

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE SPORTS' COMMITTEE

The following action items were recommended by the *Sports* Committee to the full Board of Directors during the April 29-30, 2014 NCHSAA Board of Directors meeting:

Committee Members:

Dwayne Stallings

Bill Rogers

Theresa Evans

Paul Hoggard

Mac Morris

Joe Poletti

Staff:

Que Tucker

Tra Waters

AGENDA ITEMS

1. 2014-2015 Sports' Playoff Calendar Adjustment (Attachment 26)

- a. Recommendations: Approve the adjustments to the Wrestling and Lacrosse playoff dates
- b. Rationale: The proposed adjustment to wrestling calendar reflect the wishes of NC wrestling coaches; the proposed adjustment to the lacrosse calendar reflects approved request during a previous meeting of the Board of Directors
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

2. 2015 & 2016 Football Calendars (Attachment 27)

- a. Recommendation: Approve the calendars as presented
- b. Rationale: Approval now will allow football coaches to begin making tentative schedules for the final two years of the current realignment period
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: Immediately, for the indicated football seasons

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

3. Change in 2014-2015 Playoff Calendar

- a. Recommendation: For early round playoff games, move off Saturdays
-Volleyball—First round on Tuesday, second round to Thursday, third round to Saturday, fourth round to Tuesday, fifth round to Thursday.
-Baseball & Softball—first round to Tuesday and second round to Friday
-Women's Soccer—First round to Tuesday, second round to Friday, third round to Tuesday, and fourth round to Friday
-Men's Soccer—No change due to potential conflicts with football games
- b. Rationale: Using Saturdays for early playoff games creates significant difficulty for the host school in terms of providing adequate supervision and game day staff for contests; administrators are already stretched thin, frequently working 60+ hour weeks from Monday to Friday
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: May mean loss of school time for those schools traveling to away playoff games and may mean an additional late night of studying. However, not any different than the circumstances that occur on the other playoff game days already scheduled for week days.
- e. Equity Impact: None; may be better scenario for females as attendance is typically larger on days when school is in session
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

4. Winter Sports' Athletic Eligibility

- a. Recommendation: Eliminate the end of first semester grade checks for athletic eligibility
- b. Rationale:
-The winter season is almost complete by the time first semesters grades are checked (especially since exams are not until the middle of January)
-Problems with Power School
-Problems with getting test results back on time
-We do not remove a fall or spring athlete from a team near the end of their season
-Would make life easier on athletic directors
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: Fair to all
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

5. Master Eligibility Summary (Attachment 28)

- a. Recommendation: Add a column for indicating “meets local promotion standards”.
- b. Rationale: It is an eligibility criterion and all other criteria included on the current form.
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: Will make it clear that local promotional standards must be satisfied.
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

6. Frozen Rosters

- a. Recommendation: Incorporate a rule in which “Once 50% of a sports regular season is complete, there shall be no additional student athletes added to the roster/eligibility sheet”
- b. Rationale:
 - Would certainly stop any late season “move ins” (bona fide or questionable)
 - Would protect the role of the student athletes who have been playing on the team the whole season
 - Makes for a very wholesome and drama free athletic environment
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: Very fair to all; especially the athletes that have been a part of the team the whole season.
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

7. Pod Seeding for the Playoffs (1A Northwest Conference, supported by NC Football Coaches’ Association) (Attachment 29)

- a. Recommendation: Drop the pod seeding system currently used for the 1A playoffs.
- b. Rationale:
 - To be consistent with the seeding process for ALL classifications during the playoffs
 - Survey of voting principals indicates an overall 81% in favor of dropping the pod seeding; percentage is rather consistent through all voting athletic directors and coaches
- c. Budget Impact: Should not be measurable additional travel cost since teams that are most likely traveling were already traveling somewhere; allows teams

to play someone other than conference opponents, thereby creating additional excitement for the game

- d. Educational Impact: Should not be any measurable additional travel time since the teams that are most likely traveling were already traveling somewhere.
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

