

# SPORTS COMMITTEE

**Committee Members:** Neil Blankenship (Chair), Ronnie Beverly, Tod Morgan, Stephen Gainey, Vernon Aldridge, Joe Franks

**Staff:** Tra Waters and Chiquana Dancy

## AGENDA ITEM

### 1. Football - State Championships

## RECOMMENDATION

To eliminate the sub-dividing of the 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A classifications for the football playoffs

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Rationale:** Bylaw VI [Classifications] is explicit in the process and procedure for determining classifications and conducting state championships:

*“For purposes of athletic competition, four classifications are identified -- AAAA, AAA, AA and A. When at least 25 percent of the total number of member schools, or at least half the schools in a classification participate in a sport sanctioned by the NCHSAA, that sport shall culminate in a state championship for that classification.”*

Our current process of conducting 8 state championships in the sport of football is in conflict with this bylaw

**Budget Impact:**

- Eight (8) fewer schools will receive state championship gate revenue
- NCHSAA state championships expenses will be reduced

**Educational Impact:** None

**Equity Impact:** None

**Effective Date:** 2021-2022 School Year

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
2. Football - Number of Regular Season Contests & Uniform Start Date	To reduce the maximum number of regular season contests from 11 (including endowment game) to 10 (including endowment game), additionally, the first contest may occur no earlier than 2 days prior to the last Friday in August	<p><b>Rationale:</b> North Carolina is one of only 3 states out of the 50 which follow NFHS football rules that play 11 regular season contests (Massachusetts, Mississippi). The remaining 47 states play in 10 or fewer contests during the regular season. As a standard bearer for health and safety amongst state associations, reducing the regular season by one contest will minimize an additional risk opportunity</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> Member high schools will lose 1 home game every 2 years</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> 2021-2022 School Year</p>
3. 2020-21 Team Sport Playoffs Format  <b>Attachment S1</b>	To approve the recommendation of the playoff bracketing ad-hoc committee for use during the 2020-21 team sports playoffs	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic related scheduling, a new team playoff bracketing plan is needed for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> December 3, 2021</p>
4. Golf State Championship Participants  <b>Attachment S2</b>	To approve the number of student-athlete participants for the men's and women's golf state championships in 2020-2021.	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Due to the COVID-19 pandemic related restrictions and course availability, an adjustment of the number of participants is needed for the 2020-2021 school year.</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> December 3, 2021</p>

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p>5. COVID-19 Sports Manual Adjustments</p> <p>Emergency or Lack of Depth Players</p> <p><b>[Southwestern Athletic Conference]</b></p>	<p>To allow the use of emergency or “lack of depth” players for other sports, as done in football, for the 2020-2021 school year</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Currently, football has the 8 quarter rule which is great in helping smaller schools and the development of players, as well as the use of student athletes in “lack of depth” situations for their school. Due to the uncertain landscape of the 20-21 year, the adjusted seasons, and the concern for student safety, the conference would like to see the rule applied to other sports. Ex: 8 quarter rule in basketball, 10 set rule in volleyball, 14 inning rule in baseball</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> The adoption of this rule would provide a positive impact for a school’s finances. The rule would help to ensure that sport’s schedules would still be played if by chance the number of athletes were impacted due to COVID quarantine. The proposed rule would also help to ensure more student athletes participated in each sport</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> The adoption of this rule would have minimal educational impact. The added time for a student athlete to stay and play a game would be the only loss of study time. However, most programs that would need to use this rule would travel together so they would be onsite regardless for that event</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> Applicable to both Men and Women</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Immediately</p>

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p>6. COVID-19 Sports Manual Adjustments</p> <p>Scrimmage Adjustment</p> <p>[Southwestern Athletic Conference]</p>	<p>To adjust the modified sports manual to reflect the current NCHSAA Handbook sport specific limits placed on the preseason scrimmages for the 2020-21 school year instead of the current limit of a single, two-hour scrimmage</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> The current setup of 2 hour time limit doesn't account for different sports moving at difference paces. Some sports may be able to participate in a full game or more, while other sports would be able to compete in a full competition. It also doesn't address field, weather, officials, time delays, or injury related issues</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> This new proposal would make it fairer for genders. As the current rule stands, a softball game would progress faster than a baseball game so that is not equal for genders. On the flip side, most basketball competitions the men's game progresses faster than the women's game. By putting sport specific limits on these, instead of 2 hour time limit, you would provide more equity across all of the sports and all areas of the state</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> Immediately</p>

