

**NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE CLASS CAUCUS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Class Caucus Review Committee met October 17, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. CT in a telephonic meeting with members present as follows.

NSAA Board of Director Chairperson – Nolan Beyer, Millard Public Schools
Class A – Dan Schinzel, Creighton Preparatory
Class A – Clayton Heath, Lincoln Northeast
Class B – Mike Dempsey, Omaha Gross
Class B – Jeff Gross, McCook
Class C – Jeff Bellar, Norfolk Catholic
Class C – Tyler Herman, Gothenburg
Class D – Lance Howitt, Leyton
Class D – Tim Huls, Hampton

Ex-officio members included NSAA Executive Director Dr. Jim Tenopir; Associate Director Debra Velder; Assistant Directors Jon Dolliver, Jennifer Schwartz, Nate Neuhaus, Ron Higdon, Jeff Stauss, and Dan Masters.

Nolan Beyer reviewed the responsibilities of the Class Caucus Committee as identified in NSAA Bylaw 1.5.4.3.2.1. The first meeting of the Classification Caucus Committee shall:

- a. review each submitted proposal;
- b. take action on each proposal submitted;
- c. and, 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.

Class A Proposals

A. The proposal deals with: Activities Manual: Baseball Page: 17

Eligible Players.

Players listed on the District Entry Form will be eligible to play in district and state tournament games. Substitutions to this list can be made, but no more than ~~20~~ **22** players may suit up for district or state championship games. If substitutions are made, inform the district tournament director as soon as possible. Anyone substituted must be eligible according to all NSAA rules.

Will this proposal impact cost to the School? NO

Will this proposal impact cost to the NSAA? YES

Will this proposal increase travel for the participating schools? NO

Will this proposal impact a student or coach's loss of instruction time? NO

Rationale for the proposed change:

PROS: With the implementation of the pitch counts, the ability to carry two additional players on the district and state rosters would provide teams with additional depth that could be used as teams get further into the tournament. Other than the potential for the need for two additional medals, there would be no other costs associated with the Bylaw change.

CONS: Would add two additional medals for state champions and runners-up.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Spring 2018 If Possible

It was moved by Dan Schinzel, seconded by Clayton Heath, to take action on the proposal with the implementation date amended to the Spring of 2019. **Motion Carried, 9-0.**

B. The proposal deals with: Activities Manual: Golf Page: 18

QUALIFYING FOR NSAA CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The first three teams and the first ten individual places plus ties in each district will qualify for the NSAA Championship, using medal play. **After districts are completed the NSAA will take as many individuals as needed so that there a total of 15 individuals competing at the state golf tournament. Individuals will be selected according to individual differential for the season including districts. To be eligible a player must compete in at least five 18 hole competitions for the year and districts. (NSAA will keep track on all Class A player's individual differential for the season.)**

2. Playoffs will be used in case of ties for the NSAA Championship 'TEAM' qualifying spots.

3. Schools that do not finish as one of the top three teams in the District cannot qualify for team honors at the NSAA Championship, even though that school may have qualified at least four individual golfers through individual placement at Districts.

4. A school which qualifies for the NSAA Championship may play any five eligible players at the championship. They do not have to be the same people who played at the district tournament. Any roster changes to the State Championship team should be communicated to the NSAA office to reflect such changes and ensure scorecards, scoreboards and tee times will be accurate. Any substituted player will be assigned the same tee-time of the player being replaced

Will this proposal impact cost to the School? NO

Will this proposal impact cost to the NSAA? YES

Will this proposal increase travel for the participating schools? YES

Will this proposal impact a student or coach's loss of instruction time? YES

Rationale for the proposed change:

PROS:

Justification:

*Much harder to qualify as individual than on a team.

*One bad round for a team member, they qualify but not for an individual

*A sick or injured player for districts can still compete at state

*One wave of individuals

*NSAA will know there will be exactly 15 individuals no more or less

*13 qualified this year - no additional tee times needed and no two-somes

*Gives more players who might be playing well so that best players have the best chance to medal or win state because of waves

*Clayton Peterson not qualifying 2013, 14th 2011, 3rd 2012, 2nd 2014

*Carlson Kock 18th overall (2016), 8th of the underclassmen 2016 State, did not qualify in 2017

*Tyler Bowen Papio South 76 Cap City @ Yankee Hill non-qualifier

*Vontz 47th Cap. City, tied for last qualifier 77 at districts

*Clare last qualifier in his district, state champion (2017)

