

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING
Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

The spring 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 Past-President Rob Jackson, Vice President Stephen Gainey, President Chris Blanton, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Mark Garrett, Sam Jones, Jerome Leathers, Andy McCormick, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, and Larry Williford. Paige Badgett, John Williams, Allen Plaster, and Henry Rice. Don Phipps and Jim Butler were absent.

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, Wendell Hall of NC State School Boards Association, 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 for the committee's morning work session but present in the afternoon during the committee work discussions.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Brad Alford, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, Juli Kidd, Kim Newman, and Brandon Moree. Association Attorney Kelly Dagger and Legal Staff Assistant Ellis Payne of Ellis and Winters were also in attendance.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: President Blanton began the meeting by welcoming the Board members and NCHSAA staff as well as individuals listening via live audio stream at 8:32am.

Associate Commissioner Karen DeHart presented the Winter Board minutes and made note of a revision to the winter minutes relative to the Finance Committee chair.

President Blanton recommended approval of the winter Board of Director Meeting minutes.

Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the Winter 2023 meeting as presented, Garrett seconded. Motion approved 16-0. (Board member stepped out of the room)

Brad Alford, NCHSAA staff, presented the Consent Agenda for approval. Noted three new schools were requesting membership. Carolina Academy will be independent for 2024-25. NCHSAA received 62 waiver requests, 55 were approved, 7 (seven) were not waived. One was appealed and was affirmed. Two that were appealed to executive staff were also affirmed.

Garrett made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Morgan. Motion approved 17-0.

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT: Geoff Hudson and Jessica Standiford from The Fordham Group provided a market update to board members indicating changes over past few years making market different than past 14-15 years. Less in bonds traditionally in NCHSAA portfolio and leaned into equities and these provide almost 11% return with bond return at about 2.5%. Currently, we are seeing that stocks are no longer cheap. Different scenario with lower expected returns. Try to look beyond immediate time and look to future - Three and five year out projection: Modest return in equities and much more volatility than seen in past. Returns may be 6-67% in equities. Bonds may yield around 6-6.5% range. Risk return with stocks and bonds looks close to each other. Slowly moving bond allocation within the portfolio towards target, based upon investment policy statement. Expectations – always looking for opportunities to add value; will be harder to get 8% returns we've had over past 10-15 years. Lots of factors contributing to uncertain market.

President Blanton thanked Morgan Stanly for their work and recognized Jessica Standiford.

COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS: Commissioner Tucker addressed the Board and made special introduction of introduces Kim Newman, Executive Assistant, and interim director of officiating, Mark Dreibelbis and recognized his good work. She introduced various NCHSAA staff in attendance: Brandon

Moree (communications & media relations), Janna Fonseca (health & safety), Tavares Toomer (finance and business), Juli Kidd (IT). Also introduced Kelly Dagger and Ellis Payne. Commissioner Tucker welcomed Jonathan (John) Williams from Northampton County and expressed appreciation for Board and their time and the important work ahead during this meeting. She recognized the officers and commended their work and mentioned that staff does the day-to-day work but the membership is the Association.

Blanton moved the meeting into committee work at 8:50 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. following committee work sessions and lunch.

President Blanton reconvened the Board at 12:40 p.m. for the afternoon work session of the full board.

President reconvened the meeting after the lunch break. Past-President Jackson recognized that Wendell Hall has joined the session and stressed the importance of having him with the Board during the negotiations with the State Board of Education. Wendell Hall shared that he felt that he's been away long enough due to numerous reasons happening, especially a conflict with this NCHSAA Board Meeting being held at same time as State Board of Education Meeting. Commissioner Tucker mentioned that the Board can set the Board Meetings to happen whenever works best.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION:

BYLAW TASK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Erica Turner, Director of Athletics for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, presented on behalf of the committee (approximately 18 members). Turner commended the committee members for their passion in advocating for the student athletes across the state of North Carolina. The bylaw committee has met five times since the December 2023 Board of Directors Meeting. The committee has discussed realignment, conferences and how playoffs will be contested. An informal survey was sent out to the NCHSAA members on their preferences for the next realignment. The Athletic Directors participated in an exercise at the annual AD conference in Asheville to show new conference realignment possibilities.