**AGENDA ITEM**7. Football Practice  
Acclimatization  
Adjustment for  
2020-2021 Season

[SMAC]

**RECOMMENDATION**

To approve an adjustment to the football acclimatization period for the 2020-2021 season

*Football student-athletes that have actively participated in a sport season during the 2020-2021 school year (volleyball, cross-country, swimming & diving, men's soccer, or lacrosse) must meet the following acclimatization requirements:*

- *Practice Day 1 - Helmets only*
- *Practice Day 2 - Shoulder pads may be added*
- *Practice Day 3 - Football pants may be added*
- *Practice Day 4 - Live action contact may occur*

*Any athlete that has not actively participated in a sport season during the 2020-2021 school year must still abide by the requirements as outlined 4.5.3(c) of the NCHSAA Handbook.*

**SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Rationale:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic related calendar adjustments, the football season will not begin until February 2021. This creates a season overlap with the end of basketball season and playoffs. The request is based upon the knowledge that student-athletes participating in a previous sport will be acclimatized for athletic competition.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Educational**

**Impact:**

**Equity Impact:** None

**Effective Date:** December 3, 2021  
(Policy effective for 2020-2021 season only)

AGENDA ITEM	RECOMMENDATION	SUPPORTING INFORMATION
<p>8. Football and Lacrosse Dual Participation Weekly Limitation</p> <p>[SMAC]</p>	<p>To approve a 24 hour rest period for athletes participating in both boy's lacrosse and football contests. This would not affect participation in back-to-back lacrosse contests or back-to-back participation in football while utilizing the 8-quarter rule.</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> According to the NFHS, football and boy's lacrosse are considered both contact sports and high risk (COVID-19). Implementing a mandatory rest and recovery period would help student-athletes recuperate between contests of these contact sports.</p> <p><b>Budget Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Educational Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Equity Impact:</b> None</p> <p><b>Effective Date:</b> December 3, 2021 (Policy effective for 2020-2021 season only)</p>
<p>9. 2021-2022 Sports Calendar and Team Playoff Bracketing Process</p>	<p>Review and discussion of options based on final realignment approval in March, 2021</p>	<p>*** Discussion Item ***</p>

## 1A

Conference	Teams	Automatic Berths	E/W	Total Berths	Bracket Line Placements	Draw Procedure	Sport Adjustments	Football Subdivisions
Albemarle	6	1	E	East - 12 Auto	#1 Berths	Once the 16 teams are determined in each region (East/West), the NCHSAA Staff will utilize this pre-determined draw procedure to set the finalized bracket.  1. Draws for the line placement of berths will occur in alphabetical order of conference names in the region.  2. All #1 berths will be drawn first, followed by #2 berths, followed by any #3 berths and wildcard teams.  3. Whenever possible, competition between conference opponents in the 1st round will be avoided. This may require the removal of a line placement draw possibility for a given team	Automatic Berths listed on this document are based upon the premise that all teams in the conference are participating in a given sport (same classification in split conferences).  Each bracketed sport will have varying automatic berths per conference based on the following formula:  <u>Conference Teams Participating in the Given Sport:</u>  1 - 6 Schools - 1 Automatic Berth 7 - 8 Schools - 2 Automatic Berths 9+ Schools - 3 Automatic Berths	Subdivisions of classifications will be used for the 2020-21 football playoffs (1A, 1AA, 2A, 2AA, 3A, 3AA, 4A, 4AA).  Berths will be awarded based on the procedure indicated in the previous column prior to the subdivision of teams.  Once the 32 teams in each classification are finalized, schools in a given classification will split into 2 distinct subdivisions based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school.  Each subdivision will have 16 total teams (8 East/8 West) with teams placed on lines based on conference finish.
Atlantic 5	5	1	E	East - 4 WC	Lines 1 - 9			
Carolina	7	2	E		#2 Berths			
Coastal 8	3	1	E		Lines 10 - 12			
Coastal Plains	7	2	E		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
North Central Athletic	3	1	E		Lines 13-16			
Northern Carolina	3	1	E					
Tar Roanoke	8	2	E					
Three Rivers	2	1	E					
Big Smoky Mtn	7	2	W	West - 15 Auto	#1 Berths			
Central Tar Heel	8	2	W	West - 1 WC	Lines 1 - 9			
Little Smoky Mtn	5	1	W		#2 Berths			
Mountain Valley	4	1	W		Lines 10 - 14			
Northwest	6	1	W		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
PAC 7	8	2	W		Lines 15 - 16			
Southern Piedmont	7	2	W					
Western Highlands	3	1	W					
Yadkin Valley	9	3	W					

