

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

The spring meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 9:04 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton RTP. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner. Michael Gainey and John Luciano were absent.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent due to State Board of Education meeting commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Tavares Toomer, Chiquana Dancy, and Pepper Hines.

The minutes from the Winter 2020 Board meeting and special called meetings since December 2020 were submitted for approval; motion by Jackson to accept as presented, second by Lindsey. Approved 16-0, with one abstention.

<b>2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS HANDLED SINCE NOVEMBER 16, 2020, AND BEFORE APRIL 16, 2021</b>
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**NCHSAA MEMBERSHIP**

1. **ASCEND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:** Accepted NCHSAA membership application from Ascend Leadership Academy, effective 2021-22 school year.

**HARDSHIPS**

1. **REQUEST:**
  - a. Approved 23/60 requests based on mutual agreement and not for athletic purposes.
  - b. Denied 37/60 requests due to boundary criteria.
    - i. 2 were appealed to the Hardship Committee, and both were Overturned/Approved.

**TRANSFERS**

1. **FIRST TIME TRANSFER REQUEST:**
  - a. Approved 75/76 requests based on mutual agreement and not for athletic purposes.
  - b. Denied 1/76 requests due to boundary criteria.
    - i. 1 was appealed to the Transfer Committee, and it was Upheld/Denied.
      - a. Transfer Committee Authorized: 2

The Board heard the report on the consent agenda from Brad Alford. No items had further discussion requested. Motion to approve by Toguchi, second by Morgan. Approved 16-0.

**Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Tucker addressed the Board, discussing updates on the legislative inquiry into the Association's operations. The Commissioner also highlighted how appreciative she has been of having the support of the Board of Directors over the course of the last several months. Discussed the opportunity to improve communication with member schools about what an endowment is and how they work, providing better financial transparency and clarity to our member schools.

Requested the Board consider whether or not to host an NCAA Scholastic Team Event, around the weekend of June 19th. Motion to support the conduct of an NCAA Scholastic Team Event in June, operated by the NC Basketball Coaches Association, motion by Toguchi, second by Blankenship. Approved 16-0.

**FINANCE/PERSONNEL:** chairperson Bobby Wilkins, Jerry Simmons, Brian Edkins, Cathy Moore, Masanori Toguchi and Wendell Hall (absent). Staff advisors Que Tucker and Karen DeHart.

**POLICY:** chairperson John Luciano, Michael Gainey, Mark Byrd, Fred Lynch, Joy Warner, and Burt Jenkins. Staff advisor Brad Alford.

**REVIEW/OFFICIATING:** chairperson Rob Jackson, Chris Blanton, Mark Garrett, Troy Lindsey, and David Brown. Staff advisor Mark Dreibelbis.

**SPORTS:** chairperson Neil Blankenship, Ronnie Beverly, Tod Morgan, Stephen Gainey, Vernon Aldridge and Joe Franks. Staff advisors Tra Waters and Chiquana Dancy.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Jimmy Tillman, chairperson and system Athletic Director for Wilson County Schools, made the presentation on behalf of the committee. Tillman thanked the Board of Directors for their hard work and efforts. He noted how

proud he was to be a member of this Association and how the member schools have successfully navigated the challenges this year with COVID-19. Will submit the following recommendations for Board of Directors Officers and Members pending consideration by the membership at the Annual Meeting on Thursday:

1. Elect as President, Bobby Wilkins, Principal of Hendersonville High School.
2. Elect as Vice-President, Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent of Carteret County Schools.
3. Elect as Past-President, Jerry Simmons, Principal of New Bern High School.
4. Re-elect to finish a three-year term, Tod Morgan, Principal of Jones Senior High School, Region 2, class 1A.
5. Elect for a four-year term, Tanya Turner, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, in Region 1, class 1A.
6. Elect for a four-year term, Chad Duncan, Athletic Director of Gaston County Schools, in Region 6, class 2A.
7. Elect for a four-year term, Brian Carver, Athletic Director of Enka High School, in Region 8, class 3A.

Motion from the floor to affirm the decision to suspend the endowment game concept indefinitely by Wilkins, seconded by Jackson. Approved 16-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The Board heard reports out of each committee relative to the agenda items set forth for each group. Discussion ensued. The Board discussed adding catastrophic insurance premium payment for sanctioned sports as a member benefit. Made clear that the catastrophic insurance premium payment by the Association should only be for sports with a championship conducted by the NCHSAA and cheerleading. Discussed solidifying standing Board and Staff operations as written policy in the area of endowment disbursement and operational reserves. Spent an extended period of time debating SMAC recommendation for an additional dead period between June 28 and July 3. Many felt that student-athletes had been away from conditioning and weight training long enough and had heard concerns from coaches about the higher frequency of injuries this year. Understood the need for a break for athletic trainers and first responders, especially those that are school-based and working long hours teaching and covering events and practice in the compressed seasons.

