



NSAA News

March 2019



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***"NSAA activities...
the other half of
education."***

Executive Director's Notebook

Jay Bellar, NSAA Executive Director



Classification Committee Reconvenes

The Winter Championships are in full swing, and things have been going fast and furiously here at the NSAA office. The weather has yet to cooperate with us during the Winter Championship season however, Swimming & Diving took place this past weekend and went very well. The weather was definitely a factor, but due to good planning on part of the member schools, parents and our office, the tournament went off without a hitch. Thanks to all who made it happen!

Our classification Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 27th in Grand Island. This committee consists of 14 administrators from across the state, with at least two administrators from each of the six districts. We are committed to making NSAA activities the best that they can be. Part of this process means looking at how we classify our schools. Last year we decided that we would classify football differently than we do the rest of our activities.

In football, schools are put into classification based on enrollment numbers in their school, grades nine through 11. The thought process was that in football, it was fairer to compete against teams with a number that was closer to your enrollment. With that being said, we also thought that classifying students in their activities should be by gender, and I believe that this is going well.

At our meeting, we will be discussing how this change has effected the NSAA and our member schools. We have asked the committee members to talk to their district school administrators to see if there are any other topics that we should discuss.

Please see *Classification Committee Reconvenes* on page 3



NSAA Board of Directors



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District I
Lincoln Public
Schools



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District I
Fillmore Central



Thomas Lee
District II
Omaha Northwest



Dr. Bob Reznicek
District II
Boys Town



Dr. Jon Cerny
District III
Bancroft-Rosalie



Dan Keyser
District IV
Sutherland



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District V
Medicine Valley



Dr. Troy Unzicker
District VI
Alliance

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Assistant Director



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Ronda Schmidt
Administrative
Assistant



Alicia McCoy
Administrative
Assistant



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Partners*



Classification Committee Reconvenes from page 1

To date, we have received the following topics:

1. Classify all activities by using enrollment numbers like football. The rationale being, this would allow schools to play in the same classification in all sports during a two year scheduling cycle. This would also allow schools the opportunity to build schedules for each sport in the classification in which they are competing in. According to some, the current system of determining the number of schools per classification and reviewing the numbers each year can create a competitive imbalance. This is due to the fact that often time schools play their regular season games in one class and compete in Districts and State in another class.

2. Adding a classification of nine-man football. The rationale is, in recent years there have been teams in football that cannot qualify for the State Playoffs. Adding nine-man football may give these schools a chance to play in the Playoffs. The committee will discuss and decide if this is something that we should continue conversation, or should the discussion be about increasing the eight-man number in order to qualify to play in the Playoffs.

3. Number of classifications in each activity. Rationale being, we have four classes in wrestling and track, while we have six classes in the majority of the other activities. Does this need to change because of the coops and the lesser number of schools that we have today? In some activities, we are really struggling to get host sites for districts.

If more discussion is created from our membership, it too will be addressed at this meeting. The agenda will not be fully developed until the day of the meeting. If you haven't heard from one of the committee members, please feel free to contact our office with your recommendations.

The meeting in February will not be the last on this topic as I realize that you will read this article after the meeting takes place, and I'm sure there will be another meeting coming. The NSAA is committed to our member schools and truly believes that this ongoing dialog on how to improve our organization will be good for all of us.

Good luck to the winter activities that have yet to finish their season and spring needs to get here soon!



March U.S. Bank Believers & Achievers



Malayna Wingert
Sterling



Megan Raszler
Elkhorn



Michael Kelly
Elkhorn South



Michaela Bartels
Bennington



Olivia O'Clair
Loomis



Paige Wood
Maywood



Rebekah Klenke
Seward



Seerat Balraj
Grand Island Central
Catholic



Sydney Atkinson
Boyd County



Trevor Cumpston
Aurora



Tristan Larson
Doniphan-Trumbull



Whitney Jensen
Northwest



Winter Championship Reimbursement Reminder

Winter Championship reimbursement deadlines are listed below. The reimbursement forms are on the AD Login Page and must be completed by 11:59 p.m. CT the night of the due date. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Huber, Business Manager, mhuber@nsaahome.org.

Individual Wrestling – March 8th, 2019

Girls Basketball – March 22nd, 2019

Boys Basketball – April 1st, 2019

There is no reimbursement for Dual Wrestling, Swimming & Diving, or Speech.