*2010 Columbus kid won state, only medal in a couple tournaments all year

*NSAA does not want one hit wonders at state but that is how they must qualify

*20 players worse than worst individual qualifier in districts (from state team qualifiers)

District teams seeded #1 who would have qualified as individual: 16/20

A1 - 4 A2 - 3 A3 - 5 A4 - 4

District teams seeded #2 who would have qualified as individual: 10/20

A1 - 2 A2 - 3 A3 - 2 A4 - 3

District teams seeded #3 who would have qualified as individual: 5/20

A1 - 1 A2 - 1 A3 - 1 A4 - 2

CONS:

1. NSAA would need to track individual players scores based on course ratings. Is there a cost for this?

2. Potential Costs for schools for individual qualifier.

3. Potential loss of instructional time for coaches that may have an individual qualifier.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Fall of 2018

It was moved by Dan Schinzel, seconded by Clayton Heath, to take action on the proposal with the following amendments: 1. That an additional charge of \$25 be added to a Class A school's registration fee for boys golf and for girls golf for one year to cover programming costs that exceed \$500. 2. A method be determined on how to break ties for the last qualifying spot.

Motion Carried, 9-0.

C. The proposal deals with: Activities Manual: Soccer Page: 24

The section/paragraph/sentence indicates what is to be added/deleted/changed to the current Bylaw/Approved Ruling. **ADDITIONS** are in all capital letters.

Seeding and Pairings. **(Proposal uses soccer as a reference by this would apply to all sports using wild card points for seeding purposes)**

The NSAA is responsible for seeding and pairings.

The tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages of matches played through Monday, April 24th. The district assignments/seeds will be released on the NSAA website April 26th. If teams in the district tournament have identical wild card point totals, the following tie breaker will be used to determine seeding.

1. If two teams are tied with identical point averages and have played each other, the results of the competition between these schools will be considered and the team winning the majority of contests between the two teams will be given the higher seed.

2. If a tie still exists, or if more than two teams are tied, the team or teams playing the greatest number of first division teams **in their classification** will be selected. If two teams are still tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (3).

3. If a tie still exists, total the sum of the tied teams' opponents' wins and losses.

The team whose opponents have the higher winning percentage will receive the higher seed. If two teams remain tied, criteria (1) will apply before going to step (4).

4. If a tie still exists, the higher seed will be decided by a coin flip in the NSAA office.

Will this proposal impact cost to the School? NO

Will this proposal impact cost to the NSAA? NO

Will this proposal increase travel for the participating schools? NO

Will this proposal impact a student or coach's loss of instruction time? NO

Rationale for the proposed change:

PROS: This may provide more incentive for schools to schedule within their classification. Potential benefit of scheduling schools within their classification.

CONS: None

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Fall of 2018

It was moved by Dan Schinzel, seconded by Clayton Heath, to take action on the proposal representative of all Class A wildcard sports as follows: Softball, page 18; Football, page 38; Volleyball, page 14; Basketball, page 10; Baseball, page 18; and Soccer, page 24 of their respective Manual. **Motion Carried, 9-0.**

Class D Proposal

A. The proposal deals with: Activities Manual: Wrestling Page: 22

IN CLASS D ONLY, EACH SCHOOL WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENTER UP TO TWO WRESTLERS IN EACH OF THE DESIGNATED NFHS WEIGHT CLASSES, WITH A MAXIMUM OF 14 WRESTLERS TOTAL PER TEAM, AT THE STATE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS. ANY SCHOOL THAT ENTERS MORE THAN ONE WRESTER IN A WEIGHT CLASS, MUST DESIGNATE WHICH OF THE TWO WRESTLERS WOULD SCORE TEAM POINTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE DISTRICT TEAM PLACING AND DUAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING.

IF TWO WRESTLERS FROM THE SAME SCHOOL COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER IN THE TOURNAMENT, AND THE DESIGNATED SCORING WRESTLER WINS THE MATCH, ONLY ADVANCEMENT AND PLACEMENT POINTS FOR THAT MATCH WOULD BE AWARDED WITH NO ADDITIONAL BONUS POINTS EARNED REGARDLESS OF THE MATCH SCORE.

Will this proposal impact cost to the School? NO

Will this proposal impact cost to the NSAA? NO

Will this proposal increase travel for the participating schools? NO

Will this proposal impact a student or coach's loss of instruction time? NO

Rationale for the proposed change:

PROS: Wrestling is a unique sport in that it has two separate state championship tournaments; an individual tournament and the dual team championships. However, at the individual state tournament (and the district qualifying tournaments), wrestling is restricted to one competitor per weight class. This is unlike other NSAA-sponsored individual sports, where teams are allowed to enter multiple athletes per "event" (i.e. track & field and swimming) or additional entrants in the competition (i.e. cross country and golf).