## 2A

Conference	Teams	Automatic Berths	E/W	Total Berths	Bracket Line Placements	Draw Procedure	Sport Adjustments	Football Subdivisions
Coastal 8	5	1	E	East - 15 Auto	#1 Berths	Once the 16 teams are determined in each region (East/West), the NCHSAA Staff will utilize this pre-determined draw procedure to set the finalized bracket.  1. Draws for the line placement of berths will occur in alphabetical order of conference names in the region.  2. All #1 berths will be drawn first, followed by #2 berths, followed by any #3 berths and wildcard teams.  3. Whenever possible, competition between conference opponents in the 1st round will be avoided. This may require the removal of a line placement draw possibility for a given team	Automatic Berths listed on this document are based upon the premise that all teams in the conference are participating in a given sport (same classification in split conferences).  Each bracketed sport will have varying automatic berths per conference based on the following formula:  <u>Conference Teams Participating in the Given Sport:</u>  1 - 6 Schools - 1 Automatic Berth 7 - 8 Schools - 2 Automatic Berths 9+ Schools - 3 Automatic Berths	Subdivisions of classifications will be used for the 2020-21 football playoffs (1A, 1AA, 2A, 2AA, 3A, 3AA, 4A, 4AA).  Berths will be awarded based on the procedure indicated in the previous column prior to the subdivision of teams.  Once the 32 teams in each classification are finalized, schools in a given classification will split into 2 distinct subdivisions based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school.  Each subdivision will have 16 total teams (8 East/8 West) with teams placed on lines based on conference finish.
East Central	7	2	E	East - 1 WC	Lines 1 - 10			
Eastern Carolina	7	2	E		#2 Berths			
Eastern Plains	6	1	E		Lines 11 - 15			
Mid-State	7	2	E		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
Mid-State Athletic	2	1	E		Line 16			
Northeastern Coastal	6	1	E					
Northern Carolina	4	1	E					
PAC-7	7	2	E		#1 Berths			
Three Rivers	7	2	E		Lines 1 - 9			
Central Carolina	10	3	W	West - 15 Auto	#2 Berths			
Mountain Six	6	1	W	West - 1 WC	Lines 10 - 14			
Mountain Valley	4	1	W		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
Northwestern Foothills	8	2	W		Lines 15 - 16			
Rocky River	5	1	W					
South Fork Athletic	8	2	W					
Southwestern Athletic	7	2	W					
Western Highlands	3	1	W					
Western Piedmont	8	2	W					

## 3A

Conference	Teams	Automatic Berths	E/W	Total Berths	Bracket Line Placements	Draw Procedure	Sport Adjustments	Football Subdivisions
Big East	6	1	E	East - 12 Auto	#1 Berths	Once the 16 teams are determined in each region (East/West), the NCHSAA Staff will utilize this pre-determined draw procedure to set the finalized bracket.  1. Draws for the line placement of berths will occur in alphabetical order of conference names in the region.  2. All #1 berths will be drawn first, followed by #2 berths, followed by any #3 berths and wildcard teams.  3. Whenever possible, competition between conference opponents in the 1st round will be avoided. This may require the removal of a line placement draw possibility for a given team	Automatic Berths listed on this document are based upon the premise that all teams in the conference are participating in a given sport (same classification in split conferences).  Each bracketed sport will have varying automatic berths per conference based on the following formula:  <u>Conference Teams Participating in the Given Sport:</u>  1 - 6 Schools - 1 Automatic Berth 7 - 8 Schools - 2 Automatic Berths 9+ Schools - 3 Automatic Berths	Subdivisions of classifications will be used for the 2020-21 football playoffs (1A, 1AA, 2A, 2AA, 3A, 3AA, 4A, 4AA).  Berths will be awarded based on the procedure indicated in the previous column prior to the subdivision of teams.  Once the 32 teams in each classification are finalized, schools in a given classification will split into 2 distinct subdivisions based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school.  Each subdivision will have 16 total teams (8 East/8 West) with teams placed on lines based on conference finish.
Big Eight	8	2	E	East - 4 WC	Lines 1 - 10			
Coastal	6	1	E		#2 Berths			
Eastern Carolina	5	1	E		Lines 11 - 12			
Greater Neuse	6	1	E		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
Mid-Piedmont	7	2	E		Lines 13 - 16			
Mid-State	6	1	E					
Mideastern	5	1	E					
Patriot Athletic	6	1	E					
Tri-County	6	1	E					
Big South	7	2	W	West - 13 Auto	#1 Berths			
North Piedmont	6	1	W	West - 3 WC	Lines 1 - 8			
Northwestern	5	1	W		#2 Berths			
Piedmont Triad	6	1	W		Lines 9 - 12			
Rocky River	1	1	W		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
South Piedmont	7	2	W		Lines 13 - 16			
Southern Carolina	8	2	W					
Western Mountain	9	3	W					