Youth Group Ticket Packages

It will be Championship season soon and the NSAA is once again offering Youth Group Ticket Packages to NSAA Championship events. Youth Group Ticket Packages are available for Boys Basketball. For more information on these ticket packages, view the following links:

[**NSAA Boys Basketball Championships in Lincoln – March 7th-9th**](#)

Orders must be received by Monday, March 4th (Friday, March 1st by noon if mailing)

For more information on these ticket packages, please contact Megan Huber, Business Manager, at mhuber@nsaahome.org.

MaxPreps Statistics Leaders



[GIRLS BASKETBALL](#)
[BOYS BASKETBALL](#)

IMPORTANT LINKS

[2018-19 NSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#)

[2018-19 NSAA Media Manual](#)

[2018-19 NCPA Academic All-State Information](#)

[NSAA Catastrophic Insurance](#)

[NSAA Sanctioned Events](#)

[Requests – Contests, Officials, Equipment](#)

[Become an NSAA Official!](#)

[Coaching Steps to Certification](#)

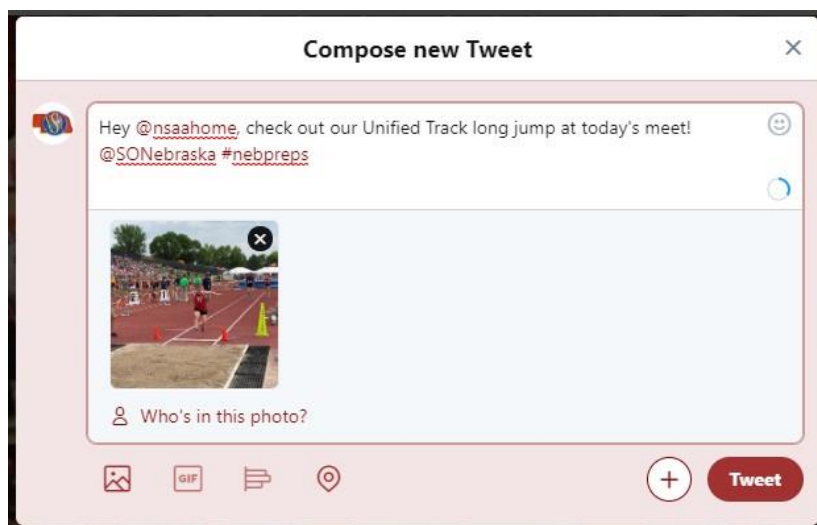
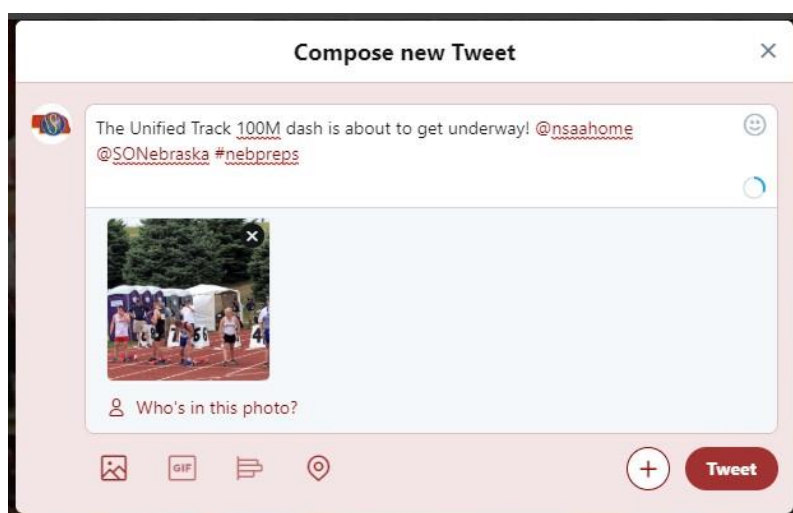


Unified Sports, Track & Field Exhibition Events

Each NSAA member high school that sponsors and participates in NSAA Unified Sports, Track & Field as exhibition events during the 2019 spring season will be eligible to receive a \$500 stipend to help offset program costs. Schools that have signed up and fulfilled being a [Unified Champion School](#) are eligible to acquire \$500 by fulfilling the steps below. The \$500 check will be mailed to the participating school once the following pre-requisites have been met:

1. Sponsor NSAA Unified Sports, Track & Field practices and exhibition meet events during the 2019 spring sports season.
2. Snap a photo of a student(s) participating in a Unified Sports, Track & Field exhibition event(s) during a track meet in the 2019 spring sports season. No photos from practice.
3. Tweet the PHOTO with a CAPTION on a school activities sponsored Twitter account to [@nsaahome](#) using @nsaahome, @SONebraska and #nebpreds. See the example tweets below.
4. Email Dan Masters at dmasters@nsaahome.org a screenshot of the tweet.
5. Tweets for the grant money will be accepted March 14th, 2019 – May 9th, 2019.