The state of Nebraska has 82 schools that field wrestling teams with 9th-11th grade enrollments of less than 100 students; and majority of them participate in Class D. Throughout the regular season many Class D tournaments allow for "non-scoring" or additional wrestlers from the same team to compete in tournaments alongside their teammates to help fill out the brackets.

This proposal is suggesting a model similar to what other states with lower populations, and the NAIA colleges and universities already have in place. In those systems, teams are allowed to enter/qualify multiple wrestlers per weight class for the state/national tournaments.

There are three main reasons for this proposal: 1. There are existing models in place, and room in the brackets to allow for this system to be implemented seamlessly; 2. By providing more opportunities for student-athletes to compete in the postseason; it will grow the sport of wrestling in Nebraska and help with the retention of existing-student athletes, 3. To look out for the safety of, and promote the well-being of the student-athletes.

1. In 2012, the state of Nebraska began using Trackwrestling's online software program to operate the district wrestling tournaments, making data widely available. The following statistics clearly illustrate that there is room for additional wrestlers in the state qualifying process in Class D.

Since 2012:

- • 339 of the 444 (76.4%) teams in Class D wrestling have entered teams of 9 or fewer wrestlers in their respective district wrestling tournaments. Only 5 times has a team entered a full roster of 14 wrestlers; none in 2016 or 2017.
- • There has NEVER been a "full" bracket of 16 wrestlers, and only 10 times total, out of a possible 336, have there been brackets of 14 or 15 wrestlers in a Class D district tournament.
- • While Class D district wrestling tournaments are comprised of 17-21 teams per district, 54% of the time the number of wrestlers in each 16-person bracket is 9 or fewer.
- • In our current system, 84 wrestlers have qualified for the state wrestling tournament by winning 1 OR FEWER matches at their district tournament.

With the above statistics in mind, the states of North Dakota, Nevada, Wyoming, Montana and Utah already manage their state qualifying tournaments with Trackwrestling. Those tournaments are set up to accommodate additional wrestlers/qualifiers from the same team, so Trackwrestling and the NSAA could easily import settings into the Class D district tournaments. If a bracket were to have more than 16 wrestlers, as a result of this proposal, the Trackwrestling software could increase the bracket size to accommodate those additional wrestlers with the simple click of a button. These changes would not affect the double-elimination format or the

district tournaments, and could be implemented at no expense to the NSAA or the district host institutions.

2. Allowing programs to enter more than one wrestlers per weight class at the state qualifying tournaments could:
 - • Help Class D coaches with the retention of existing student-athletes, especially if multiple athletes from the same team are at similar weights.
 - • Increase participation in the sport of wrestling in the state of Nebraska by providing more opportunities for athletes to compete in the postseason.
 - • Students may be more likely to go out, or stay out for, the sport of wrestling even though another wrestler of superior ability may occupy the same weight class
 - • Students may be more likely to go out, or stay out for, the sport of wrestling knowing that if they are not the “varsity” wrestler, they will still have an opportunity to qualify for the state tournament.
3. This proposal would promote a safer approach to weight management for all student-athletes; not just the best wrestlers on a team.
 - • Currently, if a student-athlete is not the best wrestler on his/her team at a weight class they have four options; “cut” down to a lower weight class, “bump up” to a higher weight class, wrestle at the junior varsity level, or quit the sport of wrestling.
 - • This proposal would send a message that cutting weight isn’t encouraged or necessary for student-athletes, and would allow more athletes to compete at their natural weight, even if a wrestler of superior ability had earned the starting spot at that weight class.
 - • Students would not be asked to “bump up” a weight class, or two, and be put at a physical disadvantage in competitions, if a wrestler of superior ability had earned the starting spot at their natural weight class.

CONS: None

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 2018-19 Season

It was moved by Tim Huls, seconded by Lance Howitt, to accept the proposal as submitted. **Motion Carried, 9-0.**

With no further business, the committee stood adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The next meeting of the Class Caucus Review Committee is scheduled as a telephonic meeting for Tuesday, February 6, 2018. As stipulated in Bylaw 1.5.4.3.2.2, the committee shall consider all submitted proposals and any subsequent amendments and take action on all submitted proposals.

Debra Velder
Associate Director