

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

The Class Caucus Review Committee met October 8th, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. CT via Zoom with members present as follows:

NSAA Board of Directors Chairperson – Darren Tobey, Broken Bow
Class A – Tom Kerkman, Omaha Westside
Class A – Matt Uher, Lincoln Northeast
Class B – Dave Hoxworth, Scottsbluff
Class B – Luke Ford, Elkhorn North
Class C – Jason Polk, Wisner-Pilger
Class C – Nathan Dietz, Amherst
Class D – Randy Geier, Wauneta-Palisade (absent)
Class D – Ron Beacom, Neligh-Oakdale

Ex-officio members included NSAA Executive Director Jennifer Schwartz; Associate Director Jeff Johnson; Assistant Director Jeff Stauss.

Tobey called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Tobey reviewed the responsibilities of the Class Caucus Committee as defined in NSAA Bylaw 1.5.4. The purpose of the committee is to review and take action each proposal to determine if it meets the following criteria:

1. The proposal does not affect student eligibility.
2. The proposal does not materially affect NSAA or member school finances.
3. The proposal does not affect another class.

If the proposal does not meet the criteria, the proposal shall be returned to the submitting Classification Caucus. The Classification Caucus may submit amendments to the proposal on or before November 15.

The submitted proposals were discussed. (Results begin on page 2.)

Committee members were reminded that they are to present the proposals to their District's membership at the annual November District Meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

The Class Caucus Review Committee will meet again on Wednesday, February 12th, 2025.

Jeff Johnson, Associate Director



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class A Bowling: Serpentine District Competition

Title:

Author: Matthew Uher

School: Lincoln Northeast

Proposal meets the criteria. Motion carried, 8-0

NSAA District: 1

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes Affected: Class A

Activities Affected: Boys Bowling
Girls Bowling

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: 2024-08-09

Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	17 of the Activities Manual		

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.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

GBB Wildcard Calculation Date Change

Title:

Author:

Matthew Uher

School:

Lincoln Northeast

NSAA District:

1

Proposal meets the criteria. Motion carried, 8-0

Proposal for:

Activities Manual

Classes Affected:

Class A

Activities Affected:

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:

2024-08-09

Sections affected in Activities Manual:

Page

Article

Section

11 of Activities Manual

Summary:

The records of all schools available to the NSAA on the date of the seeding shall be used to calculate wild card averages, even if an error on the record is discovered after the fact or the NSAA imposes a forfeit. Seeding Dates. Class A: Friday of Week 33(Remove); Replace with: Saturday of Week 33. (This will provide the most accurate District seeding picture.)

Rationale:

This proposal is being submitted to allow for the most accurate end of season data for seeding the Girls Basketball Districts. All Class A games would be scheduled to end on Friday of Week 33 with Wild Card Averages being tallied on Saturday of Week 33.

Pros:

All Class A teams would have the same end date for the season as NO regular season games would play on Saturday of Week 33.

Cons:

Class A teams will have to adjust their schedule and may have to play a single Girls JV/V game separate of the Boys JV/V.



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE FOLLOWING FOR CLASS B IN THE GOLF MANUAL

Title:

Author:

Dr. Luke Ford

School:

Elkhorn North

NSAA District:

2

Proposal meets the criteria. Motion carried, 8-0

Proposal for:

Activities Manual

Classes Affected:

Class B

Activities

Boys Golf

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:

2024-09-25

Sections affected
in Activities
Manual:

Page

Boys 14-15

Girls 13

Article

Section

Summary:

Change Team Differential Calculation. Change from minimum of 4 to BEST 4 team scores (FOR BOYS) and minimum of 3 to BEST 3 (FOR GIRLS) to calculate the Team Differential.

Change Reporting Deadline. Currently, reporting deadline is 2 weeks before districts. Proposal would move reporting to 1 week before districts.

Rationale:

(CURRENTLY: MINIMUM OF 4 18-HOLE STROKE-PLAY COMPETITIONS. THIS RULE UNINTENTIONALLY ENCOURAGES TEAMS TO AVOID PLAYING DURING UNIDEAL PLAYING CONDITIONS DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER COMPETITIVE FACTORS THAT POTENTIALLY IMPACT THE DIFFERENTIAL.

