

Nebraska School Activities Association 2024-25

District IV January Meeting

Managing Committee: Phil Truax, Lexington, Chairperson
Jordan Cudney, Hershey, Alternate Chairperson
Alan Frank, Adams Central, Vice Chairperson
Danny McMurtry, Maxwell, Alternate Vice Chairperson
Seth Ryker, Gothenburg, Secretary
Ryan Hogue, Kearney, Alternate Secretary
Darren Tobey, Broken Bow, Board of Director
PJ Smith, Northwest, Alternate Board of Director

Place: Kearney High School, Scott D. Morris Institute

Date: January 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM CT

Agenda:

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Introduction of District Managing Committee and NSAA Board of Director Member.
3. Roll Call of Schools Present
4. Recognition of Public & Visitors
5. NSAA Member Comment
6. Approval of Minutes from November 11, 2024
[Minutes - 11-11-24](#)
7. Financial Report
[Treasurer Report \(1-15-25\) District IV](#)
8. Special Announcements

NSAA District Meetings shall be considered "open meetings," subject to the Open Meetings Law. A "Public Comment" time shall be included on the agenda of all regular NSAA District Meetings. Public Comment will be accepted at the start of the meeting to allow for members of the public to raise issues and make comments for the good of high school activities. Members of the public will not be permitted to participate in the discussion of scheduled agenda items.

Public Comment time shall be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes, with each member of the public being allocated one opportunity to speak at the meeting for a time period of up to five minutes. If the number of members of the public wishing to comment warrants a reduction in the five-minute allotment, the District Managing Committee Chair shall have the authority to limit comments.

Members of the public wishing to comment at any regular NSAA District Meeting must state and sign in their name, and they will be expected to state the topic of their comments for documentation in the District Meeting minutes.

Nebraska School Activities Association 2024-25

District IV November Meeting

9. Reports

1. Board of Director
2. NSAA Staff
3. Music Committee
4. Class Caucus
5. NSIAAA
6. Nebraska Coaches Association
7. Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation
8. Other NSAA Activity Groups

10. Discussion and Vote on Legislative Proposals

* Thank you Ron Cone and Jon Haussler (ESU10) for assisting with this process!

* [janagenda.pdf](#)

11. Nomination and selection of Officers and Representative Assembly Delegates

a. January items

- i. Nominate 3 representatives to attend the Rep Assembly Meeting on April 11, 2025

1. Nominations

- a. Scott Jorgensen - Paxton
- b. Nate Dietz - Amherst
- c. Rick Petri - Kearney Catholic

- ii. Nominations for Vice Chairperson and Alternate

1. [District Officers 23:25.pdf](#)

12. New/Other Business

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Members of the public wishing to comment at any regular NSAA District Meeting must state and sign in their name, and they will be expected to state the topic of their comments for documentation in the District Meeting minutes.

Nebraska School Activities Association 2024-25 District IV November Meeting

13. Meeting Dates and Location for 2025/26

* Meeting dates and location TBA at a later date and pending restructuring of districts.

14. Adjournment

NSAA District Meetings shall be considered "open meetings," subject to the Open Meetings Law. A "Public Comment" time shall be included on the agenda of all regular NSAA District Meetings. Public Comment will be accepted at the start of the meeting to allow for members of the public to raise issues and make comments for the good of high school activities. Members of the public will not be permitted to participate in the discussion of scheduled agenda items.

Public Comment time shall be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes, with each member of the public being allocated one opportunity to speak at the meeting for a time period of up to five minutes. If the number of members of the public wishing to comment warrants a reduction in the five-minute allotment, the District Managing Committee Chair shall have the authority to limit comments.

Members of the public wishing to comment at any regular NSAA District Meeting must state and sign in their name, and they will be expected to state the topic of their comments for documentation in the District Meeting minutes.



TO: NSAA Member Schools
FROM: Jeff Stauss, Assistant Director
SUBJECT: Proposals for Consideration at the NSAA January District Meetings
DATE: December 2024

Included in this memo are the 49 proposals that passed at least one district at the November meetings.

The 23 Constitution/Bylaw proposal passing three or more districts will advance to Representative Assembly.

All Approved Ruling (Activities Manual) proposals will be placed on the April NSAA Board of Directors agenda as action items regardless of the number of districts that pass them.

The following procedure is to be followed at the second district meeting:

1. All 49 proposals should be acted upon.
2. A simple majority passes the proposal.
3. Each member school is entitled to one vote. The administrative head of the school or his/her designee shall be considered the authorized voting representative.
4. **Amendments** to proposals are ***not permitted***.
5. New proposals may not be introduced from the floor.
6. Elections shall be held for officers, alternates, and Representative Assembly delegates.

2025 January District Meetings

District 1 – Wednesday, January 15 – 10:00 a.m. NSAA Office

District 2 – Wednesday, January 15 – 10:00 a.m. Boys Town

District 3 – Wednesday, January 15 – Noon – Northeast Community College

District 4 – Wednesday, January 15 – 1:00 p.m. – Kearney High School

District 5 – Wednesday, January 15 – 1:00 p.m. CT – The Tassel, Holdrege

District 6 – Wednesday, January 15 – 9:00 a.m. MT – Alliance Public Library



NSAA District Officers 2024-25

Term Expires July 31 of:

District I

<u>Term</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
2028	Dade McDonald, McCool Junction, Board of Director	TBD
2026	Kara Graham, Lincoln Southeast, Board of Director	Christina Nevitt, Lincoln Northwest
2027	Dr. J.J. Toczek, Lincoln Public Schools, Chairperson	Zach Limbach, Lincoln East
2026	Matt Uher, Lincoln Northeast, Vice Chairperson	Dallas Sweet, Malcolm
2025	David Davis, Fairbury, Secretary	TBD

District II

<u>Term</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
2028	Dr. Nick Wemhoff, Fort Calhoun, Board of Director	Dr. Jeremy Moore, Omaha Skutt Catholic
2026	Thomas Lee, Omaha Westview, Board of Director	Robert Aranda, Omaha Westside
2027	James Shada, Arlington, Chairperson	Robert Barry, Wahoo
2027	Rochelle Rohlf, Omaha Marian, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Dan Schinzel, Creighton Preparatory
2026	Chad Holtz, Bellevue East, Secretary	Jon Mauro, Bellevue West

District III

<u>Term</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
2025	Dr. Jon Cerny, Bancroft-Rosalie, Board of Director	Jeff Bellar, Norfolk Catholic
2025	Jeff Bellar, Norfolk Catholic, Chairperson	AJ Johnson, Hartington-Newcastle
2026	Mike Sanne, Boyd County, Vice Chairperson	AJ Johnson, Hartington-Newcastle
2027	Brad Hoelsing, Wausa, Secretary	Jeff Messersmith, Bloomfield

District IV

<u>Term</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
2027	Darren Tobey, Broken Bow, Board of Director	PJ Smith, Northwest
2027	Phil Truax, Lexington, Chairperson	Jordan Cudney, Hershey
2025	Alan Frank, Adams Central, Vice Chairperson	Danny McMurtry, Maxwell
2026	Seth Ryker, Gothenburg, Secretary	Ryan Hogue, Kearney

District V

<u>Term</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
2027	Robert Drews, Arapahoe, Board of Director	Randy Geier, Wauneta-Palisade
2026	Jarod Albers, Cambridge, Chairperson	Randy Geier, Wauneta-Palisade
2027	Jon Davis, Alma, Vice Chairperson	Troy Hauxwell, Chase County
2025	Craig Newcomb, Bertrand, Secretary	Daren Hatch, Elwood

District VI

<u>Term</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
2025	Dr. Troy Unzicker, Alliance, Board of Director	Mike Halley, Valentine
2025	Rick Barry, Chadron, Chairperson	Austin Lewis, Sidney
2026	Bec Ray, Thedford, Vice Chairperson	Todd Westover, Hemingford
2027	Eugene Hanks, Crawford, Secretary	Kaci Kearns, Mitchell



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Hardship Eligibility Criteria

Title:

Author: NSAA Board of Directors

School:

NSAA District:

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	50	0	0
District 2	85	1	2
District 3	48	4	1
District 4	57	0	0
District 5	22	0	0
District 6	26	0	0

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: None

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Constitution &	18	1	10.3.11
Bylaws:			

Summary: *1.10.3.11 - The following shall be considered by the Executive Director and/or the Board in determining if a hardship waiver is to be granted:*

a. There must be unique conditions existing that concern the student's educational, physical, or mental health which were caused by circumstances beyond the control of the student and his/her parents or legal guardian. The Executive Director and/or Board will consider the steps taken by the family, school, and others to address and support the student's needs prior to the request for a hardship waiver. Hardship waivers are a last resort when all other reasonable steps have been taken to support the student.

b. The circumstances must be totally different from those that exist for other students and families who are confronted with similar situations and choices. Usual maturation problems and family situations ~~do not cause physical harm~~ do not constitute a hardship.

This proposal would add language requiring documentation of what steps the family, school or others have taken regarding a students' mental healthcare, when the student's mental health is the basis of a hardship waiver request.

Language regarding consideration of only physical harm was removed.

Clarifies the process of member schools and NSAA staff collaborating on hardship requests and appeals and clarifies the family must provide as much documentation as possible at the time of the request.

Language regarding academic deficiencies, transferring for activities purposes, deficiencies in a school's activity offerings and loss of eligibility not constituting a hardship remains in Bylaw 1.10.3.11.

*This proposal would also update language in Bylaw 1.10.3.12 regarding the methods used to communicate the determination eliminating the requirement for certified mail.

Rationale:

This proposal removes language about causing physical harm and adds language about mental health, prioritizing the need to address the students' mental health prior to a request for a hardship waiver. The proposal also removes the need for the determination to be delivered via Certified Mail.

Pros:

With mental health concerns on the rise for students, this updated language emphasizes the importance of mental health care and support for students.

Cons:



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Updated Due Process Procedure Bylaw 1.10

Title:

Author:

NSAA Board of Directors

School:

NSAA District:

Proposal for:

Constitution & Bylaws

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	50	0	0
District 2	85	1	2
District 3	47	4	2
District 4	55	0	0
District 5	22	0	0
District 6	26	0	0

Classes Affected:

All

Activities Affected:

None

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:

2025-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
14	1	10

Summary:

--Defines who can "Petition" the NSAA regarding alleged violations: *"Petitioner means the Executive Director of the NSAA or a member school superintendent or superintendent's designee of a member school alleging a violation by a Party of the Constitution, Bylaws, or Approved Rulings of the NSAA or requesting hardship waivers of eligibility rules. Only a Petitioner may report alleged violations or request hardship waivers of eligibility rules. Complaints, grievances, or other alleged violations received by the NSAA from anyone other than a Petitioner will be rejected."*

--Deletes all references to a hearing officer and formal due process hearing.