Example Tweets:



Winter Championships Clear Bag Policies

The NSAA Winter Championships are in full force! Please make sure that your students, parents and fans are aware of each facility's Clear Bag Policy **prior** to the Championships. For more information on the clear bag policies, please click the links below.

[Bob Devaney Sports Center](#)

[Pinnacle Bank Arena](#)



February NSAA Board of Directors Meeting Notes

The February NSAA Board of Directors meeting was held at the NSAA Office in Lincoln on February 14th, 2019. The meeting minutes can be found on the NSAA website [here](#).

Class Caucus Review Committee Minutes

Results and minutes from the February 5th, 2019 telephonic Class Caucus Review Committee meeting can be found [here](#).

Legislative Commission Minutes

The Legislative Commission meeting was held at the NSAA Office in Lincoln on February 13th, 2019. The results and minutes can be found on the NSAA website [here](#).



Music Copyright & License Compliance Update

Music Copyright & License Compliance continues to be a hot topic nationally and continues to evolve and change. The NSAA will continue to serve as a “messenger” on this topic but encourages member schools to seek local, legal counsel when working through specifics.

Professional Rights Organizations / NFHS Update:

ASCAP: The NFHS and ASCAP are currently operating under a provisional national blanket license that covers both high school and state association events. This license extends to all interscholastic events that occur outside of the face to face exemption in Title 17 section 110. This will include state events that are also held at off-site neutral locations such as a community auditoriums or colleges.

SESAC: At this time the NFHS is still working with SESAC to find a beneficial solution, there will be another update when more information is available. In the meantime if you or your school require a license please contact their licensing department at 615-320-0055.

BMI: If any member high school has questions regarding the need for a license agreement for the public performance of music in their school they may reach out to BMI by calling 888-985-6541 to discuss available options. BMI has developed a high school license for those schools that believe a blanket license would best serve their needs to cover their athletic events and other uses of music covered by BMI used throughout their school.

The NSAA encourages member schools to assess their school-wide music use and recommends that Activities Directors, Principals, Music Directors and Cheer / Dance team sponsors view the NFHS course, *Understanding Copyright & Compliance* (www.nfhslearn.com).

Stay tuned for more developments as they become available.

Baseball Equipment Update

The most up-to-date information from the NFHS regarding cheek/jaw protectors (C-Flap) has been posted to the NSAA Baseball webpage. This [MEMO](#), echoes the NSAA stance: A face mask/guard specifically designed for a particular helmet model may be attached after manufacture, provided that procedure is approved by the manufacturer and meets the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture. And, the responsibility to verify this falls on the member school/AD/coach.

Umpires will not be able to verify the information listed above as there is no NOCSAE seal on any cheek/jaw protectors. Umpires will continue to ask the question of coaches for verification during their pre-game plate meeting: “Are your players legally and properly equipped?”

2020, NOCSAE Standard: As communicated the past two seasons, there are significant requirements that will be enacted during the 2020 high school baseball season regarding equipment (baseballs/catcher’s protective gear) and proper NOCSAE certification. Visit this [LINK](#), posted onto the NSAA Baseball webpage, for all of the details.



Have you followed the NSAA social media channels?

The NSAA Winter Championships are in full swing! Be sure to follow all of the NSAA social media channels to stay updated on the latest Championship action. [@nsaaevents](#) on Twitter is your primary source for Championship scores and updates.



Update Your School Membership Directory

The NSAA utilizes your School Directory to send communication to the administration and coaches listed. Please make sure that this information is correct and updated **at all times**. To do so, login to your AD login page and under OTHER FORMS select School Directory, which will then take you to your School Directory Information page where you can make changes as necessary. This is also where you'll go to see if your coaches have completed their online rules meetings. Please contact the NSAA office at 402-489-0386 with any questions.

[-] OTHER FORMS:

[NCPA Academic All-State Nominations](#)
[NSAA Activities Registration Form](#)
[NSAA Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement Forms](#)
[NSAA Sportsmanship Manual](#)
[Olympic Development Waiver Request Form \(Word .doc\)](#)
[Reimbursement Forms for State Championships](#)
[School Directory](#)
[Schools' Emergency Contact Number Report](#)
[State Participation Certificates](#)
[Believers & Achievers Nomination Form](#)



Statement of Principle on Conduct Synopsis

Adopted by the NDE, NSAA, NCSA, NASB, NSEA, NRCSA, NCA and NSIAAA

Recently, students in our schools have been experiencing negative, harassing, and bullying conduct during the school day, and at school activities by the spectators attending those events or, and at times by opponents in an activity, that is directed at the school's participants and spectators, often with a racial component. Such conduct is unacceptable and does not reflect the foregoing basic tenants of our society.

