



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility for Eighth Grade Students in High School Activities - Class D Schools

Title:

Author:

Rod Peters; Barry Swisher;

School:

Bancroft-Rosalie; Sioux County

NSAA Districts:

3, 6

Proposal for:

Constitution & Bylaws

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 15 | 15 | 18 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 23 | 28 | 0 |
| District 4 | 13 | 30 | 8 |
| District 5 | 7 | 14 | 1 |
| District 6 | 17 | 8 | 1 |

Classes Affected:

Class D

Activities Affected:

All Activities

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date:

2026-08-01

Sections affected in
Constitution &
Bylaws:

| <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 22 | 2 | 2.1.1 |
| 24 | 2 | 2.2.2 |
| 25 | 2 | 2.2.3 |
| 28 | 2 | 2.6.3 |
| 29 | 2 | 2.6.4 |

Summary:

This proposal will allow 8th grade students at Class D schools **(with 15 or less boys or 15 or less girls NSAA enrollment)** to participate in NSAA school activities.

Rationale:

Allowing 8th graders to play ensures programs can survive and teams don't have to forfeit games or cancel seasons. Many states with small or rural schools (e.g., North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas) allow 8th graders to compete in high school sports under specific conditions. Nebraska schools would not be unusual in adopting this flexibility. It expands opportunities without disadvantaging larger schools that already have deep rosters.

Pros:

More Junior Varsity games for small schools.
Games will not be forfeited or cancelled.
Music already allows Junior High students to participate.

Cons:

Local schools will need to decide if 8th grade students will play on both high school and middle level activities.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

180-Day Transfer Rule

Title:

Author: Ryan Hogue

School: Kearney

NSAA District: 4

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: All

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sections affected in | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
| Constitution & Bylaws: | 25: | 2 | 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 |

Summary: This proposal is to address the current hemorrhage we have with parents/athletes abusing the purpose of the transfer eligibility guideline. The initial intent of the 90-day VARSITY ineligibility guideline was to encourage athletes/families to truly consider/weigh options of transferring to another school, and promote or maintain home domicile. However, 90 days is not phasing or even a worry for students and families moving from school to school after they have exhausted their May 1 transfer. The 90-day rule does not currently apply/impact the spring season.

Rationale: Implementing a 180-day ineligibility guideline may assist schools from losing students and families to the “open enrollment” policies of school districts. The idea of this proposal is to make the non-May 1 transfers or second/third transfers truly consider the purpose of the transfer and not make the move about athletics/activities. This 180-day proposal would bring back the original intent of the 90-day rule where families had to truly consider the true purpose of the transfer. The purpose of a transfer should not be to move to a school for athletic/activity gains.

Parents would have to “prove” a domicile change to void the 180-day ineligibility rule for VARSITY athletics/activities.

Pros: Potentially slowing the abundance of student transfers from school to school. Also making the transfer non-May 1 date more equitable as currently a transfer student who is a spring season athlete is NOT impacted by the current 90-day limit.

Cons: An issue as it has been with the 90-day rule is the verification of the domicile change. Schools will need to collaborate and work together in order for this to work effectively. The possibility of further loopholes will still be in existence.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| District 1 | 32 | 16 | 0 |
| District 2 | 50 | 35 | 1 |
| District 3 | 29 | 22 | 0 |
| District 4 | 37 | 11 | 3 |
| District 5 | 8 | 14 | 0 |
| District 6 | 14 | 11 | 1 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Participation in Two Sports During Season**

Author: Rod Peters

School: Bancroft-Rosalie

NSAA District: 3

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 12 | 36 | 0 |
| District 2 | 25 | 61 | 0 |
| District 3 | 33 | 18 | 0 |
| District 4 | 7 | 44 | 0 |
| District 5 | 8 | 14 | 0 |
| District 6 | 10 | 16 | 0 |

Classes Affected: **All Classes**

Activities Affected:

- Baseball
- Boys & Girls Basketball
- Boys & Girls Bowling
- Boys & Girls Cross-Country
- Football
- Boys & Girls Golf
- Boys & Girls Soccer
- Softball
- Boys & Girls Swimming & Diving
- Boys & Girls Tennis
- Boys & Girls Track
- Unified Sports
- Volleyball
- Boys & Girls Wrestling

This proposal:

- WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
- WILL NOT** increase costs to the NSAA
- WILL NOT** increase travel for participating schools
- WILL NOT** decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Constitution & Bylaws: | 42 | 3 | 3.1.1.2 |

Summary: Eliminate the language restricting students from simultaneously participating in two sports during a sports season. DELETE "and no student shall participate simultaneously in more than one sport per season."

Rationale: Simultaneous participation is allowed under the rules of the NFHS.
Simultaneous participation is allowed in surrounding states.
Allows local school boards to set athletic participation policy for their schools.

Pros: Local control.
Increases opportunities for student athletes.

Cons: Schools will need to develop policies and procedures for simultaneous participation in high school athletics.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Practice Proposal -- ALL Classes

Title:

Author: Donn Kasner

School: Omaha Skutt Catholic

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Baseball
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys Bowling
Girls Bowling
Boys Cross-Country
Girls Cross-Country
Football
Boys Golf
Girls Golf
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Softball
Swimming & Diving
Boys Tennis
Girls Tennis
Boys Track
Girls Track
Unified Sports
Volleyball
Boys Wrestling
Girls Wrestling

This proposal: **WILL** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Constitution & Bylaws: | 52-55 | 3.26 | 3.26 |

Summary: 3.2.6 - Open Gym & School Facilities. Students and coaches can be involved in NSAA activities during the "school year, out-of-season" period.

- A) School facilities are open for training and skill development activities.
- B) Schools can designate sport-specific times.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 26 | 22 | 0 |
| District 2 | 40 | 45 | 1 |
| District 3 | 23 | 28 | 0 |
| District 4 | 31 | 18 | 2 |
| District 5 | 4 | 18 | 0 |
| District 6 | 8 | 17 | 1 |

- C) Coaching or instruction can be provided.
D) Student attendance shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication indicate that a student's attendance is a condition for team membership or will determine the level of team participation.
E) Participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a 9-12 student of the member school) is not permitted.

Rationale:

This proposal would remove restrictions on coaches during open gym/facility time during the school year, out-of-season period.

This will allow coaches to work on skill development with an unlimited number of students at one time. This could allow coaches and students to continue developing their team and skills within an education-based environment, focused on the well-being of students.

Pros:

Provides equal access to coaching and skill development for all students at a member school.
Allows coaches to stay connected to their students during the offseason.

Saves time for coaches.

Gives parents a choice -- education-based instruction/development vs. for-profit youth sports organizations.

This proposal prevents school teams from competing against other school teams. The organized practice rule is still in effect for any school year, out of season competition.
Time saving for coaches

Multi-sport coaches

Cons:

Lack of facilities to hold open gym/facility time because facilities are in use by in-season activities (i.e. volleyball open gym during basketball season).

Management of coaches and the time for multi-sport, in-season athletes will be the responsibility of each member school administration.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Practice Proposal - Class A

Title:

Author: Tom Kerkman

School: Omaha Westside

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class A

Activities Affected: Baseball
Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys Bowling
Girls Bowling
Boys Cross-Country
Girls Cross-Country
Debate
Boys Golf
Girls Golf
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Softball
Swimming & Diving
Boys Tennis
Girls Tennis
Boys Track
Girls Track
Unified Sports
Volleyball
Boys Wrestling
Girls Wrestling

This proposal: **WILL** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Constitution & Bylaws: | 52-55 | 3.26 | 3.26 |

Summary: 3.2.6 - Open Gym & School Facilities. Students and coaches can be involved in NSAA activities during the "school year, out-of-season" period.

A) School facilities are open for training and skill development activities.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 9 | 9 | 30 |
| District 2 | 31 | 48 | 7 |
| District 3 | 3 | 44 | 4 |
| District 4 | 10 | 8 | 33 |
| District 5 | 1 | 11 | 10 |
| District 6 | 1 | 10 | 15 |

- B) Schools can designate sport-specific times.
- C) Coaching or instruction can be provided.
- D) Student attendance shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication indicate that a student's attendance is a condition for team membership or will determine the level of team participation.
- E) Participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a 9-12 student of the member school) is not permitted.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Rationale: | This proposal would remove restrictions on coaches during open gym/facility time during the school year, out-of-season period. This will allow coaches to work on skill development with an unlimited number of students at one time. This could allow coaches and students to continue developing their team and skills within an education-based environment, focused on the well-being of students. |
| Pros: | <p>Provides equal access to coaching and skill development for all students at a member school.</p> <p>Allows coaches to stay connected to their students during the offseason.</p> <p>Saves time for coaches.</p> <p>Gives parents a choice -- education-based instruction/development vs. for-profit youth sports organizations.</p> <p>This proposal prevents school teams from competing against other school teams. The organized practice rule is still in effect for any school year, out of season competition.</p> <p>Time saving for coaches</p> <p>Multi-sport coaches</p> |
| Cons: | <p>Lack of facilities to hold open gym/facility time because facilities are in use by in-season activities (i.e. volleyball open gym during basketball season).</p> <p>Management of coaches and the time for multi-sport, in-season athletes will be the responsibility of each member school administration.</p> |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Practice Proposal -- Class B

Title:

Author: Donn Kasner

School: Omaha Skutt Catholic

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class B

Activities Affected:

- Baseball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Bowling
- Girls Bowling
- Boys Cross-Country
- Girls Cross-Country
- Football
- Boys Golf
- Girls Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving
- Boys Tennis
- Girls Tennis
- Boys Track
- Girls Track
- Unified Sports
- Volleyball
- Boys Wrestling
- Girls Wrestling

This proposal:

- WILL** increase costs to the school
- WILL NOT** increase costs to the NSAA
- WILL NOT** increase travel for participating schools
- WILL NOT** decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Constitution & Bylaws: | 52-55 | 3.26 | 3.26 |

Summary: 3.2.6 - Open Gym & School Facilities. Students and coaches can be involved in NSAA activities during the "school year, out-of-season" period.

- A) School facilities are open for training and skill development activities.
- B) Schools can designate sport-specific times.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 6 | 10 | 32 |
| District 2 | 25 | 54 | 7 |
| District 3 | 3 | 43 | 5 |
| District 4 | 5 | 11 | 34 |
| District 5 | 1 | 8 | 13 |
| District 6 | 4 | 10 | 12 |

- C) Coaching or instruction can be provided.
D) Student attendance shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication indicate that a student's attendance is a condition for team membership or will determine the level of team participation.
E) Participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a 9-12 student of the member school) is not permitted.

Rationale:

This proposal would remove restrictions on coaches during open gym/facility time during the school year, out-of-season period.

This will allow coaches to work on skill development with an unlimited number of students at one time. This could allow coaches and students to continue developing their team and skills within an education-based environment, focused on the well-being of students.

