NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
CLASS CAUCUS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
Zoom Call
October 6, 2020 – 10:00 a.m. CT/9:00 a.m. MT

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order (Reznicek)
2. Purpose of this Meeting
3. Review and Take Action on Proposals
4. Other Business
5. Adjournment

Next Committee Meeting – Tuesday, February 2, 2021
1.5.4 CLASSIFICATION CAUCUS COMMITTEE

1.5.4.1 Each classification of member schools established pursuant to this Constitution shall form a caucus made up of member schools in such classifications, which shall be referred to as a Classification Caucus.

1.5.4.2 Meetings. Each class shall hold a caucus meeting each year.

1.5.4.2.1 A Classification Caucus may initiate proposals for adoption, amendment or repeal of Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings, provided that any such proposal shall not affect student eligibility or materially affect Association and member school finances.

Each such proposal shall include a cost and revenue analysis, and the proposed effective date of the proposed adoption, amendment or repeal of an Association Bylaw/Approved Ruling.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 1.5.4.2.1

1. The NSAA staff shall designate a late summer/early fall date, time and location for an initial meeting for each Classification Caucus to meet to discuss possible proposals to be considered in each class. Member schools shall be invited to such meetings, but attendance is optional for schools.

2. “Materially affect finances” shall mean any expense in excess of $500. Those making proposals through the Classification Caucus shall consider all costs, not the least of which includes trophies and medals; reimbursements to schools for participation in state events; programming costs to make the necessary NSAA software changes to accommodate the proposal; added member school travel, lodging and meal costs; added costs for Association or member school equipment acquisition or changes and added personnel costs. If such costs to the NSAA are projected to exceed $500, such legislative proposals will need to be introduced through the normal NSAA District Meeting legislative process. If there is a question as to whether the added cost exceeds $500, the executive director or Board of Directors shall make the final decisions as to whether such proposal can be introduced through the Classification Caucus process.

3. Classification caucus proposals initiated for consideration shall only affect the class in which it was submitted.

1.5.4.2.2 All proposals for the adoption of, amendment to or repeal of Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings must be submitted by a Classification Caucus Representative electronically to the NSAA no later than October 1.

1.5.4.2.3 After the October 1 deadline, the NSAA shall forward the proposals to the Classification Caucus Review Committee.

1.5.4.3 Classification Caucus Review Committee

1.5.4.3.1 The Classification Caucus Review Committee shall be comprised of two representatives from each of the four (4) NSAA classifications representing Classes A, B, C and D qualified to serve under paragraph 1.5.1.4, and the Chairperson of the NSAA Board of Directors. The NSAA Executive Director or designee shall serve in an ex-officio capacity.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 1.5.4.3.1

In the event that a representative is unable to attend a scheduled meeting, the representatives of that respective class may appoint an individual to fill the vacancy.

The terms of Classification Caucus members shall be three-year terms, and a rotation system shall be established to assure that each of the six NSAA Districts has representation on the Classification Caucus and to assure there is a systematic rotation of Classification Caucus members.

1.5.4.3.2 The Classification Caucus Review Committee shall hold a minimum of two meetings each year. Minutes shall be taken of such meetings and posted on the NSAA website. The first meeting shall be held in October and the second meeting shall be held in February.

1.5.4.3.2.1 At the first meeting of the Classification Caucus Committee, the committee shall:
   a. review each submitted proposal;
   b. take action on each proposal submitted; and
   c. return the proposal to the submitting Classification Caucus along with any adopted comments and recommendations. The Classification Caucus may consider the committee’s comments and recommendations, and may submit amendments to the proposal on or before November 15.

APPROVED RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FOR 1.5.4.3.2.1

The Classification Caucus members from each of the NSAA Districts shall make a presentation of the Classification Caucus proposals to their District’s membership at the annual November District Meetings where the membership can hear and discuss such proposals.

