

NSAA News

March 2020



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Executive Director's Notebook

Jay Bellar, NSAA Executive Director

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Administrative Leadership Continues to Be Necessary!

Thankfully, winter is melting away and rather than being knee deep in snow, we are knee deep in State Championships! In the midst of one of the most highly anticipated seasons in the great state of Nebraska, we here at the NSAA want to encourage everyone to take pause and truly enjoy all the good

that comes with this experience.

Kicking off the second week of fun last week was State Wrestling. What an event—the competition was good, the event was well attended and, amazingly, even the weather cooperated! Congratulations to the newly crowned champions: Class A Millard South, Class B Hastings, Class C David City and Class D Plainview. What a positive way to start off Championship season. We look forward to swimming and diving this week followed by girls' and boys' basketball respectively.

These State Championships would not be the same without student body participation. Most agree that involvement in school spirit is an important part of the high school experience. School spirit means representing your school proudly. Students who participate in NSAA activities are not only expected to well represent their respective schools, but also be positive role models for the student body and younger students in attendance.

I, like many, enjoy watching good school spirit where students cheer for their team while being fully engaged in the contest. However, too often, this positive cheering morphs into yelling at the other team, officials, or worse yet, degrading players from the opposing team. Having and setting clear expectations of what cheering for your team looks like must be communicated at every school. Member schools and fans must continue to strive for excellence in this area.

Please see *Administrative Leadership Continues to Be Necessary!* on page 3



NSAA Board of Directors & NSAA Staff



Kathi Wieskamp
District I
Lincoln Public
Schools



Mark Norvell
District I
Fillmore Central



Thomas Lee
District II
Omaha Northwest



Dr. Bob Reznicek
District II
Boys Town



Dr. Jon Cerny
District III
Bancroft-Rosalie



Dan Keyser
District IV
Sutherland



Jim Kent
District V
Dundy County Stratton



Dr. Troy Unzicker
District VI
Alliance



Jay Bellar
Executive Director



Jennifer Schwartz
Associate Director



Ron Higdon
Assistant Director



Jon Dolliver
Assistant Director



Nate Neuhaus
Assistant Director



Dan Masters
Assistant Director



Jeff Stauss
Assistant Director



Ashton Honnor
Marketing
Specialist



Rick Colgan
Software
Developer



Megan Huber
Business Manager



Cindy Callaway
Office Manager



Ronda Schmidt
Administrative
Assistant



Alicia McCoy
Administrative
Assistant



*The NSAA Would Like to
Thank Our Corporate
Partners*



*“NSAA activities...
the other half of
education.”*

Administrative Leadership Continues to Be Necessary! from page 1

Cheering for your team in a positive manner can only enhance the atmosphere, making participation inviting and exciting for all student-athletes regardless the sport, team, or event. I know many schools work to make sure that students from opposing schools are treated with respect. I applaud this effort; however, we must continue to educate our student body on what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior. We must be quick to act when something inappropriate is said or done.

As stated earlier, State Championships are right around the corner. Before contests commence, I challenge all administrators to explicitly discuss their school's sportsmanship expectations and guidelines. It is not enough to warn students that poor behavior should not happen or will not be tolerated. Schools have spent a lot of time on this issue, yet there is still improvement to be made.

Racial comments or slurs will absolutely not be tolerated and must be addressed immediately. If/when an administrator, supervisor, or official hears anyone make a racial comment, the offender must be asked to leave the premises immediately. We say it will not be tolerated; we must mean it and act upon it!

Truth told, as much as we continue to make this a priority, bad decisions can/will be made by students and fans. Consequences must be in place and carried out. In my opinion, we not only have the opportunity, but the obligation to continue to educate our students and fans in the area of cultural awareness and diversity. We must treat all people with respect and cannot take this issue lightly.

The NSAA Board of Directors will meet in March with this topic as a discussion item at this meeting. We try to continuously improve in this area and value input and suggestions from our membership.

UPDATED: NSAA Baseball Pitch Counts

The 2020 NSAA Baseball Pitch Counts were approved during the February NSAA Board meeting. Specific details and information can be found [HERE](#).

2020 NSAA Unified Sports, Track & Field

The 2020 NSAA Unified Sports, Track & Field manual was approved during the February NSAA Board meeting. The manual can be viewed [HERE](#).



