



TO: Superintendents and NSAA Contact Person

FROM: Jennifer Schwartz, Associate Director

SUBJECT: Proposals

DATE: October 3, 2019

Included with this transmission are the proposals submitted by member schools within your respective NSAA legislative district to be acted upon at your first NSAA District Meeting.

At the NSAA District Meetings, each member school shall be entitled to one vote. Voting will be conducted utilizing a clicker system in which each school's vote will be recorded on each item in which a vote is taken. The administrative head of the school or any school official so designated shall be considered the authorized voting representative of the member school. All legislative proposals receiving a majority vote at the first District Meeting in each district are to be forwarded to the NSAA to be distributed to all member schools prior to the second District Meeting in January. A copy of the proposals for the second NSAA District Meeting will again be forwarded to school administrators who are encouraged to share those proposals with the school's entire governing board.

[Proposed changes in NSAA Bylaws](#), must successfully pass through the legislative process. (i.e. November District Meeting, January District Meeting, Legislative Commission, Representative Assembly and if required a ratification of member schools) to be enacted.

[Proposed changes in NSAA Approved Rulings](#), rest in the final approval of the Board of Directors.

[Class Caucus proposals](#) are included for your information and are not acted upon at district meetings.

A paper copy of the proposals will not be provided at the NSAA District Meeting. Please print a copy of the proposals for your reference at the meeting.

District 5 Meeting

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

McCook High School

12:00 p.m. (MT) / 1:00 p.m. (CT)



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Cross Country team classification balance proposal**

Author: Brad Nelson

School: Axtell

NSAA District: 5

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes: Class C

Affected: Class D

Activities: Boys Cross-Country

Affected: 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: 2020-05-01

Sections affected in	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Activities	9	3.5.2	4
Manual:	14	8	2
	14	8	3
	14	8	4
	14	8	1.b

Summary: The number of teams in Class C will increase from 44 to 60 and the number of districts will increase from 4 to 5. Subsequently, the number of class D teams will decrease from 124 to 108, however, the number of districts will remain the same. Class D scoring will go from the top 4 runners to the top 3 runners, and a team will now consist of 5 athletes instead of 6.

Rationale: Currently, Class D represents 54% of all Cross Country programs in the state of Nebraska. Of the 128 schools across the state, 73 boys teams and 57 girls make up Class D. This disparity continues to create lopsided district placements, as some districts consist of 15 teams, while others only have 9 on the boys side. This proposal will classify schools that are typically Class C into a more natural alignment (in comparison to other sports), as well as, increasing the number of complete/competitive teams in Class D. Changing the number of runners that make up a team to 3, will allow approximately 13 more girls' teams.

Pros: More schools will have complete boys and girls teams.
Districts will be more balanced.
Both classes will be more competitive.
No cost to the NSAA or member schools.

Cons: Teams with larger numbers out for Cross Country may lose depth points.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Change in Eligibility Number for Football**

Author: Adam Boettcher

School: Franklin

NSAA District: 5

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: 2020-08-01

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	26-27	2.13.2	Classification

Summary: The Football Classifications for the 2020 & 2021 seasons were based on the three-grade enrollment submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education as of the fourth Friday of September 2019.