It is the responsibility of our organizations to promote and respect the liberty interests of all persons who may participate in or attend any educational endeavor sponsored by our organizations which includes ensuring that common courtesy is shown for all persons, insuring tranquility for all, and being responsible that no one person abuses their liberties to the detriment of other persons.

As the educational leaders of Nebraska's school system, we firmly support Nebraska schools and communities in proactively involving teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community members in developing and maintaining a positive school and community culture that supports learning opportunities for all persons, and ensures that respect and courtesy are shown to all persons.

Conduct by any person that does not show respect for and courtesy of other persons in Nebraska schools and any school activity is prohibited and shall not be tolerated – period.



A Reminder to Compete With Respect

Concerns have been expressed in regard to the lack of respect being afforded to students, coaches, officials, spectators and host staff.

Schools should understand the seriousness of their responsibility to everyone and the privilege of representing their school and community. As educators, we must recommit ourselves to the preservation of respect. Unfair acts prohibited by the spirit and intent of the rules include the use of disconcerting acts or words.

Deliberately disrespecting the rules and fellow participants in the hope or expectation of gaining an advantage is deplorable and indefensible. It is imperative that administrators, coaches, officials and students make an extra effort to model the type of behavior that illustrates the educational values of activity participation. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens anyone, based on gender, ethnicity, or sexual preference is unacceptable.



District Music Contests

The 2019 DMCs are right around the corner, April 10th-13th, 15th-18th ([Sites/Dates](#)). A couple of reminders:

- DMC **ENTRIES** are due by **March 20th**
- **Proof of Licensing for Performance:** All participating schools must submit their form through their NSAA Activities Director log-in before their individual contest.
- 2019 DMC t-shirts are available for purchase through Custom Sports. Individual District links may be located [HERE](#), under "General Information."

As part of the 2019 pilot year, the DMC points of emphasis presentation for music directors may be viewed [here](#).

Another piece to the pilot year includes extra training for DMC adjudicators through their viewing of the NFHS course, *Introduction to Music Adjudication*. Music Directors are encouraged to view this free course through www.nfhslearn.com in an effort to understand the training standards for their adjudicators.

Contact Dan Masters at dmasters@nsaahome.org if you have any questions.

Unified Sports, Track & Field

The 2019 track season will serve as an opportunity for high schools to participate in Unified Sports, Track & Field in exhibition form. Students will also have the opportunity to submit qualifying times and distances with the hope of qualifying to compete at the State Track & Field Championships in May, in the Unified Sports, Track & Field exhibition division.

Unified Sports, Track & Field program information can be found [HERE](#). For more information and resources contact Dan Masters at dmasters@nsaahome.org.

2019-2020 NSAA Student Advisory Committee Application

The NSAA Student Advisory Committee is a diverse group of students who participate in interscholastic athletics/activities and are focused on providing education and leadership through open and honest communication with all member schools and their students, administrators and coaches. This committee serves as a liaison between students, administrators, the NSAA Staff and Board of Directors. The Student Advisory Committee helps to promote the mission of the NSAA, including leadership, sportsmanship and integrity.

Applications for the 2019-2020 NSAA Student Advisory Committee are due *Friday, March 1st* by 4:00pm and are available on the NSAA website at <https://nsaa-static.s3.amazonaws.com/textfile/leg/sacapp.pdf>.

Questions may be submitted to NSAA Assistant Director Ron Higdon at rhigdon@nsaahome.org.

[NSAA Important Dates & Deadlines](#)

[NSAA Cup Information](#)

[NSAA Publications Order Form](#)

NSAA Cup

Information about the NSAA Cup competition and standings can be found on the NSAA website [here](#).

2018-19 NSAA Cup classifications are available on the NSAA [website](#).



Requirements for Ejected Coaches & Players

Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.

Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA website.

Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular-season or tournament play.

Any athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim. Any athlete ejected for a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim. Any athlete ejected for a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. During the time of their “sit-out” suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school’s discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench. (The athlete is permitted to practice per school’s discretion.)

