



Buckle Up Phone Down Cup

High school activities are intended to produce positive life enriching experiences which help individuals, solely and collectively, discover and develop skills to improve their quality of character, expression, and collaboration.

Each year the Nebraska School Activities Association will recognize the most successful interscholastic high school activities programs in Nebraska State Championship level competition. Public and private member schools in four Classifications of three Divisions will earn awards.

Overview

The Nebraska Department of Transportation Buckle Up Phone Down Cup recognizes high schools having the most successful interscholastic activities programs in the state for that year. The divisions of competition include a Girls Division, a Boys Division, and an All-School Division. Schools in each division are divided into four classes, (A, B, C, and D) determined each activities year, based on enrollment.

Three simultaneous contests will take place during the year. The Girls Division and Boys Division competitions, in each class, will feature schools earning points from their respective athletic activities and in the case of coed schools, sharing the fine arts activities' points equally. The All-School Division contest will include all activities in which each high school participates.

This awards program began in the fall of 2006 with the Nebraska Department of Transportation becoming the title sponsor in 2023. The Buckle Up Phone Down Cup awards are distinctive high-quality silver cups and will become the property of the winning schools each year.

The winners of the Buckle Up Phone Down Cup are determined by a point system based on performance in State Championship events within each Division and Class. Music, which does not have a State Championship, will earn points based on District Music Contest participation.

Point System

During the school year member schools will earn five points for each NSAA sponsored activity in which they participate through the completion of the State Championship in each activity.

All schools, which finish in the top eight positions (plus any ties) in a State Championship event, receive points. In playoff events involving teams in a split classification, the same top eight positions in that event's class (D1 and D2) will earn full points for their Class competition. If there are fewer than eight schools from a classification in the event, only those schools represented, are eligible to receive points.

Points are awarded for all activities Championship events as follows:

- First place 50
- Second place 45
- Third place 40
- Fourth place 35
- Fifth place 30
- Sixth place 25
- Seventh place 20
- Eighth place 15

In the event of a tie, the schools receive an equal number of points based on the tied places total points value and divided by the number of teams which are tied.

If a tie for place exists, points will be split evenly between all teams tied for a specific place. For example, the non-advancing quarterfinals teams in an eight-team, single elimination Championship bracket will split the 5th through 8th place points. ($30 + 25 + 20 + 15 = 90 \div 4 = 22.5$ pts each)

In wrestling, Buckle Up Phone Down Cup points will be awarded based on a school's highest finish at either the Individual Wrestling Championship or the Dual Wrestling Championships. For example: If a school places 4th at the Individual Championships and places 3rd at the Dual Championships, that school would receive the 40 points earned for the 3rd place finish at the Dual Championships, instead of receiving points for both Championship events.

In District Music Contests, each school will earn five total points for entering at least two instrumental entries; and five total points for entering at least two vocal entries.

In activities' Championships involving cooperative agreements, each of the schools in the cooperative will earn the points for that respective event providing they have at least one student participating on the cooperative varsity team.

If a team is forced to relinquish its honors in a State competition as a result of an infraction (such as the use of ineligible players) it will be ineligible for any points in that activity for that year. If the penalty for infraction is assessed after a school has received the award and the loss of points for that activity results in a drop in standings for the Buckle Up Phone Down Cup, the Cup must be relinquished to the eligible school which received the next highest point total in the final standings.

Cup Standings

The Buckle Up Phone Down Cup standings will be kept current on the NSAA website throughout the activities year, with summaries of individual activity scoring being available after the conclusion of those Championship events. The winners of the Buckle Up Phone Down Cup will be announced after the completion of all NSAA Championship events for the current year.

Cup Presentations

The Buckle Up Phone Down Cups will be presented to the winning schools in the four Classes of each Division during a special ceremony the following fall.