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:

Recommends the Big 32 Model. 8A would have 24-32 team brackets and 1A would have 16 team brackets and 2A-7A would be 32-team brackets.

Recommends avoiding a single team from one classification in new conference alignment.

Recommends no more than two classifications in each conference.

Recommends realignment every two years with conferences staying together for four years.

Jackson also commended the efforts of Turner and the committee.

President Blanton noted that eight classifications will cause an issue in keeping no more than two classifications per conferences particularly if classifications can change every two years, but conferences change only every four years. Morgan noted that the committee discussed this at length and conferences with three classifications will be unavoidable. Carver added that classifying every two years will eliminate mid-alignment reviews. Tucker noted that the MOU and the law states that the NCHSAA must utilize ADM numbers to classify, and not use formulas that might utilize early college or middle college enrollment creatively. Conversation followed on the results of the Athletic Directors' exercise. Garrett noted that most input came from principals and athletic directors and glad for this feedback. Also, noted that the membership asked for this, and we'll see how it all works out.

Alford shared a map of each classification under the Big 32 Model. Morgan shared a spreadsheet of current conferences with their projected new class. Chairperson Turner thanked members of Bylaw Committee who are also NCHSAA Board members and staff assistance with the maps and data. President Blanton thanks Ms. Turner and the Bylaw Committee for their work.

REALIGNMENT REPORT: Commissioner Tucker outlined the process and indicated that Realignment Committee work would need to begin in August and as a result of the changes to the bylaws to allow for eight classifications, and if the recommendations from the bylaw taskforce committee were approved, the realignment committee would need to be named and charged. It will be the responsibility of this board to confirm names for the realignment committee by the conclusion of this meeting so that it can complete its duties in time ahead of the 2025-26 school year. The committee will need to wait for the ADM report from SDPI which will likely be available in late October or early November of 2024. If so determined, the staff would then draft a preliminary conference determination, share with the realignment committee, and then send the draft to the membership for review. The committee will need to consider the appellate process based on Bylaw Task Force recommendation of 2-year alignment cycle. Some bylaw changes will be necessary in order for the Association to comply with SB452, if NCHSAA signs the MOU. If the Board elects to go to 2-year realignment term, this will require a bylaw change with $\frac{3}{4}$ of membership voting affirmative. Attorney Dagger noted that the membership can be asked for a waiver of the bylaw requirement that seven principals must submit an amendment in order to make the Bylaw revision. Discussion followed.

President Blanton called for a vote of the items recommended by the Bylaw Committee.

Morgan made motion to approve the Bylaw Committee's recommendation to follow the "Big 32" model, seconded by Carver. Approved: 17-0.

Memorandum Of Understanding Update (with State Superintendent of Public Instruction) –Association Attorney Kelly Dagger provided an update on the NCHSAA draft copy of the MOU and what is the process of signing it, which is necessitated by SB 452, with an effective date of July 1, 2024. The draft MOU largely tracts the existing MOU but some changes are necessary to be compliant with law, namely that MOU is now with the State Superintendent; a draft sent 4/19/24 to Superintendent's office and once a version is approved by State Superintendent, the NCHSAA Board will need to vote to approve. Questions about the MOU can be directed to Kelly Dagger.

Meeting was adjourned for a break at 2:00 p.m. with start back at 2:10 p.m.

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

1. Discussion of incident and penalty report from 7/1/2023 through 4/2024. Will recommend acceptance of violation report by the full Board.
2. Discussion of the ejection report for 7/1/23 through April 2024.
3. Discussion of the Officiating Sub-Committee work.
4. Discussion regarding the option for officials to obtain NFHS Network subscription at a discounted rate as part of registration process. NFHS starts offering this discount 8/1/2024.
5. Will recommend adjusting JV officials' fees for football.
6. Will recommend an increase in football scrimmage fee from \$28 to \$50 per hour.
7. Will recommend that local association/booking fees that regional supervisors charge officials may be no more than \$80.00 in all sports except football and basketball which can be no more than \$105.00.
8. Will recommend that starting with 3rd round of playoffs, use of same number of umpires as in regional and state championships.
9. Will recommend increasing football game fee for the first and second round of state playoffs to \$110.00.