1.5.4.3.2.2 At the second meeting of the Classification Caucus Committee, the committee shall consider all submitted proposals and any subsequent amendments thereto, and take action on all submitted proposals with amendments, if any.

1.5.4.3.3 The Classification Caucus Review Committee shall approve or disapprove proposed Classification Caucus proposals for the adoption of, amendment to, or repeal of Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings. To be approved, all proposals must receive an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) or more of the committee members present and voting on the proposal.
Disapproved Classification Caucus proposals shall be referred back to the Classification Caucus submitting same with a statement from the committee of reasons for such disapproval. Approved Classification Caucus proposals shall be forwarded to the Board of Directors for action according to this article.

1.5.4.4 Each proposal approved by the Classification Caucus Review Committee will be posted on the NSAA website as an approved Classification Caucus proposal, and each such proposal shall be presented as an information item at the annual NSAA Representative Assembly meeting.

1.5.4.5 Following the annual Representative Assembly meeting, the Board of Directors shall direct the Executive Director to conduct a referendum on the Classification Caucus proposal that shall be submitted to the members of the Classification Caucus participating in the activity subject to the proposed Bylaw change. The Classification Caucus proposal shall be accompanied by a statement of the rationale for such proposal. Each Classification Caucus proposal must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the member schools voting in such referendum. If a proposal for the adoption, amendment or repeal of an Approved Ruling is approved by the members voting thereon, such Class Caucus proposal must then be ratified by the Board of Directors. The Classification Caucus proposal shall become a part of the Association Bylaws/Approved Rulings on the effective date set forth in the approved proposal.
CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: Replace Duet Acting with Duo Interpretation

Author: Pat Gatzemeyer
School: Lincoln High
NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class A
Activities Affected: Speech

This proposal:

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

Implementation date: 2021-11-05

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:

- Page 64 Article 6 Section 6.5.2
- Page 69 Article 6 Section 6.8.8
- Page 69 Article 6 Section 6.8.2

Summary: 6.8.8 Duo Interpretation (Class A only) 6.8.8.1 Purpose. The purpose of this activity is to encourage contestants to exercise creative imagination in their selection, adaptation, and presentation of material suitable for theatre. In this event contestants will reveal their ability to create characters, communicate the inter-relationship of characters, and interpret the meaning of the material used. 6.8.8.2 Rules. This event shall consist of a scene or sequence of theatrical material which requires two actors to perform. The presentation shall not exceed TEN (10) minutes. Narration may be used to provide necessary expository background. The narrators shall be one or both of the two actors. THE INTERPRETATION MUST BE DELIVERED FROM MEMORY; NO NOTES, PROMPTING OR SCRIPTS SHALL BE ALLOWED. NO COSTUMES OR PROPS SHALL BE PERMITTED. DURING THE PERFORMANCE, OFF-STAGE FOCUS (MEANING CONTESTANTS MAY NOT LOOK DIRECTLY AT EACH OTHER) MUST BE EMPLOYED BY BOTH CONTESTANTS. THE CONTESTANTS MAY REACT TO EACH OTHER’S VERBAL AND/OR NON-VERBAL EXPRESSIONS, BUT ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH ONE ANOTHER. CONTESTANTS MAY TOUCH AND MAKE EYE CONTACT DURING INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL. 6.8.8.3 Judging standards. This event shall be judged on the following points. The acting of the two actors shall be judged with respect to the elements of modern dramatic techniques including characterization, stage movement, and the interaction between the characters. The scene or sequence presented shall be evaluated as to its theatrical value. The comments during narration shall be judged for their value in enhancing the presentation. The total effect shall be judged in terms of unity resulting from the combination of the performance and the material/selection. No individual recognition shall be given. The final test of duo interpretation is the ability of the contestants to cause the audience to forget this is a contest.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rationale:</th>
<th>During the year, Class A tournaments often offer Duo Interpretation (instead of Duet Acting) because it is a national event. This forces many coaches to adapt the Duo performances into Duet performances late in the season and then back again for national competitions. Class A would like to pilot running Duo Interpretation at the district and state tournaments. The lack of staging equipment would mean that teams no longer have to haul tables and chairs with them to competitions.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pros:</td>
<td>Align with season tournaments and national tournament.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cons:</td>
<td>None</td>
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</table>
Title: Class A Extemporaneous Speaking Internet Access