After committee reports, the Board adjourned for the day at 3:15 p.m.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

The spring meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 8:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton RTP. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner. Michael Gainey and John Luciano were absent.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent due to State Board of Education meeting commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Tavares Toomer, Chiquana Dancy, and Pepper Hines.

**SAAC REPORT:** Rachel Bowers from Research Triangle High School presented on behalf of the group. Highlighted the turbulent year but highlighted how grateful student-athletes have been for the hard work of Principals, Athletic Directors and other administrators in offering a season. Noted several community service projects conducted by SAAC, from clothing and food drives to tournaments and other fundraisers. SAAC will not hold a Student Leadership Conference this year but highlighted the numerous ways SAAC has tried to engage student-athletes across the state. Group hopes to be able to offer the Conference again next year.

**HARDSHIP APPEAL:** Sun Valley High School appealed a decision of the Staff that was upheld by the Hardship Committee upon initial appeal for Matt Schaepele. The Hardship Committee recused themselves from questions, discussion or voting on the appeal. The appeal was conducted by vice president, Bobby Wilkins. Sun Valley was represented by Mike Harvey, Principal, Mr. Schaepele, Troy King, AD at Sun Valley, Mark Strickland, Union County Public Schools Superintendent, Jeff Stack, Baseball Coach at Sun Valley.

After discussion, Wilkins called the question of whether to uphold the Hardship Committee and Staff decision. Decision was upheld 9-2.

**NC ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION:** Vernon Aldridge presented on behalf of the group. Noted how refreshing it has been to be face-to-face for the last few days. Association has worked with AD's across the state, presenting the "Transformational Leadership" series, discussing leadership and building successful programs. They have tried to provide professional development and educational opportunities for Athletic Directors during the pandemic. Making plans to host a summer leadership academy in Greensboro, during the week of the Coaches' Clinic. They also plan to honor Hall of Fame inductees and award winners in Greensboro this summer. Highlighted the benefits of membership for athletic directors. Noted the National AD Conference in December in Denver, CO and the state conference April 2-5, 2022 in Wilmington.

**NC COACHES ASSOCIATION:** Joe Franks addressed the Board on behalf of the group. Commended the Board for getting together in person. Discussed the ways the NCCA has had to lean on other partner organizations like the NCADA, NOCAD and other groups to navigate the pandemic. NC will host the National NOCAD conference in January. Neil Blankenship will serve as the incoming vice president for the NCCA. Will have an in-person Coaches Clinic for 2021 with some modifications. Plan to send registration out next week and notification that there will not be a trade show for this year. Pre-registration will be required for former and current members. They will offer new registration only in Greensboro. Conference will only be three days instead of four with state rules sessions moved online. Encouraged the Board to keep getting back to normal.

**REGIONAL SUPERVISORS/OFFICIALS REPORT:** David Brown, supervisor of officials for the Piedmont Basketball Officials' Association, addressed the board on behalf of the group. Noted one regional supervisor that has 2200 changes due to COVID. Highlighted the ways that regional supervisors grew as leaders, adapting to needs and changes. Challenged the Board to step up to the plate in the way we address the demographic shift in officiating. Asked them not to be lukewarm about doing new things to help recruitment and retention of new officials like a credited officiating class for students, etc. When you lead, almost everything you do should be to better someone else.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:** Burt Jenkins presented on behalf of the Department. Noted that the DPI Staff has not been in the building yet after COVID. Targeting June and July for a return to the office. Thanked the Board for their support of their middle school programs across the state. Discussed the challenges we all face right now and noted that much of the difficulties we face are created by a very small minority of the population. Aske the Board to remember the many we do not hear from that are appreciative of the way that thing have been done and have been impacted in a positive way by the work of the Association.

**NC STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION:** Wendell Hall was not able to attend due to State Board of Education commitments.

**SPORTS:** chairperson Neil Blankenship, Ronnie Beverly, Tod Morgan, Stephen Gainey, Vernon Aldridge and Joe Franks. Staff advisors Tra Waters and Chiquana Dancy.

1. Proposal by the Triangle 8 Conference to change the first contest date of basketball in the 2021-2022 sports calendar from November 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> did not emerge from committee.

2. Recommendation to increase the number of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students allowed to utilize the 8-quarter rule in a given season for 3A and 4A schools to ten (10), motion by Blankenship, seconded by Blanton. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Committee amended a proposal from the Big South Conference to include 4A in the motion.
3. Proposal by the NC Basketball Coaches Association to allow 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in five (5) quarters of basketball games on the same day did not emerge from committee.
  - a. Board requested staff and Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) review daily limitations for basketball, lacrosse, and soccer.
4. Recommendation to extend the scratch period from 30 minutes after the conclusion of each regional competition to 3:00 p.m. on the Monday before the State Championship Competitions, motion by Blankenship, seconded by Toguchi. Approved 16-0.
5. Recommendation to require all NCHSAA member schools fielding a Swimming & Diving team to register user accounts with NCPrepSwimming.com by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year at the cost of \$20 per year, effective with the 2021-2022 school year, motion by Blankenship, seconded by Wilkins. Approved 16-0.
6. Proposal by the NC Track and Cross Country Coaches Association to change the qualifying procedure to the State Cross Country Championship meet did not emerge from committee.