--Adds language about how anonymous communication and non-member school (parent, patron, student) communication will be handled: *"The NSAA does not investigate anonymous allegations. Allegations made anonymously will be reported to the member school. When an allegation is not anonymous but also not from a proper Petitioner, the NSAA will inform the member school, and the member school will determine if a violation occurred. Member schools will self-report violations to the Executive Director."*

--Updates the methods used to communicate a determination (eliminates the current requirement that determinations be delivered via certified mail).

Rationale:

This proposal streamlines the due process procedures for member school violations by eliminating a hearing officer and clarifies who can file a complaint against a member school. It eliminates the ability of an anonymous person from triggering an investigation of a member school.

Pros:

NSAA legal counsel assisted in modifying the language and due process procedure to be more efficient and understandable for member schools. Eliminates the potential for a costly legal proceeding. Clarifies NSAA staff will inform the member school of anonymous complaints but will not investigate them unless filed by an appropriate party.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

School Balance Redistricting

Title:

Author: NSAA Boundary Committee

School:

NSAA District:

Proposal for: Approved Ruling

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	46	4	0
District 2	37	45	11
District 3	45	5	3
District 4	53	3	0
District 5	5	17	0
District 6	20	5	1

Classes Affected: None

Activities Affected: None

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected	<u>Page</u> 6	<u>Article</u> 1	<u>Section</u> 4
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Summary: The NSAA Constitution requires a formal committee to be established to review the district boundary lines every ten years or more frequently if the need exists.

Currently, the makeup of the 6 NSAA legislative districts are as follows:

District 1 - 53 schools and 17,031 students
 District 2 - 91 schools and 41,868 students
 District 3 - 55 schools and 6,170 students
 District 4 - 59 schools and 10,400 students
 District 5 - 24 schools and 2,055 students
 District 6 - 27 schools and 3,354 students

In order to balance the number of schools and the number of students in each of the 6 NSAA legislative districts, this proposal would redistribute the number of schools and the number of students as follows:

District 1 - 50 schools and 23,116 students
 District 2 - 47 schools and 29,662 students
 District 3 - 57 schools and 6,361 students
 District 4 - 49 schools and 6,190 students
 District 5 - 52 schools and 9,106 students
 District 6 - 53 schools and 6,260 students

- [School Balance Proposal - State Map](#)
- [School Balance Proposal - List of Schools](#)

Rationale:	As the population of Nebraska continues to shift eastward, this proposal more evenly distributes member schools into the six legislative districts. Equal distribution based on student population presents many challenges based on the geography of Nebraska. While this proposal does not bring an exact balance, it creates a more equal distribution of both schools and students, while continuing to account for geography.
Pros:	Under this proposal, schools and students in eastern Nebraska would be more evenly distributed in District 1 and District 2; while the schools and students in the remaining districts would also be more evenly distributed than with current boundaries.
Cons:	Of the 309 member schools, 118 would change districts.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eliminate From the Floor Proposals (All proposals must be submitted by the October date)

Title:

Author: Matthew Uher

School: Lincoln Northeast

NSAA District: 1

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	29	19	2

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: None

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: 2024-08-09

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:	<u>Page</u> 6	<u>Article</u> 1	<u>Section</u> 5.3.5
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Summary: 1.5.3.5
Add: The NSAA member schools shall consider ONLY proposals which are submitted and placed on the agenda for the November meeting by the October Deadline.

REMOVE:
New proposals may be submitted to the Representative Assembly if introduced as “other business,” and provided the proposals receive the consent of a majority of the members of the Assembly.

1.5.3.5.1. Proposals introduced as “other business” and approved by the majority of the members of the Assembly shall be presented in written form with sufficient copies for each representative. Such proposals shall be brought up for discussion immediately following the prepared agenda.

Rationale: Removal of the “from the floor” proposals will eliminate the misinformation and proposals being submitted without proper discussion and evaluation. The “from the floor” proposals also fail to have ALL member schools being informed of the potential “new” legislation and undermines the true legitimacy of the process.

Pros: Eliminate any misunderstandings or lack of knowledge regarding the “from the floor” proposal. Also will prevent information not being shared with all Member Schools. The October 1st Deadline will be the goal for everyone to allow for better discussion and deliberation.

Cons: Replacing or suspending the current practice which most are familiar with.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

District Meeting: Addition of a 3rd Meeting

Title:

Author: Matthew Uher

School: Lincoln Northeast

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: None

This proposal:

WILL 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:

2024-08-09

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

Page
5:

Article
1

Section

1.5.1; 1.5.1.3, 1.5.1.5(a); 1.5.1.5

Summary:

The purpose of the early January Cohort Meeting would be to better inform and allow for productive discussion surrounding all proposed changes introduced by the member schools. Each District would be allowed to share, discuss, and hear the reasons why such proposals are being introduced. Using the October 1 date as our FINAL day for submission will eliminate the impromptu proposals from “the floor”. The majority of contentious/ill-informed issues come from late submissions. A deadline needs to remain a deadline.

Rationale:

This proposal would allow for better discussion and understanding of proposed Bylaw or Activity Manual changes. The insertion of another meeting would allow ADs who have submitted a proposal to discuss and debate potential proposals prior to the six districts voting to move proposal to the Delegate Assembly. This would also allow for ALL Districts to analyze potential changes since the prior January Meeting does not allow for any kind of amendments or changes to proposals introduced in November.

Pros:

Discussion allows for better more informed decisions being made; Provides more depth of knowledge as to why the proposals are being made and who it would impact. A Zoom Link could be an option for the schools NOT submitting a proposal. Discussing and implementing proposals that have been well thought out and discussed will provide for more effective and sustainable legislation.

Cons:

Finding a location; Adding another meeting to an already busy schedule. Potential Travel costs. Meeting a “hard” deadline.

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	47	1	2



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eliminate Legislative Commission and Representative Assembly

Title:

Author: Zach Limbach

School: Lincoln East

NSAA District: 1

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in
 Constitution & Bylaws: Page 6-10 Article 1.5 Section Legislative Procedure and Authority

Summary: This proposal is to eliminate 1.5.2 NSAA Legislative Commission and 1.5.3 NSAA Representative Assembly requirements of the NSAA Constitution 1.5 Legislative Procedure and Authority.

NEW 1.5.2 Member School Vote. Proposals for change(s) in the Constitution and Bylaws passing three or more districts at the second district meetings shall be forwarded to each member school for a referendum vote. For a proposal to become a valid part of the Constitution and Bylaws, the following must occur:

1. The proposal must be ratified by a simple majority of the member schools taking part in the referendum vote.
2. Thirty-five percent of the total membership of the Association must take part in the referendum vote.

Rationale: --NSAA Constitution & Bylaw proposal changes, which are the fundamental foundations of the NSAA, would now require a majority vote of the membership.
 --Allows each member school the ability to evaluate proposals and cast a vote based on what is best for their students (one school, one vote).
 --With the efficiency of electronic voting, all NSAA member schools can participate in the final step of the legislative process.

Pros: Cost savings of \$30,000. Savings could be distributed to each of the six district managing committees to offset NSAA District Music expenses and/or to help fund other student-based programs.

Cons: Eliminates the ability to amend a proposal or bring a new proposal from the floor at Representative Assembly.

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	31	13	6
District 2	55	27	14
District 4	51	6	0



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

180-Day Transfer Rule

Title:

Author: Matthew Uher

School: Lincoln Northeast

NSAA District: 1

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	33	17	0

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: 2024-08-09

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.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Elimination of Conflict of Interest

Title:

Author: Dean Tickle

School: Loup City

NSAA District: 4

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	43	7	0
District 4	40	14	3

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: None

Activities Affected: None

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Constitution & Bylaws:	12	1	6.2

Summary: No sitting or acting NSAA Board of Director member may apply for, or be appointed as NSAA Executive Director.

Rationale: Eliminate an unintended bias should a sitting board member be interested in applying for the position of executive director when the position is open.

Pros: This proposed bylaw would eliminate any potential conflict of interest that may exist between NSAA Board of Directors and the NSAA Executive Director, who NSAA Board of Directors evaluate.

Cons: None



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Open Gym/School Facilities Skill Development During the School Year, Out of Season Period

Title:

Author: Zach Limbach

School: Lincoln East

NSAA District: 1

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	28	21	1
District 2	46	36	13

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: All

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Constitution &	53	3.2.6	Open Gym
Bylaws:			

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.
- 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.

Additionally, this proposal would replace the “Organized Practice” language with “Competition” such that high school coaches would continue to be limited to the sport-specific number of athletes they can coach in competitions.

For example:

High school volleyball coaches would be limited to coaching 4 high school volleyball players in club volleyball.

High school basketball coaches would be limited to coaching 4 high school basketball players in fall leagues.

High school track coaches would be limited to coaching 12 high school track athletes at an indoor track meet.

High school 11-man football coaches would be limited to coaching 7 high school football players in a league.

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>
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

Class Caucus Criteria

Title:

Author: Dave Hoxworth

School: Scottsbluff

NSAA District: 2

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	54	21	13
District 6	26	0	0

Proposal for: Approved Ruling

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: None

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 8	<u>Article</u> 1	<u>Section</u> 5.4.2.1 (b)
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Summary: Replace approved ruling 1.5.4.2.1 (b) with the following: Class Caucus proposals affecting member school and NSAA finances, must include a plan to account for such costs.

Rationale: If the Class overwhelming supports the proposal, recognizes and accounts for the increased cost, then the proposal will be allowed to be submitted through the class caucus legislative process.

Pros: The purpose of the Class Caucus is to allow a class to make changes to NSAA Bylaws and Approved Rulings without requiring a vote of the entire membership through the legislative process. This would allow the class the ability to decide how the class will cover the expense.

Cons:



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Simultaneous participation in two sports during a sports season

Title:

Author: Rod Peters

School: Bancroft-Rosalie

NSAA District: 3

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	14	35	1
District 3	35	18	0

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: All Athletics

This proposal:

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

Implementation date: 2025-08-01

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

Summary: No school shall register more than one varsity team per sport (delete "and no student shall participate simultaneously in more than one sport per season"). Eliminate the language restricting students from simultaneously participating in two sports during a sports season.