March U.S. Bank® Believers & Achievers



Jacob Aitken
South Sioux City



Claire Hookstra
Southern



Jadyn Brooks
Southwest



Colton Kaup
Stuart



Laruen Meyer
Syracuse



Rayna Hladky
Tekamah-Herman



Kendal Brigham
Wahoo



Erin O'Reilly
Wayne



Jacob Wendell
Wilcox-Hildreth



Gideon Luehr
Wood River



Lindsey Stuckey
York



Emily Kennedy
Yutan



Winter Championships Clear Bag Policies

The NSAA Winter Championships are in full force! Please make sure that your students, parents and fans are aware of each facility's Clear Bag Policy prior to the Championships. For more information on the clear bag policies, please click the links below.

[Bob Devaney Sports Center](#)

[Pinnacle Bank Arena](#)



Championship Reimbursement Dates

Winter Championship reimbursement deadlines are listed below. The reimbursement forms are on the AD Login Page and must be completed by 11:59 p.m. CT the night of the due date. If you have any questions, please contact Megan Huber, Business Manager, mhuber@nsaahome.org.

Individual Wrestling – March 13th, 2020

Girls Basketball – March 27th, 2020

Boys Basketball – April 3rd, 2020

There is no reimbursement for Dual Wrestling, Swimming & Diving, or Speech.



May 1st Transfer List NEW Requirement

At their January 23rd meeting, the NSAA Board of Directors took action to require written authorization and consent prior to placing a student's name on the NSAA May 1st Transfer List. This new requirement is effective immediately. The form is posted on the NSAA AD login page.

The student and his/her legal parent(s) will be required to authorize and give consent to the administration of the school the student is transferring to for the 2020-2021 school year.

The signed consent must be uploaded to the NSAA website in order for the transfer to be recognized. A signed copy of the consent form should be given to the legal parent(s), and the school should retain a copy.

The consent form also provides notice to the student and the legal parent(s), that if the student decides not to transfer after the May 1st deadline, he/she is ineligible for varsity competition for 90 school days at any Nebraska school. The NSAA Board of Directors also determined that the May 1st Transfer List would be made available to all NSAA member schools on the Tuesday following Memorial Day.

The May 1st Transfer List is now open and available on the NSAA AD login page.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the NSAA.

[-] Downloads:

- [Football Crew Information](#)
- [2016 NSAA May 1st Transfer List](#)
- [2017 NSAA May 1st Transfer List](#)
- [2018 NSAA May 1st Transfer List](#)
- [2019 NSAA May 1st Transfer List](#)
- [2020 Basketball Coach/Administrator Ticket Order Form](#)
- [BB Scorer and Timer Duties](#)
- [Bill Lewis Scholarship Form](#)
- [Concussion Memo](#)
- [Contract Form for Judges \(Word Doc\)](#)
- [Contract Form for Officials \(Word Doc\)](#)
- [Guide to Hosting Officials](#)
- [May 1 Consent Form](#)
- [NEW ADDRESS](#)
- [NFHS - Concussion In Sports FREE Online Course Information](#)



February NSAA Board of Directors Meeting Notes

The February NSAA Board of Directors meeting was held at the NSAA Office in Lincoln on Wednesday, February 19th, 2020. The meeting minutes can be found on the NSAA website [here](#).

[NSAA Important Dates & Deadlines](#)

[NSAA Cup Information](#)

Class Caucus Review Committee Minutes

Results and minutes from the February 4th, 2020 telephonic Class Caucus Review Committee meeting can be found [here](#).

[NSAA Publications Order Form](#)

Legislative Commission Minutes

The Legislative Commission meeting was held at the NSAA Office in Lincoln on February 19th, 2020. The results and minutes can be found on the NSAA website [here](#).

[NSAA Cup](#)

Information about the NSAA Cup competition and standings can be found on the NSAA website [here](#).

NSAA Basketball Championship Online Tickets

Avoid the lines and purchase your tickets for the 2020 NSAA Girls & Boys Basketball Championships online! Visit <https://gofan.co/app/school/NSAA> to buy your tickets today!

If you have questions, please contact Megan Huber, NSAA Business Manager, at mhuber@nsaahome.org.

New AD/Administrative Outreach Seminars in July

The New AD/Administrative Outreach Seminar will be held at two locations this coming July. If your school will have a *NEW* AD or new support staff, the NSAA highly recommends this seminar! Anyone is welcome that would like a refresher course or learn the new things that will be happening at the NSAA (i.e. administrative assistants, counselors and others involved with student eligibility). There is no cost for this seminar and lunch will be provided.

July 14th, 2020 – North Platte, NE – McKinley Education Center – 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

July 16th, 2020 – Lincoln, NE – NSAA Office – 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

To make your reservation, please contact NSAA Office Manager Cindy Callaway at ccallaway@nsaahome.org.