Author: Pat Gatzemeyer
School: Lincoln High
NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class A
Activities Affected: Speech

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

Implementation date: 2021-11-05

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:
Page 66-67

Summary: f. INTERNET USE. CONTESTANTS MAY USE ELECTRONIC DEVICES (INCLUDING LAPTOP COMPUTERS, TABLETS, AND/OR CELL PHONES) TO ACCESS THE INTERNET DURING SPEECH ROUNDS WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: i. COMPUTERS OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MAY NOT BE USED TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FOR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FROM NON-COMPETITORS (COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES, OTHER STUDENTS) IN THE FORM OF EMAIL, TEXT OR INSTANT MESSAGE FROM INSIDE OR OUTSIDE OF THE ROOM IN WHICH THE COMPETITION OCCURS. ii. PENALTY: CONTESTANTS FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED PROVISIONS ABOVE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. IN CASE OF A SERIOUS DISPUTE OR CRITICAL QUESTION, THE DESIGNATED NSAA OFFICIAL MAY BE CONTACTED FOR A RULING.

Rationale: This option has been piloted at national tournaments for the past couple years, and is also now being widely used in debate. Providing students up-to-the-minute evidence is quite beneficial for this event if they are to adequately and properly answer the questions at hand. In addition, it is currently quite difficult to monitor and prevent internet use. Giving students instant access to research is a more educational approach rather than punishing them for internet use.

Pros: Align with national tournament. Students use technology and internet daily in the educational environment.

Cons: Inappropriate use for competitive advantage.
CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class A Informative Speaking Time Limit

Title: Class A Informative Speaking Time Limit
Author: Pat Gatzemeyer
School: Lincoln High
NSAA District: 1
Proposal for: Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected: Class A
Activities Affected: Speech

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

Implementation date: 2021-11-05

Sections affected in Constitution & Bylaws:
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<td>68</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6.8.6.2</td>
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Summary:
6.8.6.2 Rules. This contest shall consist of informative speeches written by the speakers delivering them. The speakers shall gather and organize the material in composing an original speech. The primary purpose of this speech shall be to inform the audience. Any other purpose, such as to entertain, to impress or to convince shall be secondary. The speech shall be delivered extemporaneously. One (1) 4X6 or smaller note card is optional. The speaker may use a lectern. The student is encouraged to use visual media such as charts, maps, diagrams, or actual objects, always mindful that these media should be an integral part of the presentation and not an unnecessary frill or gimmick. FOR CLASS A, MAXIMUM TIME LIMIT SHALL BE 10 MINUTES. FOR CLASSES B, C1, C2, D1, D2, Maximum time limit shall be 8 minutes.

Rationale:
The national level has adopted a 10-minute time limit and many season tournaments have begun allowing this so that students are not having to switch between 8 & 10 time limit from week to week. The majority of Class A coaches would like to pilot the longer time at the district and state meets.

Pros: Align with season tournaments and national tournament
Cons: Additional time will be needed.
# CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Title:
Class A Wildcard Criteria-Addition of Bonus Points

## Author:
Pat Gatzemeyer

## School:
Lincoln High

## NSAA District:
1

## Proposal for:
Activities Manual

## Classes Affected:
Class A

## Activities Affected:
- Baseball
- Boys Basketball
- Girls Basketball
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Soccer
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Wrestling

**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:
2021-08-09

## Sections affected in Activities Manual:

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<th>Section</th>
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<th>Article</th>
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<td>Baseball Manual</td>
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<td>Wildcard Criteria #7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball Manual</td>
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<td>Wildcard Criteria #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer Manual</td>
<td>Page 15</td>
<td>Wildcard Criteria #8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball Manual</td>
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<td>Wildcard Criteria #7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball Manual</td>
<td>Page 21</td>
<td>Wildcard Criteria #9</td>
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## Summary:
In competition with other Class A opponents, 2 bonus points will be awarded.