8. Football Mercy Rule (Supported by the NC Football Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: Whenever the score reaches a point differential of 42 or more by halftime, at the start of the second half and any point thereafter, the game will resort to a "running clock" or be terminated by mutual agreement; the clock will only stop for charged time-outs, injuries, and scores; the "try" will always be an un-timed down; the clock will start when the ball is kicked on the kickoff.
- b. Rationale: Teams/Individuals are being humiliated by lopsided scores, especially when coaches will not agree to alternative methods, such as a "running" clock
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: Lessons of sportsmanship will be taught and learned
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

9. Football: 2014 Fall Practice Start Date (NC Football Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: Allow fall sports to start on July 31, 2014
- b. Rationale: Will allow football teams to scrimmage on Saturday, August 9, 2014; would also give players more opportunity to rest and recover during the 7 hours of scrimmages allowed during that week
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: July 31, 2014

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

10. Football: Spring Skill Development/Practice (NC Football Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: Allow 10 days of “unlimited number” skill development sessions immediately prior to the last 5 days of the school year; during this period, the 21-player limitation would be lifted
 - No “body to body” contact rule to remain in place
 - One practice per day, not to exceed time limit for regular season practice
 - No skill development sessions allowed prior to this 10-day period in May
- b. Rationale:
 - Allows football programs to work with their entire team, just as sports with - “year round” travel team opportunities
 - Will eliminate cheating on the 21-player rule as it currently exists
 - Will promote multi-sport participation
 - Allows college recruiters to better evaluate college prospects
- c. Budget Impact: None, unless a school chooses to pay extra supplements for these skill development sessions; however, the recommendation has no financial expectations
- d. Educational Impact: None; however, scheduled practice times would force athletes to budget their study time and aid in eliminating idle time after the regular school day ends, as is the case during the regular season
- e. Equity Impact: None; females would have same opportunity to participate in the spring as in the fall
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

11. Football: Summer Dead Period Allowance (NC Football Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: Open school facilities during the week of July 4th for weightlifting and physical conditioning
- b. Rationale: Many athletes do not go on vacation and would like the opportunity to workout
- c. Budget Impact: Only the costs associated with lighting/cooling school facilities during workouts
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: Week of July 4, 2014

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

12. Football: State Championship Venues (NC Football Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: Use 4 venues for state championship games and do not set starting time before 12:00Noon
- b. Rationale: Would allow 2 games to be played at each site; game times could be spread out and have game times start before 12:00Noon
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

13. Basketball: Mercy Rule (NC Basketball Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: If the score reaches a point differential of 40 or more points by halftime, at the start of the second half and any point thereafter, the game will resort to a "running clock", including the administration of free throws and all other dead ball situations. EXCEPTION: called timeouts by either coach or official. (A game may be terminated by mutual agreement.)
- b. Rationale: Other sports currently have mercy rules in effect. This would hopefully help discourage teams from "running up the score", and allow the game to be shortened in the event one team is at an extreme skill disadvantage against a superior opponent.
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: Lessons of sportsmanship will be taught and learned
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

14. Basketball: Adjust Skill Development Guidelines (NC Basketball Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: Daily skill development rules be changed to allow for two different 4-player sessions or one single 9-player session limited one hour
- b. Rationale: Currently, the 2nd group of 4 players waiting for its skill development session is forced to wait after school until the first 4-player group completes its session. By allowing a single 9-player session, coaches could get those players off campus sooner; also, this would allow 9 players per day to receive skill development rather than just eight, reducing the number of players that a coach is forced to turn away each week.
- c. Budget Impact: None

- d. Educational Impact: Would decrease time players stay after school for skill development, getting them home earlier to spend time on homework and studies
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

15. Basketball: Change in Playoff Format (NC Basketball Coaches' Association)

- a. Recommendation: Change the format to play on 2 games per week for all 3 weeks (6 rounds) of the playoffs
 - No games on Monday; boys' and girls' games be on different nights until the 5th round and state finals
 - Play games at higher seeded team in first three rounds; 4th round to be played at a neutral site, such as a large HS gym
 - First week: 1st round—Tuesday & Wednesday (boys and girls alternate); 2nd round—Thursday & Friday
 - Second week: 3rd round—Tuesday & Wednesday (boys and girls alternate); 4th round—Friday & Saturday
 - Third week: State Semifinals—Tuesday; Championship Game—Saturday
- b. Rationale: Would put basketball more in line with format of other sports' playoffs and is more like the weekly schedule for games during the regular season
- c. Budget Impact: None to schools; NCHSAA costs should be lessened at the regionals (4th and 5th rounds)
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: No gender inequities; should increase school support for girls' games on alternate nights if playing at separate site from boys in same round
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