Pros:

Provides equal access to coaching and skill development for all students at a member school.

Allows coaches to stay connected to their students during the offseason.

Saves time for coaches.

Gives parents a choice -- education-based instruction/development vs. for-profit youth sports organizations.

This proposal prevents school teams from competing against other school teams. The organized practice rule is still in effect for any school year, out of season competition.

Time saving for coaches

Multi-sport coaches

Cons:

Lack of facilities to hold open gym/facility time because facilities are in use by in-season activities (i.e. volleyball open gym during basketball season).

Management of coaches and the time for multi-sport, in-season athletes will be the responsibility of each member school administration.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Practice Proposal -- Class C

Title:

Author: Tom Kassing

School: Omaha Roncalli Catholic

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class C

Activities Affected:

- Baseball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Bowling
- Girls Bowling
- Boys Cross-Country
- Girls Cross-Country
- Football
- Boys Golf
- Girls Golf
- Music
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming & Diving
- Boys Tennis
- Girls Tennis
- Boys Track
- Girls Track
- Unified Sports
- Volleyball
- Boys Wrestling
- Girls Wrestling

This proposal:

WILL increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 52-55 | 3.26 | 3.26 |

Summary: 3.2.6 - Open Gym & School Facilities. Students and coaches can be involved in NSAA activities during the "school year, out-of-season" period.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 2 | 18 | 28 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 3 | 47 | 1 |
| District 4 | 6 | 19 | 25 |
| District 5 | 3 | 13 | 6 |
| District 6 | 3 | 16 | 7 |

- A) School facilities are open for training and skill development activities.
- B) Schools can designate sport-specific times.
- C) Coaching or instruction can be provided.
- D) Student attendance shall be voluntary. No coach or school representative may directly or by implication indicate that a student's attendance is a condition for team membership or will determine the level of team participation.
- E) Participation by non-high school students (graduates, adults, or individuals not a 9-12 student of the member school) is not permitted.

Rationale: This proposal would remove restrictions on coaches during open gym/facility time during the school year, out-of-season period.

This will allow coaches to work on skill development with an unlimited number of students at one time. This could allow coaches and students to continue developing their team and skills within an education-based environment, focused on the well-being of students.

Pros: Provides equal access to coaching and skill development for all students at a member school.

Allows coaches to stay connected to their students during the offseason.

Saves time for coaches.

Gives parents a choice -- education-based instruction/development vs. for-profit youth sports organizations.

This proposal prevents school teams from competing against other school teams. The organized practice rule is still in effect for any school year, out of season competition.

Multi-sport coaches

Cons: Lack of facilities to hold open gym/facility time because facilities are in use by in-season activities (i.e. volleyball open gym during basketball season).

Management of coaches and the time for multi-sport, in-season athletes will be the responsibility of each member school administration.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Baseball Contest Limitations “ Out-of-State Series”**

Author: Chad Holtz
School: Bellevue East
NSAA District: 2
Proposal For: Activities Manual
Classes Affected: All Classes
Activities Affected: Baseball

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 6 | 12 | 30 |
| District 2 | 59 | 5 | 21 |
| District 3 | 15 | 4 | 32 |
| District 4 | 9 | 2 | 38 |
| District 5 | 1 | 1 | 20 |
| District 6 | 6 | 1 | 19 |

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
Implementation date: **WILL NOT** decrease a student's or coach's instruction time
2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
8

Summary: No team may exceed 24 dates prior to the district and state tournaments. Participation in any baseball tournament shall count as one date. A team may not participate in more than 4 tournaments, excluding the district and state series of tournaments. Each team may compete in one out-of-state series to be counted as one tournament. No member school shall play more than two baseball games in one day.

Teams playing baseball shall be allowed to schedule the following events, counting each as one of its twenty-four permissible dates:

Single Game - two schools playing one game on one day.

Doubleheader - playing two pre-determined contests in one day.

Triangular - three schools playing two pre-determined contests in one day.

Double-Dual - four schools playing two pre-determined contests or two of the other schools in one day.

Tournament - 4 or more teams where winners continue to advance or compete until a champion is determined (straight bracket or pool play with championship criteria).

Out-of-State Series - 4 or more teams scheduled to compete over a span no longer than 4 days. The out-of-state series must consist of inter-state teams and be a sanctioned event by the state association and NFHS (if applicable).

Rationale: The contest limitations in baseball limit teams from participating in various out-of-state competitions because the definition of a tournament only allows competition with championship criteria. This addition allows teams to travel out-of-state for showcase series or tournaments once a season to an event that would otherwise be considered a tournament without penalizing their schedule or the schedules of other intra-state opponents.

Pros: Opens the possibility for teams to compete in an event without compromising a large portion of their schedule.

Cons: More games being played during the season for teams that choose to participate in an out-of-state series.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Baseball Pitch Count Discrepancy

Title:

Author: Scott Curry

School: Seward

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Baseball

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2027-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
Page 12

Summary: Failure To Report Pitch Counts

The use of a pitcher not eligible to pitch by the pitch count restrictions or any discrepancy found after the game should be reported to the NSAA. The NSAA Executive Director will enforce a public or private reprimand as outlined in Bylaw 2.11 ranging from forfeiture of a contest to school probation. If a violation is confirmed during a game, the head coach shall be ejected from the game, and the pitcher removed from the pitcher's position.

Rationale: The current pitch count rule outlines forfeiture of a contest if a violation is discovered after the contest is complete. Coaches feel that in the current state of high school baseball, the violation is not based on defiance, but rather other factors like discrepancies due to human error. This change would still reprimand the school but not punish the athletes.

Pros: Does not punish an entire team for mistakes made by human error.

Cons: Lesser penalty if a violation was made in defiance or was malicious in nature.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 19 | 3 | 26 |
| District 2 | 31 | 31 | 24 |
| District 3 | 8 | 5 | 38 |
| District 4 | 12 | 0 | 39 |
| District 5 | 2 | 0 | 20 |
| District 6 | 2 | 0 | 24 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Outside Participation for Boys & Girls Bowling**

Author: Keith Maly; John Erwin
School: Millard North; Norfolk
NSAA Districts: 2, 3

Proposal For: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys & Girls Bowling

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
Implementation date: **WILL NOT** decrease a student's or coach's instruction time
2026-08-01

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 5 | 14 | 29 |
| District 2 | 21 | 42 | 23 |
| District 3 | 20 | 8 | 23 |
| District 4 | 5 | 7 | 39 |
| District 5 | 12 | 0 | 10 |
| District 6 | 12 | 1 | 13 |

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws: Page 62 Article 3 Section 5.1

Summary: Include a new bylaw to allow Bowling athletes to outside participate in a similar manner that Swimming & Diving athletes do but only as an individual in USBC Certified Bowling Leagues and/or USBC Certified Singles Competitions and/or College Recruitment Showcases and/or skills development clinics. Bowling athletes may not participate in outside team or doubles competitions during the season.

Bowling Outside Participation. During the school sport season of Bowling, a student may, after fulfilling all requirements, practices and competitions of the school Bowling team, practice and/or compete as an individual participant in an organized USBC Certified Bowling League and/or USBC Certified Singles Competitions under the conditions listed below.

A) Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competition. Should a non-school practice/competition be in direct conflict with the school scheduled practice/competition, the school practice/competition shall take priority. Prior approval by the school administrator may grant an exception to a student to participate in the non-school bowling league if in direct conflict with the school program.

B) No school time shall be missed to compete, practice or travel to the site of such non-school Bowling competition unless the absence is approved in advance by the school administrator.

C) A school shall not replace its Bowling program with any non-school bowling program.

Rationale: The increasing cost of lane rental and limited lane availability in bowling centers has led to many teams having to reduce the number of practices that they have each week. Limited Sport Shots lane conditions are available to prepare athletes for Season Tournaments, Districts, and State. This change would encourage more practice among our athletes on challenging Bowling conditions as well as help with increasing our participation numbers for our Bowling teams across the state.

Pros: Less cost for schools by encouraging participation in leagues (3 games per week at a low cost) and encouraging participation for those that choose league and Singles Competition Bowling over their high school teams.

Cons: None



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Cross Country Classification Alignment for Classes B, C, and D

Title:

Author: Jay Staehr; Josh Siske

School: Aurora; Platteview

NSAA Districts: 1, 2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: B, C, D

Activities Affected: Boys Cross-Country
Girls Cross-Country

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-23

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page
9 of the Cross Country Manual

Article

Section

Summary: Classification of Schools - Cross Country

Currently Class A already has a set number of 850 and larger, they would vote to keep their classification the same. The proposal would also move Class B and Class C to a set classification number for the smallest and largest classification number in each class (similar to what Class A has done for years). This would be to help even out the discrepancy between largest and smallest schools in these classes. Class B would match the same number that is already in place in football, 320-849 (160 for gender specific x2), for many years now. This would give Class B a maximum of a 2.65% size discrepancy between the smallest and largest schools. In the past 6 years, the average size of the largest school in Class B has been 826, which at 320-826 would be a 2.57% discrepancy average for the past 6 years with this proposal. This change would keep the size of Class B very close to its current size, not changing how districts are distributed but would move the schools that are substantially smaller down to Class C (this current year would be 3 schools). Class C would use the classification numbers of 125-319. This would give Class C a maximum of a 2.55% size discrepancy between the smallest and largest schools. This change would keep the size of Class C very close to its current size of 60 schools in the class, based on the past 6 years classification numbers, but at the same time not stretching the size discrepancy of the class out too far. This would also move the schools which are smaller down to Class D. Class D would be any school with a combined classification number of 124 or smaller. This would most likely add a school or a few schools (this current year would only be 1) to Class D based off of the past 6 years of classifications.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 16 | 9 | 23 |
| District 2 | 36 | 24 | 26 |
| District 3 | 38 | 10 | 3 |
| District 4 | 28 | 12 | 10 |
| District 5 | 10 | 11 | 1 |
| District 6 | 13 | 10 | 3 |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Class..... | A..... | B..... | C..... |
| Largest..... | 2085..... | 830..... | 261..... |
| Smallest..... | 857..... | 283..... | 121..... |
| Discrepancy..... | 2.43..... | 2.93..... | 2.15..... |

Boys and Girls Cross Country shall be divided into four classes for competition as follows:

Based on combined boy and girl enrollment, grades 9-11.

Schools with a total enrollment of 850 and above will be in class A.

Note: Classifications will be done on a yearly basis, except in class A, which will be done on a two-year classification. 2022 was the 1st year of the two-year class A classification period.

Schools with the total enrollment of 320 to 849 will be in class B.

Schools with the total enrollment of 125 to 319 will be in class C.

The remaining schools registered for Cross Country shall be in class D.