10. Will recommend making all registration fees the same for all sports except for in swimming; All sports: \$40.00 NCHSAA fee plus \$31.00 for insurance and background checks. Swimming: \$30.00 plus \$31.00 for insurance and background checks.

11. Will recommend bringing officials pay for swimming and diving in line with other sports with one flat fee and regional and state fees of: Regular season: \$70.00 for all officials; Regionals: \$75.00 for all officials; State Championships: \$80.00 for all officials.

12. Discussed the concept of a post-game reporting platform and working with NCADA to develop best practice program for coaches and athletic directors. Also includes recognition of schools' excellence and support in this area.

13. Discussion regarding use of body cameras for officials. This topic was tabled for further discussion and review.

14. Will recommend that Aaron Van Ert be named as Triangle Wrestling Regional Supervisor.

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

1. Discussion regarding 365-day ban on spectators for poor behavior. Will ask staff to review the policy language and place stronger emphasis on this existing policy.

2. Will recommend that all athletic directors be required to complete the free one-hour NFHS Learn or NIAAA LTC 631. one time only prior to the start of fall sports season (or within 30 days for new administrators). Add to level four (4) penalties/infractions section in NCHSAA Handbook.

3. Review and discussion of handbook 3.3.6 membership reports regarding disqualifications and ejections. Noted that there are too many ejections and sportsmanship needs to continue to be an area of focus.

4. Review and discussion of Handbook 3.4.2(d)(1), officiating third-party events. Feel that sanctioned NCHSAA officials at member school events provides an added layer of protection.

5. Review of Handbook relative to use of "and/or". Ask staff to review the Handbook and make necessary editorial changes.

6. Reviewed and discussed Handbook 1.2.18 relative to student-athlete allowances in all-star events. Noted that the Association will adhere to the State Board of Education's eligibility policy.

7. Reviewed and discussed the State Board of Education eligibility rules. NCHSAA will adhere to SBE's administrative code effective 7/1/2024. Discussed NCHSAA Board of Directors make-up relative to the new MOU and expect a bylaw change to bring Association into compliance.

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

1. Discussed an alteration to the RPI rankings for playoff seeding. Data was reviewed and item tabled. Staff will be directed to survey membership to collect feedback regarding current RPI formula.

2. Seeking input from full Board on shortening the Winter season or delaying the start of spring season by one (1) week. Full Board discussed this item that originated from two (2) conferences. Dr. Jackson suggests delaying decision on this for another year to seek input from coaches' associations for the spring sports as well as recognizing that there is an upcoming calendar shift with the change in classifications and bracket size. Will table this item.

3. Discussed all basketball teams beginning practice on 10/30 and games on 11/17 so all schools are starting at the same time. This item ties to item number 4 below.
4. Will recommend amending the 2024-2025 sports calendar for basketball to allow first practice for non-football playing schools on 10/23 and first contest for non-football playing schools on 11/4.
5. Will recommend that the deadline for late entry submission in wrestling be changed to 3:00 p.m. Monday for women and 9:00 a.m. Wednesday for men, the week of the dual team tournament. Reference Handbook 4.4.4(c)3.
6. Will recommend bracketing dual team tennis on Friday of week 9 of the regular season. Heard presentation from Vic Ramsey.
7. Reviewed data from 2023-2024 season relative to basketball five-quarter rule. Concerns expressed about the number of violations of the rule. 2024-2025 will be last year of the pilot program.
8. Will recommend conducting the 2025 men's and women's regional and state basketball state championships at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Heard positive reviews about the 2024 tournament, including wonderful attendance.
9. Reviewed data regarding member school participation in men's volleyball.
10. Will recommend adjusting indoor track championship date to 2/14-15 so that JDL can host the event and avoid conflict with an NCAA event.