16. Soccer: Breaking End-of-Game Ties (Northwest 1A Conference)

- a. Recommendation: Conference matches that are still tied after 2, 10-minute overtime halves should be decided by a shootout
- b. Rationale: Would allow clear conference champions to be determined; other sports have a means of determining a "clear winner" at the end of the game; much better than drawing out of a hat for a number 1 seed going into the playoffs
- c. Budget Impact: Might be an increase at the gate if fans know there will be a winner determined at the end of the contest, thereby perhaps increasing concession sales benefitting the home team
- d. Educational Impact: None

- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

17. Volleyball: Season Limitation

- a. Recommendation: Implement a 23-match season limitation during the regular season.
- b. Rationale: Since volleyball will be seeded next year, should make it consistent with other sports; will make it the same as other team/64-team bracketed sports that were seeded in 2013-2014, i.e. soccer and basketball
- c. Budget Impact: Will reduce travel costs for schools with teams that typically play in many tournaments.
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

18. Sports Medicine: LAT/Certified 1st Responders (SMAC)

- a. Recommendation: The host school of an event with 3 or more participating teams, especially wrestling, is required to have a LAT on site at all times during the event. This person shall be responsible for all medical care during the event.
- b. Rationale: Due to the nature of certain sports, such as wrestling, at least one qualified person should be in charge of the medical aspect of the event; all multi-team events can benefit from such medical coverage.
- c. Budget Impact: The qualified person (s) will need to be compensated; however, with the entry fees that a charged for participating in many multi-team tournaments, that cost should be minimal to the host school.
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

19. Sports Medicine: Skinfold Measurer/Hydration Tester (SMAC)

- a. Recommendation: Require all testers/measurers be certified and validated prior to the start the next wrestling season.

- b. Rationale: Many athletic trainers are new or have changed schools, thereby rendering the current list of certified testers/measurers to be far from accurate and reliable. Passwords and login information have often times been given to persons who may not be qualified to conduct the required tests at the beginning of wrestling season.
- c. Budget Impact: None
- d. Educational Impact: None
- e. Equity Impact: None
- f. Effective Date: 2014-2015 school year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

20. Split Squads

- a. Recommendation: NO ACTION. Discussion Only.
- b. Points of Emphasis:
 - i. Persistent problem in track
 - ii. Elite athletes are participating in elite events
 - iii. Many events will not accept unattached athletes
 - iv. Rule may be outdated

21. Combines

- a. Recommendation: NO ACTION. Discussion Only.
- b. Points of Emphasis:
 - i. Persistent issue in football
 - ii. Coaches conducting these during skill development without regard to number requirements
 - iii. Being conducted school vs. school

22. Derivative Sports (Attachment 30)

- a. Recommendation: NO ACTION. Discussion Only.
- b. Points of Emphasis:
 - i. “Popping up” in different parts of the state
 - ii. Beach Volleyball; Indoor Soccer; Flag Football
 - iii. How should they be treated? As separate sports—NCHSAA takes hands-off approach? Observe numbers if similar in nature to NCHSAA sanctioned sport?

23. Shortened Sports’ Seasons

- a. Recommendation: NO ACTION. Discussion Only.
- b. Points of Emphasis:

- i. Received recommendation after the deadline
- ii. Feels the overlapping of sports is a problem
- iii. Students cannot participate in multiple sports

24. Wrestling Issues

- a. Recommendation: NO ACTION. Discussion Only.
- b. Points of Emphasis:
 - i. Eliminate requirement to wrestle at a weight class in order to certify for that class in post-season competition
 - ii. Change the # 6 weekly limitation--page 104 of the handbook--to include a Quad