Rationale: Simultaneous participation is allowed under the rules of the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS), which sets rules and regulations for high school sports.

Missouri is the only surrounding state that restricts simultaneous participation.

Allows local school board to set athletic participation policy for their schools.

Pros: Local Control; Increases opportunities for student athletes.

Cons: School districts would need to develop policies and procedures for simultaneous participation for athletic participation.

Title: Opting up Classifications

Author: Brad Hoelsing

School: Wausa

NSAA District: 3

Proposal: Approved Ruling

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: 2025-26 School Year

Sections Affected in Activities Manual:

Page	Article	Section
41	2.13.2AR	Opting Up a Classification

Summary: As Currently Written:
C) Opting Up in Classification. A school may opt up one classification in any NSAA activity. Request to opt up must be submitted to the NSAA within one week of the classification for that activity being released.

Proposed change to the following:
C) Opting Up Classification(s). A school may opt up one **or more** classifications in any NSAA activity. Request to opt up must be submitted to the NSAA within one week of the classification for that activity being released.

Rationale: Opting up one classification hinders programs who want to truly compete at a higher level.

Pros: Teams, Activities, or Programs in smaller classifications have the ability to compete at a high level against higher level competition if they feel that they are able to.

Cons: None

	For	Against	Abstain
District 3	39	11	3



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Awards at State (Trophies)

Title:

Author: Les Roggenkamp

School: Southwest

NSAA District: 5

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

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

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: 2024-09-25

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	19	Awards	Golf Manual
	18	Individual Honors	Cross Country Manual
	25	Awards	Track and Field Manual

Summary: **AWARDS**
Will increase the team trophies awarded in Girls Golf, Boys Golf, Girls Track, Boys Track, Girls Cross Country, and Boys Cross Country to four team trophies at the state championships from the current two trophies awarded.

From the Golf manual, line 3 under state awards would be changed to read as follows:

3. Trophies will be awarded to state champion, runner-up, 3rd place, and 4th place teams. Championship coaches will receive an award at the state championship.

Rationale: Currently, we award only two team trophies for state competition in Golf, Cross Country, and Track. In Class C and D Volleyball and basketball we award 4 trophies for their respective sports but yet only honor two at the state level for Golf, Cross Country, and Track. The number of teams that compete per class in these three sports is greater than those per classification in Volleyball and Basketball. Allowing up to four trophies recognizes more teams for their great accomplishment and allows more schools to take home and display a source of school pride and accomplishment.

Pros:

1. Allows greater recognition of team success by state teams
2. Increases school pride and accomplishment by sport.
3. Could increase student involvement in sports due to greater recognition.
4. Levels the award across multiple sports sponsored by the NSAA.

Cons: Expense of purchasing more state trophies.

	For	Against	Abstain
District 5	14	8	0
District 6	8	18	0



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Adding Eligibility for 8th Graders to Varsity Levels in Class D Schools

Title:

Author: Barry Swisher

School: Sioux County

NSAA District: 6

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Football
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: 2025-08-01

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 would allow class D schools with boy or girl enrollment numbers of 20 or less to use 8th graders on the varsity level in basketball, football and volleyball. This would be similar to NDE Rule 10 which allows 6th grade students to participate in middle school activities if the enrollment for boys or girls in 7th and 8th is 12 or below. Similar to South Dakota, the 8th grade students would be allowed to participate at both middle school and high school levels. This would help increase numbers so games are not being cancelled and more JV games can be scheduled.

Rationale: We have extremely low numbers which has led to the cancellation of team seasons. If we had 8th graders we would be able to fulfill our schedules and compete at the high school level. It would also let our students who don't have enough for middle school teams to participate as an 8th grader.

Schools would have more players so they could compete in JV games which is a problem for small schools as far as playing time and scheduling.

Pros: Games will not be forfeited or cancelled.
More JV games for schools.
Continued athletic programs for small schools.

Cons: Less practice time for those who participate at the JH & HS levels.
Scheduling issues if games are on the same day.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Add Approved Rulings and Interpretations for 3.11.2.1 to allow baseball teams to play a Jamboree game.

Title:

Author: Dustin Deterding

School: Ashland-Greenwood

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Baseball

This proposal:

WILL 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:

2026-03-08

Sections affected in Activities Manual:

Page
69

Article
3

Section
11.2

Summary:

Prior to the first contest date for the Spring sports season, only intra-squad games or intra-squad scrimmages are permitted. However, each school is permitted to participate in one scheduled Jamboree game to be held the beginning of Week 36 to Tuesday of Week 37 of the NSAA calendar. Proceeds from the Jamboree game are designated toward the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame, with the guidelines and financial report to be determined by the NSAA Executive Staff, as directed by the Board of Directors.

Rationale:

Currently the only opportunity for players to face live hitting or live pitching is if they face their own teammates in the 2 and a half weeks leading up to the official start of the season. This proposal would allow for a competition against an outside school. The benefits of competing against another school are far greater than competing in a scrimmage situation.

Pros:

Many in-game situations are hard to replicate at practice in a scrimmage situation. A jamboree game allows for teams to create in-game situations and evaluate their team's performance to improve.

Cons:

Spring weather, the game will have to occur in early March. On game day the weather may not allow for the game to be played.

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	59	10	18



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Basketball Contest Limitations

Title:

Author: Jason Palmer

School: Auburn

NSAA District: 2

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	44	20	24

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class B
Class C

Activities Affected: Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	67	3	11.1

Summary: Currently, the NSAA Basketball Manual says the following for contest limitations:

"No team representing a member school shall participate in more than eighteen games plus two tournaments, exclusive of the district and State Championship. Conference tournaments must be counted in those contest limitations. Schools may participate in eighteen games and two tournaments in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments (if a team participates in additional tournament other than the two allowed, then each game counts towards the eighteen game limit). Schools may also play nineteen games plus one tournament or twenty games and no tournaments.

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. Schools may participate in one triangular and this would count as one of the two tournaments. A triangular is defined as a contest involving three teams and a winner will be determined. (Typical round-robin events do not meet the definition of a tournament.) Schools are requested to send a copy of each tournament bracket to the NSAA.

The new proposal would change the manual to read: "No team is allowed to play in more than 24 total contests in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments. These contests can come from any combination of single games, triangulars, round robins, tournaments, etc... Teams who play in a tournament by seeding / bracketing that end up being required to play an extra game or "play-in" game will not be penalized as long as brackets are not decided prior to the date that basketball schedules are required to be submitted on the NSAA website."

This allows flexibility for schools in scheduling games. Schools who do not have two reliable "tournaments" (as defined above) are currently either forced to find two or play fewer contests. This proposal does not allow for any more contests than what is already allowed: $18 + 3$ (tournament 1) $+ 3$ (tournament 2) = 24.

Rationale:

This proposal would allow for more flexibility in scheduling, without adding any more total contests than what is already allowed. Teams that do not have two reliable tournaments each year will be able to add single contests or even play in shootouts where you could potentially play more than one game with no real bracket in place. Currently, if you do not play in the two tournaments you do not have much flexibility in finding replacement games. Shootouts are more common in other states and making a change would allow schools to find additional games to supplement their schedule without the need for something with a bracket.

Additionally, many of our surrounding states do not limit contests with tournaments as a part of their rules for contest limitations. Iowa allows 21 total contests with the possibility of 22 contests if the school is adding the 22nd game to assist another school in filling that school's schedule. Iowa does not allow games between Christmas and New Years. Missouri allows for 26 total contests. Kansas currently allows for 20 total contests with the possibility of 21 if a school participates in a tournament where they have to play four games. Kansas is said to be expanding to 23 total games beginning next school year.

In summary, this proposal allows schools to fill their schedule with any combination of games, tournaments, etc... so long as you don't exceed 24 games (exception of play-in game).

Pros:

Flexibility in scheduling.

Cons:



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Basketball Contest Limitations

Title:

Author: Austin Lewis

School: Sidney

NSAA District: 6

	For	Against	Abstain
District 6	21	5	0

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class B
Class C
Class D

Activities Affected: Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 67	<u>Article</u> 3	<u>Section</u> 11.1
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Summary: Summary: Change basketball regular season contest limitations to 24 total contests. Schools may fill that contest amount to their liking with tournaments, shootouts, round robins etc. School just may not exceed 24 total contests in the regular season.

Currently, the NSAA Basketball Manual says the following for contest limitations:

“Schools may participate in eighteen games and two tournaments in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments (If a team participates in an additional tournament other than the two allowed, then each game counts towards the eighteen game limit). Schools may also play nineteen games plus one tournament or twenty games and no tournaments.”

The new proposal would change the manual to read:

“No team is allowed to play more than 24 total contests in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments. These contests can come from any combination of single games, triangulars, round robins, tournaments, etc... Teams who play in a tournament by seeding / bracketing that end up being required to play an extra game or ‘play-in’ game will not be penalized as long as brackets are not decided prior to the date that basketball schedules are required to be submitted on the NSAA website.”

Rationale:	This proposal would allow for more flexibility in scheduling, without adding any more total contest dates than are already allowed. Teams that do not have two reliable tournaments each year will be able to add single contests or even play in shootouts where you could potentially play more than one game with no real bracket in place. Currently, if you do not play in the two tournaments you do not have much flexibility in finding replacement games. Shootouts are more common in other states and making a change would allow schools to find additional games to supplement their schedule without the need for something with a bracket.
Pros:	Flexibility in scheduling. Teams without steady yearly tournaments can add single contests if they choose.
Cons:	



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

District Final Host in Basketball

Title:

Author: Brian Fleischman

School: Overton

NSAA District: 4

	For	Against	Abstain
District 4	48	0	9
District 5	16	5	1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball

This proposal: **WILL** 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: 2024-08-22

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	Page	Article	Section
	11		Classes D1 & D2
	17		Classes D1 & D2

Summary: The sixteen (16) teams qualifying for the district final will be matched up using a serpentine method and placed on a 16-team bracket based on wild-card point averages through sub-districts. The higher seeded team will host the district final game. The boys and girls teams winning the district final will advance to the State Championship.

Rationale: This proposal mirrors what is happening in all other classes. Teams are rewarded for having a successful season and earning the right to host a district final on their home court on a Saturday in front of their home fans and community. This would eliminate the need to find neutral host sites on a Saturday and also find help when hosting neutral site matches.