Former NSAA Intern Tales: Where Are They Now – Ryley Egger

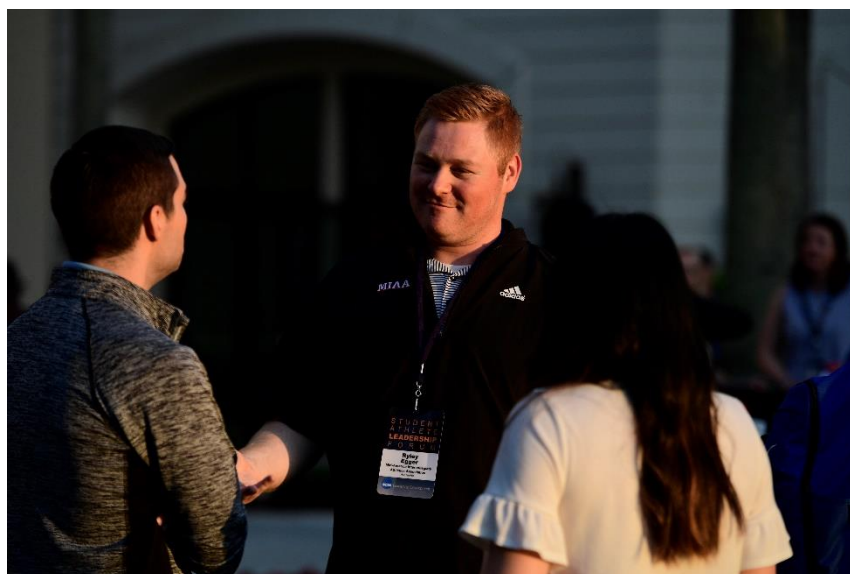
Ryley Egger, Director of Strategic Communication for the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA)

When I interned for the NSAA, I never could have dreamed that the experience would reach far beyond fulfilling a graduation requirement at Nebraska Wesleyan. As the Director of Strategic Communication for the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA), a conference in NCAA Division II, I am constantly using skills I learned or falling back on the experience I had from the NSAA and interning with Jeff Stauss.

With my role at the MIAA, I am tasked with coordinating media for all 19 of our conference championships. My time during the internship, and working with Jeff, allowed not only for a hands-on experience with working with the media but to see how all the moving pieces of a championship work. I believe my time as an intern not only prepared me to work with championship events but also helped me to hit the ground running as a young professional. I was able to immediately coordinate media row and conduct press conferences at my first set of conference championships all because of the knowledge I gained from the NSAA.

Another part of my NSAA internship I still carry with me and use daily is how to interact with administrators. Being around the staff, I was able to observe how to talk with board members and other professionals in education or how to conduct myself in a professional setting. This has helped me enormously with my role when I meet with our campus presidents or athletic directors or head coaches. I am able to interact and be engaged in dialogue with those administrators because the internship put me in similar situations. Those situations also allowed me to understand the needs of administrators and coaches which has guided me in my current role to better serve our membership.

Everyone hears the dreaded intern stories of having to get coffee or make copies or answer the phone for days on end but thankfully the NSAA internship never was that way. People like Jeff, Ashton Honnor, Jennifer Schwartz, Jon Dolliver, Alicia McCoy, and Nate Neuhaus made me feel valued and showed me the benefits of athletic administration. The NSAA internship is something that positively impacted me and ultimately why I wanted to work in a conference office. The internship program is one of the numerous high-class programs from the NSAA and I am forever grateful for my time with the NSAA!



2020-2021 NSAA Student Advisory Committee Application

The NSAA Student Advisory Committee is a diverse group of Junior and Senior students who participate in interscholastic athletics/activities and are focused on providing education and leadership through open and honest communication with all member schools and their students, administrators and coaches. This committee serves as a liaison between students, administrators, the NSAA Staff and Board of Directors. The Student Advisory Committee helps to promote the mission of the NSAA, including leadership, sportsmanship and integrity.

Candidates should: (1) Show a history of leadership on activity/athletic teams as well as with other extra-curricular activities, community service projects or in the workplace; (2) have an understanding of the role of school activities/athletics; and (3) have ideas for promoting a proper perspective for educational activities/athletics.

Applications for the 2020-2021 NSAA Student Advisory Committee are due Sunday, March 1st, 2020, by 4:00 p.m. **All candidates must be a sophomore and agree to a two-year commitment.** A printable template is available on the NSAA website [here](#). All applications must be submitted to the NSAA through the NSAA AD login, under "OTHER FORMS" > "Student Advisory Committee Application." No other format or submission through regular mail or email will be considered.