**FINANCE/PERSONNEL:** chairperson Bobby Wilkins, Jerry Simmons, Brian Edkins, Cathy Moore, Masanori Toguchi and Wendell Hall (absent). Staff advisors Que Tucker and Karen DeHart.

1. Review and discussion of 2020-2021 budget versus actual revenues and expenses through March 31, 2021.
2. Review and discussion of 2020-2021 financial report relative to sports comparisons from previous year(s).
3. Recommendation to approve 60% NCHSAA, 40% participating schools gate split for football championship finals, motion by Wilkins, second by Wilkins. Approved 16-0.
  - a. State Championship financial breakdowns determined at a later date for remaining sports.
4. Review and discussion of investment accounts based on market perspectives from management groups and quarterly statement ending March 31, 2021.
5. Review and discussion of the use of fine monies for partial reimbursement of courses towards AIC and/or CIC certification for coaches.
6. Review and discussion of an update of 2019-2020 Grants and 2020-2021 Grant request including applications, awards and projects funded.
7. Review and discussion of funds provided to schools through COVID Athletic Program Subsidy (CAPS).
8. Review and discussion of status of TPG partnership and new partnership sales.
9. Review and discussion of handling of playoff streaming fees.
10. Recommendation to consolidate the existing endowment funds into one money management firm, The Fordham Group, Morgan Stanley and establish an Endowment Review Committee to work with the Finance & Personnel Committee, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 16-0.
11. Recommendation to adopt a Spending Policy which outlines parameters for distribution of Board Designated interest earnings from the General Endowment Fund, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Jackson, Approved 16-0.
12. Recommendation to continue Student Services Program and integrate funding for Student Services programming into the annual operating budget, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Morgan, approved 16-0.
13. Recommendation to approve the following items as a motion by Wilkins, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Affirm suspension of endowment game concept indefinitely.
  - b. Revise the NCHSAA gate share percentages as follows:
    - i. Lacrosse First Round revise from 15% share to 0% share
    - ii. Lacrosse Third Round revise from 25% share to 15% share.
    - iii. Dual Team Wrestling First and Second Round revise from 15% to 0%
    - iv. Dual Team Tennis State Finals round implement 25% revenue share with participating schools.
  - c. Implement travel reimbursement for Dual Team Tennis.
    - i. Travel paid at the rate of \$0.05 per mile for each qualifier, including coach, up to a maximum of \$0.35, effective July 1, 2021.
14. Review and discussion of personnel matters
  - a. Jonathan Leonard, Assistant Director for Business & Finance, has submitted resignation effective April 28, 2021 to take a position with a company in RTP.
  - b. Annual review of NCHSAA Employee Handbook policies is underway.
  - c. Insurance bids are underway through Marsh & McLennan for Association employee and organization's insurance for 2021-2022.
15. Recommendation to approve a revision of the Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy from \$500 to \$2500 effective July 1, 2021, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Stephen Gainey. Approved 16-0.
16. Recommendation for the NCHSAA to assume coverage of catastrophic insurance premiums as a membership benefit for member schools for sanctioned sports and cheerleading, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Beverly. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Sanctioned sports are as follows Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Football, Men's Soccer, Women's Volleyball, Women's Golf, Women's Tennis, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Swimming & Diving, Women's Swimming & Diving, Wrestling, Baseball, Men's Lacrosse, Women's Lacrosse, Men's Golf, Men's Tennis, Softball, Men's Track & Field, Women's Track & Field, and Women's Soccer.

**POLICY:** Fred Lynch served as chairperson in Luciano's absence, Mark Byrd, Fred Lynch, Joy Warner, and Burt Jenkins. Staff advisor Brad Alford. Chairperson John Luciano and committee member Michael Gainey were absent.

1. Proposal from Cabarrus County Schools to have the NCHSAA fully govern cheerleading did not emerge from committee. Board is requesting NCHSAA Staff survey member schools to determine their preferences relative to the classification status of cheerleading.
2. Proposal from Cabarrus County Schools on winter sports season academic eligibility did not emerge from committee.
3. Recommendation to prevent equipment from being worn that would require a Licensed Athletic Trainer or First Responder to be present during the week of June 28-July 3, 2021, motion by Laney, second by Blankenship. Approved 15-1.
  - a. Board amended a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee proposal requesting an additional dead period.
4. Proposal from the Football Coaches Association to establish a fine for a school that does not cast a vote on an amendment change did not emerge from committee. Board is requesting for better and more frequent communication with AD's when information is sent to Principals for voting items.
5. Review and discussion of the non-athletic calendar.
6. Recommendation from SMAC to approve revision to modified sports manual to follow CDC guidance that a fully vaccinated student-athlete, coach, or athletic staff member who has had direct exposure does not need to quarantine or test for COVID-19 unless they exhibit symptoms, effective April 28, 2021, motion by Lynch, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 16-0.