Rationale:

Setting total enrollment for each class will eliminate the high discrepancy from smallest to largest schools for Cross Country. This rationale has been used in Football for years and has worked well for classes A and B. This proposal would help to eliminate the schools that are outliers in the classification and don't naturally match up well with the rest of their prospective class, making classifications less spread out from top to bottom, leveling the playing field for all schools, bringing more equity to the classification of Cross Country. When a school only needs 4 runners to score, it is important that schools are not put at a disadvantage due to their size in comparison to the other schools within their class. Cross Country is not like any other sport. What works best for other sports is not necessarily what works best for Cross Country. It is important to even out the discrepancy from smallest to largest schools eliminating outlier sized schools in a class. As schools are built in our state and rural schools continue to get smaller and urban schools continue to grow, the way that we classify our sport will need to continue to change as well. Our "traditional" Class B and Class C communities are changing and this can be a way to help level the playing field for many schools. There are other sports that are dealing with the same issue that Cross Country has had for years with certain classes having a discrepancy in the sizes of the schools within the class. The hope would be that this proposal could be the inspiration for other sports to make similar changes to help even out the discrepancies within their classification numbers, giving students and schools a better chance to compete with schools closer to their size.

Pros:

Keep class A the same size as we currently have.

Bring class B and C to an even ratio between the smallest and largest schools within each class. Match Classes B and C more closely to what is already existing in class A with a set size of schools within the class.

This would bring stability to Cross Country classifications from year to year. Although some schools will always be on the borders of each class and bounce back and forth from time to time, it would leave less discrepancy between classes.

It would eliminate a lot of the complaints about classifications that seem to be a constant topic of conversation within coaching circles and the large discrepancies that currently exist. This can also eliminate much of the stress that coaches feel during the classification process.

With this proposal, we can hopefully move in a direction that is best for the sport long term. Cross Country can be a model for other sports to clean up the discrepancies in sizes of classes.

This will change our current classification numbers by just a few schools in Classes B, C, and D.

Cons:



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class B Cross Country - Four Geographic Districts

Title:

Author: Cindy Wells

School: Northwest

NSAA District: 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class B

Activities Affected: Boys Cross-Country

Girls Cross-Country

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| District 1 | 6 | 4 | 38 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 5 | 16 | 30 |
| District 4 | 7 | 2 | 41 |
| District 5 | 5 | 3 | 14 |
| District 6 | 7 | 5 | 14 |

This proposal:

- WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
- WILL NOT** increase costs to the NSAA
- WILL NOT** increase travel for participating schools
- WILL NOT** decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-10

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page 11 Article Section

Summary: This proposal is to address the method for conducting district cross country races and qualifying teams and individuals for the state meet. Create four districts based geographically. With 32 teams in Class B, each district will have 8 schools, and qualify the top four teams in each district for the state meet for 16 total schools. In addition, the top 5 finishers NOT on a qualifying team will qualify as individuals. Should four or more of those individuals come from the same school, they will race as individuals at the state meet and not earn a team score at the state meet.

Rationale: The initial method of seeding teams for the district races came as a way to help the "best" teams make it to the state meet. We, Class B teams adopted a method used by Class A, which doesn't apply as well to Class B. Since Class B teams are spread out all across the state, the courses we run vary greatly in degree of difficulty. Thus, submitting team times to seed the districts is not an accurate way to determine who the "best" teams are that deserve higher seeds. Teams from Scottsbluff, Beatrice, and Elkhorn will all run in Class B, but rarely if ever run on the same course throughout the season to compare which team should be a higher seed or not. Courses are not given a "rating" like in golf to allow for the difficulty to factor into the seeding. Seeding works in Class A because of the high concentration of teams in the Lincoln and Omaha area all running the same courses, and comparing "apples to apples".

The language on individual qualifiers would change to 5 individual qualifiers who are not a part of a qualifying team, which helps to eliminate the difficulty when one individual school can put 6 runners in the top 15 and take those spots from other runners. It is very common when someone outside the top 15 beats a 5th or 6th runner from a qualifying team. This, again, helps the "best" and "deserving" kids qualify for the state meet.

Pros: Decreases travel time. Adds participants to the State Meet. Eliminates the inaccurate seeding process. Eliminates data entry for coaches. Adding a fourth qualifying team from each district helps ensure that the most deserving teams are represented at the state meet. Individual qualifiers do not have to worry about being in a district with teams who can medal many runners and take qualifying spots from them.

Cons: If you take 16 total teams, it represents 50% of Class B.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Balance # of Cross Country Individual Qualifiers per District**

Author: Aaron McCoy

School: North Platte

NSAA District: 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Cross-Country
Girls Cross-Country

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-10

| Sections affected in Activities Manual: | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|---|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 16 | | 1 |
| | 16 | | 2 |

Summary: This proposal is to equally distribute the amount of individuals that come out of each district not on qualifying teams. The amount of individuals that would qualify from each district not on a qualifying team would be 8 per gender. Those in the top 15 would all individually qualify in their district and if the number was less than 8 individuals not on a qualifying team that finished in the top 15, the next individuals until the 8th finisher not on a qualifying team was all accounted for, would qualify for the state meet. These are the number of kids that qualified from each district a year ago as individuals by district not on a qualifying team.

Medalists not on qualifying teams:

Class A:

A1 District: Boys - 3 Girls - 2

A2 District: Boys - 4 Girls - 3

A3 District: Boys - 3 Girls - 4

A4 District: Boys - 6 Girls - 6

Class B:

B1 District: Boys - 3 Girls - 5

B2 District: Boys - 5 Girls - 5

B3 District: Boys - 3 Girls - 3

B4 District: Boys - 4 Girls - 3

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 25 | 7 | 16 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 5 | 44 | 2 |
| District 4 | 33 | 9 | 8 |
| District 5 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| District 6 | 21 | 3 | 2 |

Class C:

C1 District: Boys - 5 Girls - 6

C2 District: Boys - 4 Girls - 7

C3 District: Boys - 6 Girls - 9

C4 District: Boys - 6 Girls - 6

C5 District: Boys - 5 Girls - 8

Class D:

D1 District: Boys - 6 Girls - 8

D2 District: Boys - 7 Girls - 5

D3 District: Boys - 7 Girls - 8

D4 District: Boys - 7 Girls - 6

D5 District: Boys - 5 Girls - 9

D6 District: Boys - 6 Girls - 6

Rationale:

Gives an equal number of individuals among all districts a chance to compete at the state meet. There are years the teams that qualify for state, also earn the majority of individual spots. This gives more individuals not on a qualifying team a chance to qualify for state and doesn't favor one district over another based on the amount of extra individuals that get to go.

Pros:

Increases the number of state participants and deepens the state field.

Lessens the chance of a top individual being left out due to a loaded district.

Makes it even among all districts, across all classes on the amount of guaranteed qualifiers not on qualifying teams.

Cons:

Creating an increase in total number of runners at state meet.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Boys and Girls Practice Simultaneously - Track & Field & Cross Country**

Author: Dan Schmitt

School: Homer

NSAA District: 3

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys & Girls Cross-Country
Boys & Girls Track & Field

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|---|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws: | 70 | 3.11.10 | Track & Field |
| | 68 | 3.11.3 | Cross Country |

Summary: A school may permit boys and girls track & field and cross country athletes to practice together, allowing for the sharing of practice times, locations, and coaches.

Rationale: This would bring the NSAA Constitution & Bylaws into alignment with what is standard practice across the state of Nebraska with regards to how most member schools organize and manage practice for their boys & girls track & field and cross country programs. The NSAA already recognizes the unique differences in Track & Field and cross country that exist compared to other sports in other rulings. For example, boys and girls are assigned to the same district for competition purposes and their state competition is held at the same location and time because these two activities often share coaches between the two programs. This is not the case for sports like basketball or soccer, where each gender is assigned to its own district and has their own state competition dates.

Because of the non-contact nature of track & field and cross country, having boys and girls practice at the same time will not put either gender in any kind of physical harm. This ruling would also fall in line with the 2023-2024 legislative change that allowed junior high athletes to practice with high school athletes.

Pros: Track & Field and cross country coaches would be protected from a current NSAA bylaw that is currently contradictory to what is standard operating procedure for many member schools across the state, which is having both genders practice at the same time in the same location. The NFHS also recognizes and allows for this issue in competitions. See the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book, Rule 1 Section 2 Article 3 which reads "Combining competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) may occur if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary."

Cons: None.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 46 | 0 | 2 |
| District 2 | 80 | 1 | 5 |
| District 3 | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| District 4 | 48 | 0 | 1 |
| District 5 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Genders Running Simultaneously in Non-Varsity for Track & Field and Cross Country

Title:

Author: Dan Schmitt

School: Homer

NSAA District: 3

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Cross-Country
Girls Cross-Country
Boys Track
Girls Track

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Sections affected in Constitution & | 70 | 3.11.10 | Track & Field |
| Bylaws: | 68 | 3.11.3 | Cross Country |

Summary: Summary: At non-varsity track & field and cross country meets, the meet director may combine competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree, or the referee deems it necessary.

Rationale: This would bring the NSAA Constitution & Bylaws into alignment with what the NFHS rules for Track & Field. See the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book, Rule 1 Section 2 Article 3 which reads "Combining competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) may occur if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary."

This current NSAA bylaw and its interpretation has been broken for years, unintentionally, by many meet directors and member schools because of the contradiction between the NFHS Rules, which allow this to happen, and the NSAA bylaw, which does not.

A referee might deem it necessary to combine genders due to completing a track & field meet in a timely manner, which helps secure meet workers. This can also be particularly important if weather could be a potential hinderance to completing the competition. Due to the non-contact nature of Track & Field competitions neither gender is placed in physical harm through this standard practice.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 45 | 3 | 0 |
| District 2 | 80 | 5 | 1 |
| District 3 | 47 | 4 | 0 |
| District 4 | 46 | 3 | 1 |
| District 5 | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |

This would only apply to non-varsity meets because a potential competitive advantage could occur, particularly for females chasing a state record when competing with males. A state record is unlikely to occur at a JV meet.

Pros: Track & Field and cross country meet directors and member schools would be protected from a current NSAA bylaw that is currently contradictory to what is standard operating procedure as allowed by the NFHS rule book. It is common to see certain events, particularly the 4x800 relay and 3200-meter run contested by running boys and girls together because of low entry numbers, while scoring them separately within their gender.

Cons: none



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Boys and Girls Practice Simultaneously in Cross Country

Title:

Author: Bubba Penas; Matt Walter; Bryan Fangmeyer

School: Papillion-La Vista South; Shelton; Eustis-Farnam

NSAA Districts: 2, 4, 5

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Cross-Country
Girls Cross-Country

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Page</u> p. 68 | <u>Article</u> 3.11.3 | <u>Section</u> Cross Country |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|

Summary: A school may permit boys and girls cross country athletes to practice together, allowing for the sharing of practice times, locations, and coaches.