- The BOY Enrollment figures submitted to the State Department of Education the fourth Friday in September of each odd numbered year will be used to determine the two year football classifications.
- Schools playing football and having a three-grade BOY enrollment in excess of **56** 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.
- Schools playing football and having a three-grade BOY enrollment in excess of **36** are required to play 8-Man football in order to be eligible for the State Football Playoffs. If such schools choose to play 6-man football, they will not be eligible for the State Football Playoffs.
- Schools playing 8-man football that are ineligible for the State Football Playoffs due to having BOY enrollments in excess of 56, unless they are within their one-classification waiver period, shall also be ineligible for competing for the District Championship.
- Schools playing 6-man football that are ineligible for the State Football Playoffs due to having BOY enrollments in excess of 36, unless they are within their one-classification waiver periods, shall also be ineligible for competing for the District Championship.
- Schools playing football with BOYS enrollment of 56 or fewer may play 11-man football.
- Schools playing football with BOYS enrollment of 36 or fewer may play 8-man football.
- If during the immediate preceding classification period a school's BOY three-grade enrollment submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education was 36 or less and if that school has been playing 6-man football, such school may remain eligible for 6-man football for one more classification period, even though its new three-grade enrollment exceeds 36.
- A school that Opts Down in classification and is thus ineligible for the playoffs in 2020 & 2021 cycle can become eligible in the second season (2021) if their boy enrollment figure as submitted in September of 2020 falls within the appropriate classification enrollment range.

Schools in Class B, C1, C2, D1, D2, and D6 may form cooperatives in football according to the same stipulations adopted for all other activities. Cooperatives will play the level of classification as based on the enrollment figures established by the NSAA.

Rationale: As we have gone through the first two years of the new classification period for Football it has become more and more apparent that there needs to be an adjustment to the cut lines between 8 and 11 man as well as 6 and 8 man. In taking a look at the schools that have opted down to 6-man for example there were 8 schools that had the NSAA not allowed a two year exemption to the eligibility rule would have been ineligible at the current number 27. In fact, if you take a look at those 9 schools their average enrollment is between 35-36 boys, thus I am proposing that we change the number from 27 to 36 (an increase of 9 students). With this increase I feel it important that we also increase the cut number in 8 man to 56 (also an increase of 9 students), as this will give equal considerations to both ends of this issue. The biggest issue with Football is the fact that even though the numbers in enrollment are there the numbers in participation are not. For example, speaking from experience during the 2018 season we (Franklin) starting the season with 21 students, and by week 6 due to injuries and students deciding it wasn't for them, we were down to 12 players. Had we had the option to be eligible in 6-man we would have made that decision prior to the 2018 and 2019 seasons, and would have played out our 2018 schedule. For many schools the issue of eligibility ways pretty hard in the decision-making process, and thus are forced to stay in a level that is not conducive for success or in our case even finishing the season. I don't know if the new number will be what is needed or if needs adjusted even more, but I do believe that there needs to be an adjustment made this number. Looking at the numbers 33 is the top of D2 - 47 is top of D1, therefore, I believe moving that number up 9 on both ends is a good place to start.

Pros: I do believe that making this adjustment will allow more schools to make a more informed decision, and allow them to possibly place themselves in a more competitive arena with the total participation numbers that they have out. The goal here is students and doing what is best for them, Football is the ONLY sport that you can be ineligible for post season play. We need to do what we can to limit the amount of schools and more importantly student athletes that this effects. Otherwise I fear that you are going to continue to see schools make a choice for eligibility but ultimately have to forfeit.

Cons: Probably the biggest drawback to this proposal, is that it may or may not solve the issue of ineligibility for schools. One of the biggest struggles for all of us who have been going through this is trying to decide on what number is the right number to balance and catch the most schools.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Girls Golf Inclement Weather**

Author: Jarod Albers

School: Cambridge

NSAA District: 5

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class C

Activities Affected: Girls Golf

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

Implementation date: 2019-09-29

	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Sections affected in Activities Manual:	18		

Summary: Inclement Weather - State Championships
The State Golf Championship is to consist of two days, 18 holes per day, for a total of 36 holes. However, if weather (rain, snow, thunderstorms, hail, etc.) prevents play from being completed on day 1 of the golf tournament:
If no play happens on day 1, then there is an option that day 2 may consist of 36 holes, with options of two shotguns, 36 continuous holes, or any other format decided on by the tournament committee to ensure completion based on the time frame allowed.

If play is started but not finished by all players in the field, then round 1 will be finished during the morning of day 2, followed by tee times or a shotgun for round 2, whichever would be best to ensure completion.

