

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING
Wednesday, November 30, 2023**

The winter meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Chris Blanton at 8:30 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included President Chris Blanton, Vice President Stephen Gainey, Past President Rob Jackson, Brian Carver, Paige Badgett, Chad Duncan, Mark Garrett, Sam Jones, Jerome Leathers, Andy McCormick, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, Larry Williford, Jim Butler, Don Phipps, Allen Plaster, and Henry Rice. Absent: John Williams

Affiliate members included Roy Turner representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, Brad Alford, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, and Pepper Hines.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: President Blanton began the meeting by welcoming all who were in person, and all schools and community members that were able to listen in or view on the live stream. Expressed appreciation for staff to prepare for the meeting and to legal counsel.

*Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented, Duncan seconded. **Motion approved 17-0 (Paige Badgett was absent during this vote).***

Brad Alford provided information related to the consent agenda for actions taken between 4/15/23 and 11/15/23 noting that membership numbers will be 440 with the 2024-2025 year (4 new schools); 30 hardship waivers were reviewed as a result of the State Board of Education changes in eligibility rules in October 2023 with 26 waivers approved; 48 requests for waivers were reviewed and all 48 were approved; all but 2 were relative to the scholastic requirements. Transfer waivers numbered 196 with 195 authorized, 6 with exceptions. There was 1 appeal to the State Board of Education which upheld the NCHSAA's decision.

Commissioner Tucker mentioned that the 4 new schools would become members effective 7/1/2024 if the Board approves their membership; all are charter schools.

*Morgan made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Garrett. **Motion approved 17-0. (Paige Badgett was absent during this vote).***

AUDIT REPORT: Rob Lewis and Andrea Eason from Blackman & Sloop, the NCHSAA's Independent Auditing firm, made a presentation of the group's findings. He provided an overview of the Association's finances in 2022-23 in comparison to the previous fiscal year, 2021-2022. The following points were noted: Investment values present the largest change as many of these were endowed funds and were moved over to the private 501C3 Foundation for management. A new lease standard dictates that any long-term leases now need to be capitalized on the balance sheet while previously, lease liabilities were listed in the footnotes.

Rob defined the various types of funds categorized under 'net' assets: Undesignated revenues are unrestricted and used for operating the association; Board designated funds were primarily the endowment funds which have been transferred to the new Foundation; funds with donor-restrictions are perpetuity restricted which is the endowment money of which only interest earnings can be spent; Playoff numbers are coming back post-covid. Member dues were less in 2021-22 because the association charged an administrative fee only and this year dues were charged. The association experienced investment losses in 2022, similar to other entities; the market this year shows a positive return which mainly affects the

endowment funds. Excluding investment revenue: \$4.6M operating revenue versus \$3.6M in the previous year. Without endowment related expenses, we experienced an operating loss of \$3,000.00 versus a loss of \$689,000.00 in 2021-2022.

Commissioner Tucker thanked Blackman & Sloop for their work in making the Association finances easily understandable.

Winter 2022 report - MARKET REPORT: Geoff Hudson and Jessica Standiford from The Fordham Group, the primary investment management firm for the NCHSAA, made a brief presentation regarding the market and various factors which impact the market's volatility. This year has been volatile with a strong rally in the first half of the year around Artificial Intelligence. Bonds have been close to flat as the federal reserve raises interest rates; in Oct./Nov. there was a 10% market correction. As the economy slows, the likelihood for recession increases. Day-to-day guessing as to the next year. Good news is that employment has been robust, consumers have been spending which positively affects companies' profits and growth. Credit card debt has escalated over a trillion dollars which is concerning and spending may slow. There's pressure in the lending market, especially in commercial real estate with many properties will have loans mature soon and rates will increase. More good news- bonds could provide solid returns over next few years. From a portfolio construction standpoint, we'll start to increase bond exposure and remain weightings to more speculative run ups in the market. Markets will continue on a roller coaster for the next 6-12 months with opportunities but also with risks.