Rationale: This would bring the NSAA Constitution & Bylaws into alignment with what is standard practice across the state of Nebraska with regards to how many member schools organize and manage practice for their boys & girls cross country programs. The NSAA already recognizes the unique differences in Cross Country that exist compared to other sports in other rulings. For example, boys and girls are assigned to the same district location for competition purposes and their state competition is held at the same location and time because these two activities often share coaches between the two programs. This is not the case for sports like basketball or soccer, where each gender is assigned to its own district and has its own state competition dates. Because of the non-contact nature of cross country, having boys and girls practice at the same time will not put either gender in any kind of physical harm. This ruling would also fall in line with the 2023-2024 legislative change that allowed junior high athletes to practice with high school athletes in cross country.

Pros: Cross Country coaches would be protected from a current NSAA bylaw that is currently contradictory to what is standard operating procedure for many member schools across the state, which is having both genders practice at the same time in the same location. The NFHS also recognizes and allows for this issue in competitions. See the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book, Rule 1 Section 2 Article 3 which reads "Combining competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) may occur if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary."

Cons: None

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 40 | 0 | 8 |
| District 2 | 78 | 2 | 6 |
| District 3 | 49 | 1 | 1 |
| District 4 | 46 | 1 | 3 |
| District 5 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Genders Running Simultaneously in Non-Varsity for Cross Country

Title:

Author: Bubba Penas; Matt Walter; Bryan Fangmeyer

School: Papillion-La Vista South; Shelton; Eustis-Farnam

NSAA Districts: 2, 4, 5

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected Boys & Girls Cross Country

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws: Page p. 68 Article 3.11.3 Section Cross Country

Summary: In non-varsity cross country races the meet director may combine competitors of different genders (while scoring each separately) if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary.

Rationale: This would bring the NSAA Constitution & Bylaws into alignment with what the NFHS rules for Track & Field and Cross Country. See the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book, Rule 1 Section 2 Article 3 which reads "Combining competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) may occur if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary." This current NSAA bylaw and its interpretation has been broken for years, unintentionally, by many meet directors and member schools because of the contradiction between the NFHS Rules, which allow this to happen, and the NSAA bylaw, which does not. Why would a referee deem it necessary to combine genders? Due to completing a track & field meet in a timely manner, which helps secure meet workers. This can also be particularly important if weather could be a potential hinderance to completing the competition. Due to the non-contact nature of Track & Field competitions neither gender is placed in physical harm through this standard practice.

Why only apply this rule to non-varsity races? There could be a potential competitive advantage gained, particularly for female teams in classes A and B to compete with males. District assignments in Classes A and B are determined by varsity top-5 time averages.

Pros: Cross Country meet directors and member schools would be protected from a current NSAA bylaw that is currently contradictory to what is standard operating procedure as allowed by the NFHS rule book. Reduces costs for schools using timing companies to run their meets. Many timing companies calculate their fee by the number of races being run in the meet. Giving meet directors the ability to combine races reduces their cost, thus saving member schools money.

Cons: None.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 37 | 3 | 8 |
| District 2 | 76 | 4 | 6 |
| District 3 | 50 | 1 | 0 |
| District 4 | 46 | 2 | 3 |
| District 5 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Boys and Girls Practice Simultaneously in Track & Field

Title:

Author: Bubba Penas; Matt Walter; Bryan Fangmeyer
School: Papillion-La Vista South; Shelton; Eustis-Farnam
NSAA Districts: 2, 4, 5
Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 48 | 0 | 0 |
| District 2 | 85 | 1 | 0 |
| District 3 | 50 | 1 | 0 |
| District 4 | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| District 5 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Track
Girls Track

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws: Page p. 70 Article 3.11.10 Section Track & Field

Summary: A school may permit boys and girls track & field athletes to practice together, allowing for the sharing of practice times, locations, and coaches.

Rationale: This would bring the NSAA Constitution & Bylaws into alignment with what is standard practice across the state of Nebraska with regards to how most member schools organize and manage practice for their boys & girls track & field programs. The NSAA already recognizes the unique differences in Track & Field that exists compared to other sports in other rulings. For example, boys and girls are assigned to the same district for competition purposes and their state competition is held at the same location and time because these two activities often share coaches between the two programs. This is not the case for sports like basketball or soccer, where each gender is assigned to its own district and has their own state competition dates.

Because of the non-contact nature of track & field, having boys and girls practice at the same time will not put either gender in any kind of physical harm. This ruling would also fall in line with the 2023-2024 legislative change that allowed junior high athletes to practice with high school athletes in track & field.

Pros: Track & Field coaches would be protected from a current NSAA bylaw that is currently contradictory to what is standard operating procedure for many member schools across the state, which is having both genders practice at the same time in the same location. The NFHS also recognizes and allows for this issue in competitions. See the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book, Rule 1 Section 2 Article 3 which reads "Combining competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) may occur if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary."

Cons: None



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Genders Running Simultaneously in Non-Varsity for Track & Field

Title:

Author:

School:

NSAA Districts:

Proposal for:

Classes Affected:

Activities

Affected:

This proposal:

Implementation date:

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

Summary:

Rationale:

Pros:

Cons:

Bubba Penas; Matt Walter; Bryan Fangmeyer

Papillion-La Vista South; Shelton; Eustis-Farnam

2, 4, 5

Constitution & Bylaws

All

Boys Track

Girls Track

WILL NOT increase costs to the school

WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA

WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools

WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

2026-08-01

Page
p. 70

Article
3.11.10

Section
Track & Field

At non-varsity track & field meets the meet director may combine competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary.

This would bring the NSAA Constitution & Bylaws into alignment with what the NFHS rules for Track & Field. See the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book, Rule 1 Section 2 Article 3 which reads "Combining competitors of different genders in events (while scoring each separately) may occur if the head coaches of the competing teams unanimously agree or the referee deems it necessary." This current NSAA bylaw and its interpretation has been broken for years, unintentionally, by many meet directors and member schools because of the contradiction between the NFHS Rules, which allow this to happen, and the NSAA bylaw, which does not. Why would a referee deem it necessary to combine genders? Due to completing a track & field meet in a timely manner, which helps secure meet workers. This can also be particularly important if weather could be a potential hinderance to completing the competition. Due to the non-contact nature of Track & Field competitions neither gender is placed in physical harm through this standard practice.

Why only apply this rule to non-varsity meets? There could be a potential competitive advantage gained, particularly for females chasing a state record to compete with males. A state record is unlikely to occur at a JV meet.

Track & Field meet directors and member schools would beprotected from a current NSAA bylaw that is currently contradictory to what is standard operating procedure as allowed by the NFHS rule book. It is common to see certain events, particularly the 4x800 relay and 3200-meter run contested by running boys and girls together because of low entry numbers, while scoring them separately within their gender.

None

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 45 | 3 | 0 |
| District 2 | 80 | 3 | 3 |
| District 3 | 50 | 1 | 0 |
| District 4 | 48 | 2 | 1 |
| District 5 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Football Wildcard Points Awarded for Losses to Undefeated Programs

Title: **Football Wildcard Points Awarded for Losses to Undefeated Programs**

Author: Brent Bauer

School: NSAA Alliance

District: 6

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Football

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 19 | 27 | 2 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 10 | 41 | 0 |
| District 4 | 29 | 19 | 3 |
| District 5 | 7 | 14 | 1 |
| District 6 | 24 | 2 | 0 |

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2025-09-15

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
41 (Football Manual) ** **

Summary: This proposal would create a "Division 1A" for schools that finish the regular football season undefeated. Losses to teams that finish the season as "Division 1A" receive 38 points for the loss **if the team is in a larger class or within your class.**

As it stands now, a loss to a division 1 team awards schools 36 power points. Under this proposal, the creation of "Division 1A" would categorize the loss as a 38-point power point loss until the "Division 1A" team would lose a game. Upon that loss, the power point total would become a 36 point loss as long as the victorious team stayed a Division 1 team. Under this proposal divisions would be labeled as - 1A, 1, 2, 3, 4 (This proposal could be executed by simply adding a 5th division as well - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5). Under the "Division 1A" format the classifications would be as follows:

Division 1A (38 points) - 9-0
Division 1 (36 points) - 8-1 or 7-2
Division 2 (33 points) - 6-3 or 5-4
Division 3 (30 points) - 4-5 or 3-6 or 2-7
Division 4 (27 points) - 1-8 or 0-9

Rationale: Many competitive balance proposals and discussions aim at penalizing teams that are successful. The debate about teams being pushed out of their classification due to success in the competition realm is at times an unreasonable or unnecessary discussion. Schools can feel criticized for simply having good programs that compete at a high level. This can be due to many factors not limited to culture, coaching, student body and so on. This proposal will no longer question or debate the classification of successful programs. It will reward schools & teams for competing with top notch competition regardless of enrollment discrepancies, enrollment procedures or any other issue that can seemingly inhibit competitive balance.

Pros: Reduces / eliminates the discussion of moving schools up a classification based on program success. Schools will be more willing to compete with programs in a close geographical setting regardless of program prowess.

Cons:



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Football 40-Point Running Clock

Title:

Author: Brian Fleischman

School: Overton

NSAA District: 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Football

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 12 | 35 | 1 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 7 | 43 | 1 |
| District 4 | 17 | 31 | 3 |
| District 5 | 5 | 17 | 0 |
| District 6 | 4 | 21 | 1 |

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation

date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected

in Activities

Manual:

Page

35 (football manual)

Article

Section

35-point running clock

This proposal would alter the current 35-point running clock provisions with these changes. This change would affect all classes.

Summary:

- 1) Change running clock guidelines to 40-points from the current 35-points.
- 2) The clock would not stop following a score. (#3 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 3) The clock would not stop during penalty enforcement. (#4 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 4) Normal clock operations would not resume if the point differential is reduced to fewer than 40 points. Once running clock procedures begin, they remain in effect for the remainder of the contest. (final statement under 35-point running clock guidelines)

Rationale:

These changes would create similarity for running clock guidelines in football and basketball. There isn't much good that comes from a game that reaches this point. Often coaches who are well ahead will play their 2nd & 3rd string players while the other team leaves their starters in possibly due to low participation numbers and not having other players to sub into the game. Currently this can create a situation where the clock returns to regular functioning when the score falls below the 35 point differential. This may lead to coaches re-inserting their starters into the line-up after they haven't played since the first half. The potential for injury rises as these players are no longer warmed and properly stretched out.

Pros:

Speeds up the game in these situations. Better aligns football and basketball running clock guidelines.
 Still allows for 2nd half play as opposed to returning to the old 45-point rule.

Cons:

Speeds up the game and potentially takes away varsity game time away from younger players.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Football 40-Point Running Clock

Title:

Author: Cody Whipkey
 School: Wilcox-Hildreth
 NSAA District: 5
 Proposal for: Activities Manual
 Classes Affected: All
 Activities Affected: Football

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 10 | 38 | 0 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 40 | 10 | 1 |
| District 4 | 45 | 5 | 1 |
| District 5 | 18 | 4 | 0 |
| District 6 | 23 | 2 | 1 |

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date:

2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:

Page Article Section
 35 35-point running clock

Summary:

This proposal would alter the current 35-point running clock provisions with these changes. This change would affect all classes.