Pros: Rewards teams for successful seasons.
Eliminates the need to find a neutral site (which can be very difficult)
Increased gate & concession for host school

Cons: Potential for increased travel time and missing class time for teachers/coaches/players for lower seeded team.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class A & B Bowling: Serpentine District Competition

Title:

Author: Matthew Uher

School: Lincoln Northeast

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A
Class B

Activities Affected: Boys Bowling
Girls Bowling

This proposal:

WILL 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: 2024-08-09

Sections affected in Activities Manual:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
17:		

Summary:

District Assignments:
All schools in Bowling are to be placed into six districts. District assignment will be based on geographic location (Serpentine: 6 Districts with six teams; Six Championship teams; 2 Wildcard teams will qualify for the State Bowling Championship) starting west and moving east with consideration also given to north and south to reduce travel. All competitions through the regular season will be used in wild card calculations to determine the state championship wild card qualifiers.

1 2 3 4 5 6
12 11 10 9 8 7
13 14 15 16 17 18
24 23 22 21 20 19
25 26 27 28 29 30
36 35 34 33 32 31

(If other schools are added to Class A: i.e. Kearney)

District tournament host schools and specific bowling centers will be selected before the season begins in order to secure hosts and bowling centers for the events. After post-season seeding, the host schools will be assigned to one of the six districts so there is one host-school per district. The NSAA Director of Bowling will make the simplest one-team trades between districts so that host teams with the closest wildcard point average to a team in another district are switched. The top-6 seeds will not be switched in order to split up the host schools. A horizontal switch with the closest wildcard point average will be made within the row of the host school.

Summary:

This proposal is to address the current situation with how Bowling Districts are set geographically. This initial method of setting Bowling Districts was relevant when Bowling was starting due to the number of teams competing initially. Now, there are 30 teams competing in Class A and assigning districts using the geographical method fails to balance the districts properly. If we can implement the Serpentine method for determining Bowling Districts, we will be able to balance the teams and provide a better opportunity for the best 8 teams to qualify for the State Competition.

Rationale: This would match what is currently being used in the majority of our athletic events sponsored by the NSAA to set District assignments. This would also potentially prevent 3-4 of the top teams in the sport from competing in the same district. Last year, in A-6 of the Boys Class A District 3 of the top 7 teams were in the same district.

Pros: Provide balance to the Bowling District Tournament and allow more opportunities for our athletes and teams to qualify for State.

Cons: The one glaring issue will be travel for teams as transportation costs may increase due to how Districts are created.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Outside Participation for Boys & Girls Bowling

Title:

Author: Keith Maly

School: Millard North

NSAA District: 2

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	27	23	38

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Bowling
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
WILL NOT decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Constitution & Bylaws:	62	3	5

Summary: Include a new bylaw to allow bowling athletes to outside participate in a similar manner that swimming and diving athletes do, but only in USBC certified bowling leagues and USBC certified singles and doubles tournaments. Bowling athletes may not participate in outside team-based tournaments.

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 youth certified bowling league, USBC youth certified singles or doubles tournament, and bowling-related skill clinics under the conditions listed below.

A) Priority shall be given to all school team practices and competitions. 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: With the increasing cost of lane rental for school practices, many teams have had to reduce the number of practices that they have each week.

There are students who are currently choosing to not bowl in NSAA High School Varsity Bowling due to the fact that they would have to give up league and tournament participation. This limits their potential to earn scholarship points for college and visibility to collegiate coaches.

Gives athletes the chance to increase their exposure to challenging lane conditions through Sport Shot Tournament participation.

Would allow the athlete to participate in collegiate showcases that are aimed at recruiting high school Junior and Senior bowlers.

Would allow athletes to participate in skill clinics lead by certified bowling coaches.

Would align our policy with adjacent states allowing opportunities for growth through participation in in-state and out-of-state competitions and clinics.

Pros:

- Bowlers would no longer have to sit out of high school competitions or choose to not participate in high school bowling due to current rules.
- There is an opportunity to bring in more bowlers (i.e. those sitting out because they want to continue to bowl leagues & tournaments).
- Leagues provide less expensive opportunities for practice & time on lanes. Leagues often cost around \$10-\$12 per week for 3 full games. Sometimes practice costs for lane time outside of league is often cheaper for a youth bowler in a league.
- Gives bowlers the opportunity to participate in tournaments & have exposure to challenging lane conditions (i.e. Challenge & Sport Patterns).
- Ability to earn SMART points in league & tournament participation to assist with advancement to college.
- Aligns with other surrounding states giving our bowlers the opportunity to compete with athletes in our region.
- Allows access to bowling clinics taught by certified coaches & bowling veterans.

Cons:

- Individual high school team coaches would have to monitor & administer making sure their athletes are not missing their practices or competitions & determine the individual athletes consequences for doing so.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Cross Country Classification Alignment for Classes B, C & D

Title:

Author: Jay Staehr

School: Aurora

NSAA District: 1

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	21	13	16

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class B
Class C
Class 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: 2024-09-26

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
Cross Country Manual

Summary: Classification of Schools - Cross Country

Since Class A already has a set number of 850 and larger they would need no change. The proposal would 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 a few years now. This would give Class B a maximum of a 2.65% size discrepancy between the smallest and largest schools. In the past 5 years, the average size of the largest school in Class B has been 825, which at 320-825 would be a 2.57% discrepancy average for the past 5 years. 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. 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 without going over 60 schools in the class, based on the past 5 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 few schools to Class D based off of the past 5 years of classifications.

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 do not 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. 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. Evening 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.

Pros:

Bringing class B and C to an even ratio between the smallest and largest schools within each class. Matching 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.

Cons:

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



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

District Cross Country Assignments Based On Four Fastest Times

Title:

Author: Andrew Sherman

School: Lincoln Southwest

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A

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: 2024-10-01

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Sections affected in Activities Manual:	Page 9	District Assignments Class A	Four districts using the average of two fastest times

Summary: This proposal would change the district seeding criteria. Instead of the current two fastest times, we propose using the average of a team's four fastest times.

Rationale: By using four races to determine districts, we are more likely to balance them out. This would put more emphasis on the entirety of the season and minimize the benefits to teams that race on extremely flat, fast courses.

Pros: Balanced Districts
Emphasis on the whole season

Cons: If a team has minimal competitions that meet district qualifying criteria or has events canceled.

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	17	0	34



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Adjustment of 8-man Classification Number (55) for Fall of 2026

Title: Adjustment of 8-man Classification Number (55) for Fall of 2026

Author: Caleb Armstrong, co-author Lee Schneider of Clarkson

School: Tri County

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class C
Class D

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	22	7	21
District 2	23	18	48
District 3	26	21	6
District 5	2	17	3

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 28 Article 2 Section 13.2

Summary:

b. Schools playing football and having a three-grade BOY enrollment in excess of 55 are required to play 11-man football in order to be eligible for the State Football Playoffs. If such schools choose to play 8-man football, they will not be eligible for the State Football Playoffs.

d. Schools playing 8-man football that are ineligible for the State Football Playoffs due to having BOY enrollments in excess of 55, unless they are within their one classification waiver period, shall also be ineligible for competing for the District Championship.

f. Schools playing football with a BOYS enrollment of 55 or fewer may play 11-man football.

h. If during the immediate preceding classification period a school's BOY three-grade enrollment submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education was 55 or less and if that school has been playing 8-man football, such school may remain eligible for 8-man football for one more classification period, even though its new three-grade enrollment exceeds 55.

Rationale: By raising the cutoff for 8-man classification number from 47 to 55, it is a proactive measure to help offset the growing issue that is low participation across the state. The enrollment number of a school is not an accurate measurement of the number of football participants a school potentially has. It also helps to keep the incentive of a school to be eligible for their respective class playoff system. With the enrollment of non-metro or non-Lincoln area schools consistently shrinking, it has started to put more pressure on schools to determine if they should stay 11-man or go to 8-man. Also, by raising the number, it helps to protect schools so they are not forced to play an 11-man schedule with an 8-man roster because they want to stay eligible.

Pros: This allows schools to compete and remain playoff eligible.

Cons:



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

8 Man Football Eligibility 55 and Creation of D1, D2, and D3 Classifications

Title:

Author: Corey Uldrich (Lee Schneider, Clarkson-Leigh & Isaac Frecks, Alma)

School: Hartington-Newcastle

NSAA District: 3

Proposal for: Activities Manual

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	14	27	49
District 3	37	12	4
District 4	17	28	12
District 5	15	5	2
District 6	21	5	0

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Football

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: 2025-11-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 28 29 29-31 53-58	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u> Classifications Classifications Boy Enrollment for Football 8-Man Playoffs
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Summary: This proposal has two major components that would affect the classification and playoff structure of 8-man football. First, this proposal would move the eligibility number for 8-man football to 55 boys in the three-grade count. Currently, that number sits at 47. Second, this proposal would change the 8-man classification structure from a two-class division to a three-class division. 8-man teams would be classified in one of three classes (D1, D2, or D3). *Would use the largest 32 schools for class D1 and separate the remaining schools equally between classes D2 and D3. Every attempt would be made to make sure a D3 school is not scheduled against a D1 school due to the overall school size, thus protecting D3 schools and not causing a group of ineligible schools to participate in D6.

Rationale: For years, we have dealt with the issue of having 8-man football teams ineligible due to their enrollment. Moving that number to 55 would help align us with what neighboring states with 8-man football use. Kansas allows schools with a combined three year enrollment of 99 (50 boys) to play 8-man football. Iowa allows for schools with 105 students (53 boys with a 50/50 split) to participate in 8-man football. Colorado allows schools to use a four year enrollment number of 158 (59 boys for a 3 year enrollment). Missouri allows schools with a combined 3 year enrollment of 150 (75 boys) to be eligible. By moving to 55, we would at least be closer to what our neighbors use for a number to determine who can play 8-man football.

The move to the number 55 would be beneficial for a few reasons:

1. It would help those schools who have struggled through ineligibility because they were just over the 8-man number, but had 8-man participation rates. In most of these cases, these are schools who don't get a lot of kids out and who cannot play 11-man football on their own.

2. It would help those schools who want to co-op. I am aware of a couple of situations where struggling 8-man programs wanted to explore options with their 8-man neighbors, but immediately shut down talks when they realized that adding their enrollments together would put them into 11-man or as an 8-man ineligible team.

The division of classes would be as follows:

D1 - the largest eligible 32 schools

D2 and D3 -remaining schools would be split evenly. If the number does not divide out equally, the first extra team would go into D3.