Coaches who are ejected for the first time will be required to sit-out the next contest at that level, plus all other contests at any level during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. The coach will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS online course “TEACHING AND MODELING BEHAVIOR” within 10 days of the ejection.

Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at any level during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. The coach will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS online course “FUNDAMENTALS OF COACHING” within 10 days of the ejection.

Medical Personnel at Regular Season Contests

Severe injuries, sudden illnesses and other critical incidents do not often occur during school activities, but it is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities; however, each school should have a plan in place should there be an emergency involving students, coaches, officials or spectators requiring medical attention.



Are your head and assistant coaches C.E.R.T.I.F.I.E.D?

NSAA Bylaw 2.12 stipulates, *“In order to serve as a head or assistant coach or sponsor of any activity sponsored by the NSAA, the individual must possess a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate or Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate and have a written contract of employment as a coach or sponsor with the schools in which he/she is to perform these duties.”* Yes, this does include coaches/directors/sponsors/advisers in the non-athletic activities as well: Play Production, Music, Speech and Journalism.

Individuals that do not possess either of the certificates listed above, may serve as a head or assistant as long as they successfully complete the requirements for a Special Services Coaching Permit (*NSAA Bylaw 2.12.2*). This information can be found on the NSAA webpage under the Coaches tab. It is important to remember that certification is not complete until the individual has applied and received their certificate from the Nebraska Department of Education Certification Office. Schools should request a copy of the certificate and have it on file at the school.

Non-certified personnel may be contracted by the school, but such personnel shall be Coaches Aides. (*NSAA Bylaw 2.12.3*). There are restrictions and limitations for Coaches Aides. Refer to the respective Bylaw for a complete listing in regard to Coaches Aides.

If you should have questions in regard to coaching requirements, contact Debra Velder at dvelder@nsaahome.org.

Are your officials on the NSAA Officials Roster?

3.12.2 Officials for Varsity Contests.

Only those officials who are registered with the Association may be used by member high schools to officiate varsity competition in football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, soccer, softball and volleyball competition, and start track & field meets.

Athletic Directors are expected to confirm that all officials hired to officiate varsity contests have been classified by the NSAA. The NSAA Officials Roster is available on your AD login page under **“NSAA OFFICIALS & JUDGES.”**

NSAA Winter Championship Results



[DUAL WRESTLING](#)

[WRESTLING](#)

[SWIMMING & DIVING](#)



Student Advisory Committee Spotlight

Casey Downing, Senior at Gretna High School



The NSAA has made a huge impact in my life and in the lives of thousands of high school students across the state of Nebraska. Personally, sports such as track and soccer were only the beginning. The Student Advisory Committee has given me and select others the opportunity to grow as members of society and develop our leadership even as teenagers, which is something that I know will help us succeed later in our lives.

Competing in journalism is something that I began my junior year of high school and it was one of the best decisions that I have made as a high school student. Through this program, promoted by the NSAA, I learned the importance of printing honesty and having integrity in my words. Recently the state of Nebraska has proposed the passing of a legislative bill. LB 206, also known as New Voices, aims to give high school journalists more freedom in what they are allowed to pursue when writing a story. Seeing the importance of this bill, I worked with members of the NSAA to write stronger more well-founded letters to our legislators to make sure the students' voices were heard on this bill.

From my own life to someone else's. My younger brother Zach has several disabilities that slow him down in the classroom so his involvement in school-sponsored activities has never really been there. One of the best programs that I believe the NSAA has to offer is Unified Sports. This program allows students like my brother to participate in activities that they otherwise couldn't compete in. My brother began competing on the Unified Bowling team with other members of Gretna High School. It made a huge impact in his life, as he couldn't wait for the days when he competed and was extremely excited to go out there and compete.

The NSAA has given students like me and my brother activities that build us as people and activities that really shape our lives. I have the privilege of competing in several sports and even more activities outside of them, all of it made possible through the NSAA and all the behind the scenes work that they do to ensure participation for every high school student across the state of Nebraska.

Through Support of NFHS Foundation, 600 AEDs Sent to High Schools, State Associations

National Federation of State High School Associations

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (February 26, 2019) — The ongoing effort by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), through the NFHS Foundation, to equip schools with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) took a significant step forward last month with a shipment of more than 600 AEDs to high schools and state high school associations.

Similar to the initial distribution of more than 400 AEDs in February 2018, state associations were able to request AEDs for schools without the life-saving units. The most recent response resulted in the NFHS Foundation awarding more than 600 Phillips Onsite AEDs to schools and state association offices in 24 states.

[Click here](#) for the full article on the NFHS website.



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