Pros:

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE FROM A MINIMUM 4 CONTESTS TO A TEAMS BEST 4 SCORING DIFFERENTIALS TO CALCULATE TEAM AVERAGE DIFFERENTIAL. THIS CHANGE WOULD ENCOURAGE TEAMS TO CONTINUE COMPETING WHEN WEATHER OR PLAY IS LESS THAN IDEAL WITHOUT WORRY OF IMPACTING THEIR AVERAGE DIFFERENTIAL. 4 CONTESTS WAS CHOSEN BECAUSE: IT ALLOWS FOR WEATHER FORGIVENESS (ESPECIALLY IN SPRING) NOT ALL TEAMS COMPETE IN THE MAXIMUM 9 INVATIONALS CURRENTLY THE REPORTING DATE MINIMIZES THE NUMBER OF INVATIONALS AS MOST TEAMS STILL COMPETE THE LAST 2 WEEKS OF REGULAR SEASON (EX: 3 INVITES LAST 2 WEEKS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE TO REPORT.) IF REPORTING DATE IS PUSHED BACK BY 1 WEEK, LOST ONLY 1 WEEK OF INVATIONALS. (MAKES THE REGULAR SEASON MATTER AND ENCOURAGES TEAMS TO STILL COMPETE DESPITE UNFAVORABLE WEATHER



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Recognition of Out-of-State Competitions for Boys and Girls Tennis

Title:

Author:

Dr. Luke Ford

School:

Elkhorn North

Proposal meets the criteria. Motion carried, 8-0

NSAA District:

2

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:

2024-09-25

Sections affected in Activities Manual:

Page
NA

Article

Section

Summary:

All high school tennis competitions with teams from out-of-state would count towards the:

1. Limit on number of competition dates;
2. Count towards the total regular season record of the team;
3. Count for purposes of seeding at the state tournament.

Rationale:

Currently the Boys & Girls Tennis Manual does not address the issue of out-of-state competition. The score entry process does allow for fill in the blank entries of opponents from other states (including team names and player names). However, these are not recognized as official in the sense of applying to a Nebraska teams record or for determining seeds at the state tournament.

Pros:

This proposal would bring boys and girls tennis in line with all other NSAA sports that do allow the scheduling and recognition of out-of-state competitions. This would be particularly beneficial for teams that are near state borders and could result in higher level opponents that are geographically closer resulting in lowered travel costs and less time missed from school by players.

Cons:

This would potentially increase the number of competitions that are neither head-to-head or with common opponents and will not directly assist the seeding committee with their decision-making process.



CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Offseason Practice Guidelines

Title:

Author:

Tom Kerkman

School:

Omaha Westside

NSAA District:

2

Proposal does not meet the criteria. Motion failed, 2-6

Proposal for:

Constitution & Bylaws

Classes Affected:

Class A

Activities Affected:

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

2026-08-01

Sections affected in
Constitution &
Bylaws:

<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
12	3	3.1.2, 3.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5, 3.2.6, 3.2.7
13		

Summary:

Member schools may choose to hold offseason “voluntary” sports specific workouts with as many students at a time during the offseason. “Sport specific” workouts (does not include weightlifting and conditioning). Member Schools will follow the NSAA calendar guidelines for the start of fall, winter and spring seasons. Schools may not use the offseason to determine teams. Schools will follow the guidelines of the December Moratorium and can only strength and condition from August 1 to the start of Fall Practice.

Rationale:

Allows coaches to work out students in a timely fashion in the offseason

Pros:

avoids schools from misinterpreting rules

Cons:

None



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Title:	Runner-up Plaques (Elimination)		
Author:	Tom Kerkman		
School:	Omaha Westside		
NSAA District:	2		
Proposal for:	Activities Manual	Proposal meets the criteria. Motion carried, 7-1	
Classes Affected:	Class A		
Activities Affected:	Baseball Boys Basketball Girls Basketball Boys Bowling Girls Bowling Boys Cross-Country Girls Cross-Country Football Boys Golf Girls Golf Boys Soccer Girls Soccer Softball Swimming & Diving Boys Tennis Girls Tennis Boys Track Girls Track Volleyball 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:	0026-08-09		
Sections affected in Activities Manual:	<u>Page</u> 14	<u>Article</u> NA	<u>Section</u> NA
Summary:	Summary: In all Sections of the above sports: In Class A: plaques for (Runner-up) and championship teams will be shipped to the district director. (delete runner-up)		
Rationale:	Allows teams to leave playing surface after a tough loss and in some cases making teams come back and get a plaque that is not displayed at schools		
Pros:	Cost		
Cons:			



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

CAUCUS PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN NSAA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Class B District Tournament Serpentine

Title:

Author: Dave Hoxworth

School: Scottsbluff

NSAA District: 6

Proposal meets the criteria. Motion carried, 8-0

Proposal for: Activities Manual

Classes
Affected: Class B

Activities
Affected: Boys Basketball
Girls Basketball
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Softball
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:	<u>Page</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Section</u>
	16-22		

Summary: This will be the new language replacing Sub District Tournaments, moving to a State Serpentine method to advance to state.