In terms of bonus points and playing across classes, teams would get 1 bonus point for playing up a division and 2 bonus points for playing up two divisions. Every effort should be made to schedule teams within classes against each other, but our geography may require that a D1 play a D2, or a D2 play a D3 because of a lack of available teams in an area. Every effort would be used to not schedule a D3 vs a D1 because of the overall differences in school size. D3 vs D1 would only be allowed if the D3 school agreed to playing the D1 school. In the new three-class 8-man system, all teams would play 9 regular season games, and the playoffs would move to 16 teams in each of the three classes. This would align with the current structure of both 11-man and 6-man football. All playoff games could be played on Friday nights.

Pros:

- *Aligns us with neighboring states' number for 8-man classification
- *Could create more co-op opportunities for small 8-man schools who need help
- *Should help reduce ineligible teams, while also allowing the smallest 8-man schools a division to compete against like-sized schools
- *Gives all 8-man teams a 9th regular season game
- *All playoff games would move to Friday nights
- *Creates equity in class sizes and playoff structures across all divisions of football (6-man, 8-man, 11-man)

Cons:

- *Could shrink the sizes of Classes C1/C2 if newly eligible teams decide to move down to 8-man
- *Would add a championship game to the current football finals schedule
- *Would require an additional set of medals and trophies

Title: Football Class (Split Class C, 8-man # of 60, Adding 1 additional 8-man Class)

Author: Shane Anderson/Greg Conn

School: Wausa

	For	Against	Abstain
District 3	30	22	1

NSAA District: 3

Proposal: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Football

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: 2025-26 Year

Sections Affected in Activities Manual:

Page	Article	Section
29-30	2.13.2	Football Classifications
31	2.13.2	Scheduling Criteria
39-40		Wildcard Criteria
45-60		Football Playoff

Summary: Raise Eligibility number for 8-man Football to 60
28 Teams in A
28 Teams in B
Remaining 11-Man Teams will be divided into 2 classes (C1-C2) (in years not divisible by 2, C2 shall be the larger class)
Teams eligible for 8-Man will be Divided into 3 classes (D1, D2, D3) (In years not divisible by three, D3 shall be the bigger class, followed by D2)

A, B, C would be 11 man classes
D1, D2, D3 would be 8 man classes
D6 will be any schools enrollment 27 and below
D1,D2,D3 would move to a 9 game season with 16 teams going to the playoffs
Championship Friday D6, D3
Championship Monday A, D1, D2
Championship Tuesday B, C1, C2

Rationale: There are currently 13 schools ineligible for the playoffs, 7 of those playing 8-man.
There are currently 17 teams that are in their exempt period in 8-man football. With

trends continuing the number of ineligible schools is going to grow. With the proposed changes there would be 120 teams eligible for 11 man and 119 teams eligible for 8-man, and 37 eligible teams for 6-man, providing more opportunities for playoff teams without hurting those schools in the lower tier of enrollment in their respective class.

This is very similar to the Plainview Proposal, with the differences that C1 & C2 are still split, Classes A & B are changed from 32 to 28 in each class, and that there is a criterion for setting classification within the C's & D's.

- Pros:
- *Less ineligible teams due to opting down. More balanced numbers in 8-man classes to eliminate discrepancy from top to bottom.
 - *Gives all 8-man teams a 9th regular season game.
 - *Allows Classes C1 & C2 to stay split and allows for more teams to be eligible in 8-man while trying to minimize the affects on the smaller 8-man schools by having three 8-man classes.
- Cons:
- *Adds a class, which would add costs of trophies and medals to the NSAA.
 - *Moves the smaller portion of D2 (now D3) to Championship Friday at Kearney.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Waiver Period Renewed After Gaining Second Year Cycle Eligibility

Title: Lee Schneider & Co-author Isaac Frecks Alma District 5

School: Clarkson

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Football

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	30	8	50
District 3	32	15	6
District 4	9	29	19
District 5	12	8	2
District 6	16	7	3

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: 2024-09-27

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page 29-30 Article Section Boy enrollment for FB

Summary: Because the mobility rate of a school district can fluctuate considerably from year to year, we are proposing that a school that becomes eligible in either year one or year two of the cycle is able to regain their classification waiver period. Currently, a school that is playing 8-man football and was previously eligible and is over the cutoff number in year one of the new cycle is granted a one-classification wavier period. If that school is still over the cutoff number in the next classification period they are deemed ineligible, however, they can become eligible in the second year of that classification period. If a school becomes eligible in the second year of a classification period they should be able to regain their wavier period back.

Rationale: We are making this proposal because the mobility rate of a school district can fluctuate considerably from year to year. Currently a school that is playing 8-man football and was under the cutoff number in the previous classification period is granted a one-classification waiver period to still be eligible for playoffs. However, if a school is over the cutoff number after their waiver they become ineligible for playoffs the following classification period. The ineligible school is able to become eligible for playoffs in the second year of the classification period if they are below the cutoff number in year two.

This proposal would allow a school that becomes eligible in their second year of the classification period to regain their one-classification waiver to still be eligible for the playoffs. If we grant a school a waiver if they are under the cutoff number in year one of a classification period we should also grant a waiver to a school that becomes eligible for playoffs in the second year of the classification period.

Rationale: - Possibility of more teams being eligible for playoffs.
- Allows for schools seeing low participation numbers, regardless of number of students, to be eligible for playoffs for more years.
-Schools with 8-man participation numbers will be eligible more often.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class D1/D2 Football Playoffs Host Sites

Title:

Author:

Corey Uldrich (Casey Loomis, Pleasanton)

School:

Hartington-Newcastle

NSAA District:

3

	For	Against	Abstain
District 3	34	17	2
District 4	34	8	14

Proposal for:

Activities Manual

Classes Affected:

Class D

Activities Affected:

Football

This proposal:

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

Implementation date:

2025-08-01

Sections affected in
Activities Manual:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
54		Class D1 Football Playoffs
57		Class D2 Football Playoffs

Summary:

For the first round, second round, quarterfinal, and semifinal games, the higher seed will host.

Rationale:

This proposal mirrors what is happening in classes A-C2. Teams are rewarded for having a successful season and earning the right to host playoff games on their home field.

Pros:

Rewards teams for successful seasons. Increased gate & concession for the host school.

Cons:

Increased travel time and missing class time for teachers/coaches/players for lower-seeded teams.

Seeding the D1 & D2 Playoffs #1-#32

Author: Corey Uldrich

School: Hartington-Newcastle Public Schools

NSAA District: 3

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	26	4	62
District 3	23	25	5

Proposal for: NSAA Activities Manual

Classes Affected: D1 & D2

Activities: Football

Implementation Date: August 2025

This proposal would impact the Activities Manual from pages 53-58, D1 and D2 Playoffs.

Proposal Summary:

This proposal would change the way that the 8-man football playoffs are structured. Currently, we seed the playoffs #1-#16 in the east and #1-#16 in the west. After the first round, there is a re-seed to a statewide #1-#16.

This proposal would put the 32 teams into a single playoff bracket that would be seeded #1-#32 without any regard for geography. This proposal would mathematically reduce the possibility of rematches in the first round of the playoffs. In the 2024 D1 and D2 playoffs, there were 8 first round rematches out of 32 first round games (25% rematch rate). If the playoffs had been seeded #1-#32 without geography, that number would have dropped to 4 first round rematches (12.5% rematch rate).

Pros:

It would provide a true playoff bracket where teams are matched up with an opponent of the appropriate point standing.

It would help reduce the possibilities of first-round rematches.

Cons:

There is a possibility for more travel in this system. (2024 Playoffs as is, the average D1 playoff game was 120.6 miles; D2 was at 131.2 miles.....in the proposed method, that number would jump to 167.4 in D1 (+46.8 miles) and to 170.1 in D2 (+38.9 miles).



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Bonus points for playing teams that have opted down in classification

Title:

Author: Nick Brost

School: South Platte

NSAA District: 6

	For	Against	Abstain
District 6	18	6	2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class C
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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page 40 Article Wild Card Criteria Section Football Manual

Summary: Add the following to Wild Card Point Criteria:

Add #6. If a Class C1 or C2 team plays a school which has more than 159 boy enrollment, the Class C1 team will receive 2 bonus points for playing a team one classification higher. A Class C2 team in this situation will receive 3 bonus points for playing a team 2 classifications higher.

Change #6 to: 7. If a Class D1 or Class D2 team plays a school which has more than 47 boy enrollment, the Class D1 team will receive 2 bonus points for playing a team one classification higher. A Class D2 team in this situation will receive 3 bonus points for playing a team 2 classifications higher.

Change #7 to: 8. If a Class D6 team plays a school which has more than 27 enrollment, the class D6 team will receive 2 bonus points for playing a team one classification higher.

Rationale: Schools that are ineligible for playoffs or 2 year exempt in their class should be considered in the class above and teams playing them shall receive the bonus points for playing teams one or 2 classifications above. The number of teams that are ineligible or 2 Year exempt in 2024 are: C1 - 4 (ineligible), D1 - 8 (ineligible), 17 (exempt), D6 - 2 (ineligible), 5 (exempt).

Pros: Teams receive bonus points for playing schools that are one or 2 classifications above.

Cons: None.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class A Football Scheduling Proposal

Title:

Author: Scott Anderson

School: Fremont

NSAA District: 2

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	25	9	53

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class A

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: 2025-06-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:	Page	Article	Section
	68	3	11.4.2
	68	3	11.4.4
	Football Manual Page 43		

Summary: Class A is divided into two districts (A1 & A2) for scheduling purposes. District A1 is the top half of Class A schools based off of their final end of regular season wildcard points from the previous two years averaged together.

If there is an odd number of teams in Class A, the total number will be divided by two and then rounded up to the next even number to ensure an even number of teams are in District A-1.

Example: 32 teams in Class A would have A1 with 16 and A2 with 16 teams.

If there are 33 teams in Class A, $33/2=16.5$. This rounded up the next even number would mean 18 schools in A-1 and 15 schools in A-2

District A2 is the remaining Class A schools based off of their final end of season wildcard points from the previous two years averaged together. A2 schools can opt-up to A1.

Schools that were not in Class A previously will still use the average of their wildcard points from the previous two years in the class that they played in. If a school only has one year of football, they will use the wildcard points from that year as their number.