- 1) Change running clock guidelines to 40-points from the current 35-points.
- 2) The clock would not stop during a Point After Touchdown attempt, but would then stop following the PAT attempt prior to the ensuing kickoff. The clock would then re-start when the ball is kicked on the ensuing kickoff. (#3 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 3) The clock would not stop during penalty enforcement. (#4 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 4) Normal clock operations would not resume if the point differential is reduced to fewer than 40 points. Once running clock procedures begin, they remain in effect for the remainder of the contest. (final statement under 35-point running clock guidelines)

Rationale:

These changes would create similarity for running clock guidelines in football and basketball. There isn't much good that comes from a game that reaches this point. Often coaches who are well ahead will play their 2nd & 3rd string players while the other team leaves their starters in possibly due to low participation numbers and not having other players to sub into the game. Currently this can create a situation where the clock returns to regular functioning when the score falls below the 35 point differential. This may lead to coaches re-inserting their starters into the line-up after they haven't played since the first half. The potential for injury rises as these players are no longer warmed and properly stretched out.

Pros:

Speeds up the game in these situations. Better aligns football and basketball running clock guidelines. Still allows for 2nd half play as opposed to returning to the old 45-point rule.

Cons:

Speeds up the game and potentially takes away varsity game time away from younger players.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Football 40-Point Running Clock

Title:

Author: Brian Fleischman

School: Overton

NSAA District: 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Football

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation

date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected
in Activities
Manual:

Page
35 (Football Manual)

Article

Section
35-point running clock

Summary:

This proposal would alter the current 35-point running clock provisions with these changes. This would only affect Class D.

- 1) Change running clock guidelines to 40-points from the current 35-points.
- 2) The clock would not stop following a score. (#3 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 3) The clock would not stop during penalty enforcement. (#4 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 4) Normal clock operations would not resume if the point differential is reduced to fewer than 40 points. Once running clock procedures begin, they remain in effect for the remainder of the contest. (final statement under 35-point running clock guidelines)

Rationale:

These changes would create similarity for running clock guidelines in football and basketball. There isn't much good that comes from a game that reaches this point. Often coaches who are well ahead will play their 2nd & 3rd string players while the other team leaves their starters in possibly due to low participation numbers and not having other players to sub into the game. Currently this can create a situation where the clock returns to regular functioning when the score falls below the 35 point differential. This may lead to coaches re-inserting their starters into the line-up after they haven't played since the first half. The potential for injury rises as these players are no longer warmed and properly stretched out.

Pros:

Speeds up the game in these situations. Better aligns football and basketball running clock guidelines. Still allows for 2nd half play as opposed to returning to the old 45-point rule.

Cons:

Speeds up the game and potentially takes away varsity game time away from younger players.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 6 | 28 | 14 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 9 | 37 | 5 |
| District 4 | 15 | 23 | 13 |
| District 5 | 6 | 16 | 0 |
| District 6 | 12 | 10 | 4 |



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Football 40-Point Running Clock

Title:

Author: Cody Whipkey
 School: Wilcox-Hildreth
 NSAA District: 5
 Proposal for: Activities Manual
 Classes Affected: Class D
 Activities Affected: Football

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 9 | 24 | 15 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 36 | 9 | 6 |
| District 4 | 33 | 4 | 12 |
| District 5 | 14 | 8 | 0 |
| District 6 | 20 | 1 | 5 |

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date:

2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:

Page Article Section
 35 35-point running clock

Summary:

This proposal would alter the current 35-point running clock provisions with these changes. This change would only affect Class D.

- 1) Change running clock guidelines to 40-points from the current 35-points.
- 2) The clock would not stop during a Point After Touchdown attempt, but would then stop following the PAT attempt prior to the ensuing kickoff. The clock would then re-start when the ball is kicked on the ensuing kickoff. (#3 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 3) The clock would not stop during penalty enforcement. (#4 under 35-point running clock guidelines)
- 4) Normal clock operations would not resume if the point differential is reduced to fewer than 40 points. Once running clock procedures begin, they remain in effect for the remainder of the contest. (final statement under 35-point running clock guidelines)

Rationale:

These changes would create similarity for running clock guidelines in football and basketball. There isn't much good that comes from a game that reaches this point. Often coaches who are well ahead will play their 2nd & 3rd string players while the other team leaves their starters in possibly due to low participation numbers and not having other players to sub into the game. Currently this can create a situation where the clock returns to regular functioning when the score falls below the 35 point differential. This may lead to coaches re-inserting their starters into the line-up after they haven't played since the first half. The potential for injury rises as these players are no longer warmed and properly stretched out.

Pros:

Speeds up the game in these situations. Better aligns football and basketball running clock guidelines. Still allows for 2nd half play as opposed to returning to the old 45-point rule.

Cons:

Speeds up the game and potentially takes away varsity game time away from younger players.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

60-Point Mercy Rule

Title:

Author: Scott Jorgensen

School: Paxton

NSAA District: 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Football

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-10

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
 34

Summary: Addition located in ALL CAPS

35 Point Running Clock (All Classes)

A running clock will be used for varsity regular-season games, play-off games and State Championship games for six, eight and eleven-man football whenever a 35-point score differential is reached after the first half of play the clock will run continuously except for the following times:

During called timeouts. (Restart on the snap)

During the break between the 3rd and 4th quarters. (Restart on the snap)

Following a score. (Restart on the kick-off, 1st touching or ensuing snap, kick out of bounds or touchback)

During penalty enforcement. (Restart on "ready for play")

Extended injury, if coach comes on the field. (Restart on "ready for play")

Anytime the officials deem it necessary for safety reasons. (Restart on "ready for play")

****WHENEVER A 60-POINT SCORE DIFFERENTIAL IS REACHED DURING THE SECOND HALF OF PLAY, THE GAME WILL BE TERMINATED.****

NOTE: NFHS RULE 3.1.3 "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 5 | 41 | 2 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 31 | 18 | 1 |
| District 4 | 40 | 11 | 0 |
| District 5 | 9 | 13 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |

agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated.

Normal clock operating and timing procedures will resume if the point differential is reduced to fewer than 35 points. Optional for non-varsity competition.

| | |
|------------|--|
| Rationale: | <p>I put this proposal before the membership back in 2015. During the 2015 regular season, there were 58 games that would have ended once the 60 point differential was reached. So far in the 2025 season (games through Week #5) we have had 47 games that have ended with a 60 point or greater point differential, and we still have 4 weeks left in the regular season. We are currently averaging 9 games per week that are ending with a point differential of 60 or greater.</p> <p>Terminating the game after a 60 point differential is reached in the second half shortens the game which can help prevent injuries for teams that may have low numbers or are already plagued with injuries. It allows teams that are dominating games enough time to substitute players to ensure players receive playing time.</p> |
| Pros: | Maintaining player safety by shortening the game. |
| Cons: | |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Extend Girls Golf Regular Season

Title:

Author: Mike Greene-Walsh

School: Omaha South

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A

Activities Affected: Girls Golf

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 13 | | 4 |

Summary: This proposal would allow for one additional week of Girls Golf Invites to count towards meeting the minimum requirement of three Varsity 18-hole stroke play competitions.

Current: All season meets hosted on or prior to the Friday of Week 11 (September 19, 2025), are to be reported to the NSAA office by the meet director, or by the participating teams' coach or AD if the varsity meet is out of state or not hosted by a Class A school.

Change: All season meets hosted on or prior to the Friday of Week 12 are to be reported to the NSAA office by the meet director, or by the participating teams' coach or AD if the varsity meet is out of state or not hosted by a Class A school. This would change the seeding date from Tuesday of Week 12 to Tuesday of Week 13.

Rationale: Extending the competitive playing season by one week will help ensure that schools can fulfill the minimum requirement for team and individual events. In the 2025 season, Class A schools participated in 7 large invites that were not included in differential calculations because they were after the deadline. Several schools each year are unable to meet the three-event requirement. With such a short season and invites occurring during the school day, complications related to weather, injury, academic responsibilities, and teaching responsibilities are magnified. Student-athletes and teachers miss a significant amount of class time participating in golf, and an extra week increases school's flexibility in creating a schedule that balances academic and athletic priorities.

Pros: Flexibility in scheduling; all invites count towards the differential; more time to meet the three-event requirement.

Cons: Shorter window to schedule district transportation and arrangements.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 19 | 2 | 27 |
| District 2 | 38 | 8 | 40 |
| District 3 | 10 | 1 | 40 |
| District 4 | 6 | 0 | 45 |
| District 5 | 3 | 0 | 19 |
| District 6 | 0 | 3 | 23 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Adding Girls State Dual Championships

Title:

Author: Ryan Hogue; Nate Rock

School: Kearney; Scottsbluff

NSAA Districts: 4, 6

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A
Class B

Activities Affected: Girls Wrestling

This proposal: **WILL** increase costs to the school
WILL increase costs to the NSAA
WILL increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-11-01

| | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Sections affected in | 12 | 3.11.12.3 | Team Match Limitation |
| Activities Manual: | 24 | | Dual State Qualifying Criteria |

Summary: Girls wrestling is one of the fastest growing sports right now and since adding a second class and also moving State Girls Wrestling to their own days, this feels like the next step to bringing this sport to the same level of competition that the boys experience on a yearly basis.

Rationale: Adding girls state dual championships would mirror the boys state championship opportunities.

Pros: This addition would bring the girls state championships to the same opportunity level as the boys. The date would need to be chosen by the NSAA but girls wrestling is ready for this.

Cons: The current non NSAA Girls State Dual Championship would most likely not happen as it would not be needed moving forward and we would utilize that same date.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 24 | 8 | 16 |
| District 2 | 60 | 8 | 18 |
| District 3 | 34 | 8 | 9 |
| District 4 | 39 | 3 | 8 |
| District 5 | 13 | 7 | 2 |
| District 6 | 22 | 1 | 3 |



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Girls Wrestling Classification of Schools

Title:

Author: Jenny Wagner; Cody Wintz; Les Roggenkamp

School: Centennial; Battle Creek; Southwest

NSAA Districts: 1, 3, 5

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Girls Wrestling

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in Activities Manual: | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 16 | 3.12 | Appendix 6 |

Summary: Proposed Classification Change: Girls wrestling teams will be divided into two (2) classes based on girls enrollment. Class A would be for the largest 64 schools based on girl enrollment and remaining schools placed in Class B. The total number of teams will be divided across the 4 districts in both classes.