**REVIEW/OFFICIATING:** chairperson Rob Jackson, Chris Blanton, Mark Garrett, Troy Lindsey, and David Brown. Staff advisor Mark Dreibelbis.

1. Recommendation to approve the comprehensive listing of incidents per school, motion by Jackson, second by Lindsey. Approved 16-0.
2. Review and discussion of the ejection report to date.
3. Recommendation to change Handbook regulation 3.3.2 (f)(2) as a one-year pilot program, motion by Jackson, seconded by Edkins. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Delete "must be 18 years of age and not in high school."
  - b. Recommend the officials only be utilized in middle school and private school contests.
4. Review and discussion of a potential change from ArbiterSports to DragonFly in 2022-2023.
5. Recommendation to approve the below Regional Supervisor appointments effective April 28, 2021 by Jackson, seconded by Moore. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Scott Arbena – Asheville Women's Lacrosse
  - b. Bryan Yates – WNC Football
  - c. Eric Usher – WNC Soccer
  - d. Cindy Christie – Mountain West Volleyball
  - e. Greg Fogleman – Triangle Basketball
6. Review and discussion of all 2021-2022 State Rules Clinics for officials and coaches being conducted online.
7. Review and discussion of discontinuing state support of the Student Services "Coach Mentor Training Program" grant. NCHSAA will create a budget for the 2021-2022 academic year to ensure continued service to member schools.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Tucker provided the Board with updates relative to legislative inquiries and action into the business and finances of the NCHSAA. Provided an update to the Board relative to legislative questions about the NCHSAA's status as applies under the State Tort Claims Act of 1994. Highlighted that the definition of State Agency varies for different functions. Also noted that our auditors are very clear that the NCHSAA is not a private organization, but rather a public charity, subject to all federal and state regulations regarding public charities. Reminded the Board that legislators have even said that the Association has done nothing wrong, but we will continue to fight to do the most right we can for the students and member schools of North Carolina. Updated the Board that NFHS Section 3 has requested that Commissioner Tucker will serve out the one-year remaining term of Steve Savarese, Executive Director of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, on the National Federation of State High School Associations Board of Directors due to his retirement this summer. Publicly thanked President Simmons and vice-president Wilkins for their leadership and care this year.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Simmons remarked how good it has been to be together as a Board. Thanked the Board for the ways they have stepped up to make this year happen and particularly make this Board meeting happen face-to-face. Highlighted the language surrounding this year, but in all the challenges, remarked about the opportunities to share our story and reflect on what we are doing. Challenged the Board to continue to be measured in their approach and data-driven with research in response to challenges. Stated how proud he was of what the Board has accomplished for this Association this year. Complemented the Board on how special they truly are.

The Board adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 29, 2021**

In accordance with Bylaw IV of the NCHSAA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Annual Meeting of the Association was held via the Zoom virtual platform due to COVID-19 and restrictions put in place by the governor of North Carolina. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and was brought to order by President Jerry Simmons who gave a word of welcome on behalf of the Board of Directors

**SAAC REPORT:** E.J. McArthur, senior from Jack Britt High School, presented on behalf of the Committee. Thanked the Staff, Board, and Chiquana Dancy for being able to be a part of the Student Athlete Advisory Council. Highlighted his opportunity to go to the Student Leadership Conference for the NFHS and his community service project to establish a food pantry for the members of his local community. He closed by recognizing his fellow graduating SAAC Members and Chiquana Dancy for her work with the group.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Simmons provided information about his time as Board President, said that we could focus on the challenges and failures of the last year, but he would prefer that we focus on the future and the strengths of an Association that serves hundreds of thousands of athletes and 421 member schools. Highlighted that athletic directors, athletic trainers, coaches and first responders are the ones who implemented the procedures and protocols that allowed us to reach the point where we are nearly able to complete a full sports season. Noted that the student-athletes are the real heroes this year, going the extra mile to carry themselves safely through the year at home, in school and in these programs. Thanked the NCCA, NCADA, DHHS, NCDPI, State Board of Education and a renewed partnership with the General Assembly as providing the support necessary to carry out a successful year for our student athletes.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Jimmy Tillman, System Athletic Director for Wilson County Schools, made the report to present the candidates for the 2021-2022 Board of Directors. Tillman noted that based on ByLaw IV of the NCHSAA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the membership at the Annual Meeting the following recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Elect as President, Bobby Wilkins, Principal of Hendersonville High School.
2. Elect as Vice-President, Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent of Carteret County Schools.
3. Elect as Past-President, Jerry Simmons, Principal of New Bern High School.
4. Re-elect to finish a three-year term to fulfill a full four-year term served, Tod Morgan, Principal of Jones Senior High School, Region 2, class 1A.
5. Elect for a four-year term, Tanya Turner, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, in Region 1, class 1A.
6. Elect for a four-year term, Chad Duncan, Athletic Director of Gaston County Schools, in Region 6, class 2A.
7. Elect for a four-year term, Brian Carver, Athletic Director of Enka High School, in Region 8, class 3A.