One potential way to allow round 2 to be completed in a more feasible manor would be utilization of a "cut" formula. This may include a cut to top 10 teams and all individual competitors within 10 strokes of medal contention.

Rationale: In order to protect the integrity of the event, which is to complete 36 holes in order to determine a team and individual champion.

Pros: This proposal will allow a state championship level to be played out, maintaining the integrity of the event.

Cons: May cause athletes to endure a very long day of competition and tournament organizers to make difficult decisions regarding tournament organization.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Seeding Athletes for Tennis**

Author: Darin Nichols

School: McCook

NSAA District: 5

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes
Affected: Class B

Activities
Affected: Boys Tennis
Girls Tennis

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

Implementation
date: 2019-09-10

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	13		

Summary: The current process states as follows..."TWELVE players MAY be seeded in each of the four divisions". The remaining players will be entered into a blind draw. Instead of a blind draw, we are proposing the use of winning percentages to fill in the rest of the draw. See below for the premise of seeding from The State Tennis Manual.

You would only consider the winning percentage from the division the player(s) enter. Example: If they are a #2 doubles team, you would not consider any matches played outside #2 doubles.

Here is the premise of seeding from The State Tennis Manual "The purpose of seeding is to separate top players from meeting each other in early rounds of a tournament. Evidence of potential for success underlies all seeding. This evidence consists of the following items or any other criteria that will help in evaluating the potential the player has for winning the tournament". A winning percentage is evidence of potential for success! If the purpose of seeding is to separate top players, we need to make this small change to our seeding procedure. There are many times when players that are being considered for a top 12 seed, end up drawing each other in the 1st round. Winning percentages would spread out the teams in a fairer/consistent tournament structure. This would ensure that we get an accurate representation of a player's or doubles team's performance during the season.

Rationale: If the purpose of seeding is to separate top players, we need to make this small change to our seeding procedure. There are many times when players that are being considered for a top 12 seed, end up drawing each other in the 1st round.

Winning percentages would spread out the teams in a fairer/consistent tournament structure. This would ensure that we get an accurate representation of a player's or doubles team's performance during the season.

Pros: Equalizing Playing Field
Eliminates the weaker teams meeting in opening round
Fair/consistent tournament structure

Cons:



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title:	Track Classifications		
Author:	Jarod Albers		
School:	Cambridge		
NSAA District:	5		
Proposal for:	Activities Manual		
Classes Affected:	Class C Class D		
Activities Affected:	Boys Track Girls Track		
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:	2019-09-29		
Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 11	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
Summary:	<p>Proposed Changes in brackets</p> <p>Boys and girls track and field is divided into four classes for competition as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Based on combined boy and girl enrollment (for Classes A and B only), grades 9-11, with the enrollment of unisex schools doubled. (Classes C and D will be classified by individual gender only).2. The 32 largest schools shall be Class A. 32-boys, 32-girls3. The next 60 largest schools shall be Class B. 60 boys, 60 girls4. The next 88 largest schools shall be Class C. 88 boys, 88 girls5. The remaining schools are placed in Class D. <p>Note: Breaking ties when the three year average is the same: If schools are tied in enrollment for the last position or positions of a class, the following tie-breaker will be applied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The first tie-breaker will be a three-year average of enrollment which includes the year on which the current year's classification is based and the two previous years. The higher three-year average will be in the larger class.b. If the tie still exists, then the school with the higher immediate previous year's enrollment will be placed in the larger class.c. If a tie still exists, it will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office		
Rationale:	In the lower classifications, we are seeing large swings of enrollment between the genders causing either gender to be competing outside a classification in which they are intended.		
Pros:	Genders will be classified appropriately based on individual gender enrollment.		
Cons:	Individual genders may compete in classifications that hold districts on different dates. Causing coaches to lose instruction time in the classroom and school districts may incur additional costs in the form of transportation and/or substitutes.		



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Track District Assignments**

Author: Jarod Albers

School: Cambridge

NSAA District: 5

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class C
Class D

Activities Affected: Boys Track
Girls Track

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: 2019-09-30

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	11		

Summary: (Changes to the manual will be made in the brackets)

6. Class C - 88 Schools - 9 Districts – 7 districts of 10 schools & 2 districts of 9 schools -

a. Schools are assigned to a district according to the school's geographical location. Available sites and facilities are also considered.

b. Beginning with the school located the farthest west; schools to the east are added until the predetermined number of schools which are to compose a district is reached. Schools located to the north and south may be selected if total travel distance to a meet site can be decreased. This sequence continues until all schools are assigned to districts.

(a. Variance will be given to the number of teams in a district or geographic location, in order to accommodate both boys and girls track teams from the same school district being placed in the same track district.)

7. Class D 102 - 9 Districts – 6 districts of 11 schools & 3 districts of 12 schools -

a. Schools are assigned to a district according to the school's geographical location. Available sites and facilities are also considered.

b. Beginning with the school located the farthest west; schools to the east are added until the predetermined number of schools which are to compose a district is reached. Schools located to the north and south may be selected if total travel distance to a meet site can be decreased. This sequence continues until all schools are assigned to districts.

(a. Variance will be given to the number of teams in a district or geographic location, in order to accommodate both boys and girls track teams from the same school district being placed in the same track district.)

Rationale: This wording was needed to support the proposal for making Classes C and D classification based on individual gender enrollment, rather than combined enrollment.

Pros: Would keep schools that will be competing in the same classification, per gender, attending the same district meet.

Cons: This may cause some districts to be uneven from the stand point of number of teams competing in the district or cause schools to move to districts further east, this causing additional travel.



LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: **Girls Wrestling added as a NSAA Sanctioned Activity**

Author: Ed Rowse

School: Minden

NSAA District: 5

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: All

Activities Affected: Wrestling

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

Implementation date: 2020-11-09

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	52	3.11.12	1A

Summary: Girls Wrestling Proposal
Yearbook: Article 3.11.12 Section: 1a Page 52

Girls wrestling shall be added as a winter sports season beginning with the 2020 - 2021 NSAA calendar year. The girls wrestling season shall begin with the first day of practice (same as the boys) as permitted by NSAA rules and shall conclude the same weekend as the current boys individual state championship.

Will this proposal impact cost to the school? YES, See Points of Emphasis (POE) #5
Will this proposal impact cost to the NSAA? YES (However, increase attendance will more than offset costs)
Will this proposal increase travel for participating schools? YES (Depending on the girls qualifying procedure... POE # 4)
Will this proposal impact a student or coaches loss of instruction time? NO

Points of Emphasis:

Implementation: This proposed plan is to have a two (2) year transition period that would permit girls the option of participating in both their school's boys and girls lineup during the regular season contests ONLY. If a tournament only hosts a boys division, girls will have the option of competing in the boys division. If that tournament offers both a boys and girls division, the girls are required to wrestle in the girls division. From the start of implementation of Girls Wrestling, girls must participate in the girls only postseason. After the two (2) year transition period, the NSAA Girls Wrestling Advisory Committee will determine if numbers have grown to support girls vs girls only season. Rationale: We do not want to eliminate competitive opportunities for girls in geographic areas or school districts where cost or coaching prevent them from attending girls only events during the season. The ultimate goal is to have girls wrestling only girls.

2. Coaching and Practice: An NSAA member school who offers both boys wrestling and girls wrestling are permitted to use the same coaching staff to oversee both teams. Furthermore, both the boys and girls wrestling teams that consist of enrolled students from the same school or an approved cooperative may practice at the same time in the same practice facility under the guidance and leadership of the same coaching staff. Girls are encouraged to practice drills and skills against other girls on the team, however this decision will be determined by each individual high school staff; i.e. coach, athletic director and/or principal, instead of by district. Rational: Two schools only have 5 girls total come out for wrestling. Another school in the same district has 14. Intra district practices are not allowed or arranging cooperative practices is challenging. If a School District determines girls can only practice with other girls: The high school with 14 girls can make it work and is successful The two high schools with fewer girls struggle to provide a way for girls to drill and practice the sport. The girls find this is a barrier toward participation, quit the team, or have an unsuccessful experience in the sport.