## 4A

Conference	Teams	Automatic Berths	E/W	Total Berths	Bracket Line Placements	Draw Procedure	Sport Adjustments	Football Subdivisions
CAP-7	7	2	E	East - 10 Auto	#1 Berths	Once the 16 teams are determined in each region (East/West), the NCHSAA Staff will utilize this pre-determined draw procedure to set the finalized bracket.  1. Draws for the line placement of berths will occur in alphabetical order of conference names in the region.  2. All #1 berths will be drawn first, followed by #2 berths, followed by any #3 berths and wildcard teams.  3. Whenever possible, competition between conference opponents in the 1st round will be avoided. This may require the removal of a line placement draw possibility for a given team	Automatic Berths listed on this document are based upon the premise that all teams in the conference are participating in a given sport (same classification in split conferences).  Each bracketed sport will have varying automatic berths per conference based on the following formula:  <u>Conference Teams Participating in the Given Sport:</u>  1 - 6 Schools - 1 Automatic Berth 7 - 8 Schools - 2 Automatic Berths 9+ Schools - 3 Automatic Berths	Subdivisions of classifications will be used for the 2020-21 football playoffs (1A, 1AA, 2A, 2AA, 3A, 3AA, 4A, 4AA).  Berths will be awarded based on the procedure indicated in the previous column prior to the subdivision of teams.  Once the 32 teams in each classification are finalized, schools in a given classification will split into 2 distinct subdivisions based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) of the school.  Each subdivision will have 16 total teams (8 East/8 West) with teams placed on lines based on conference finish.
Eastern Carolina	2	1	E	East - 6 WC	Lines 1 - 7			
Mideastern	3	1	E		#2 Berths			
Northern	6	1	E		Lines 8 - 10			
Patriot	3	1	E		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
Sandhills	8	2	E		Lines 11 - 16			
South Wake	7	2	E					
Central Piedmont	6	1	W	West - 11 Auto	#1 Berths			
I-Meck	8	2	W	West - 5 WC	Lines 1 - 7			
Metro	5	1	W		#2 Berths			
Northwestern	2	1	W		Lines 8 - 11			
So Meck 7	7	2	W		#3 Berths & Wildcards			
Southwestern	8	2	W		Lines 12 - 16			
Triangle 8	8	2	W					



## 2020-21 Men's and Women's Golf State Championships

OPTION 2		
7 Courses	Different Site	Different Day
Course	Monday	Tuesday
Pinehurst No. 2	4A Boys	
Pinehurst No. 6	2A Boys	
Pinehurst No. 1		4A Girls
Pinehurst No. 8		1A/2A Girls
Longleaf	3A Boys	
Foxfire	1A Boys	
Beacon Ridge		3A Girls

Pre-Covid		
Boys	Girls	Total
84		84
84		84
	78	78
	78	78
84		84
84		84
	78	78

Staff Proposal		
Boys (57.1%)	Girls (57.7%)	Total
48		48
48		48
	45	45
	45	45
48		48
48		48
	45	45

Committee Proposal		
Boys (71.4%)	Girls (57.7%)	Total
60		60
60		60
	45	45
	45	45
60		60
60		60
	45	45

## Men's Golf Post-Season

### Staff Proposal

#### **Regional Qualifiers**

- 1) Teams
  - a. Qualifiers from a conference is based on the following formula:
    1. 1-6 Teams = 1 Automatic Berth
    2. 7-8 Teams = 2 Automatic Berths
    3. 9+ Teams = 3 Automatic Berths
  - b. One team from the independent members will qualify and be assigned to the regional closest to their location.
- 2) Individuals
  - a. Men's individual regional qualifiers are the top four individuals from a conference, not on one of the qualifying teams (must compete only as individuals).
  - b. One medalist (not on the qualifying team) from the independent members will qualify and be assigned to the regional closest to their location.

#### **Regional Scoring Format**

All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 4 players can score as a team with their best 4 scores.