Tillman made the report from the Nominating Committee in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Doris Sellers, Principal for A.C. Reynolds High School. Tillman yielded the floor to Commissioner Tucker to conduct the vote. The motion was approved by a vote through the Zoom Virtual Platform polling mechanism with 82 yes votes, 1 nay votes.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Tucker gave her report, thanking the nominating committee for their work. She also thanked the members for their nominations and suggestions for individuals who could serve on the Board of Directors. Thanked the members for the work they have done this year to provide educational opportunities for students and young people this year. Commended the Board of Directors, particularly President Simmons, for the leadership and guidance they provided as well as many different times that they convened to respond to the pandemic on behalf of the member schools that the Board serves. Commissioner highlighted the Board of Directors decisions from this past year, first from the Winter 2020 meeting and then the Spring 2021 meeting. Particularly highlighted the COVID-19 Athletic Program Subsidy (CAPS) distribution of \$4,000,000 in Board designated endowed funds to schools, elimination of subdivision in football championships beginning with the 2021-2022 season, and final approval of the 2021-2025 Realignment Plan. For the Spring Meeting of the Board the Commissioner highlighted the changes to the eight-quarter participation rule for football, a pilot program for allowing high school students to register as officials, modifications to the guidance on COVID-19 exposure for vaccinated individuals, updates to NCHSAA Gate Share percentages in Lacrosse, Dual Team Wrestling and Dual Team Tennis, and assuming financial coverage of catastrophic insurance premiums for cheerleading and NCHSAA sanctioned sports, effective 2021-2022 school year. Commissioner announced that in accordance with announced changes by Governor Cooper yesterday, starting Friday, masks will be optional for outdoor sports participants.

Once Commissioner Tucker concluded her remarks yielding the floor back to President Simmons who adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE ACTION ITEMS  
BETWEEN SPRING 2021 MEETING & WINTER 2021 MEETING**

1. On May 26, 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously approved the following motion:  
East Carteret High School is the only 2A team in a 1A/2A Split Conference. As a condition of their Realignment appeal to be placed in this conference, playoff qualifications would be based on specific conditions. The following requirements are recommended, which are based on recent requirements for a member school playing as the only school in its half of a split conference:
  - Must finish in top 2 of conference, and/or have an overall winning record percentage of .500 or better to secure an automatic bid into the playoffs.
  - If not in top 2, or do not finish with a .500 record, could qualify as a wildcard entry based on RPI rating.**Wrestling - Dual Team Qualification**
  - Must finish in 1<sup>st</sup> place overall to receive an automatic berth
  - If the team finished outside of the parameter above, they will be considered for a wildcard berth**Tennis – Individual Participant Qualification**
  - Automatic berth for #1 singles and #1 doubles team in tennis.Other individual sports, must qualify by approved standards in each sport
2. On May 26, 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion affirming the allowance permitting Smoky Mountain Conference schools to continue the practice of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students playing with a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grad team in football only.
  - a) Language referencing junior high school teams was eliminated from the handbook during the spring meeting of 2013, though the Board took no action to eliminate the practice in the Smoky Mountain Conference.
3. On May 26, 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to reduce the ticket prices for the regional wrestling tournament to \$8 and for the state wrestling tournament to \$10 for the 2021 tournaments only.
  - a) Decision due to wrestling in high school gyms with no “wrestle backs” and a reduced field of participants due to COVID-19 protocols.
4. On June 9, 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to approve playoff and state championship financial arrangements in sports other than football.
  - a) Wrestling and Track & Field regional championships will allow the host school to keep 50 percent of the gate and the NCHSAA will receive 50 percent of the gate. There will be no \$1.00 surcharge for tickets.
  - b) In softball championships held at member schools, after expenses, participating schools share all net revenue and receive travel reimbursement. The host school will receive money for hosting plus all expenses are to be paid by NCHSAA.
  - c) In women’s soccer championships held at member schools, after expenses, participating schools share all net revenue and receive travel reimbursement. The host school will receive money for hosting plus all expenses are to be paid by NCHSAA.
  - d) In baseball championships, scheduled for two neutral sites; there will be full spectator allowances and the NCHSAA will receive a 60 percent share while participating schools split the remaining 40 percent. Participating schools will also receive travel reimbursements.
  - e) In Track & Field State Championships, held at their usual site, the NCHSAA receives 100 percent of any revenue. Participating schools with students participating will receive extra individual travel reimbursement.
  - f) In Wrestling State Championships, being hosted at member schools, the NCHSAA receives 100 percent of any revenue. Host schools will receive a stipend for hosting. The individual travel reimbursement for schools will participating students will be remitted as usual.
5. On June 9, 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to move the women’s soccer championship to June 3-4, 2022. This change was made in response to coach feedback to provide an equal season length with men’s soccer. Previously, staff had shortened the women’s season after feedback from coaches who felt the State Championships should not be held on Memorial Day weekend.
6. On June 10, 2021, the Executive Committee unanimously approved an extension to the 2021 Baseball regular season, delaying the reporting deadline by 24 hours due to inclement weather across the state during the final week of the season.
7. On June 22, 2021, the Executive Committee unanimously approved a request from North Carolina Shrine Bowl Coaches to allow a Shrine Bowl Combine on July 20, 2021, during the dead period.
8. On August 19, 2021, the Board of Directors unanimously approved a recommendation to cover \$230,754.02 shortfall on 7% Board-Designated General Endowment Funds distribution by utilizing Association Program Reserve funds which are unrestricted assets (non-endowment funds). Board-Designated General Endowment Fund distribution would cover \$1,370,853.63.
9. On November 12, 2021, after several rounds of email discussion, the Board of Directors approved a motion by Mark Byrd, seconded by Rob Jackson to authorize Association Legal Counsel to send a statement indicating the NCHSAA does not oppose the passage of HB 91 as revised. Motion approved 18-1.
10. On November 12, 2021, after numerous threads of email discussion, the Board of Directors approved a motion by Mark Byrd, seconded by Rob Jackson to approve the language for a preliminary press release about HB 91, understanding that the legislative advisors for the Association would be asked to help determine the appropriate time for its release. Motion approved 18-1.