3. Weight Classes: Weight classes will be determined after alpha hydration assessments are completed and entered into the online database. The number of girls weight classes shall be ten (10) The actual weight classes will be determined from the alpha assessment data in an effort to achieve as much equal distribution in weight classes as possible This process will be used in the first two (2) years of the sanctioned implementation process, with permanent weight classes to be established in the third year and beyond. (Unless the NFHS Establishes Weight Classes for Girls Wrestling)

4. State Tournament: A one class state tournament will be established by the NSAA. The location, date & time of the state tournament along with number of qualifiers and method of qualification to be determined by the NSAA after the alpha hydration assessments are completed.

5. Cost Analysis of Girls Wrestling: This information to be provided by Andy Lewis, West Point-Beemer from the 2018-2019 season: West Point current has 10 competitions that are designated for only our girls team. West Point also designated one of its current assistant wrestling coaches as the head girls coach. It should be noted that our expenses are based on 22 female wrestlers and may be higher due to this number.

2018-2019 West Point Public Schools cost of program: Creating head girls coach: \$1795, difference between assist and head coach positions
Tournament entree costs: \$480, only two competitions charged. Both were \$10/wrestlers Referee fees: \$280, two referees for JV/Girls Tournament:
Metals for home tournament: \$0, none current but will have them for the 2019-2020 year Travel costs: \$1150, Fuel and costs for coach (with CDL) driving bus to tournaments. *This is atypical since we are one of the only schools that transported via bus. Equipment for female wrestlers: Total:

\$1870, cost per athlete was between \$80-90. This includes singlet, undershirt, hair covers, and head gear. Costs for WPBPS: Coaching costs: \$1795
Tournament Fees: \$480 Referees: \$280 Metals/Plaques: \$0 Travel Expense: \$1150 Equipment: \$1870 Total: \$5575

6. Team Match Limitation: This article remains the same for both girls and boys wrestling participants... no change in this article

7. Student Match Limitation: This article remains the same for boys and girls wrestling participants... no change to this article

Rationale:

In Nebraska, the opportunities for girls during the winter sports season is limited to Basketball and Swimming and Diving. Swimming and Diving has 41 schools involved out of 282 schools that have basketball. In 2018-19, Nebraska had 229 schools with boys wrestling programs. The current number of girls wrestling in Nebraska is on the rise. Although some critics might suggest girls have the opportunity to wrestle in our current setting (in boys' wrestling), this argument lacks merit. Nebraska is better than this. True opportunity exists when a student can compete against their peers. Nebraska high school girls do not have this access currently. Providing girls' wrestling would give our female students true access to the sport of wrestling.

Pros:

Girls and boys in wrestling deserve to compete against their own gender. Girls should not be expected to shoulder the work of growing opportunities. High school girls in Nebraska will have increased scholarship opportunities for higher education (64 colleges and universities across the country currently offer womens' wrestling). Youth, Collegiate, National, World and Olympic wrestling communities have embraced girls wrestling and we need the scholastic world to join them. State Interscholastic Associations are mobilizing and more are joining. 18 states will hold a Girls State Championship during the 2019-20 scholastic season. It is a national effort and we want everyone to experience success in this process. We now have solid participation data and information to support creating a girls division and state championship. The local, state and national numbers are continuing to grow and the visibility of girls wrestling is all around us. The NFHS participation numbers for girls wrestling grew from 16,562 in 2018 to 21,124 in 2019. A 27.5% increase of 4,562 girls across the nation.

Cons:

Added expense to schools, offset by additional revenue.