****Two year schedule is created by a scheduling committee consisting of the following: NSAA Director of Football, 2 representatives appointed by the Metro Conference, 2 representatives appointed by the Heartland Athletic Conference and 1 representative of the remaining class A schools that are not members of the Metro or HAC conferences. Non HAC/Metro Rep to be determined by a**

vote of the schools not in the Metro/HAC if non-Metro/HAC members can't come to an agreement, a representative will be appointed by the NSAA Director of Football.

****The scheduling timeline and the timeline and number of scheduling committee meetings will be at the discretion of the NSAA Director of Football**

****All Teams will play regular season games in weeks 1-9.**

****District A-1 teams schedule will consist of games vs. the other teams in District A-1 and District A-2 teams schedules will consist of games vs. the other teams in District A-2 as determined by the scheduling committee.**

****Each school will have the opportunity to request up to 2 two rivalry or out of state games (2 total). Rivalry/Out of state games are games that are mutually agreed upon by both of the schools. If both schools agree, schools from A-1 could play schools from A-2 provided there are an even number of other schools from A-1 and A-2 that also agree to play rivalry or out of state games that create enough matchups for games that do not require other A-1 vs. A-2 games that are not mutually agreed upon by both schools. Out of state games would also be dependent on leaving an even amount of teams to fill games for the rest of the teams in each district in weeks 1-9.**

The only time that games involving Class A and Class B schools would be considered is if the following criteria is met:

1. There is an odd number of schools in Class A for the two year scheduling cycle
2. All rivalry games between A-1 and A-2 schools that have been approved by the scheduling committee have been scheduled
3. All out of state games that have been approved by the scheduling committee have been scheduled
4. Both the Class A and B programs that would compete against each other have approved the matchup

Playoffs/Bowl Games:

Playoffs: All of the schools in district A-1 will qualify for the playoffs each year.

Playoff Seeding: Seeding will be determined by final regular season wildcard points.

Playoff Host: Will be the higher seeded team throughout the playoffs

Optional Bowl Games: A2 teams will be matched up to play a bowl game with schools being matched up to play in order of wildcard points finish. Team 17 will play team 18 and so on until all schools have been assigned a bowl game.

The higher seeded team will host. If teams have previously played during weeks 7-9 and both do not agree to play again, they may appeal to the scheduling committee to find an alternative opponents for their bowl game. The scheduling committee will then have the ability to alter bowl game matchups to create match-ups that do not include rematches between teams that do not agree to the rematch.

Bowl Games will be treated as a regular season home games for the host schools.

If there is an uneven number of teams in A2, the scheduling committee may schedule a play-in game where the school that finishes 17th in final wildcard points has a bye week 10. Schools finishing in spots 18 and 19 would play week 10 and the winner will advance to play team 17 in week 11.

The remaining bowl matchups would then start with the school finishing 20th in wildcard points playing the school that finished 21st and so on until all teams have been matched up with a week 10 bowl game.

Teams participating in a week 10 bowl game would be done with their season after week 10 with the exception of the week 11 game between the school finishing 17th and the winner of the 18/19 matchup.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class A Football Scheduling

Title:

Author: Rob Locken

School: Omaha Central

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A

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: 2025-12-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	Page	Article	Section
	30		
	31		
	45		

Summary: Using the two-year power point averages, class A schools will be placed into four districts using the serpentine method. The district champion of each of the four districts would automatically qualify for the play offs and receive a district champion plaque. The top 12 power point teams at the end of the regular season will advance to the playoffs. Each of the 12 qualifying schools will receive a plaque for qualifying for the playoffs. No change is being sought for Class A classification for football. Schools with male enrollment over 425 will be impacted by this proposal, unless they decide to opt-down. Teams would receive 7 assigned contests through the proposed 4 district serpentine method. The final two games would be assigned using a two-game priority list submitted by each Class A school. The priority list would give schools an opportunity to ensure rivalry games, in-district games, out of state games and like competition.

Below is what the four districts look like with the power point ranking.

District 1 - 1,8,9,16,17,24,25,32

District 2 - 2,7,10,15,18,23,26,31

District 3 - 3,6,11,14,19,22,27,30

District 4 - 4,5,12,13,20,21,28,29

Using the two-year power point average, each district should see the following breakdown in district. There would be 2 division 1 teams, 2 division 2 teams, 3 division 3 teams and 2 division 4 teams on the schedule. Through the priority games of two, a team could end up with 3 like opponents on paper biased of the previous two-year power point average at each of the four levels.

Rationale: Create a scheduling protocol that is balanced and equitable for all Class A schools.

Pros: Create a system that is equitable and balanced for all schools in Class A regardless of what tier the school currently lands in.

Cons: Limits the flexibility fo prioroty games from up to 5 to 2. As Class continues to grow, the # of priority games would be impacted.



Proposal for Change in NSAA Rules and Regulations

Title: Class AB Football

Author: Multiple

School:

NSAA District: II

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: **Class A** **Class B** Class C Class D

Activities Affected: Football

This proposal: Increase cost to school? NO
 Increase cost to the NSAA? YES
 Increase travel for participating schools? NO
 Decrease student's or coach's instruction time? NO

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	12	21	17
District 2	36	13	42
District 4	4	35	18

Implementation Date: November 2025 (Football Scheduling Cycle: 2026 & 2027)

Sections affected: Football Manual

Pages 28 & 29 - Classification

Page 31 - Scheduling Timeline

Summary:

Creation of "AB Football" to allow schools traditionally in Classes A & B to schedule competitive football games. Schools would be assigned a 9 game schedule, with the top 8 schools qualifying for postseason play into the Class AB playoff.

Schools participating in the Class AB will have assigned football games. Schools would be eligible for the state football playoffs in class AB. NSAA staff and the Class AB Schedule Committee would be responsible for playoff assignments and championship awards.

AB Football Eligibility:

NSAA Football Declaration form indicating participation in 11-man Class AB - Friday NSAA Week 20

Submit rationale information to Competitive Balance Committee - Friday NSAA Week 21

Competitive Balance Committee approval or denial for participation in Class AB football - Friday NSAA Week 24

Clarification - The Competitive Balance Committee would hear all applications to join AB Football. All schools must meet the criteria established by the Competitive Balance Committee, including special attention to prior years' results, participation numbers, and alternative options for a school's program.

AB Football would be an "opt in" program, not specifically limited to only those in A or B traditionally, but open to those programs looking for more like competition with teams than the present classification system allows.

Schedule Format:

9 regular season games assigned by Class AB Schedule Committee

List of priority game requests will be accepted for rival or conference games (not guaranteed)

Class AB Football Schedule Committee (5 representatives from schools opting in to the league)

Selection: By NSAA Assistant Director for football

Committee will be responsible for providing schools a 9 game football schedule Assist in the organization of the Class AB football championship playoffs

Class AB Football Playoff Schedule - Friday (9 game regular season):

NSAA Week 17 - First Round games at higher seed

NSAA Week 18 - Semifinal games at higher seed

NSAA Week 19 - Class AB Football Championship game at higher seed or neutral site

NSAA Bylaws and football procedure manual rules will be followed and enforced. NFHS contest rules and procedures will be used.

Rationale:

The purpose of the AB Class for football is to enable teams to petition to the NSAA Competitive Balance Committee to enter this new Classification. Teams must be approved by the Competitive Balance Committee to be eligible for this new classification. Qualifying teams will be able to 'opt' into Class AB football. This new option will allow for a more balanced and competitive Class for football teams who have been impacted by several critical factors that have contributed to a large competitive separation between schools in the current Classification system. A schedule that is more competitive each week may create more excitement within a program, allowing for growth to help prevent lopsided contests and forfeits. This may impact several schools; however, the movement should have a positive impact where schools will be given the opportunity to evaluate and advocate for their school to find the best fit possible.

Pros:

Potential for schools with limited participation numbers to maintain a full schedule

Creates competitive opportunities for students that have limited prior experience or understanding about football. In other locations where similar initiatives have taken effect, participation numbers have grown as like opportunities for contests were created

NSAA Bylaw 2.13.1 - Authority. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to divide the members into classes, determine the number of classes and place the member schools into these classes for competition in each activity sponsored by this Association.

This would not be a championship aligned with the NSAA Finals in Lincoln/Memorial Stadium. Teams within the classification would host playoffs and be responsible for expenses of those contests, and not affecting the general membership of the association.

The creation of AB football would also allow teams from multiple classifications to opt-in, perhaps providing an option for schools that have opted-down to now find more like opportunities for scheduling games

Cons:

Fewer schools in Class A and B football



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Golf Cart Availability for Coaches at Districts & State

Title:

Author: Keith Maly

School: Millard North

NSAA District: 2

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	74	7	7

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All Classes

Activities Affected: Boys Golf
Girls Golf

This proposal: **WILL** 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: 2024-07-29

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 22- Golf Manual	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
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Summary: All head and assistant coaches in boys and girls golf would be allowed to use a golf cart at district and state if they so choose.

Rationale: Currently coaches have the option to use a cart at every tournament except for districts and state. This proposal would give the coach the option to use a cart if they so choose during district and state competition. The ability to use a cart would allow coaches to be able to contact and coach their athletes in a much more timely manner. Currently on foot, it is impossible to get to an athlete that is 1/4 or 1/2 mile away in less than 10 minutes. This proposal would also allow coaches to get water or other items to their players that they need in a timely fashion.

Pros: - Coaches would be able to get to all of their athletes in a timely manner.

Cons: - None



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Scoring Monitors at Class A & B Districts and State Golf**

Author: Rochelle Rohlfs

School: Omaha Marian

NSAA District: 2

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	41	10	42

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Classes A & B

Activities Affected: Boys Golf
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: 2025-10-06

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
17

Summary: Remove Score Monitors for Class A & B Boys and Girls Golf Districts and State.

Remove:

SCORING MONITORS AND SCORING

1. At district tournaments adults will be assigned to accompany each group to assist with speed of play and monitor scoring. If golf carts are necessary, the costs are the responsibility of the teams competing in the district.

2. Each player and the person keeping that player's score shall be required to confirm the player's score immediately after each hole is completed and prior to tee-off on the next hole.

3. The District Director is responsible for securing the scoring monitors and the work force for the tournament. They are allowed to assign coaches these duties (or a person a school might send to take the coach's place) in the work force. Coaches will not be assigned to groups involving their own golfers. If schools are to bring someone, they should receive ample notification that this will be necessary.

Rationale: Scoring monitors are difficult to find for both Districts and State tournaments. They actually add a level of confusion for the golfers who have done the partner-check system all season long. The scoring monitor golf carts could be used for coaches instead (this is another proposal).