- a) The press release will be held until a time to be determined by Staff and lobbyists based on the progression of legislative action with HB 91 in the North Carolina General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Alverson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner



**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
Sunday, July 25, 2021**

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Bobby Wilkins at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Rob Jackson, Tanya Turner, Brian Carver, Mark Byrd, Ronnie Beverly, Joy Warner, Mark Garrett, Michael Gainey, Chad Duncan, Stephen Gainey, Tod Morgan, Cathy Moore, Chris Blanton, and Troy Lindsey.

Affiliate members included David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association, Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, were absent due to State Board of Education meeting commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, and Chiquana Dancy.

The new Board Members introduced themselves. The Commissioner welcomed them and provided the Board an update on HB 91, a bill in the NC Senate to dissolve the NCHSAA. Provided update on a proposed amendment. Board members discussed various legislative options and what they were hearing from their legislative contacts. Many expressed a desire to fight the legislation, though expressing some reservations because of many factors. Some expressed major reservations about fighting and gambling that the NCHSAA would lose when the votes come out, which would impact the kids in NCHSAA programs.

The Board agreed by consensus that they should solicit amendment language from NCHSAA legislative advisors to see what type of amendment language to the bill may be palatable to legislators. After that information is received, the Board will discuss fighting the legislative involvement or working toward an amended bill.

Association attorneys will draft a template resolution for Boards of Education to consider.

Board discussed and asserted that the host school's LEA policy determines the mask requirement for contests.

The Commissioner also noted that Brian Edkins had passed away and the Board would be responsible for selecting a replacement for him from Region 4.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
Monday, August 9, 2021**

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Bobby Wilkins at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Rob Jackson, Brian Carver, Mark Byrd, Joy Warner, Mark Garrett, Chad Duncan, Stephen Gainey, Tod Morgan, Cathy Moore, Chris Blanton, and Troy Lindsey. Ronnie Beverly, Michael Gainey, and Tanya Turner were absent.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors were absent due to other commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, James Alverson, Tavares Toomer, Brad Alford, and Chiquana Dancy.

Motion by Simmons to approve recommendation from the Endowment Advisory Committee requesting the Board approve a 7% distribution of the General Endowment Fund total value using the ADM and ISP formula used for CAPS distribution in 2020-2021, seconded by Lindsey, approved unanimously.

Motion by Simmons to approve Endowment Advisory Committee recommendation to use a three-year average of ISP data in distribution formula, seconded by Lindsey, approved unanimously.

Motion by Simmons to approve Endowment Advisory Committee recommendation to combine the Health & Safety Fund, Coaches Education Fund, and Administrators Fund be combined into one fund, seconded by Jackson, approved unanimously. Schools will receive equal amounts of the 5% distribution and will need to provide proof that the funds were used for educational or health and safety purposes through an evaluation form submission.