## Rationale:
There have been several situations in recent years where Class A schools have played a majority of Non-Class A schools. In a few of these cases, the schools playing the majority of Non-Class A schools have finished in the top 8 of the final wild card standings and received the wildcard berth in the Class A state tournament or were a district host. Many of these teams have under-performed in the district tournament and state tournament. Class A coaches and AD's believe this system has not allowed schools deserving of the opportunity to compete in Class A state tournament.

## Pros:
- Creates equity within the wildcard point system. Allows for flexibility to schedule Non-Class A schools.
- Less restrictive than requiring schools to play a Class A schedule in order to host districts and/or qualify for the wildcard. You can still qualify to host districts and/or qualify for state based upon your standing within the wildcard points.

## Cons:
CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title: Class A Wildcard Criteria-Point Deduction

Author: Pat Gatzemeyer
School: Lincoln High
NSAA District: 1
Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A
Activities Affected: Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling

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: 2021-08-09

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<td>Wildcard Criteria #9</td>
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Summary: In Class A Volleyball, Softball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Baseball and Dual Wrestling, points will be deducted for Class A schools playing non-Class A opponents using the point-deductions prescribed below: 1. In competition with schools one classification below yours, 2 points will be deducted. 2. In competition with schools two classifications below yours, 3 points will be deducted. 3. In competition with schools three classifications below yours, 4 points will be deducted. 4. In competition with schools four classifications below yours, 5 points will be deducted. 5. In competition with schools five classifications below yours, 6 points will be deducted.

Rationale: There have been several situations in recent years where Class A schools have played a majority of Non-Class A schools. In a few of these cases, the schools playing the majority of Non-Class A schools have finished in the top 8 of the final wildcard standings and received the wildcard berth in the Class A state tournament or were a district host. Many of these teams have under-performed in the district tournament and state tournament. Class A coaches and AD’s believe this system has not allowed schools deserving of the opportunity to compete in Class A state tournament. This proposal applies a point-
deduction for Class A schools playing Non-Class A schools. The point deduction is equivalent to the point bonuses that Non-Class A schools receive for playing schools above their classifications. Similar to the point-bonus system, the point deductions increase for each level down a Class A team plays (ex. 2-point deduction for playing Class B, 3-point deduction for playing Class C-1, 4-point deduction for playing Class C-2, 5-point deduction for playing Class D-1, 6-point deduction for playing Class D-2).

| Pros: | 1. Encourages Class A schools to play Class A schools during the regular season. 2. Creates equity within the wildcard point system. 3. Allows for flexibility to schedule Non-Class A schools. 4. Less restrictive than requiring schools to play a Class A schedule only in order to host districts and/or qualify for the wildcard. 5. You can still qualify to host districts and/or quality for state based upon your standing within the wildcard points. |
| Cons: | Loss of points for playing Non-Class A opponents. |
Title: Class A Wildcard Criteria-Contest Percentage Point Deduction

Author: Pat Gatzemeyer
School: Lincoln High
NSAA District: 1
Proposal for: Activities Manual
Classes Affected: Class A
Activities Affected: Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Softball, Volleyball, Wrestling

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: 2021-08-09

Sections affected in Activities Manual:
- Baseball Manual Page 20
- Basketball Manual Page 17
- Soccer Manual Page 15
- Softball Manual Page 19
- Volleyball Manual Page 21

Summary: If a Class A school plays more than 25% of their Class A schedule against Non-Class A opponents, 3 points will be deducted for each of the games played beyond that 25%.