Pros: Remove the most difficult element of hosting a district.
Remove the additional "middle-man" in scoring at districts at State.

Cons: None



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

JH Golf Participants at High School Practice

Title:

Author: Corey Uldrich

School: Hartington-Newcastle

NSAA District: 3

	For	Against	Abstain
District 3	45	4	4

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Golf
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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Constitution & Bylaws:	p. 68	3.11.5	Golf

Summary: A school may permit 7th and 8th grade students to practice with high school teams, allowing for the sharing of practice times, locations, and coaches.

Rationale: This would give schools who struggle to find additional golf coaches for their students the ability to use the same coaches for students in both the junior high and high school.

Because of the non-contact nature of golf, having students in grades 7 and 8 would not put them in any kind of physical harm. This would fall in line with the 2023-2024 legislative change that track and field made.

Pros: Golf coaches could more easily coach at both the JH and HS level by having them all together at one time. The expertise of the high school coaches could be used over potentially having to use volunteers or community members during JH golf.

Cons: None



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **No other competitions on the Thursday of DMC Week**

Author: Jason Weber

School: Milford

NSAA District: 1

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	21	16	13

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class C
Class D

Activities Affected: Baseball
Boys Golf
Boys Soccer
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: 2025-06-21

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:	57	3	3.1

Summary: Reserve Thursday of NSAA calendar Week 42 for District Music competition only. Do not allow other NSAA competitions (regular season) to be scheduled on this day.

Rationale: District Music is the largest NSAA event based on the number of participants. Most students started in band or music in Elementary school. By having scheduled contests during District Music does not allow all of these students to participate.

Per NSAA,

- in 2023 - 283 schools and 16,156 students participated in the District Music Contest
- in 2022 - 285 schools and 16,137 students participated in the District Music Contest

Pros: -- All students will have the opportunity to participate in the District Music Competition.

Cons: -- One less date for other spring activities to schedule.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Proposed update of NSAA Bylaw 7.7.2 part F and 7.7.10**

Author: Jon Mauro

School: Bellevue West

NSAA District: 2

	For	Against	Abstain
District 2	75	0	11

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Music

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: 2025-07-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:	<u>Page</u> 92-94	<u>Article</u> 7.7	<u>Section</u> Sections 7.7.2 & 7.7.10
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Summary: Proposed: Replace 7.7.2, F, 3 with:

Digital (iPad) and hard copies are permitted for the accompanists and directors use as long as the pianist and director have 2 original copies at the piano.

See 7.7.2, C. Copying shall not substitute for the purchase of books, publishers reprints, or periodicals. Additionally, this shall apply to 7.7.10

Digital (iPad) and hard copies are permitted for the accompanists use as long as the pianist has an original at the piano. Judges perusal copies must be originals or have the required permissive documentation.

Rationale: Accompanists and directors have come to rely on the ease and practicality of iPad use in the classroom, on the stage, and at District Music Contest. Music on the iPad is copied music. District Music Contest authorities have permitted the use of iPads.

Our proposal does two things:

- 1) Makes digital copying and Ipad use legal for District Music Contest
- 2) Equates digital copying with hard copying (for use in ring binders). Accompanists may then use either format as they choose.

Pros: Ease of page turning for accompanists
Use of written notes for directors

Cons: None



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Modify Guidelines for Class A District Softball Schedule

Author: Lance Smith

School: Millard West

NSAA District: 2

Proposal For: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A

Activities Affected: Softball

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school

WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA

MAY increase travel for participating schools

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

Implementation date: 2025-26 Season

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page 17

Summary:

To provide the option for the district host to decide whether to play Game 5 or Game 6 on the first day of districts and the other game on the second day of districts.

Current Guidelines:

b. A five-team district will be scheduled as follows:

Day 1 –

Game 1 – Seed #4 vs. Seed #5

Game 2 – Seed #2 vs. Seed #3

Game 3 – Seed #1 vs. Winner Game 1

Game 4 – Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2

Game 6 – Loser Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

Day 2 –

Game 5 – Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 2

Game 7 – Loser Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6

Championship: Game 8 – Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 7

Game 9 – If Necessary

ADD: ** THE DISTRICT HOSTS HAS THE OPTION TO SWITCH GAME 5 AND GAME 6 SHOULD THEY CHOOSE**

Rationale: Currently Game 6 must be played on Day 1, unless every school in the district agrees to alter the schedule. This creates unnecessary communication obstacles during an already tight turnaround for districts. The host should be able to adjust this aspect of the schedule.

Pros: Eliminates the need for consensus during a hectic time and allows the host the decision-making ability. It also creates a schedule that is more advantageous to the winners bracket teams.

Cons: Not every district will automatically follow the same schedule, however, they can already be switched with consensus, so they do not look the same as it is now.

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
District 2	28	4	55



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Unified Exhibition Category at State Journalism

Title:

Author: Andrew Sherman

School: Lincoln Southwest

NSAA District: 1

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	22	0	28

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Journalism

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: 2025-04-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 11	<u>Article</u> State Competition	<u>Section</u> Event Category
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Summary: An exhibition category should be implemented at state journalism for students across the state to submit unified work to be recognized.

Rationale: With the expansion of unified sports and activities and the recent implementation of a unified exhibition category for speech, other activities (Journalism) should also consider adding an exhibition category.

Pros: More opportunities for students
Recognition for students in unified activities

Cons: None



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Expand Unified Track to Three Divisions

Title:

Author: Andrew Sherman

School: Lincoln Southwest

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Unified Sports

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: 2025-03-01

Sections affected	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	Page 10	Team Composition	Entries may be all boys, girls, or co-ed all competing against each other in the Unified Sports, Track & Field division.
	Page 13	Awards	Top eight finishers.

Summary: Expand Unified Track and Field into three divisions: boys, girls, and co-ed. There will be separate qualifiers and awards for each division.

Rationale: Girls are rarely (if ever) able to place or qualify in meets or state. Providing three divisions would help ensure students receive fair and equal opportunities.

Pros: Equity for all Participants
Meeting Title IX requirements
More Students qualify and place

Cons: None

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	31	1	18



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Student Managers at Volleyball Practice

Title:

Author: Dallas Sweet

School: Malcolm

NSAA District: 1

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	31	1	18

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class C

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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
59	3.11.11.4	Volleyball

Summary: Adds 'Class C1 and C2' to section 3.11.11.4

During the season of sport, the only persons allowed to participate in any practice session, drill, or scrimmage, are the team members and designated team student managers. A manager is defined as a 7th or 8th grade **female** student in good academic standing who carries out duties for their high school team on a daily basis. These individuals will need to have an Athletic Physical and NSAA Consent Form on file with the school. Any other adult, college student, or alumni are not allowed to participate in any practice session, drill, scrimmage, game, or contest in which a school team or individual who is a member of a school team is involved. a. This does not prevent a coach from being involved for the primary purpose of teaching and demonstrating skills, methods, or techniques.

***Student Managers who are enrolled in that school's Junior High which assist the team each day be allowed to participate in practice drills and practice scrimmages. Coaches shall determine if a manager is too small in stature to participate in order to keep everyone safe.

Rationale: Make volleyball similar to basketball, and allow managers to have a more effective role in practice and warmups. Many schools are likely currently having managers do things that are technically a violation of the rules.

Taken from last years proposal for class D volleyball, which passed: Allowing a junior high student manager to fill this role will allow full scrimmages and effective drills as part of a practice.

Pros: May allow smaller rosters to conduct scrimmages and drills more effectively

Cons: Coaches will have to determine if a manager is too small in stature to participate in order to keep everyone safe.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Volleyball Competition Points

Title:

Author: Corey Uldrich

School: Hartington-Newcastle

NSAA District: 3

	For	Against	Abstain
District 3	43	9	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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page Article Section
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 any 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 days tournaments play 5+ matches, but one that plays just 3 matches should not be counted in the same bucket of competition points.

Pros: Brings consistency to scheduling points and matches played.

Cons: None



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

District Final Host in Volleyball

Title:

Author: Brian Fleischman

School: Overton

NSAA District: 4

	For	Against	Abstain
District 4	47	0	9
District 5	16	5	1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Volleyball

This proposal: **WILL** 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: 2024-08-22

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	Page	Article	Section
	13		Classes D1 & D2
	19		Classes D1 & D2

Summary: In Classes D1 & D2, the 12 sub-district winners qualify for the district final in addition to the four non-sub district winners with the highest wildcard point averages. Those 16 teams will be placed on a 16-team bracket and seeded on wildcard point averages through sub-districts. The higher seeded team will host the district final match. The winner of the district final match will advance to the state championships

Rationale: This proposal mirrors what is happening in all other classes. Teams are rewarded for having a successful season and earning the right to host a district final on their home court on a Saturday in front of their home fans and community. This would eliminate the need to find neutral host sites on a Saturday and also find help when hosting neutral site matches.

Pros: Rewards teams for successful seasons.
Eliminates the need to find a neutral site (which can be very difficult)
Does not impact class time since the games are on Saturday
Increased gate & concession for host school

Cons: Potential for increased travel time for lower seeded team.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Use of Student Managers at Wrestling Practice

Title:

Author: Erich Warner/Tyler Siecke

School: Blair

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Wrestling

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:

2025-11-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

Page
59

Article
3.11.12.7

Section
Wrestling

Summary:

Add 3.11.12.7 During the wrestling season, the only persons allowed to participate in any practice session, drill or scrimmage, are the team members and designated team student managers. A manager is defined as a 7th or 8th grade student from the same school district in good academic standing who carries out duties for their high school team on a daily basis. These individuals will need to have an Athletic Physical and NSAA Consent Form on file with the school. Any other adult, college student, or alumni may not participate in any practice session, drill, scrimmage, game, or contest in which a school team or an individual who is a member of a school team is involved.

Rationale:

New girls wrestling programs, small schools, and light athletes in larger schools have a difficult time finding partners to practice with. Allowing 7th and 8th grade managers to participate in practice may allow teams to have adequate numbers of students to have effective practice sessions, drills and scrimmages.

States such as South Dakota and Minnesota currently allow 7th and 8th graders to participate on high school wrestling teams with no increase in injuries to their athletes compared to states that only allow high school students to participate.

Where there may be a large difference in size of members of the high school team, schools may allow junior high managers who are closer in size to the high school participants to participate in practice which would result in safer practice partners.

Pros:

Improve the safety of the student athletes by providing partners of similar size and allow adequate number of students to practice.