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

1. Reviewed the investment accounts based on 3/31/2024 account statements and heard an in-depth report from the Fordham Group regarding the program reserves fund. Moderate growth portfolio.
2. Foundation status update: NC Attorney General's office has approved final transfer of endowment assets to Foundation; four (4) additional Trustee members have been elected and accepted to serve.
3. Reviewed the 2023-2024 budget through 3/31/24. Budget is currently in the "red", staff is monitoring as we finish out the year and on trajectory to meet budget.
4. Reviewed the 2023-24 sports comparisons report versus previous years. Revenue for cheerleading increased this year. Costs have increased due to rising security and staffing expenses.
5. Year-end distribution was discussed and noted that previously these funds came from endowment funds; final funds will be transferred to Foundation.
6. Will recommend approving an increase in the Swimming registration fee from \$20.00 per team to \$30.00 per team annually in NCPreps Swimming registration effective for the 2025-2026 school year.
7. Will bring forth a recommendation by Evaluation Committee to formally accept the 2023-2024 education/health and safety grant awards and partial reimbursement for NFHS Honor Roll schools and CAA/CMAA certifications totaling \$138,789.29 to be funded from the Education/Health and Safety Endowed Fund (5.65% distribution).
8. Reviewed and discussed ticket revenue shares retained by NCHSAA and participating schools. Per S452, the Association cannot retain more than 33% of ticket shares in any round.
Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the playoff round percentage shares and will recommend the following revisions:

Association- 1st round: 15%, 2nd round: 15%, 3rd round: 20%, 4th round: 25%, regionals: 33%, state finals: 33%.

Note that the Association will still lose revenue and school share will be to the positive.

9. Will recommend the transfer of the remaining endowment funds to the Foundation once the Education/Health & Safety funds have been withdrawn and paid to schools for 2023-2024 grants and educational partial reimbursements.

10. Discussed employee positions.

Gainey made the motion to move the Board to closed session pursuant to NC General Statute sections 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the Associations attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice pursuant to section 143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss the terms of an employment contract and pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider qualifications for potential appointments.

Motion by Gainey, second by Garrett. Approved 17-0.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING
Wednesday, May 1, 2024**

The spring meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Chris Blanton at 9:05 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included Past-President Rob Jackson, President Chris Blanton, Vice-President Stephen Gainey, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Mark Garrett, Sam Jones, Jerome Leathers, Andy McCormick, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, Larry Williford, Paige Badgett, Johnathan Williams, Henry Rice, and Allen Plaster. Don Phipps and Jim Butler were absent.

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, Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors and Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Brad Alford, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, Kim Newman, Juli Kidd, Evan Sauer, and Brandon Moree. Association Attorney Kelly Dagger of Ellis and Winters was present, along with SAAC member, Hatcher Williams of Carrboro High School.

President Blanton recognized Evan Sauer who summarized the accomplishments of the SAAC members this year. He then introduced the SAAC member, senior Hatcher Williams from Carrboro High School.

SAAC REPORT: Hatcher Williams, Carrboro High School, presented a report on behalf of the SAAC. He highlighted his experience on SAAC. Three topics presented today: community service projects implemented by each SAAC member within their respective communities, SAAC's influence on their respective peers, and the Student Leadership Conference held 4/26/24. He touched on the invaluable tools and resources that he accessed during his time on SAAC. This year's Student Leadership Conference was the best yet and hosted over 300-plus athletes and 50 school administrators. He closed out by thanking the Board for their support.

President Blanton commended Hatcher and thanked Sauer for his work with SAAC and for presenting on behalf of the group.

AFFILIATE REPORTS

NORTH CAROLINA COACHES ASSOCIATION: Joe Franks, Executive Secretary, presented on behalf of the group and noted the collaborative effort between the Coaches Association and the NCHSAA,

specifically centered around the Coaches Clinic annually in Greensboro. He introduced the NCCA Board and officers for the coming year and provided clinic and all-star game dates.