Opting Up - a school may opt up one classification. The deadline for submitting a request to the NSAA is one week from when classifications are released

Rationale: 1. Increasing the number of schools in Class A to 64 schools would allow all Class A Districts to be composed of 16 teams

2. Adding 8 schools to Class A will then reduce the number of schools in each Class B district thus allowing a better balance of teams entered per district.

3. District entries for the 2024-2025 School Year

--Class A-1 146

--Class A-2 142

--Class A-3 137

--Class A-4 130

555 Class A Girls entered at Districts

--Class B-1 157

--Class B-2 170

--Class B-3 156

--Class B-4 148

631 Class B Girls entered at Districts

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 23 | 8 | 17 |
| District 2 | 23 | 41 | 22 |
| District 3 | 47 | 1 | 3 |
| District 4 | 23 | 12 | 15 |
| District 5 | 19 | 0 | 3 |
| District 6 | 15 | 8 | 3 |

4. Total Girls wrestled in both Classes in 2024-2025

--Class A 56 schools w/ 1114 Girls

--Class B 129 schools w/ 845 Girls

5. 2024-2025 Summary

--Total number of Girls that actually wrestled: 1969

--Total number of schools that had Girls wrestling: 185

6. 2025-2026

--Projected number of teams: 196 (increase of 11 schools)

Pros:

The increase of girls teams for Class A will help to equalize the number of entries in both Class A & Class B districts.

The growth of girls wrestling in Nebraska is only going to increase due to the large numbers of girls wrestling in Jr. High and Club age groups

Cons:



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Journalism - Adding More Photography Categories

Title:

Author: Jenny Wagner; Mark Brahmer, Phil Truax; Josh Lanik; Zachary Nesbitt

School: Centennial; Pierce, Lexington, Southern Valley; Bayard

NSAA Districts: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A
Class B
Class C

Activities Affected: Journalism

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in
Activities Manual: Page Article Section
3

Summary: This proposal would add two additional photography categories. The categories are Sports Action and Sports Feature.

Rationale: Many publications are photo-heavy, and we currently only have two categories to celebrate our photographers. The addition of two sports categories will provide clarification for advisers and students as to which contests they should submit their entries. The additional categories provide opportunity and clarification.

Pros: Entries would be judged based on preliminary entries. Keeping the number of live contests the same. Clear distinction for advisers on where to enter their student work.

Additional competition/opportunity for students to show their skills.

Cons: Additional minimal cost to NSAA (additional medals and additional judges at the preliminary contest stage)

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 23 | 2 | 23 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 3 | 26 | 22 |
| District 4 | 12 | 9 | 30 |
| District 5 | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| District 6 | 4 | 13 | 9 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **State Journalism Classification Judging**

Author: Jenny Wagner; Mark Brahmer, Phil Truax; Josh Lanik; Zachary Nesbitt

School: Centennial; Pierce, Lexington, Southern Valley; Bayard

NSAA Districts: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Proposal for: Activities Manual

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| District 1 | 22 | 3 | 23 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 1 | 30 | 20 |
| District 4 | 6 | 13 | 31 |
| District 5 | 4 | 8 | 10 |
| District 6 | 14 | 6 | 6 |

Classes Affected: Class A
Class B
Class C

Activities Affected: Journalism

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
2

Summary: This proposal would add one judge for every 30 entries in a category. If more than 30 entries exist within a category, the sections will be split to make balanced sections for each judge. All entries will receive comments. The top 10 in each section will be ranked to determine who will advance to preliminary finals. Within each of the sections, the judge will designate the top 10 to move on to a preliminary finals round to be adjudicated by judges. A designated lead judge will break any ties.

Example: 80 entries in a category, 3 judges needed, (26, 27, 27 to judge). In the preliminary finals, the top 30 entries will be adjudicated by a new, separate judge.

Rationale: Some categories have numerous entries, and to help students learn and benefit more from journalism, feedback about their work is needed for growth. The additional judge allows for feedback to students because judges are not evaluating over 100 entries. The best of the best will be brought forth to the preliminary finals or state finals competition.

Pros: Beneficial feedback for participants.

Cons: Increase cost to NSAA (additional judges)



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Music - Outstanding Performance Awards for Large Ensemble**

Title:

Author: Jason Palmer

School: Auburn

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Music

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in Activities Manual: | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 24 | | Awards |

Summary: This award is designed to recognize the top performers at District Music Contest.

Rationale: Outstanding Performance Award:
Purpose: This award is designed to recognize the top performers at District Music Contest in the soloist and small ensemble categories. These are the students who go above and beyond the standard of a Superior rating in skill and musicianship.

Process of Selection:
Soloists and Small Group Ensembles

--This award will be given to soloists and small ensembles (up to 24 members) that are adjudicated by a single judge.

--Only one performance per judge will receive their award regardless of the number and types of entries in that room.

Each adjudicator will be given the opportunity to designate one performance as an "Outstanding Performance". They may also nominate up to two additional performances as "Honorable Mention" in addition to the Outstanding Performance.

Judges do not have to select an Outstanding Performance unless they have given a perfect score on the contest ballot.

This award can be given to any instrument or voice category, class size or grade level of performer.

Forms will be given to each judge to assist them in selecting and then reporting this award.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 33 | 11 | 4 |
| District 2 | 63 | 11 | 12 |
| District 3 | 15 | 33 | 3 |
| District 4 | 43 | 4 | 4 |
| District 5 | 16 | 5 | 1 |
| District 6 | 18 | 4 | 4 |

The recipients of the Outstanding Performance and Honorable Mention Awards will be presented specially designed certificates in recognition of their performances.

Large Group Ensembles

--This award will be given to large group ensembles.

--Up to two Outstanding Performance Awards may be awarded in each District Music Contest by class.

Example: At the Broken Bow DMC, sixteen schools participate. If the total number of large group ensemble entries does not warrant more than one OPA, the site director may choose to present a single OPA.

--Three judges will independently adjudicate all entries.

--Each judge's TOTAL POINTS (not rating) will be added together to determine the overall Outstanding Performance Award winner in the Large Group Ensemble category.

If total points result in a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used:

--The judges will be brought together to confer to break the tie.

Pros:

Large Group Ensemble Outstanding Performance Awards will add a competitive component to District Music Contest and provide additional recognition for schools and their large group ensembles. This does not replace Superior Plaques given out to Large Group Ensembles. This simply adds another way to recognize such groups.

By using total points rather than rating points, there will be less frequent ties that if rating points were utilized.

All schools remain eligible to receive a Superior Rating recognition plaque.

Cons:

None.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **State Music Championships**

Author: Jason Palmer; Jeff Ellis

School: Auburn; Broken Bow

NSAA Districts: 2, 4

Proposal For: Constitution & Bylaws

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 19 | 25 | 4 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 5 | 45 | 1 |
| District 4 | 16 | 27 | 5 |
| District 5 | 1 | 21 | 0 |
| District 6 | 9 | 16 | 1 |

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Music

This proposal: **WILL** increase costs to the school
WILL increase costs to the NSAA
WILL increase travel for participating schools
WILL decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-03

| Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws: | Page | Article | Section |
|---|------|---------|---------|
| | 86 | 7.3.1 | Music |
| | 86 | 7.3.2 | Music |
| | 86 | 7.3.3 | Music |
| | 87 | 7.6.2 | Music |
| | 88 | 7.7.2 | Music |

Summary: Over 16,000 students participate in District Music Contest annually, making Music the largest NSAA activity. This proposal recommends the establishment of an annual NSAA State Music Championship, with the existing NSAA District Music Contests serving as qualifying events. The aim is to recognize and celebrate the highest levels of musical excellence among Nebraska's high school students, aligning music with other NSAA-sanctioned activities that culminate in state-level championships. The Nebraska Music Education Association's Board of Directors support this proposal.

Rationale: Elevating Music to Equal Standing. Currently, the NSAA District Music Contests are the pinnacle of NSAA-sponsored music events, without a subsequent state-level competition. By introducing a State Music Championships, music would be elevated to the same level of recognition as other activities, which have established state competitions.

Qualification Criteria. Large Group Ensembles and soloists must receive an Outstanding Performance Award at District Music Contest and receive a judge nomination in order to qualify for the NSAA State Music Championships. [Qualifier OPA Proposal can be found HERE.](#)

Classification. Participants would compete in classifications consistent with NSAA guidelines in other activities, ensuring fair competition among schools of similar size. Beginning in 2027-2028, Music Classifications would be based on the following criteria:

The 32 schools with the highest total student enrollment would be classified as Class A.
The next 48 schools with the largest total student enrollment would be classified as Class B.
The remaining schools would be evenly distributed into C and D.

Event Categories. The State Music Championships would encompass various categories, including:
Beginning in 2027-2028: concert bands, mixed choirs, instrumental soloists, vocal soloists, and duets/small groups.

Beginning in 2029-2030: orchestras, jazz bands, jazz choirs, treble choirs, bass choirs

Scheduling. District Music Contest would take place during week 40 of the NSAA Calendar.
The NSAA State Music Championships would take place during week 42 of the NSAA Calendar.
Note: The date(s) of the DMC Music Championships would be scheduled around Rep Assembly.

Restructured District Music Contests. Currently students compete against multiple classes. Example: A Class D soloist competes against Class B soloists. Restructuring DMC by class means that students will be sorted into districts based on class size.

District Structure/Class Structure:

Class A will host 4 sites, 8 schools each.

Class B will host 5 sites, 10 schools each.

Class C will host 5 sites, approx. 22 schools each

Class D will host 5 sites, approx. 22 schools each

The fees associated with District Music Contest will be split among all schools attending the district. This model is used for Speech and Play Production and results in a zero balance at the end of the competition. The NSAA will purchase all awards. Because hosting a DMC results in a no school day for the host, the NSAA will work with schools a year in advance so hosts are able to easily integrate the contest into their school calendars.

Classifications will occur every odd-numbered year and be locked in for a period of two years.

Note: Based on 2026 DMC District site hosts, we have 23 individual DMC sites. Based on the new proposal, that number would be cut to 19 sites across the state.

State Structure:

[Mock State Schedule](#)

In each Music category, 1st - 6th place will be awarded. Sweepstakes scoring for the overall team awards will be:

1st - 20 points

2nd - 18 points

3rd - 16 points

4th - 14 points

5th - 12 points

6th - 10 points

For each class, a State Champion and Runner-Up team will be awarded an NSAA State Championship trophy. There will be no admission fee to attend State Music. Schools attending districts/state will not be reimbursed.

State Host Site. The State Music Championship schedule was created with a large high school serving as the Host Site. In the creation of the schedule, we used Grand Island Senior High School as the mock host.