This proposal looks to change the current Class B sub-district assignments to serpentine seeded district tournaments for the following sports; Softball, Volleyball, Boys/Girls Basketball, and Boys/Girls Soccer. This proposal was discussed at last year's Class B Caucus Meeting at the NSIAAA Convention where a Sub-Committee was formed to bring forward proposals for the 2024-2025 Class Caucus Legislative Process.

SOFTBALL

District Assignment Procedures. All Class B schools in softball are to be placed into seven districts. All districts will be determined by a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wildcard point system, seeding will be released on Friday of Week 13. The highest seed in each district will host the tournament. The seven district winners will automatically advance to the state championship. One additional team will also qualify on the basis of the wildcard team selection procedure.

District Seeding: District competition shall be seeded based upon wildcard points. No changes to seeding can be made once the district seeding is complete. All Class B schools in softball are to be

placed into seven (7) districts. The districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wildcard point system with games through Thursday of Week 13.

Due to the unique geography of Class B teams across the state of Nebraska, if a district tournament match-up happens in the first round and or a semi final round, between two schools that is greater than 300 miles apart, a neutral site would be set into place. The neutral site options would include: Lexington High School, Grand Island Northwest, McCook High School, and Hastings High School. District championship games will take place at the highest remaining seed regardless of distance.

District Championships: In Class B the district championships will be single elimination in the first round and semi-finals games, and then a best of three series for the district championship game. The winner of the district championship will qualify for the state championship. The highest seed will host through semifinals, with the 300 mile geographic rule in place. Finals will be hosted by the highest remaining seed of the district, in a best two of three game format.

If, due to weather, the championship (Class A & B) or sub-district/district final (Class C) format is changed to single elimination, all schools will be notified. The championship director and the Executive Director of the NSAA will make the decision. If a single elimination tournament is played, the wildcard point system will be computed for the number of games played. For example, if District 1 must play single-elimination and other districts play double-elimination, no adjustment will be made in computing wildcard points.

District Dates Class B: Thursday - Saturday of Week 14

District & Sub-District Brackets - Teams shall be placed on brackets by the NSAA. All Class B districts will be scheduled over a three dates, (single elimination for first two rounds), then a district championship which is played best out of 3, and per the following game schedule. *30 minute break in between each game (to include warm-ups)

Out-of-State win-loss records will be included thru the following dates for seeding purposes:

- b. Class B district seeding - Thursday of Week 13.
- d. State Championship seeding - Friday of Week 14.

VOLLEYBALL

Class B - Class B schools will be divided into seven districts. The teams with the highest wildcard point averages will have the opportunity to host districts. Class B districts will take place on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of Week 17. All seven districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild card point system after the games Tuesday of Week 16. The winning team in each district will qualify for the State Championship. One additional team will also qualify for the State Championship on the basis of the wild card team selection procedure. The higher-seeded team will have the opportunity to host the first night of district competition. The district championship would be hosted by the highest remaining seed. District dates and times would be established before the district competition starts. The top-seeded team in each district would be responsible for establishing district schedules. One additional team in Class B which fails to qualify by winning the district will qualify as wild card teams. See Wild Card Criteria.

Due to the unique geography of Class B teams across the state of Nebraska, if a district tournament match-up happens in the first round and or a semi final round, between two schools that is greater than 300 miles apart, a neutral site would be set into place. The neutral site options would include: Lexington High School, McCook High School, Grand Island Northwest High School, and Hastings High School. District championship games will take place at the highest remaining seed regardless of distance.

Class B District Hosts - 5 Team Districts.....Class B District Hosts - 4 Team Districts

#4 seed will host #5 seed.....#1 seed will host #4 seed

#1 seed will host the winner of #4 v. #5.....#2 seed will host the #3 seed

#2 seed will host #3 seed.....Highest Seed Remaining hosts District Championship

Highest Seed Remaining hosts District Championship

Seeding Dates:

Class B District Tournaments: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday of Week 17

A) District seeding released: October 24, 2024 (games played through October 22)

B) State Championship seeding released: November 2, 2024

Out-of-state win-loss records will be included through the following dates for seeding purposes:

A) District seeding: Tuesday of Week 16

B) State Championship seeding: Friday of Week 17

BASKETBALL (Girls and Boys)

Class B schools will be divided into seven districts. The teams with the highest wild card point averages will have the opportunity to host districts. Class B districts for girls will be played, Monday (4 vs. 5), Wednesday (semi), and Saturday (final) of Week 34 and boys districts will be played Monday (4 vs. 5) and Thursday (semi) of Week 34 with District Championships set for either Monday or Tuesday of Week 35 (final), if teams cannot agree on a date then Monday will be the default date. The higher-seeded team will have the opportunity to host each game the first night of district competition. The district championship would be hosted by the highest remaining seed. District dates and times would be established before the district competition starts. The top-seeded team in each district would be responsible for establishing district schedules. All seven districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild card point system within one week prior to the first district.

a. The winning boys' team and the winning girls' team in each district will qualify for the State Championship.

b. One additional boys' team and one additional girls' team will also qualify for the State Championship on the basis of the wild card team selection procedure.