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS & OFFICIALS REPORT: Elbert Lassiter, Regional Supervisor for the North State Football Officials Association presented on behalf of the Regional Supervisors and Officials. Lassiter shared that the ad-hoc officiating committee has been formed and has met several times. Brad Allen has been named the Chair of this committee. The group is in the process of breaking down items identified in the officiating report presented several years ago to identify immediate issues to address. A regional assigners' advisory group has been created to discuss best practices. Lassiter talked about the Dragonfly platform and the continued use by officials and assigners and had positive comments about the platform's ongoing development. Recruitment remains a difficult task and assigners are getting creative with advertising for recruitment of officials.

NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION: Roy Turner, Executive Director, presented on behalf of the group. He highlighted the theme for the upcoming school year- "Lean into Change". He spoke about the close working relationship and collaboration between NCADA, NCCA, NCHSAA, NCATA, NFHS, NIAAA. He showcased the digital toolbox resource available to athletic administrators. He finished by highlighting the various benefits of partnering with the NCADA including insurance, security and safety certifications, professional development for coaches, partnering with parents, state and national recognitions/award, and leadership development opportunities.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Burt Jenkins presented on behalf of the group. March 7, the State Board of Education adopted new rules that become effective 7/1/24. He mentioned that adopted rules apply to both middle and high schools unless specific to high school only. He closed out mentioning collaboration with NCCA, NCADA, and NCHSAA and remarked about the importance of high school athletics to student-athletes. He commended the amazing work that the Board has done and continues to do.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION: Wendell Hall, representative for NC School Boards Association and State Board of Education. He opened by thanking this Board and then reminded the group that we are all in the same business - educating students and preparing them for the future. He shared that General Assembly is back in short session to tighten up items from long session. A top priority is teacher pay. Also interested in Leandro case. Other priority of State School Boards is additional personnel – nurses, school psychologists, and social workers in all the schools. Full support for Artificial Intelligence (AI). Hall closed by indicating that he's had 53 years as an educator and was positively influenced by coaches and educators.

President Blanton thanked the affiliate Board members for their respective reports and expressed appreciation for their continued support of and the value they add to the Association.

Blanton called for a break at 9:52 a.m. The Board reconvened at 10:13 a.m. Blanton expressed appreciation for the committees and chairs.

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

1. Recommended acceptance of violation report for 7/1/23 through current date.

Motion from committee to approve the report. Approved: 17-0

2. Discussed the ejection report for 7/1/23 through April 2024. Cited general lack of respect and everyone needs to do better.

3. Discussed the Officiating Sub-Committee work.

4. Discussed the option for officials to obtain NFHS Network subscription at a discounted rate as part of registration process. NFHS starts offering this discount 8/1/2024.

5. Recommended updating the JV football officiating fees for a 4-person crew and a 5-person crew with increases equal to the varsity fees. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 17-0

6. Recommended an increase in all sports scrimmage fees from \$28 to \$50 per hour. (Note: These scrimmage fees are paid to the Booking Associations for equipment and resources to support officials, not paid directly to the officials.) Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0 (Note: Total reflects that 1 board member left the meeting early)

7. Recommended that local association/booking fees that regional supervisors charge officials may not exceed \$80.00 in all sports, except football and basketball in which the fee cannot exceed \$105.00. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

8. Recommended that starting in 3rd round of playoffs, use of same number of baseball and softball umpires as in regional and state championships. Effective immediately for 2024 playoffs.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

9. Recommended increasing football game official fee for the first and second round of state playoffs to \$110.00. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

10. Recommended making all officials' registration fees the same for all sports except for swimming; All sports: \$40.00 registration fee plus \$31.00 for insurance and background checks. Swimming: \$30.00 registration plus \$31.00 for insurance and background checks. Effective May 15, 2024, which is opening date for 2024-2025 registration.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

11. Recommended bringing officials pay for swimming and diving in line with other sports for regular season and playoffs: Regular season--\$70.00 for all officials; Regionals-- \$75.00 for all officials; State Championships-- \$80.00 for all officials. Effective 2024-2025.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

12. Discussed the concept of a post-game reporting platform and working with NCADA to develop best practice program for coaches and athletic directors. Also includes recognition of schools' excellence and support in this area.