Commissioner Tucker commented that former executive director, Charlie Adams, reached out to the Fordham Group years ago when he had the vision of the endowment and hopefully, the membership can appreciate that their work has positively benefited the endowment funds which has allowed year-end fund distributions to the member schools by the NCHSAA for many years. President Blanton commented on their work throughout the year to help positively benefit the membership.

COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS: Commissioner welcomed the new Board members and Kelly Dagger, general counsel, to the NCHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. Directions were given for committee break-out room locations. She thanked the affiliate members for their service and their valuable input and experience on behalf of the groups they respectively represent.

President Blanton announced the break-out into committee work and Board members went to their respective meeting locations at 9:02 a.m. followed by lunch.

President Blanton reconvened the Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. and introduced Ercia Turner, via zoom.

BYLAW TASK FORCE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT: Ercia Turner, Director of Athletics for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, presented on behalf of the committee (approximately 18 members). The first committee meeting focused on the passage of SB452, specifically related to open meetings and public records and understanding how the new law could relate to classifications; the second committee meeting focused on communication strategies to engage stakeholders and the committee's commitment to strategic planning and inclusive decision-making as they navigate evolving landscape of interscholastic athletics in North Carolina. Have only had 2 meetings and remain committed to working along-side Board.

The Bylaw Task Force put forth the following recommendations and considerations aimed at ensuring a smooth and strategic transition emphasizing competitive balance, geographical appearance, and financial sustainability:

1. Movement to eight (8) classifications for athletic conferences to accommodating growing number of schools to ensure fair competition and appropriate group-based school size and resources.
2. Use October 2024 ADM numbers for realignment purposes.
3. If needed, use side-by-side process for split conferences (1A/2A, 2A/3A, etc.).
4. Consider geographic proximity for reduced travel, competitive balance, school size,

5. Use of communication strategies to engage stakeholders and enhanced transparency in the decision-making process.
6. Gauge impact of realignment on the welfare of the student-athlete.

President Blanton thanked Ercia and the committee for its work and asked for any thoughts. Rob Jackson echoed thanks to the chair and committee members and mentioned that he has had many questions regarding how the membership will be impacted by the new alignment.

President Blanton clarified that this committee is not the realignment committee necessarily. Realignment Committee won't be formed until next year. Commissioner Tucker suggested that the membership be solicited for members to serve on the realignment committee and then the Board members in each region will make recommendations for who should be the regional representatives and the full Board will then approve. Suggest doing this process in the spring; get names in May meeting. Suggested timeline by Commissioner: Association staff would receive ADM numbers for first 20 days next fall in October or November 2024, staff would then typically do the first "brush" with the classifications, in spring 2025, conferences would be put together and then implemented in fall 2025. Ms. Turner indicated that the Bylaw Task Committee recommended 8 classes as there is much growth in the number of schools and allows for flexibility. Numerous additional questions were posed and discussion ensued regarding districts versus conferences in North Carolina. If not enough classifications, how would the playoffs look? Much discussion followed regarding whether schools would be classified according to sport or classified straight across the board for all sports.

Past-President Jackson thanked the staff and made a motion that the Board adopt, for purposes of continued work, the use of 8 classifications in keeping with the new Bylaw. Motion was seconded by Larry Williford. **Motion approved 18-0.**

Past-President Jackson mentioned that the Task Force made several recommendations and recommended that staff share task force recommendations in the next Tuesday Updates to seek input from the membership using a Google form. Morgan mentioned that it would be good to seek input from the respective regions.

BASKETBALL SHOT CLOCK COMMITTEE REPORT: On behalf of the committee, Tod Morgan, presented to the group after thanking staff for their assistance and noted that the committee has representation from across the state at all levels (coaches, Board members, game officials, athletic directors, etc. The committee met on August 29, 2023. It was recommended that the Association staff go back and conduct another survey which was sent out on October 4, 2023 to coaches, principals, athletic directors. Pros and cons for implementing the shot clock were then presented in a handout as were survey results from 2021 survey as well as 2023 survey, financial implications, and feedback from NFHS Summer Meeting. In 2023 results, principals and athletic directors (73% and 72%) respectfully do not favor implementation of the shot clock while 64% of basketball coaches do favor it. Based on survey results, the committee did not have a consensus to bring forth a formal recommendation to the Board. Ask the Board to consider the results and financial implications.