Board considered a recommendation from staff to alter the Track and Field Championship schedule for 2021-2022 due to a facility scheduling conflict at North Carolina A&T. Reporting deadline would go to May 7, 2022. New date for regionals would be May 13-14. New date for State Championship would be May 20-21, 2022. Motion by Duncan, seconded by Jackson, approved unanimously.

The Board discussed ineligibility of students passing for the whole year but not for the Spring semester on a traditional calendar. Discussed trying to formally ask the State Board of Education to discuss this and make a policy or ruling. Commissioner also updated the Board on the Bylaws relative to filling the expired term of the late Brian Edkins. Board will look via email at Principals and Superintendents in Region 4 at the 3A level.

Motion by Jackson to pull a list of all 3A Principal or Superintendent from Region 4 to serve on the Board of Directors for a one-year expired term, seconded by Morgan, approved unanimously. Staff will reach out to each to determine whether they are willing to serve for a year before moving to Region 4 Principals for a vote.

Commissioner Tucker updated the Board about the legislative proceedings on HB 91. State Board of Education attorney has essentially told Association counsel that there will be legislation. Commissioner also highlighted still waiting to hear from State Board relative to changes in credit recovery policy that may render some students who have typically been eligible after summer school ineligible for the fall by not allowing credits to be applied to the most recent semester.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
Sunday, August 29, 2021**

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Bobby Wilkins at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Members in attendance included President Bobby Wilkins, Vice President Rob Jackson, Past President Jerry Simmons, Ronnie Beverly, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Cathy Moore, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, and Joy Warner. Members absent included Mark Garrett, Fred Lynch, and Andy McCormick.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association. David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, were absent due to other commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Karen DeHart, Chiquana Dancy, Mark Dreibelbis, and Tra Waters.

Bobby Wilkins opened the meeting letting Board members know that the Officers of the Board had a conversation on Saturday night about discussions between Association Staff and a Senator seeking to mediate HB 91 and try to amend the bill with language that the Association can work with. Commissioner Tucker provided the Board with a detailed timeline of events since the last meeting in July. She highlighted several areas that staff believed to be problematic in the amended version of HB 91 and notified the Board that the Association had not been involved in crafting any of these terms. Commissioner notified the Board that staff were approached by a Senator friendly to the Association and worked to craft an amendment that was less prescriptive than the current version of HB 91.

Moore asked a question as to the total temperature of the Board. She believed that the Board was fully opposed to any type of legislation, hoping that a memorandum will demonstrate there is not a need for legislation. She noted that in her conversations with the State Board and they believe that legislation will happen. Asked whether the Board should start working towards legislation that works for the Board, and not in straight opposition to any type of legislation regarding the NCHSAA.

The Board got updates on the legislative strategies behind working towards this amendment and what steps may be forthcoming.

Motion by Jackson to authorizing the Executive Committee and Staff to move forward in negotiations with Senators to craft the most favorable bill or amendments and work with the State Board on the MOU that is most favorable to the Association possible, seconded by Blanton. Motion approved unanimously 16-0.

Motion by Lindsey to resolve the Board is in full opposition to HB 91 sixth edition as passed in the Senate Education/Higher Education on Thursday, second by Morgan. Motion approved unanimously 16-0.

Motion by Stephen Gainey to resolve to authorize Commissioner Tucker to continue speaking and working on behalf of the Board of Directors relative to Association business, seconded by Michael Gainey. Motion approved unanimously 16-0.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
Sunday, September 26, 2021**

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Bobby Wilkins at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Members in attendance included President Bobby Wilkins, Past President Jerry Simmons, Ronnie Beverly, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Andy McCormick, Cathy Moore, Tod Morgan, and Joy Warner. Members absent included Vice President Rob Jackson, and Tanya Turner.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association. David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association, and Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association were absent due to other commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Karen DeHart, Chiquana Dancy, Mark Dreibelbis, and Tra Waters. Association attorneys Paul Sun and Kelly Dagger were also present in a consultation role.

The Commissioner provided an update to the Board on HB 91 and a meeting with legislators last week. She highlighted the lack of an agreement from the Association with all parties in the meeting, noted that legislators had released a statement that there had been an agreement, and about the Association's response to that statement. Association attorneys provided some counsel on strategy and legal interpretations surrounding HB 91, including what emergency rule making would provide the State Board of Education and the *Brentwood v. TSSAA* Supreme Court case relative to state actor status.

All areas of interscholastic athletics are currently available to the State Board of Education for the rule-making process. Emergency rulemaking would essentially short-circuit their rule-making process and implement reforms with much less input and public comment. Moore asked that the Association begin making comments at the end of each meeting with the legislature and go "on offense" rather than play defense as has been the case in most instances.

President Wilkins asked for a motion to have Association counsel request information from the State Board on what would emergency rules include. Lindsey made a motion to have Association counsel seek clarifying information about what specifically emergency rules would include if they were granted that authority, seconded by Duncan. Motion carries 17-0.