Initial Budget for State Music Championship (If passed, NSAA will be responsible for):

Judges: \$15,000

Tournament workers: \$10,000

Awards: \$3,000

Equipment rentals/tuning: \$5,000

| | |
|-------|---|
| Pros: | <p>Recognized Classifications. Using the 2024 member schools that registered for Music as a guideline, the breakdown for schools would be the following: SAMPLE CLASSIFICATIONS This allows for better alignment with the rest of our NSAA activities.</p> <p>Music Cup Points. A State Championship in Music would allow for qualifiers to earn cup points for their school, which would align music with other NSAA activities.</p> <p>Elevated Prestige and Visibility. A State Music Championship would bring music into the spotlight, increasing recognition for student musicians, directors, and programs at the state level.</p> <p>Equity Across Activities. Music would be placed on the same competitive and celebratory plane as other activities, reinforcing the value of fine arts in a well-rounded education.</p> |
| Cons: | <p>Calendar Adjustments. Schools would need to carve out time to allow for District Music Contest during week 40 and State during week 42.</p> <p>Potential Loss of Instructional Time. Depending on the specific date selected for the NSAA State Music Championship per class, students may miss instructional time.</p> |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

State Music Championships Qualifying

Title:

Author: Jason Palmer; Jeff Ellis

School: Auburn; Broken Bow

NSAA Districts: 2, 4

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Music

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in Activities Manual: | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | 86 | Constitution & Bylaws | Awards |

Summary: This award is designed to recognize the top performers at District Music Contest in the soloist and small ensemble categories. These are the students who go above and beyond the standard of a Superior rating in skill and musicianship.

Rationale: The Outstanding Performance Award is intended to recognize exceptional excellence in music performance at District Music Contest.

The Outstanding Performance Awards for both Small Ensembles and Large Ensembles are the qualification criteria for the proposed 2025 NSAA State Music Championship legislation.

Process of Selection:

Soloists and Small Group Ensembles.

This award will be given to soloists and small ensembles (up to 24 members, as defined by the Music Manual) that are adjudicated by a single judge, in a single category, in a single class.

Categories are as follows:

Tenor/Bass Vocal Solo

Soprano/Alto Vocal Solo

Vocal Duet/Small Ensemble

Brass Solo

Woodwind Solo

Percussion Solo

String Solo

Instrumental Duet/Small Ensemble

Piano Solo

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 9 | 36 | 3 |
| District 2 | 37 | 34 | 15 |
| District 3 | 8 | 42 | 1 |
| District 4 | 12 | 31 | 7 |
| District 5 | 2 | 20 | 0 |
| District 6 | 6 | 19 | 1 |

Only one performance per category will receive an OPA regardless of the number and types of entries in that room. Each adjudicator will be given the opportunity to designate one performance as an "Outstanding Performance". They may also nominate up to two additional performances as "Honorable Mention" in addition to the Outstanding Performance.

Judges do not have to select an Outstanding Performance unless they have given a perfect score on the contest ballot.

This award can be given to any instrument or voice category, class size or grade level of performer.

Forms will be given to each judge to assist them in selecting and reporting this award.

The recipients of the Outstanding Performance and Honorable Mention Awards will be presented specially designed certificates in recognition of their performances.

Large Group Ensembles

This award will be given once per category, per class.

Categories are as follows:

2027-2028:

Large Instrumental Ensemble

Band

Large Choral Ensemble

Mixed Chorus

2028-2029 (and beyond):

Large Instrumental Ensemble

Band

Jazz Band

Orchestra

Large Choral Ensemble

Mixed Chorus

Bass/Treble Chorus

Madrigal/Chamber Choir

Jazz Choir

Three judges will independently adjudicate all entries.

Each judge's TOTAL POINTS (not rating) will be added together to determine the overall Outstanding Performance Award winner in the Large Group Ensemble category.

The ensemble with the lowest sum will be awarded the OPA.

If total points result in a tie, the following tie-breaking criteria will be used:

The judges will be brought together to confer to break the tie.

Pros:

Large Group Ensemble Outstanding Performance Awards will add a competitive component to District Music Contest and provide additional recognition for schools and their large group ensembles. This does not replace Superior Plaques given out to Large Group Ensembles. This simply adds another way to recognize such groups.

By using total points rather than rating points, there will be less frequent ties than if rating points were utilized.

All schools remain eligible to receive a Superior Rating recognition plaque.

Cons:

None.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

3rd Place Recognition - State Play Production

Title:

Author: Matt Uher; Molly Stieren; A.J. Johnson; Marc Mroczek

School: Lincoln Northeast; Conestoga; Hartington-Newcastle; Gothenburg

NSAA Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Play Production

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school

WILL increase costs to the NSAA

WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools

WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in Activities Manual: | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|--|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 22 | | 1 |

Summary: At the NSAA State Play Production Tournament, the third-place play will be awarded on the state stage with a team presentation. The NSAA will purchase the third-place trophies for all classes. Individual medals may be purchased by the third-place team at their own cost and presented at a later date at their school.

Rationale: Recognizing additional students and teams.

Pros: Recognizing more students on the State stage
Aligning play production recognition with other NSAA activities

Cons: Additional cost to the NSAA
Additional time for the state contest day

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 16 | 30 | 2 |
| District 2 | 55 | 13 | 18 |
| District 3 | 7 | 42 | 2 |
| District 4 | 32 | 15 | 3 |
| District 5 | 12 | 8 | 2 |
| District 6 | 7 | 18 | 1 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Play Production - District Assignments Procedure

Title:

Author: Matt Uher; Molly Stieren; A.J. Johnson; Marc Mroczek

School: Lincoln Northeast; Conestoga; Hartington-Newcastle; Gothenburg

NSAA Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Play Production

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page 15 Article Section paragraph 3

Summary: The NSAA may consider the previous year's District Champion and Runner-Up from different classifications when a school has changed classifications due to population shifts. If geographically feasible, the NSAA may separate previous champions and runners-up. Schools that voluntarily opt-up will only be considered if they were placed in the higher classification in the previous year.

Rationale: This allows the NSAA to allow schools that changed classification for population reasons to maintain their district champion or runner-up status.

Pros: Schools required to change classifications don't use their champion or runner-up status

Protection of a school's champion or runner-up status in their change of classification

More flexibility for the NSAA to form district selections

Cons: Potentially multiple district champions/runners-up in the same district when classifications change

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 43 | 2 | 3 |
| District 2 | 57 | 2 | 27 |
| District 3 | 45 | 4 | 2 |
| District 4 | 46 | 1 | 3 |
| District 5 | 18 | 3 | 1 |
| District 6 | 8 | 15 | 3 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Soccer Schedule Change: Allow for Round Robins**

Author: Matthew Uher
School: Lincoln Northeast
NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All Classes

Activities Affected: Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
11 of the Soccer Activities Manual

Summary: Soccer Tournament & Engagement Guidelines:
A tournament is defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which the winner continues to advance and compete until a single winner is determined. Tournaments cannot be in round robin format. (Remove).

INSERT: A tournament shall be defined as a contest involving four or more teams in which an a team continues to advance or through round robin competition and compete until a single winner is chosen.

Rationale: This manual change allows for soccer teams to play a tournament in a round robin format which can serve better than a tournament format.

Pros: Allows for flexibility in the scheduling of soccer matches.

Cons: None.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 16 | 1 | 31 |
| District 2 | 41 | 9 | 36 |
| District 3 | 18 | 0 | 33 |
| District 4 | 10 | 1 | 40 |
| District 5 | 5 | 0 | 17 |
| District 6 | 18 | 0 | 8 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

MS Softball Participants at High School Practice

Title:

Author:

Aaron McCoy

School:

North Platte

NSAA District:

4

Proposal for:

Constitution & Bylaws

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 16 | 12 | 20 |
| District 2 | 38 | 35 | 13 |
| District 3 | 27 | 2 | 22 |
| District 4 | 19 | 5 | 27 |
| District 5 | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| District 6 | 7 | 8 | 11 |

Classes Affected:

All

Activities Affected:

Softball

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date:

2026-07-01

Sections affected in

Constitution & Bylaws:

Page

65

Article

3.11.7

Section

Softball

Summary:

Schools may have 7th and 8th grade students practice with high school teams to allow for the sharing of practice times, locations, and coaches.

Rationale:

Allows schools who struggle for numbers to fill out drills or practices. Allows for the growth and influence from HS programs to MS.

Pros:

Allows practice squads to be able to run full drills.
Introduces MS athletes to the game and rules under the expertise of high school coaches.

Cons:

None



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Speech - District Assignments Procedure**

Author: Matt Uher; Molly Stieren; A.J. Johnson; Marc Mroczek

School: Lincoln Northeast; Conestoga; Hartington-Newcastle; Gothenburg

NSAA Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Speech

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page 25 Article 3 Section

Summary: Add to number 3 on page 25: "The NSAA may consider the top 6 teams from the previous year's state standings when assigning districts, particularly for schools that have changed classifications due to population shifts. Additionally, schools that voluntarily 'opt up' will only be considered for district assignments if they were placed in that higher classification in the prior year."

Rationale: Schools that are required to change classification because of population can retain their status from the previous year's competition.

Pros: Schools maintain their state status from the previous year if they're required to move classifications, creating more equitable districts.

Cons: Schools that opt-up don't maintain their status.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 44 | 2 | 2 |
| District 2 | 63 | 4 | 19 |
| District 3 | 50 | 0 | 1 |
| District 4 | 49 | 0 | 2 |
| District 5 | 19 | 3 | 0 |
| District 6 | 24 | 2 | 0 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Speech Districting - Top Six

Title:

Author: Traci Sindelar

School: Howells-Dodge

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Speech

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2025-09-30

| Sections affected in Activities Manual: | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|---|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 25 | 8 | |

Summary: Current Wording: The top 6 schools from the previous year's state championship will be placed into separate districts.

Proposed Change: The top 6 schools from the previous year's state championship will be placed into separate districts. If there are any vacancies in the top six of a particular class (due to change of classifications or a school no longer competing), any top six schools moving into the class (due to enrollment numbers causing a change of classification) would be recognized as a top six school in their new class and would therefore be placed in separate districts. Priority would be given to schools in placement order (If only two vacancies exist, but three schools are eligible, the placements would be awarded to the schools with the highest ordinal placings. Tie-breaking options: highest team points, most events in final round, most state qualifiers.)

Rationale: The top six rule was implemented as a method to ensure that districts would allow for strong, but evenly placed, competition. Ignoring the movement of top six schools from different classifications undermines the rule, allowing for any number of districts to include far more than only one top six school. Including schools who have moved classifications into the top six rule would allow for more fair distribution of competition which has been a focus of restructuring within other NSAA activities (volleyball and basketball: top 16 district final bracket)

Pros: 1. The distribution of competition becomes more equal.
2. A greater chance of the highest quality competitors at the state contest is achieved.