#### **State Championship Qualifiers**

12 golfers per regional will advance to the state championship:

- 1) Top 2 teams automatically qualify with the best 4 scores.
- 2) Top 4 individuals not on a qualifying team.
- 3) If a school does not finish in the top 2, but qualifies at least 4 individuals, that school will also advance to the state championship as a team.
- 4) A top 2 team could still qualify player #5, if among the top 4 individuals qualifying.

#### **State Championship Scoring Format**

48 total players. All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 4 players can score as a team with their best 4 scores.

**Men's Golf**  
Post-Season

NC Golf Coaches Association Proposal

**Regional Qualifiers**

- 1) Teams
  - a. Qualifiers from a conference is based on the following formula:
    1. 1-6 Teams = 1 Automatic Berth
    2. 7-8 Teams = 2 Automatic Berths
    3. 9+ Teams = 3 Automatic Berths
  - b. One team from the independent members will qualify and be assigned to the regional closest to their location.
- 2) Individuals
  - a. Top **five** individuals from a conference, not on one of the qualifying teams.
  - b. One medalist (not on the qualifying team) from the independent members will qualify and be assigned to the regional closest to their location.

**Regional Scoring Format**

All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 4 players can score as a team with their best 4 scores.

**State Championship Qualifiers**

**15** golfers per regional will advance to the state championship:

- 1) Top **2** teams automatically qualify with the best 4 scores.
- 2) Top **7** individuals not on a qualifying team.
- 3) If a school does not finish in the top **2**, but qualifies at least **4** individuals, that school will also advance to the state championship as a team.
- 4) A top **2** team could still qualify player #5, if among the top **4** individuals qualifying.

**State Championship Scoring Format**

**60** total players. All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 4 players can score as a team with their best 4 scores.

## Women's Golf

### Post-Season

#### NCHSAA Staff Proposal

#### **Regional Qualifiers**

- 1) Teams
  - a. Conference champions will receive an automatic berth.
    - i. Top 3 players on the team.
    - ii. Players 4 and 5 may qualify through the Individual Qualifying Standard.
- 2) Individuals
  - a. 1A/2A and 3A - Golfers must average a 55.0 or better for 9 holes during regular season high school matches.
  - b. 4A - Golfers must average a 50.0 or better for 9 holes during regular season high school matches.
  - c. The average score will be calculated using the best **three (3)** 9-hole scores from throughout the season.  
**Triple Bogey Rule** will apply.

#### **Regional Scoring Format**

##### **45 players and ties:**

- Team conference champions
- Remainder of the field will be based on best 3 9-hole scoring average.

All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 3 players can score as a team with their best 3 scores.

#### **State Championship Qualifiers**

**15** golfers per regional will advance to the state championship:

- 1) Top **2** teams automatically qualify with the best 3 scores.
- 2) Top **9** individuals not on a qualifying team.
- 3) If a school does not finish in the top **2**, but qualifies at least 3 individuals, that school will also advance to the state championship as a team.
- 4) A top **2** team could still qualify players #4 and #5, if among the top **9** individuals qualifying.

#### **State Championship Scoring Format**

**45** total players. All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 3 players can score as a team with their best 3 scores.

## Women's Golf

### Post-Season

#### NC Golf Coaches Association Proposal

#### Regional Qualifiers

- 1) Teams
  - a. Conference champions will receive an automatic berth.
    - i. Top 3 players on the team.
    - ii. Players 4 and 5 may qualify through the Individual Qualifying Standard.
- 2) Individuals
  - a. 1A/2A - Golfers must average a **55.0** or better for 9 holes during regular season high school matches.
  - b. 3A - Golfers must average a **52.5** or better for 9 holes during regular season high school matches.
  - c. 4A - Golfers must average a 50.0 or better for 9 holes during regular season high school matches.
  - d. The average score will be calculated using the best **three (3)** 9-hole scores from throughout the season.  
**Triple Bogey Rule** will apply.

#### Regional Scoring Format

**45 players and ties:**

- Team conference champions
- Remainder of the field will be based on best 3 9-hole scoring average.

All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 3 players can score as a team with their best 3 scores.

#### State Championship Qualifiers

**15** golfers per regional will advance to the state championship:

- 1) Top **2** teams automatically qualify with the best 3 scores.
- 2) Top **9** individuals not on a qualifying team.
- 3) If a school does not finish in the top **2**, but qualifies at least 3 individuals, that school will also advance to the state championship as a team.
- 4) A top **2** team could still qualify players #4 and #5, if among the top **9** individuals qualifying.

#### State Championship Scoring Format

**45** total players. All players score as individuals. Schools with at least 3 players can score as a team with their best 3 scores.