Elbert Lassiter noted that coaches are for it and the administrators appear to not want it...why? Morgan: Reason seems to be more because of the administration of operating the clock and some regarding financial concerns. Chad Duncan commented about the officials training and Morgan mentioned that based on responses from officials, they seem to be willing to be trained for how to use it. Additional concerns were discussed regarding implementation.

Jackson cited percentages and indicated that based on this data, there is no impetus from membership to move forward. President Blanton reiterated that the Ad Hoc committee did not bring forth a recommendation and the Board moved into committee reports.

REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Chad Duncan, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee after recognizing the committee members.

1. Discussed the comprehensive listing of violations and penalties per school. Committee members encouraged that incidences had decreased in number which is positive and appreciate schools' doing things right.
2. Discussed the 2023 ejection report to-date. Committee was dismayed at number of ejections. (469 ejections by 11/10/23 - mainly football and soccer). Had 282 last year at this time as point of reference. 727 total ejections last year.
3. Reviewed and discussed the successes and challenges of moving to a Regional Supervisor model in swimming and diving.
4. Discussed the status of the Board-approved Officials Advisory Council. Progress is stalled currently as there has been a change in officiating leadership on staff but working towards establishing this group.
5. Reviewed a proposal submitted by the Big East Conference/Nash County/Rocky Mount High School Association regarding assigning fees paid by schools for JV and Varsity basketball contests when games are played on the same day at the same site. Discussion pointed back to 3.4.2(a)4 in policies.
 - Will recommend a change in Handbook wording so that both men's and women's varsity assigning fee is listed as one fee and men's and women's JV assigning fee is listed as one fee.
6. Reviewed and discussed the policy of officials paying their respective Regional Supervisors no more than the regular-season, single contest fee.
 - Plan to ask for a vote to reaffirm the policy (3.4.2(f)(9)) of officials paying regional supervisors no more than regular season contest fee.
7. JV Baseball time limit revisited.
 - Will recommend the following: Only apply the time limit to double-header competitions; if only one game, there is no time limit in JV baseball.
8. Discussed Regional Supervisor concerns related to JV football officials fee, assigners' fees, and scrimmage fees. Currently fee is \$28/hour. This will be revisited at the next Board Meeting.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT: Tod Morgan, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Reviewed and discussed ADM calculations related to high schools feeding into innovative high schools.
 - a. Tabled by committee until spring meeting in order to gain more information and data through staff research. Clarification on how findings from the Bylaw Task Force may impact this is also needed.
 - b. Further discussion ensued regarding the impact of moving to 8 classifications as well as impact on student athlete opportunities.
2. Reviewed penalties in the areas of health and safety and coach suspension.
 - a. Will recommend changing health and safety infractions in level 2 (#6 and #7) and in level 3 (#1 and #19) to be moved to a higher level of infraction on penalty code - level 4 infraction list. Board would likely recommend that this go into effect immediately with understanding that it would be effective when approved by SBE.
 - b. Discussed consideration of an adjustment to coach suspension wording in Handbook to provide more clarity: coach would receive 1 game suspension for every game coached without having taken the certification course; 1:1 suspension for each game coached without certification, capped at 4. In the past, with financial penalties, coaches had to answer to their administrators but without financial penalties, there isn't "enough teeth to ensure coaches do the right thing" so this adjustment would better hold coaches accountable. This will be revisited at the spring Board Meeting with potential for vote and implementation effective for 2024-2025 year.
3. Reviewed and discussed the NCHSAA Handbook, sections 2.5 (Sportsmanship) and 3.3.6 (Sportsmanship/Ejection Policy). Agreed that ejection rates are too high.

4. Reviewed and discussed the impacts of Bylaw VI and Senate Bill 452/SL 2023-133.
 - Asking that the Bylaw Task Force review the 50% sanctioned participation formula for providing state championship events. Should the percentage be higher with smaller numbers in each classification? Need Bylaw Task Force to review the future make-up of the Board given growth in number of classifications.

The Board took a 9-minute break and reconvened at 3:13 p.m.

SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Tanya Turner, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Discussed the NCLCA proposal to expand the regular season for both men's and women's lacrosse to match the length of other spring sports with 24-game limitations.
 - Will recommend extending length of season for both men's and women's lacrosse to match length of other spring sports. Extend for safety purposes and play season over 12 weeks instead of 10 weeks; allows for more physical recovery; effective 2024-2025 school year.
2. Discussed approval of the sports calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Planning to recommend approval of 2024-2025 sports calendar which does include change to lacrosse season.
3. Discussed the NCTCA proposal to change the formula for the distribution of berths to the individual regional tennis tournaments.
 - Planning to recommend a change in formula for individual regional tournaments to more equitably distribute regional berths between conferences, effective for 2024-2025 school year.
4. Discussed the proposal by the NCTCA to authorize alternate match formats for dual team matches during the regular season whereby upon mutual agreement, coaches may conduct a match using 8 of 10 game pro-sets in singles and/or use no-ad scoring in singles and doubles.
 - Will recommend authorizing alternate match formats for dual team matches during regular season upon mutual agreement. Effective 2024-2025 school year.
5. Reviewed and discussed policy approved by Board in spring 2023 regarding bat testing in softball.
 - Will recommend, based on member school feedback and NFHS levels, eliminating bat testing except for at state finals level; if a school wants to test a bat, they can contact NCHSAA office.
6. Discussed and reviewed a proposal set forth by NCSCA to allow freshman and sophomores only to participate in three (3) halves of soccer on the same day (one day per week).
 - Did not advance from committee.
7. Reviewed and discussed the Southern Carolina Conference's proposal that the NCHSAA approve the "sponsorship" (support/recognition) of the annual North Carolina Boys' Volleyball Invitational Tournament.
 - Did not advance from committee.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Stephen Gainey, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Referenced the clean Audit Report given by Blackmon and Sloop. A motion will come forward tomorrow for approval.
2. Discussed the draft 2023-2024 Annual Operating Budget and reviewed revenues and expenditures to-date. A motion will come forward tomorrow for approval of the budget.
 - Facing a budget negative in this year based on estimated budget; corporate sponsor funds represent 32% of operating budget.
3. Reviewed and discussed the status of the NCHSAA Foundation, Inc. Funds will continue to function as they have; \$18M has been transferred to-date; filling remaining Board of Trustee seats also needs to happen.
4. Reviewed and discussed of investment report and referenced the market report provided by the Fordham Group.

5. Reviewed and discussed the final 2022-2023 sports revenue comparisons versus previous years. Net positive on many sports; difference is that NCHSAA share was taken previously from gross revenue but now NCHSAA share is net after expenses are taken out. Expenses are increasing, especially security.
6. Reviewed and discussed Endowment Funds distributed to member schools. Over \$1.18 million distributed last year with over \$13.8 million distributed between 2010 and 2023.
7. Reviewed and discussed the 2024 NFHS Section Meeting which will be hosted by NCHSAA.
 - Will recommend authorizing staff to utilize unbudgeted sponsorship monies in 2023-24 budget to help cover expenses of that meeting. These Section Meetings are never funded by school shares or school funds which is why corporate funds are essential.
8. Received an update on personnel matters.

Commissioner Tucker mentioned that the office receives calls daily inquiring about the association as no one knows full impact of the new law on the operations of the association; impact is ongoing. Staff will continue to do its work because we believe in what we do, believe in education-based athletics. Causes angst with staff since NCHSAA isn't named in the bill – it references “administering organization” and who will that be? A new memorandum must be signed. Membership may need to vote on a change in Bylaws as a result of the new law. Commissioner Tucker introduced Kelly Dagger of Ellis and Winters to lead discussion regarding the impacts of Senate Bill 452.