13. Discussed use of body cameras for basketball officials. This topic was tabled for further discussion and research.

14. Recommended approval of Aaron Van Ert as the Triangle Wrestling Regional Supervisor. Effective immediately.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

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

1. Discussed 365-day ban on spectators for poor behavior. Asked staff to review the policy language and place stronger emphasis on this existing policy. Tabled as there is already a policy within the Handbook.

2. Recommended that all athletic directors be required to complete the free one-hour NFHS Learn course, "After School Security" or the NIAAA course LTC 631: Emergency Management of Interscholastic Athletic Events, one-time only with completion by July 31, 2024 (or within 30 days for new administrators). Add to level four (4) penalties/infractions section in NCHSAA Handbook.

Recommended that Game Day Administrators complete the NFHS Learn course, "After School Security" or the NIAAA course LTC 631: Emergency Management of Interscholastic Athletic Events as a one-time requirement. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

3. Reviewed handbook 3.3.6 membership reports regarding disqualifications and ejections. Committee feels that there are too many ejections.

4. Reviewed Handbook 3.4.2(d)(1) relative to officiating third-party events. Committee feels that required use of sanctioned NCHSAA officials adds another layer of protection for member schools.

5. Reviewed Handbook relative to use of "and/or" and asked the staff to review the Handbook and make necessary editorial changes.

6. Reviewed Handbook 1.2.18 relative to student-athlete participation allowances in all-star events. Noted that NCHSAA does not sanction all-star events and the Association will adhere to the State Board of Education's eligibility policies.

7. Reviewed the State Board of Education eligibility rules. NCHSAA will adhere to State Board of Education's administrative code effective 7/1/2024. Discussed NCHSAA Board of Directors make-up relative to the new MOU, as part of new state law.

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

1. Recommended an alteration to the RPI rankings for football playoff seeding. Data was reviewed and the item tabled. Staff directed **to survey** membership to collect feedback regarding current RPI formula.

2. Discussed shortening the Winter season or delaying the start of spring season by one (1) week. Full Board discussed this item that originated from two (2) conferences. Dr. Jackson suggests delaying decision on this for another year to seek input from coaches' associations for the spring sports as well as recognizing that there is an upcoming calendar shift with the change in classifications and bracket size.

Tabled.

3. Discussed all basketball teams beginning practice on 10/30 and games on 11/17 so all schools start at the same time, which eliminates the six additional basketball games played by non-football playing schools. This item was **tabled** after much discussion and staff will review data related to RPI and the six (6) games.

4. Recommended amending the 2024-2025 NCHSAA sports calendar for basketball to allow first practice for non-football playing schools on 10/23 and first contest for non-football playing schools on 11/4. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Garrett called for the question after much discussion.

Motion restated for recommendation in #4 (above): Approved: 14-2

Motion by Jackson to accept recommendation approved above (amending basketball calendar) with the 6 additional games played by non-football playing schools not counting in RPI as it relates to playoff seeding purposes. Seconded by Morgan. Approved: 15-1

5. Recommended that the deadline for late entry submission in wrestling be changed to 3:00 p.m. Monday for women and 9:00 a.m. Wednesday for men, the week of the dual team tournament. Reference Handbook 4.4.4(c)3.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

6. Recommended to bracket Dual Team Tennis on Friday of week 9 of the regular season. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

7. Reviewed data from 2023-2024 season relative to basketball five-quarter rule and reviewed data relative to penalties related to five quarter use.