The meeting was adjourned without further business.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
Tuesday, October 5, 2021**

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Bobby Wilkins at 8:15 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Members in attendance included President Bobby Wilkins, Past President Jerry Simmons, Mark Byrd, Chad Duncan, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Tod Morgan, and Joy Warner. Members absent included Vice President Rob Jackson, Ronnie Beverly, Chris Blanton, Brian Carver, John Luciano, Andy McCormick, Cathy Moore, and Tanya Turner.

Affiliate members present included Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association, Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association. David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors and Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association were absent due to other commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Karen DeHart, and Chiquana Dancy. Association attorney Kelly Dagger was also present in a consultation role.

The Board discussed developments with HB 91 and the conference committee report from the General Assembly.

Lindsey motion to craft a letter/statement to members of the General Assembly and members of the NCHSAA opposing HB 91 following the conference committee report, seconded by Michael Gainey. Motion approved 11-0.

Board members expressed their desire for the letter or statement to be brief and factual in nature, while expressing clear opposition to HB 91.

The Commissioner and Sports Department Staff provided the Board with some brief updates on progress made with coaches associations relative to seeding playoff brackets in which MaxPreps is not currently capable of providing RPI Ratings.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING via Zoom  
Sunday, October 31, 2021**

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Bobby Wilkins at 7:33 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Members in attendance included President Bobby Wilkins, Vice President Rob Jackson, Past President Jerry Simmons, Ronnie Beverly, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Carver, Mark Garrett, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Cathy Moore, Tod Morgan, and Joy Warner. Members absent included Chad Duncan, John Luciano, Andy McCormick, and Tanya Turner.

Affiliate Members absent included Burt Jenkins representing the NC Department of Public Instruction, David Brown of representing Regional Supervisors and Officials, Vernon Aldridge representing the NC Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks representing the NC Coaches Association, and Wendell Hall representing the NC School Boards Association.

Staff present on the call included Commissioner Que Tucker, Tra Waters, Brad Alford, and Chiquana Dancy. Association legal counsel Paul Sun and Kelly Dagger were also present.

The Board of Directors discussed an upcoming meeting between the NCHSAA Board and the State Board of Education relative to negotiating an MOU, and which members of the NCHSAA Board should attend. The meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in Raleigh at the Education Building. It was discussed that Chairman Eric Davis, Vice Chairman Alan Duncan, Wendell Hall, and Attorney Allison Schafer from the State Board of Education would be in attendance representing the SBOE.

After some discussion, the Board agreed by consensus that members of the Executive Committee should represent the Board of Directors and the NCHSAA in the meeting along with Jerry Simmons, Commissioner Que Tucker and legal counsel Kelly Dagger and Paul Sun.

Following a decision on who would attend the meeting, general discussion ensued relative to the general climate within the Association. Staff provided an update to the Board on the seeding of the football playoffs which occurred on October 30, 2021.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING via Zoom  
Thursday, November 4, 2021**

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Bobby Wilkins at 7:33 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting. Members in attendance included President Bobby Wilkins, Past President Jerry Simmons, Ronnie Beverly, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Mark Garrett, Stephen Gainey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Moore, Tod Morgan. Members absent included Vice President Rob Jackson, Michael Gainey, Troy Lindsey, Andy McCormick, Tanya Turner, and Joy Warner.

Affiliate Member Burt Jenkins representing the NC Department of Public Instruction was present.

Staff present on the call included Commissioner Que Tucker, Tra Waters, Mark Dreibelbis, Brad Alford, Chiquana Dancy, and James Alverson. Association legal counsel Paul Sun and Kelly Dagger were also present.

Commissioner Tucker brought the Board up to speed on the meeting that several members of the Executive Committee and Association counsel had with the State Board of Education on Monday, November 1, 2021. She noted that the meeting did provide a little more clarity as to where the State Board of Education sits relative to HB 91 and the concerns addressed in the legislation. The Commissioner opened the discussion to Sun and Dagger, who outlined their thoughts on the meeting, including that the State Board has made it clear to them that they believe that the Association is only able to operate insofar as it is delegated authority by the State Board of Education. Sun and Dagger further stated they do not share the State Board's assertion that the NCHSAA does not have the authority to govern athletics, rather that the Association derives its authority from the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and has authority to enforce already passed State Board.

The Board representatives who were present at the meeting added their perspectives as well, echoing many of the same sentiments that Sun and Dagger had shared. Board members asked several questions about possible next steps for negotiation and potential resolution of the issues in HB 91. The Board discussed the strategy moving forward with HB 91 and an MOU with the State Board of Education. The Executive Committee will meet on a called Zoom with State Board representatives on Friday, November 5 to discuss some legislative developments.

The meeting adjourned with no formal resolution or actions at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner