeping in mind that we have many that do not have a goal of a college scholarship, but just want to be a part of team. Skill levels are different all across the board, and the NFHS has to keep in mind that we are writing rules for athletes that are still learning the game, and safety is always first!
      ii. Video-taping at state – there was a discussion on the SDHSAA or host management at the state tournament offering a free video service for all matches played so coaches could just download those each day and you would not have to video the matches that you wanted during the state tournament. We all know that during the regular season, you may not videotaping of other teams other than the contest that is being played. At the State, coaches meeting, we ask coaches if there is any objection to other teams videotaping other matches so they can all prepare for the next contest. If there is no objection, we allow that to happen for all teams. Auch stated that the SDHSAA would not be interested in providing that service, as we do not have the capability to do so or the person power to do so. Benson thought that it is already a kind gesture by the SDHSAA to allow coaches to video other teams, and as a result, all have managers or others that are capable of doing those things. The group felt it was not something that we needed to address as all teams have the ability to video at state if they wish.
      iii. Benson received an email about All Conference Nominations and how they are handled in some areas. This is a local issue/conference issue and this group would not deal with any such policies. Benson was advised to respond to the email and let them know that is a conference or local issue.
   b. “A” Report – Darcy Deinert
      i. Allow for certain number of scrimmages/practices against another team throughout the season where there are dead periods of play. SDHSAA Constitution and By-Laws states that: “A student who is a member of a high school team may not participate in games, practice, tryouts, etc., in that particular sport during the same season on an independent or non-high school team or as a member of any “All-Star” team, or completely unattached on an individual basis. Auch believes that would take a constitutional amendment to change this data. Auch also stated “how do we limit the number of scrimmages” and who checks on that number to be sure a school does not exceed that? Tracking would be an issue.
ii. Switch courts after 8 points on the deciding set—again this would take a NFHS Rule proposal, which was submitted in 2018. The NFHS committee did discuss this in 2018 and there was not much support for it at the NFHS level. Auch stated that since this is a playing rule it would need to be proposed to the NFHS and look for a national rule change for that to happen in SD. Menzel pointed out that some teams have a hard time staying in rotation as it is and now we ask them to switch courts it could be a disaster. We also discussed the fact that scorekeepers could have an issue with changing sides. Scorekeepers have the book written so the teams are on the proper side of the court when they are facing the court. Now if we switch sides, they will really have to concentrate and remember to score looking at things differently from their view. Potential scorekeeper issues could be problematic in a deciding set, where you do not want to have controversy.

iii. Deinert received an email about Line Judges being more aware of touches at the net. Auch reminded everyone that during the regular season, the line judges are chosen locally and all are asked to view the online video training found on our web page. Auch stated that coaches should take the time to work with line judges and train their eyes for what they would like them to be looking for on touch calls.

c. “AA” Report—Shelly Buddenhagen

i. When to do coin flip at state? This year at the State Event, we had some teams waiting a long period, as we do the coin flip in the warm-up room after the second set of the match is completed on your court. However, we do start all matches together and thus if a court happens to go five sets, some courts are waiting a longer period. Several suggestions were made about possibly using the deciding set on the three courts to determine when the flip should take place. The problem with that is that not everyone pays attention to each class. The committee liked that it was defined and simple to understand. They felt that if we changed it now, there would be much room for error and the way we have it is simple, so no changes were recommended for adjustments to the coin flip.

ii. More balls in state tournament cart—seemed to be a shortage of balls for the teams to warm up. Coaches would like to request two carts for each court. They would like a minimum of 20 balls in each cart as well. Auch noted that we do not have that many balls that each host site gets. Auch stated that she would try to have them bring over the carts that are in the warm-up room for court warm-up as 18 balls for each cart and only one cart per court is not enough to warm-up. Auch will discuss with tournament managers.

iii. Rotate championship match times for each class each year—With the combined 3 class tournament being 2 years away, as we will be at separate sites next year, the committee has some time to visit with the coaches association and others to see how we would like to proceed. Some of the concept is that everyone just knows that we will use same format each year. If we change it, we run the risk of fans not realizing it has changed and missing their class’s event. Another thought was that, it is a natural progression to the event. While the committee also understand that, it is hard to be the last class to play and not know if it is going to be at 8 or closer to nine when we start the match. Benson brought up the fact that there is much planning in playing in the earlier afternoon as well, with eating plans, etc. The committee will continue to gather put and discuss again next year at the advisory meeting.

iv. Not have tournaments count in seed points. The committee received a floor proposal submitted by Kevin Vanderwal: To allow 5 matches during the AA season vs. an A or B opponent that wouldn’t result in a loss of seed points. These matches can be vs South Dakota teams or in an out of state tournament. In
addition, these matches would be the first 5 as they happen on a team’s schedule. This would prevent teams picking which ones count.

The committee reviewed the seed points for those teams that qualified in the State Tournament. The top five teams finished as they were seeded with the exception of 4 and 5, seeds 6-8 all finished in the 6-8 portion. It appeared to the committee that Class AA seeding is pretty good. Teams finished in the tournament where their seed points said they would. The committee feels that the seed system is working and at this point and time, there is not a reason to make changes that could potentially lead to unwanted problems. Potentially, if we were to make this change, many seed points could change across the state that might not create a fair picture of the current seeding process. Most AA schools have made a great effort to try to get all the AA schools on their schedule where possible, which has helped to create a truer picture of the seeding across the state.

v. Request to have AA reseed after the SoDak 16 as they do in Class A and B: The AA schools when the SoDak 16 came in wrote in the proposal that they NOT reseed after the SoDak 16. If a school is able to pull off the upset, they should remain in the bracket as such, as they have earned that spot in the bracket by pulling off the upset. In the past couple of years, the committee felt that has not happened often and when it has, it has happened on the lower side of the seeds. The committee did not feel a need to change.

vi. Can we have the before match “good lucks” back? Not any support from the committee to do that. We passed that out of committee and membership with a very large margin and no interest in going back to all of the shaking of hands. Actually, coaches like this better because now coaches get in line to shake hands with the kids as well, where before they just shook the coaches’ hand after the match.

d. Native Am. Representative-Peri Strain- no report. Auch wanted to go on record to state that we had our first Native American Officials work the State Volleyball Tournament this year. Congratulations Pat Clifford!

e. AD – Mandie Menzel

i. The only thing that Menzel has heard is that we try to get proposals to the group prior to the meeting. Auch is working on developing a form so that all can see what proposals have been sent to the committee, so if there is something that someone wishes to address prior to the committee making a decision, they can weigh in on the topic. Auch would look to make those due to the office by the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving.

f. Official – Kelley Devine

i. Devine reported on the approval of the new volleyball shirts (blue in color) but that we are having a hard time finding a vendor to work through. Hoping to have that in place next year.

ii. We had a recruiting booth at the State Volleyball Tournament where we received 15 names to follow up with as far as interests in officiating. Thanks to all the officials that worked at the booth, special thanks to the West River officials for their creative ideas.

iii. Mentoring program in place

iv. Officials evaluations: there was much discussion about the officials evaluations and how there were not very positive comments on some of them. Lead to the discussion as to what types of things should be commented on and what should not. The committee felt it was a useful tool, but needed to be tweaked to help serve the full purpose. The discussion as to whether we should put years of service on the evaluations might be helpful. In addition, maybe the possibility of only evaluating certified officials that are eligible for post-season play was
discussed. The other thought was that comments made on the evaluation should be comments that are helpful to officials and not just venting. There were possible detrimental comments from coaches that could potentially decrease our official’s pools, and that was never the goal. We want to keep things as a positive, learning experience. Officials wanted the opportunity to respond to some of the comments and the coach evaluating had the rule wrong and needed to clarify. We all determined that judgement should not be evaluated. Auch and Devine will work with officials and coaches to come up with a better tool by narrowing it down to simplify it for next year. The evaluation process should be done as an effort to improve officiating, not steer people away from it.

v. Statewide official’s conference in 2020- Joan Powell will be the guest speaker for the Statewide VB Officials conference scheduled to be July 10-11, 2020. Great speaker, come and hear her.

g. Principal- Christena Schultz
   i. Rotating championships, which was already discussed and will be reevaluated next year.
   ii. Pre-match conference and turning in line-ups, where are we at with that? Auch stated it was a new rule this year, so officials should be collecting those at the Pre-match conference. Schultz stated that it was not happening and everyone teams went, officials did it differently. We will make that a point of emphasis at our region meetings and trainings.

h. SDHSAA- Jo Auch
   i. SoDak 16 sites and concerns- Auch stated that she had many more options to choose from for sites this year and appreciated schools who put in to host. Still concerns with distances that people have to travel, and should possibly try the higher seed being the host if the facility is able to host with certain specifications? The committee feels that the neutral site is still the best option.
   ii. State event schedule- Auch just challenged the group to think of potential tweaks that we could make to the schedule to try to get matches started by 3:30 PM for the championship rounds. Suggestions would be to only announce team name and court and no players, adults or officials. Coaches will visit with SDVBBCA and get input from coaches and bring back suggestions next year.

7. Review the NFHS questionnaire and possible changes-sent to all coaches and officials – Auch reviewed the NFHS rule proposals.

8. Propose any possible recommendations - In reviewing the discussions we had today, there are no formal proposals that will be brought forward for Volleyball this year. The committee feels like volleyball is in a very good place.

9. Other items to be discussed:
   a. Line judges: How we can improve line judges across the state. Auch stated that the problem with most officials is that not many line judge throughout the year, most officiate and never put a flag in their hand! It is a much different looking game from the end line than it is by the net. What can we do to train officials’ eyes for touches and line call? We all stated that unless you are looking at that for a few matches each year, you could never really understand what line judges see. The goal would be to have official’s line judge at jamborees and make sure we cover details on touches and lines with our line judges throughout the year as well.
   b. Unsporting Cards- Benson brought up the possibility of not having coaches sit for a yellow unsporting, rather have it be a loss of rally and if you get a red card, then they have to sit. No other sport makes you do that. Auch stated that if a basketball coaches gets stung with a technical foul, they lose the coaches box and must sit as well. The second direct technical, they are gone….volleyball just loses a point for a red card.
10. Adjournment: With no other business before the committee, Devine motioned to adjourn, Buddenhagen offered a second to that motion. Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Auch
Assistant Executive Director
SDHSAA