8. Recommended conducting 2025 men's and women's regional and state basketball state championships at Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Feedback for the 2024 event was overwhelmingly positive. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

9. Reviewed data regarding member school participation in men's volleyball. 67 members schools currently participating in men's volleyball (1A: 11, 2A: 6, 3A: 12, 4A: 38)

10. Recommended to adjust indoor track championship calendar date to 2/14-15/2025 so that JDL can host the event and avoid conflict with an NCAA event. Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

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

1. Reviewed the investment fund summary based on 3/31/2024 statements and heard an in-depth report from the Fordham Group regarding the program reserves fund.
2. Foundation status update: The initial Board of Trustees met on 4/17/24 and four (4) additional Trustee members have been elected and accepted to serve. This foundation is a separate entity form the Association. The NC Attorney General's office has approved the final transfer of endowment assets to Foundation.
3. Reviewed the 2023-2024 budget through 3/31/24. Budget is currently in the "red", staff is monitoring as we finish out the year and on trajectory to meet budget.
4. Reviewed the 2023-24 sports financial comparisons report versus previous years. Revenues were positive for this year in cheerleading and there were variances due to increased due to rising security and staffing expenses.
5. Year-end distributions were discussed, and it was noted that previously these funds were distributed from NCHSAA general endowment fund but the funds have been transferred to the NCHSAA Foundation, Inc.
6. Recommended approving an increase in the Swimming registration fee from \$20.00 per team to \$30.00 per team annually in NCPreps Swimming registration effective for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

Recommended formally accepting the 2023-2024 education/health and safety grant awards and partial reimbursement for NFHS Honor Roll schools and CAA/CMAA certifications totaling \$138,789.29 to be funded from the Education/Health and Safety Endowed Fund (5.65% distribution) which remain under NCHSAA assets currently. Effective immediately.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

7. Reviewed and discussed ticket revenue shares retained by NCHSAA and participating schools. Per S452, the Association cannot retain more than 33% of gate shares in any round. Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the playoff round percentage shares and recommended the following revisions to the Association ticket shares:
1st round: 15%, 2nd round: 15%, 3rd round: 20%, 4th round: 25%, regionals: 33%, state finals: 33%.
[Notes: The Association will lose revenues and schools' shares will increase. Association will continue to aim to provide the best experiences for the student athletes; however, corporate revenues are essential in helping to achieve this.] Effective 2024-2025 school year.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

8. Recommended the transfer of the remaining endowment funds to the Foundation once the Education/Health & Safety funds have been withdrawn and paid to schools for 2023-2024 education | health & safety grants and educational partial reimbursements. Effective immediately.

Motion from committee to approve. Approved: 16-0

President Blanton thanked the Board members, committee chairs, and the staff for their work throughout the meeting.

Gainey made a motion to move the group into closed session at 12:04 p.m. pursuant to General Statute sections 143-318.11(a)(5) and 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications of prospective appointees and to establish the material terms of a proposed employment contract. Second by Garrett.

Approved: 16-0

President Blanton reconvened the meeting at 12:29 p.m. and introduced Commissioner Tucker for closing remarks. She indicated that all changes and action will be sent to the State Board of Education. NCHSAA Board has positively impacted schools, officials. Tucker thanked Kelly Dagger for her attendance over the past two (2) days and for her work and support for education-based athletics. She then thanked the leadership team for their work throughout the school year; and recognized Tanya Turner for Superintendent of the Year and Ron Vincent, longtime baseball coach from Greenville, NC who will be inducted into the NFHS Hall of Fame on July 1. The Commissioner then thanked Dr. Jackson and Tod Morgan for their work as they “graduate” off the Board of Directors. She reminded everyone of the virtual annual meeting to be held on Thursday morning at 10:00. Encouraged all members to log on. The nominating committee will put forth the slate of officers and the new members for a vote by the membership.

President Blanton’s closing remarks entailed recognition for the long hours of work as Board members and the sacrifices they make to represent the membership. He cited the honor and privilege to work with the Board members, staff, and Kelly Dagger. Blanton recognized Commissioner Tucker’s upcoming induction into the NC Sports Hall of Fame.

The meeting was brought to a close at 12:37 p.m. with a motion by Dr. Jackson to adjourn the spring meeting of the Board of Directors; second by Morgan. Approved: 16-0

A media session VIA Zoom