Cons:

Some junior high managers may not be physically able to practice at the same level as high school students. Schools should determine if the use of student managers for practice is appropriate for their school.

	For	Against	Abstain
District 1	37	5	8
District 2	53	23	11



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Use of Student Managers at Wrestling Practice

Title:

Author: Nick Brost

School: South Platte

NSAA District: 6

	For	Against	Abstain
District 6	24	4	1

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Boys Wrestling
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: 2025-08-01

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
72	3.11.12	Wrestling

Summary: Add 3.11.12.7

During the wrestling season, the only persons allowed to participate in any practice session, drill or scrimmage, are the team members and designated team student managers. A manager is defined as a 7th or 8th grade student in good academic standing who carries out duties for their high school team on a daily basis. These individuals will need to have an Athletic Physical and NSAA Consent Form on file with the school. Any other adult, college student, or alumni may not participate in any practice session, drill, scrimmage, game, or contest in which a school team or an individual who is a member of a school team is involved.

Rationale: Due to decreasing participation numbers in some schools, many teams have limited numbers of players out for sports which make it difficult to have enough high school participants to practice. Allowing 7th and 8th grade managers to participate in practice may allow teams to have adequate numbers of students to have effective practice sessions, drills and scrimmages. Especially in wrestling where there may be a large difference in size of members of the high school team, schools may allow junior high managers who are closer in size to the high school participants to participate in practice which would result in safer practice partners.

Pros: Allows adequate number of students to practice and appropriate size differences between practice participants.

Cons: Some junior High managers may not be physically able to practice at the same level as high school students. Schools should determine if the use of student managers for practice is appropriate for their school.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Wrestling Specific Workouts

Title:

Author: Tyler Siecke

School: Blair

NSAA District: 2

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Boys Wrestling
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: 2024-09-30

Sections affected in	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Constitution & Bylaws:	52	3	2.4B

Summary: Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, boys and girls wrestling coaches are permitted to increase the number of offseason practice participants from 4 to 8 (57%) wrestlers for sport specific training (drilling, situations, live). This increase would bring the boys and girls wrestling teams closer to the current percentages allowed for other sports.

For example,

- Football/Soccer (11 players make up an offensive/defensive team) can work with 7 (63%)
- Softball/Baseball (9 players make up a team) can work with 7 (78%)
- Basketball (5 players make up a team) can work with 4 (80%)
- Wrestling (14 athletes make up a team) can currently work with only 4, which is 29%, the lowest among these sports.

Rationale: The goal is to keep to keep the emphasis in wrestling on the school program as much as possible by allowing more opportunities for our coaches to work with student-athletes. We feel that the limit of 4 participants is an arbitrary number assigned to wrestling and does not reflect the same percentage of a team as it does for other sports.

Pros: We would continue to follow the organized practice rule but simply increase the number of athletes allowed at off-season workouts, aligning it more closely with the percentages of other sports. This change would encourage athletes to train with their high school teams and coaches rather than turning to clubs. Additionally, high school coaches do not currently have enough time to work with all athletes when limited to only four at a time; this proposal would enable them to work with more athletes during offseason practices.

Cons: None.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

NSAA District Wrestling Realignment - Class D

Title:

Author: Kyle Schmidt

School: Plainview

NSAA District: 3

	For	Against	Abstain
District 3	29	14	10

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class D

Activities Affected: Boys 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: 2024-09-26

Sections affected in Activities Manual: Page 18-20 Article Section Sub-District/District Assignment Procedure

Summary: District alignment for class D.
Class C and D

After 64 teams are assigned to class C, the remaining schools will be class D. The western-most schools, making up 25% of all class D will be in the D4 district with the addition of the geographic next closest 6 schools to the west. The remaining schools would be placed in districts by using a serpentine method with returning state points as the main means of assignment. If teams have the same number of returning state points, the school with the most returning state qualifiers will be placed next. If teams have returning qualifiers but no returning points, the team with the greater number of qualifiers would be placed next. If teams are still tied, a draw will be used to determine the team placed next. If team(s) have no returning points and no qualifiers, they will be drawn into the remaining spots to fill the teams in a district. Once the state championship is concluded, no further circumstances will be considered. The school with the most returning state points is placed in district D1, the next most in district D2, the next most in district D3, the next most back in district D3, The next most in district D2, etc., until all teams are assigned.

Another benefit of balancing out the numbers in each district would make it more likely for districts to be hosted in one day.

Rationale: In the last 5 years the number of wrestlers in class D has increased because more schools are being pushed down by the opening of more Class A schools. The schools that are being pushed down have all

been in the eastern half of the state. That is the reason for the numbers in the eastern 3 districts to rise but not in the west.

The chart below shows the number of wrestlers in each district each year:

	.....2024.....	2023.....	.....2022.....	2021.....	.....2020
D1 --	.....198.....	.....196.....	.....173.....	.....157.....	.....165
D2 --	.....201.....	.....206.....	.....152.....	.....138.....	.....146
D3 --	.....197.....	.....180.....	.....134.....	.....158.....	.....142
D4 --	.....133.....	.....150.....	.....126.....	.....144.....	.....130
Total --	729.....	732.....	585.....	597.....	583

The numbers are again rising in all districts except for District 4 which causes a disparity in entries in that district. The medal count for 2024 districts would be as follows:

D1 - 25; D2 - 24; D3 - 22; D4 - 13

With the proposal of 6 more teams being shifted west numbers would be as follows:

Wrestlers: D1 - 181; D2 - 184; D3 - 182; D4 - 184

Medal Count: D1 - 24; D2 - 23; D3 - 20 ; D4 - 18

Pros:

This will create a more level playing field in each of the Class D districts. This will help get the best 16 wrestlers in each weight class to the state Tournament. This would shorten travel time for some teams. Class D districts could be completed in one day.

Cons:



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

District Dual Championships

Title:

Author: Darin Nichols

School: McCook

NSAA District: 5

	For	Against	Abstain
District 5	10	2	10

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A
Class B

Activities Affected: Boys 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: 2025-01-11

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 14 27	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u> Team Match Limitation Dual State Qualifying Criteria
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Summary: Change the team match limitation to say:
No (BOYS) team representing a member school may participate in more than ten tournament dates, seven duals for class A & B, and eight duals for class C & D in addition to the district and state tournaments.

Add to the Dual State qualifying procedures for class A and B:
The wild card points will be calculated the same as currently in the Wrestling Activities Manual with the exception that the results of all duals up to two weeks prior to the NSAA Dual State Championship shall be used for class A and B.

The sixteen teams with the highest wild card point averages will qualify for the district final. The sixteen teams qualifying for the district final will be placed on a 16-team bracket based on wildcard point averages through districts. The higher seeded team will host the district final dual. The teams winning the district final will advance to the Dual State Championship.

Any class A or B school that qualifies for the District Championship through the wildcard point system and do not wish to compete or is ineligible because of not meeting the minimum number of duals competed in, must notify the NSAA no later than 9:00 A.M. on the Monday of Week 30 of the NSAA calendar (the Monday two weeks prior to the Dual Championships). If a school does not wish to compete, each team in the wildcard point system will move up one spot and the next team would be invited to replace them.

Rationale:	<p>This proposal will create a fairer system for teams to qualify for the Dual State Championship. Since we are eliminating one dual during the season and replacing it with the District Championship dual it has little or no affect on cost to the school or NSAA and little or no impact on coachâ€™s and student instruction time.</p> <p>The reason for this change is that teams may be different at the end of the season than in the beginning. Because of individual weight management plans teams with schools playing football deep into the playoffs are at a disadvantage because of the individuals not beginning their weight decent during the football playoffs. This will help kids cut their weight in a safer and more healthy way. Otherwise, they may resort to drastic weigh cutting measures to make their wrestling weight in a short amount of time after their last playoff game.</p> <p>Another reason is some teams have adjusted their schedule to have a better chance of qualifying to state. They have gotten out of tougher duals or dual tournaments and scheduled lower-level competitions to take a lesser risk of loss but still earn the same wild card points especially in class B. For example, this past season there was a team in class B that beat the class B Dual State Champions, and they received as many wild card points as anther class B team that beat a class C team that went 0-2 with blow out loses of 63-18 and 53-22 in the class C Dual State Tournament.</p> <p>The differences in scheduling of dual also create a possibility disparity between earning wild card points. Some teams only schedule 8-10 duals while others schedule 25+ duals (because of dual tournaments).</p> <p>Injuries and illnesses can also have an impact on teams, and we are trying to get the best teams at the end of the season.</p>
Pros:	<p>Improve quality of the Dual State Tournament by improving the qualifying procedures and get the best teams into the Dual State Tournament.</p> <p>Allow teams to keep the season schedule as they wish. This may reduce the overall travel time off setting any potential extra travel for the District Championship. Because teams can schedule closer competition and not have to worry about scheduling competition further away to help their wild card points.</p> <p>Provide an opportunity for the kids to cut weight after the fall sports complete in a safer and more healthy manner.</p>
Cons:	<p>Teams below the sixteenth position in the wild card points may lose one dual to their season. Because of the proximity of most class A and B schools most teams may not travel any further than in the past with the previous 8 dual schedule, however, there may be a couple of schools that may have to travel more for one dual than in the past.</p>



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Additional Tournament dates for schools opting out of state duals

Title:

Author:

Nick Brost

School:

South Platte

NSAA District:

6

	For	Against	Abstain
District 6	25	1	0

Proposal for:

Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected:

All

Activities Affected:

Boys Wrestling

This proposal:

WILL NOT increase costs to the school

WILL NOT increase costs to the NSAA

WILL increase travel for participating schools

WILL decrease a student's or coach's instruction time

Implementation date:

2025-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:

Page
72

Article
3

Section
11.12.3, 11.12.4

Summary:

Allow teams that are unable to fill 8 weight classes (class D) or 10 weight classes (Classes A, B, C) to schedule additional tournaments and opt out of qualifying for state duals.

ADD: "No team opting out of state duals or girls team representing a member school may participate in more than 18 events" on 3.11.12.3, 3.11.12.4.

Rationale:

Schools that are unable to field a team that would qualify for the state dual meet are handicapped by not scheduling duals. For example, a school that has 4 wrestlers on their team, may choose to not schedule dual meets. Currently, teams with few wrestlers are required to add duals to maximize their schedules, but the teams are not able to be competitive in dual format events.

Pros:

Schools with small wrestling programs have the potential to compete in as many events as schools with larger wrestling programs.

Cons:

None