Due to the unique geography of Class B teams across the state of Nebraska, if a district tournament match-up happens in the first round and or a semi final round, between two schools that is greater than 300 miles apart, a neutral site would be set into place. The neutral site options would include: Lexington High School, Grand Island Northwest, McCook High School and Hastings High School. District championship games will take place at the highest remaining seed regardless of distance.

The district championship would be hosted by the highest remaining seed. District dates and times would be established before the district competition starts. The top-seeded team in each district would be responsible for establishing district schedules.

Seeding Dates

Class B Girls (Assign & Seed) - Thursday of week 33. February 21, 2025 (games through Feb. 20)

Class B Boys (Assign & Seed) - Thursday of week 33. February 21, 2025 (games through Feb. 20)

Girls State Championships (all classes) - March 1, 2025

Boys State Championships (all classes) - March 6, 2025

SOCCER (Girls and Boys)

Class B schools will be divided into seven districts. The teams with the highest wildcard point averages will have the opportunity to host districts. Class B districts will start Saturday (Week 43) and continue through Saturday of Week 44. All seven districts will be determined using a serpentine method (not modified), based upon the NSAA wild card point system after the games WEDNESDAY of Week 43. The winning boys team and the winning girls team in each district will qualify for the State Championship. One additional boys team and one additional girls team will also qualify for the State Championship on the basis of the wild card team selection procedure. The higher-seeded team will have the opportunity to host the first night of district competition.

Due to the unique geography of Class B teams across the state of Nebraska, if a district tournament match-up happens in the first round and or a semi final round, between two schools that is greater than 300 miles apart, a neutral site would be set into place. The neutral site options would include: Lexington High School, Grand Island Northwest, McCook High School, and Hastings High School.

District championship games will take place at the highest remaining seed regardless of distance.

The district championship would be hosted by the highest remaining seed. District dates and times would be established before the district competition starts. The top-seeded team in each district would be responsible for establishing district schedules. One additional boys' teams and one additional girls' teams in Class B which fail to qualify by winning the district will qualify as wild card teams. See Wild Card Criteria.

Class B District Tournaments: Week 43 and 44, May 3 - May 10, 2025

FOR CLASS B: The tournament shall be seeded based on wild card point averages of matches played through Wednesday, April 30th. The district assignments/seeds will be released on the NSAA website: Thursday, May 1st. Out-of-State (OOS) Opponents will have records submitted with matches played through the following dates

Class B District Seeding: April 28, 2025

State Championship Seeding: May 10, 2025

Rationale:

Class B currently qualifies eight teams winning their way into the State Tournament. By approving the above district tournament format, Class B would be continuing the tradition of getting the eight best teams to the State Championships. Class B, based on serpentine wildcard points, would be creating a framework that rewards teams who have won a district championship but also leaves an opportunity for a wildcard qualifier, which is awarded based on a season's worth of work.

Pros:

Eliminating sub-district play would create more flexibility in scheduling the week prior to a district tournament and for state competition.

Eliminating sub-districts would also give teams additional time to rest and prepare for a district tournament without an added worry of injury during sub-district play.

Eliminating an extra tournament that schools would then not have to provide event staff, or host games at their facilities.

Increased revenue due to there being a home gate in every match that does not involve the mileage requirement.

A district tournament format based on serpentine wildcard points rewards the wins and losses of an entire season and creates a seeding method in which reflects the overall goal to get the best 8 teams to state.

Cons:

Neutrality:

Travel Implications would change due to elimination of sub-district play, this could allow teams more or less travel depending on their tournament seeding and placement in a district. However, by eliminating a sub-district tournament, schools are given more time to consider and prepare for travel.

Due to the unique geography of Class B teams across the state of Nebraska, if a district tournament match-up happens in the first round and or a semi final round, between two schools that is greater than 300 miles apart, a neutral site would be set into place. The neutral site options would include: Lexington High School, Grand Island Northwest, and Hastings High School. District championship games will take place at the highest remaining seed regardless of distance.

Cons:

Elimination of an 8th seed team hosting district final.