Cons: None

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 44 | 0 | 4 |
| District 2 | 64 | 2 | 20 |
| District 3 | 46 | 4 | 1 |
| District 4 | 27 | 21 | 3 |
| District 5 | 9 | 13 | 0 |
| District 6 | 24 | 1 | 1 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Clarifying POI Ballot Language

Title:

Author: Matt Uher; Molly Stieren; A.J. Johnson; Marc Mroczek

School: Lincoln Northeast; Conestoga; Hartington-Newcastle; Gothenburg

NSAA Districts: 1, 2, 3, 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Speech

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in Activities Manual: | Page | Article | Section |
|---|------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| | n/a | 6.8.10 Program Oral Interpretation | 6.8.10.1 Purpose |

Summary: Clarify the language about the purpose of POI and include "thematic argument" on the ballot.

New language: The purpose of this event is to encourage students to obtain a wide knowledge and appreciation of various forms of literature. With a spotlight on argumentation through literature, program oral interpretation focuses on a student's ability to combine multiple genres of literature centered around a single theme. Selections used in program oral interpretation shall be cuttings from a minimum of two genres of literature constructed to create a thematic argument.

Rationale: This change clarifies that a successful POI requires a thematic argument, not just a theme.

Pros: Clarity for coaches, judges, and students

Cons: N/A



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Remove Language from Humorous Prose/Serious Prose Rules**

Author: Molly Stieren; A.J. Johnson; Marc Mroczek

School: Conestoga; Hartington-Newcastle; Gothenburg

NSAA Districts: 2, 3, 4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Speech

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

| Sections affected in | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Activities Manual: | 42 | Rules | F |
| | 42 | Disqualification Criteria | A |

Summary: Remove "Contestant may use a lectern" from section F of Humorous and Serious Prose rules.
Remove "Use of a commercially produced cutting..." from section A of disqualification criteria of Humorous and Serious Prose

Rationale: Lecterns are no longer used in these events.
Use of commercially produced cutting is no longer relevant to these events

Pros: Clarification of rules

Cons: N/A

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 44 | 0 | 4 |
| District 2 | 61 | 8 | 17 |
| District 3 | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| District 4 | 48 | 0 | 1 |
| District 5 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| District 6 | 25 | 1 | 0 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eliminate "Ghost Ranks" in Speech Tabulation

Title:

Author: Molly Stieren; A.J. Johnson; Marc Mroczek

School: Conestoga; Hartington-Newcastle; Gothenburg

NSAA Districts: 2, 3 ,4

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Speech

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
n/a Ballot check box: Contest lowered one rank for overtime exceeding 30 seconds.

Summary: Eliminate ghost ranks in rounds when students go overtime. On each ballot, add to "Contest lowered one rank for overtime exceeding 30 seconds. Ranks cannot exceed number of speakers in the round."

Rationale: Creating "ghost ranks" when students go over time significantly impacts the tie breaker opponent's average rank (OAR), creating an unfair penalty on every student in the round. Removing the ability to "ghost rank" eliminates the issue and make the competition more fair for students.

Pros: Mathematically sound practice

Cons: N/A

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 45 | 1 | 2 |
| District 2 | 66 | 2 | 18 |
| District 3 | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| District 4 | 48 | 0 | 2 |
| District 5 | 20 | 1 | 1 |
| District 6 | 25 | 1 | 0 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Tennis Seeding - Seed up to 16 Players in Class B

Title:

Author: Trevor Johnson

School: Lincoln Pius X

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class B

Activities Affected: Boys Tennis
Girls Tennis

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2025-09-30

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
12

Summary: Seeding of Class B state tournament entries. Change the number of Class B entries in each division who will receive a seed from 12 (current) to 16 (new). This mirrors the seeding number in Class A.

Rationale: This manual change allows the Class B seeding committee to seed 4 additional players/teams in each division to mirror what is done in Class A and avoid having top-level players running into each other in the early rounds of the state tournament.

Pros: Ensures a better separation of top players, provides consistent language and procedure between Class A and Class B.

Cons: None

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 9 | 0 | 39 |
| District 2 | 25 | 4 | 57 |
| District 3 | 12 | 0 | 39 |
| District 4 | 11 | 3 | 37 |
| District 5 | 6 | 0 | 16 |
| District 6 | 10 | 0 | 16 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **NSAA Track & Field Classification Proposal**

Author: Jason Weber; Nate Larsen

School: Milford; O'Neill

NSAA Districts: 1, 3

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Track
Girls Track

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 19 | 22 | 7 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 42 | 9 | 0 |
| District 4 | 39 | 11 | 1 |
| District 5 | 11 | 10 | 1 |
| District 6 | 21 | 5 | 0 |

This proposal: **WILL NOT** increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws: Page 18-19 Article 2.13.3 Section Track & Field Classification, District Assignments

Summary: The classification for Track & Field will change to more closely balance the ratio of students from the largest to smallest school in a particular classification. Classification is based on combined boy & girl enrollment, grades 9-11, with the enrollment of unisex schools doubled.

- The top 84 (changed from 92) schools will be split into Class A & Class B
- Schools with total enrollment of 850 & above will be in Class A.
- The remaining schools will be in Class B
- The next 90 (changed from 88) largest schools shall be in Class C. (90 boys, 90 girls).
- The remaining schools are placed in Class D.

The number of districts for each classification will not change, but the number of schools assigned to each district will likely change slightly.

- Class A will likely have some districts with 8 teams & some districts with 9 teams based on enrollment growth.
- Class B will likely have some districts of 8 schools & some districts of 9 schools as well.
- Class C will have 9 districts of 10 schools.
- Class D will likely have 7 districts of 12 schools & 2 districts of 13 schools.

Rationale: Based on the spring 2025 enrollment numbers, the ratio from largest to smallest school in Class A was 2.43:1, in Class B it was 4.9:1, in Class C it was 2.09:1 in Class D it was 4.59:1. While the Class A ratio will not change a great deal unless the largest school grows, based on enrollment totals from the NSAA website, Class A will likely grow by around 4 schools in the next couple years. The ratio from largest to smallest in Class B will hopefully be closer to 4:1, the ration from largest to smallest in Class C will likely be closer to 2.3:1 & the ratio from largest to smallest in Class D might grow very slightly.

Pros: This will create a more level playing field in each classification for Track & Field by having schools of more similar sizes competing against one another in district meets.

Cons:



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Volleyball District Finals -- NSAA Assigns Line Judges from Officials Registered

Title:

Author:

Corey Uldrich

School:

Hartington-Newcastle

NSAA District:

3

Proposal for:

Activities Manual

Classes Affected:

All

Activities
Affected:

Volleyball

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation
date:

2026-08-01

Sections affected
in Activities
Manual:

| <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 19 | | District & Sub-District Information |

Summary:

For District Final volleyball matches in Classes A-D2, line judges will be assigned by the NSAA from the list of registered volleyball officials.

Rationale:

Volleyball requires a match to have 4 officials, 2 of which are usually provided by a host site to be line judges. Because our District Finals have now moved out of neutral sites and will all be played at host sites, now seems like the time to ensure that all 4 officials are brought in by the NSAA. Line judges hired by the school are often school employees or community members, which is one of the things that would never happen in other postseason contests in other sports. By using NSAA officials for these jobs, you'll ensure someone who has gone through rules training and testing will be making decisions in these games.

Pros:

- *All officials will have gone through NSAA training and testing.
- *Neutral officials will be in all positions that can affect the outcome of the match.

Cons:

- *We will have to ensure that the NSAA has enough available officials to cover the demand of the Saturday of District finals for Classes B-D2.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 39 | 9 | 0 |
| District 2 | No Action | | |
| District 3 | 39 | 12 | 0 |
| District 4 | 19 | 31 | 1 |
| District 5 | 12 | 10 | 0 |
| District 6 | 8 | 18 | 0 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Volleyball Competition Points (Play-in Matches)

Title:

Author: Dallas Sweet

School: Malcolm

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Volleyball

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-07-01

| Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws: | <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|---|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 71 | 3 | 11.11.3 |

Summary: This proposal would change the competition point values for "TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS." It would split "TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS" into two smaller subsets.

"TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS (3 or less matches)" would have a point value of 3 for scheduling purposes.

"TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS (4 or more matches)" would have a point value of 4 for scheduling purposes. **(Play-in matches would not count)**

Rationale: In an 8-team conference tournament, schools could be scheduled to play one match a day for 3 days of their tournament. They are required to count those 3 matches as 4 scheduling points simply because they are played over multiple days. If they played those same 3 matches over 3 different days outside of a "tournament" format, their scheduling points would be counted as 3 points. Schools are not gaining an advantage playing in a 2/3 day tournament that plays 3 matches or less (and only using 3 of their competition points). Some 2/3 day tournaments play 5+ matches, but one that plays just 3 matches should not be counted in the same bucket of competition points.

In the 2024-2025 legislative cycle, this passed District 1 (42-8), District 3 (49-5), District 4 (51-2-1), District 5 (19-3), and District 6 (26-0) in the January round of voting. District 2 made no motion. However, it only gained 31 (needed 32) votes at the Rep Assembly.

Pros: Brings consistency to scheduling points and matches played.

Cons: None.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 40 | 8 | 0 |
| District 2 | 16 | 51 | 19 |
| District 3 | 49 | 2 | 0 |
| District 4 | 2 | 48 | 1 |
| District 5 | 4 | 17 | 1 |
| District 6 | 0 | 26 | 0 |



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Volleyball Competition Points

Title:

Author: Corey Uldrich
School: Hartington-Newcastle
NSAA District: 3

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Volleyball

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school
WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA
WILL NOT increase travel for participating schools
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2026-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

| <u>Page</u> | <u>Article</u> | <u>Section</u> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| p. 71 | 3 | 11.11.3 |

Summary: This proposal would change the competition point values for "TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS." It would split "TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS" into two smaller subsets.

"TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS (3 or less matches)" would have a point value of 3 for scheduling purposes.

"TWO OR THREE DAY TOURNAMENTS (4 or more matches)" would have a point value of 4 for scheduling purposes.

Rationale: In an 8-team conference tournament, schools could be scheduled to play one match a day for 3 days of their tournament. They are required to count those 3 matches as 4 scheduling points simply because they are played over multiple days. If they played those same 3 matches over 3 different days outside of a "tournament" format, their scheduling points would be counted as 3 points. Schools are not gaining an advantage playing in a 2/3 day tournament that plays 3 matches or less (and only using 3 of their competition points). Some 2/3 day tournaments play 5+ matches, but one that plays just 3 matches should not be counted in the same bucket of competition points.

In the 2024-2025 legislative cycle, this passed District 1 (42-8), District 3 (49-5), District 4 (51-2-1), District 5 (19-3), and District 6 (26-0) in the January round of voting. District 2 made no motion. However, it only gained 31 (needed 32) votes at the Rep Assembly.

Pros: Brings consistency to scheduling points and matches played.

Cons: None.

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------|-----|---------|---------|
| District 1 | 41 | 7 | 0 |
| District 2 | 76 | 1 | 6 |
| District 3 | 23 | 27 | 1 |
| District 4 | 46 | 5 | 0 |
| District 5 | 18 | 4 | 0 |
| District 6 | 26 | 0 | 0 |