Kelly Dagger, General Counsel addressed the Board. Major impacts of the bill - new MOU; the association is currently operating under an MOU with the State Board of Education and was in the first year of the MOU before significant legislative arose which now necessitate the creation of a new MOU, and by law the new MOU names the Superintendent of Public Instruction as the other party to the administering organization. The new law lays out the rules that the State Board of Education is required to adopt, including eligibility rules which the administering organization may have the authority to enforce without revisions. State Board of Education may delegate rule making authority to NCHSAA for game play, administrative, and penalty rules. Additional requirements in the new MOU center around making the association operate like a government agency. In the next MOU cycle, it will likely contain details of what the administering organization has to do in this regard including following comparable open records act and open meetings law. Finances - public record aspect will have financial impact on the organization as it takes time and people resources to provide requested documentation. Kelly will work with counsel for the Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding this item. A Bylaw amendment will be necessary; if the administering organization enters into an MOU with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, it has to agree to certain requirements including the make-up of the Board with equal representation from each of the 8 educational districts and 1 member appointed by Superintendent of Public Instruction per region. The current Bylaws do not allow for any Board members to be appointed. There will also be funding restrictions on how the administering organization can generate revenues and how they can spend those funds.

President Blanton thanked the Board for their work today. Noted that the meeting would be live streaming again tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. and highlighted the SAAC Report and Affiliate Member Reports for tomorrow's agenda.

Past-President Jackson made a motion to move into closed session for attorney-client discussions pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(3) and to discuss confidential personnel information pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(1) and General Statute 126-22. The motion was seconded by Mark Garrett. **Motion approved 16-0 (1 absent, 2 no vote).**

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING
Thursday, November 30, 2023**

The winter meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Chris Blanton at 8:30 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included President Chris Blanton, Vice President Stephen Gainey, Past President Rob Jackson, Paige Badgett, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Mark Garrett, Sam Jones, Jerome Leathers, Andy McCormick, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, Larry Williford, Jim Butler, Don Phipps, Allen Plaster, and Henry Rice. Absent: John Williams.

Affiliate members included Roy Turner representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, Brad Alford, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, and Evan Sauer. SAAC member: Brielle Brown, Clover Garden High School

President Blanton welcomed the Board of Directors and thanked them for their hard work yesterday.

SAAC REPORT: Brielle Brown, a senior student-athlete at Clover Garden High School, presented on behalf of the group. She is a basketball, cross-country, soccer student-athlete and member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). She detailed the goals and activities of the SAAC Program including a recap of volunteer work by fifteen (15) SAAC members at five (5) fall championship events, the September Regional Meetings at which SAAC members spoke at seven of the eight meetings. Three main initiatives for 2023-2024 include the Student Leadership Conference which will be hosted in April 2024, likely in Raleigh, commitment to a community service project led by SAAC members, and attendance at the 2023 coaching clinic in July and hosting a session for school administrators. Four (4) SAAC members attended NFHS Student Leadership Conference in Indianapolis, IN last year to learn life lessons, attend unified sports engagement, and network with other students from across the nation.

NORTH CAROLINA COACHES ASSOCIATION: Joe Franks, Executive Secretary, presented on behalf of the group. Noted the collaborative effort between the Coaches Association and the NCHSAA specifically around the Coaches Clinic annually in Greensboro. Football all-star game moves to December this year, highlighted the 75 years of history (since 1949), mentioned the successful session this past summer with Coach Krzyzewski and Coach Roy Williams. Noted the dates of the NC Coaches Clinic in Greensboro for Monday, July 15 through Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

Motion by Don Phipps to approve a waiver to allow a cheerleading squad to participate in the All-Star Football Game on a Sunday in December. Seconded by Mark Garrett.

Motion approved 18-0.

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS & OFFICIALS REPORT: Elbert Lassiter, Regional Supervisor for the North State Football Officials Association presented on behalf of the Regional Supervisors and Officials. Honored fallen official Matthew Grant. Highlighted officiating challenges including finding qualified applicants and ways to retain them as there is a shift in mindset – many prospects see this as part-time job versus love of game, etc. Retention plans in the works including weekly zoom calls, mentoring, reduced fees for new officials, and bringing in college officials to teach strategies. Looking forward to when a new person will fill the Director of Officiating Services so they can work together.

NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION: Roy Turner, Executive Director, presented on behalf of the group. Highlighted strong continued partnerships with the NCHSAA and the NCCA that benefit student-athletes and athletic directors across the state. NCADA completed year 51 of service to athletic directors. Challenge - what is one thing to take away from this meeting to accomplish by spring meeting? Experiencing personnel (athletic director) turnover. Completed second professional development day and certified 43 administrators, free-of-charge. Noted the dates and sites for the National and State Athletic Director Conferences.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Burt Jenkins presented on behalf of the group. No changes in 2023-24 middle school eligibility requirements but there likely will be changes in 2024-2025. Principal does now have to sign eligibility list. Language has been changed in handbook to maintain consistency of rules and certain sport-specific updates. Discussed SB452 and impact on middle school athletics including studying whether there should be an administering organization to provide oversight for middle school athletics. Work groups will be established.

President Blanton adjourned the meeting for a break until 9:20 a.m. The meeting reconvened and President Blanton introduced Evan Sauer, Director of Development, Marketing & Student Programs. Highlighted the achievement of SAAC member, Isaiah Crumpler, of D.H. Conley. He will represent in the East-West All-Star Football game in December.

REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Chad Duncan, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Discussed the 2023 list of violations and penalties report. Very positive aspect of what we are doing in schools and appreciate schools for helping to lower rate of violations.
2. Discussed the 2023 ejection report to-date. Noted that ejection rates are concerning. Through 11/10/23, 469 total ejections versus 282 at this time last year. Mainly in soccer and football.
3. Discussed the successes and challenges of moving to a Regional Supervisor model in swimming and diving. This model provided both successes and challenges.
4. Discussed the status of the Board-approved Officials Advisory Council and noted that progress to start group this has stalled until the Director of Officiating Services is hired.
5. Reviewed a proposal submitted by the Big East Conference/Nash County/Rocky Mount High School Association regarding assigning fees paid by schools for JV and Varsity basketball contests when games are played on the same day at the same site. References 3.4.2(a)(4).
 - Recommended that wording be revised to show JV assigning fee listed as one fee and Varsity assigning fee listed as one fee. Motion seconded by Allen Plaster. **Motion approved 18-0.**
6. Reviewed the policy of officials paying their respective Regional Supervisors no more than the regular-season, single contest fee.
 - Tabled for Spring Board Meeting.
7. JV Baseball time limit and discussion regarding revising the Handbook policy for the 2-hour time limit in JV games.
 - Recommended to amend the current Handbook policy for 2-hour time limit; applies only to JV games when there is a JV-V double-header Second by Don Phipps. **Motion approved 18-0.**
8. Discussed Regional Supervisor concerns. Information was submitted after deadline and will be revisited at Spring Board Meeting. Three concerns were: JV officials fee, the assigner fee, and the scrimmage fee.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT: Tod Morgan, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Reviewed ADM calculations related to high schools feeding into innovative high schools for classification purposes.
 - Tabled until Spring Board Meeting.
2. Reviewed penalties in the areas of health and safety and coach suspension.

- a. Recommended moving two level 2 infractions up to level 4 and two level 3 infractions up to level 4. All are student-athlete health and safety related and governed by NCGS. Seconded by Brian Carver. **Motion approved 18-0.**
 - b. Recommended applying a 1 for 1 penalty capped at four contests relative to coach suspensions with understanding that coaches would remain ineligible until completion of coaching certification requirements. Second from Brian Carver. **Motion 18-0.**
3. Reviewed the NCHSAA Handbook, sections 2.5 (Sportsmanship) and 3.3.6 (Sportsmanship/Ejection Policy). Want to continue emphasis on enhanced sportsmanship across the state.
4. Reviewed the impacts of Bylaw VI and Senate Bill 452/SL 2023-133. Encourage Bylaw Task Force to review the sport sanctioning formulas moving forward and review make-up of the Board of Directors relative to the new law requirements.

SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Tanya Turner, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Recommended approving extension of the men's and women's lacrosse season to match the length of other spring sports with 24-game limitations. Seconded by Bryan Tyson. **Motion approved 18-0;** effective 2024-2025 academic year.
2. Recommended approval of the sports calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Second by Tod Morgan. **Motion approved 18-0;** effective 2024-2025 academic year.
3. Recommended to change the formula for the distribution of berths to the individual regional tennis tournaments. Second by Bryan Tyson. **Motion approved 18-0;** effective 2024-2025 academic year.
4. Recommended to authorize alternate match formats for dual team matches during the regular season whereby upon mutual agreement, coaches may conduct a match using 8 of 10 game pro-sets in singles and/or use no-ad scoring in singles and doubles. Second by Larry Williford. **Motion approved 18-0.**

Motion by Tod Morgan to authorize alternate match formats for dual team matches during the regular season whereby upon mutual agreement, coaches may conduct a match using 8 of 10 game pro-sets in singles and/or use no-ad scoring in singles and doubles, effective immediately. Second by Mark Garrett. **Motion approved 18-0.**

5. Reviewed policy approved by Board in spring 2023 regarding bat testing in softball.
 - Recommend elimination of bat testing policy approved by Board in spring 2023. Second by Bryan Tyson. **Motion approved 18-0.**
6. Reviewed a proposal set forth by NCSCA to allow freshman and sophomores only to participate in three (3) halves of soccer on the same day (one day per week). Requirement to conduct hydration and concussion check between a JV and a varsity game would be too difficult for schools to implement. Did not come out of committee.
7. Reviewed the Southern Carolina Conference's proposal that the NCHSAA approve the "sponsorship" (support/recognition) of the annual North Carolina Boys' Volleyball Invitational Tournament. Committee not comfortable providing sponsorship for a sport that NCHSAA does not directly oversee. Did not come out of committee.

FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Stephen Gainey, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Recommended approval of 2022-2023 audit as presented by auditors, Blackman & Sloop. Second by Mark Garrett. **Motion approved 18-0.**
2. Recommended approval of the 2023-2024 Annual Operating Budget. Second by Tod Morgan. **Motion approved 18-0.**
3. Reviewed the status of the NCHSAA Foundation, Inc.
4. Reviewed the investment report and market report provided yesterday by the Fordham Group.
5. Reviewed the final 2022-2023 sports revenue comparisons versus previous years.
6. Reviewed the Endowment Funds distributed to member schools. Over \$1.18 million distributed last year with over \$13.8 million distributed between 2010 and 2023.

7. Recommended we host this event and use a portion of undesignated corporate revenues in current fiscal year to offset expenses associated with this Section Meeting. Second by Mark Garrett.
Motion approved 18-0.
8. Staff updates were noted.

Commissioner Tucker provided a briefing on personnel staffing including the part-time hiring of Mark Dreibelbis as the interim Director of Officiating Services, effective 1/1/2024. Formation of the Officials Advisory Committee will be an initial project undertaken.

President Blanton called a break and meeting will reconvene shortly. The meeting returned live at 10:42 a.m. and President Blanton recognized Commissioner Tucker.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Tucker thanked the Board for their work and acknowledged that John Williams who filled a region 3 position had to be out of town during this meeting. Tucker recognized Tra Waters for his years of service following his resignation effective 12/31/2023. Expressed appreciation for his hard work and presented a Membership Service Award on behalf of the NCHSAA. President Blanton remarked that Tra has always been helpful, receptive, and responsive and expressed appreciation for his long-time dedication to the student-athletes. He further expressed his appreciation to the staff.

Commissioner Tucker also recognized Jennifer Grim who is leaving as PT receptionist after almost two years to pursue other endeavors and thanked her for her service. She then recognized Logan McNeill as a new employee effective in July and Beth Zinkand who assists with the officiating program. She referenced the future and navigating what lays ahead and the upcoming female wrestling championship event. Another positive is the new basketball format to be hosted in March in Winston-Salem, something the basketball coaches have requested for many years. There are many opportunities in the future. Commissioner Tucker referenced the report due to the State Board of Education by 12/1/2023 and thanked the staff for going above and beyond in their respective contributions to the report.

Motion to adjourn made by Mark Garrett and seconded by Chad Duncan. **Motion approved, 16-0 (several absent for final vote due to schedule conflicts).**

Note: Virtual Media Briefing afterwards with President Blanton, Vice President Gainey, Commissioner Que Tucker and other select staff.