Rationale: There have been several situations in recent years where Class A schools have played a majority of Non-Class A schools. In a few of these cases, the schools playing the majority of Non-Class A schools have finished in the top 8 of the final wildcard standings and received the wildcard berth in the Class A state tournament or were a district host. Many of these teams have under-performed in the district tournament and state tournament. Class A coaches and AD's believe this system has not allowed schools deserving of the opportunity to compete in Class A state tournament.

Pros: 1. Creates equity within the wildcard point system. 2. Allows for flexibility to schedule Non-Class A schools. 3. Less restrictive than requiring schools to play a Class A schedule in order to host districts and/or qualify for the wildcard. 4. You can still qualify to host districts and/or quality for state based upon your standing within the wildcard points.

Cons: Possible loss of points.
# CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Class B Sub-District Softball

**Title:**

Class B Sub-District Softball

**Author:** Dave Hoxworth

**School:** Scottsbluff

**NSAA District:** 6

**Proposal for:** Activities Manual

**Classes Affected:** Class B

**Activities Affected:** Softball

**This proposal:**

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

**Implementation date:** 2021-08-09

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 16-17</td>
<td>Class B Sub-district Assignments Section</td>
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**Summary:**

Class B sub-district assignments are divided into ten (10) groups, based solely on geographic location starting west and moving east. All sub-districts would be four (4) teams if the total number of class B teams is divisible by four (4). If the total number of teams is not divisible by four (4), then sub-districts of five (5) teams would be created for extra teams over that number divisible by four (4). The five (5) team sub-districts would be the teams that are furthest east. Class B sub-districts would be single elimination with the winner qualifying for districts. The highest seed will be the host unless they choose not to host. Class B district championship assignments will consist of ten (10) sub-district champions and the six (6) teams that did not win a sub-district with the highest wildcard point averages following sub-districts. The district finals will be a one day, best of three (3) series with the higher seed hosting the district final unless they choose not to host. Pairings for districts will be based on wildcard point averages following sub-districts (1 v 16, 2 v 15, 3 v 14, 4 v 13, 5 v 12, 6 v 11, 7 v 10, 8 v 9). The district final will be played on Friday or SATURDAY of Week 14. District Dates: Class B - Sub-district would be Monday of Week 14 with Tuesday as a rain date. District finals played on Friday OR SATURDAY of Week 14.

**Rationale:**

Rationale: The new format is consistent with other sports - volleyball, basketball & soccer; you must win to get to state. The double-elimination format in sub-district play will likely take 2 days to play in the current structure. Many schools in Class B do not have access to multiple fields so playing over 2 days and interrupting instructional time is quite possible. Plus an additional day of travel will be needed to complete the format from at least one school. Moving to a single-elimination sub-district tournament decreases all of these things and eliminates pressure on schools hosting in terms of facilities as a maximum of 3 games would be played. Designating Monday as the sub-district day and Tuesday as the...
rain date provides clear direction on when games can be played and also gives teams qualifying for the district final time to plan for the rest of the week. Lastly, no other sport has a double-elimination sub-district tournament. With the district final set as a best 2 out of 3 there is minimal need for a double-elimination format to be used twice in the same postseason. In addition, this exact proposal was passed in Class C a year ago.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pros:</th>
<th>Pros: Eliminates additional travel for sub-district play. Creates 1-day sub-district format. More consistent with what is done in other sports. Less pressure on facilities. More time for district final planning and preparation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cons:</td>
<td>The double elimination format in the sub-districts allows for teams to lose twice before being eliminated which is not consistent with other Class B sport formats. The double elimination format in both sub-districts and district finals allows a team to lose up to 3 games and still make the state tournament, which again, is not possible in other Class B sub-district formats. The double elimination in the sub-district creates an additional day of travel and lengthens the amount of instructional time missed by students and coaches. Inclement weather could impact when district finals can be released, possibly not until Wednesday or Thursday. With district finals currently scheduled for Friday, this puts pressure on schools to plan and communicate with all parties involved.</td>
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