How to Apply

- AD needs to login with the AD passcode on nsasahome.org
- Click On: [+] OTHER FORMS:
 - SELECT "STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION"
 - UPLOADS MUST BE IN "PDF" FORMAT

Candidates will be notified by April 1st, 2020 of their selection. Questions may be directed to NSAA Assistant Director Ron Higdon at rhigdon@nsaahome.org.

NSAA Winter Championship Results



[DUAL WRESTLING](#)

[WRESTLING](#)

[SWIMMING & DIVING](#)



#RespectTheRef

Start the movement – we want to hear what your school is doing to #RespectTheRef! Using #RespectTheRef, tweet @nsaahome on [Twitter](#) or tag @nsaahome on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) how your school and fans are modeling respectful behavior toward the referees!



#RespectTheRef



Hey, referees are people, too!

Cheer loud and proud for your team but please be respectful and let the officials do their job.

Using #RespectTheRef, tweet @nsaahome how your school is respecting the referees.

Interested in becoming an NSAA official? Head over to nsaahome.org for more information.



The NFHS Voice: Recognition and Thanks – Not Abuse – Needed for High School Officials

Dr. Karissa Niehoff, NFHS Executive Director



While the behavior of parents and other fans at high school games is still a work in progress, there is some good news on the officiating front.

Last fall, we reported on a growing shortage of officials nationwide – even reaching a crisis stage in some areas as games were being cancelled. Through a nationwide recruitment effort, progress is being made in attracting more people to the high school officiating avocation.

Thanks to the NFHS' #BecomeAnOfficial campaign that was launched in the spring of 2017, more than 4,000 men and women across the country have registered and become certified officials. Many of these individuals are former high school athletes who want to remain involved in sports, earn some extra income and stay in shape, including first responders such as police officers, firefighters and EMTs.

Individuals interested in becoming an official can sign up through the www.HighSchoolOfficials.com website, and most state associations respond within 24 hours to continue the registration process.

On the flip side, however, is the fear that any gains in new officials coming in the front door are being offset by other officials heading out the back door because of the continued boorish behavior on the part of parents and other fans.

Rickey Neaves, associate director of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, is struggling to cover all basketball games in his state in his role as officials' coordinator.

"Fans and coaches alike feel freer to downgrade officials, and holler and scream at them, as opposed to the way it was 10 years ago," Neaves said. "You can see where it is getting worse and worse with parents and coaches blaming officials or staying on an official to the point where they're just not going to take it, so they just get out."

Unfortunately, we continue to hear reports like this from across the country. A recent survey conducted by **Officially Human: Behind the Stripes** that was completed by about 19,000 respondents in 14 states indicated that the problem persists, with fans who do not know the rules being the main culprit.

If efforts by the NFHS at the national level – and others at state and local levels – to attract more people to officiating are to be successful, unsportsmanlike behavior on the part of parents and other fans must cease or we will lose some of these new officials within two years.

[Click here](#) for the full article on the NFHS website.

IMPORTANT LINKS

[2019-20 NSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#)

[2019-20 NSAA Media Manual](#)

[2019-20 NCPA Academic All-State Information](#)

[NSAA Catastrophic Insurance](#)

[NSAA Sanctioned Events](#)

[Requests – Contests, Officials, Equipment](#)

[Become an NSAA Official!](#)

[Coaching Steps to Certification](#)



NSAA Membership Spotlight

District 1: McCool Junction

Location: McCool Junction

K-12 Enrollment: 250

School Mascot: Mustangs

Twitter Handle: [@mcjmustangs](https://twitter.com/mcjmustangs)

NSAA Participation:

Boys & Girls Cross Country

Volleyball

Football

Wrestling

Boys & Girls Basketball

Speech

Music

Boys & Girls Track



NSAA State Championships: 5

What's Happening at McCool Junction:

“During the 2019 football season the New York Times came to our school and did a story about our 6-man football team. The article was part of a series about the decline of football in America,” said K-12 Principal Dade McDonald. “Calla Kessler was the reporter that came to our school from New York and she is originally from Omaha. She was assigned part of the project and contacted a former professor at UNL about doing an article on 6-man football in Nebraska and he pointed her in our direction. The article was well done and not only gave some insights into our school, but also the pride that the state of Nebraska has in our schools, communities, and students that represent us in so many different activities.”



District 2: Lyons-Decatur Northeast**Location:** Lyons**K-12 Enrollment:** 255**School Mascot:** Cougars**NSAA Participation:**

Girls Golf

Softball

Boys & Girls Cross Country

Volleyball

Football

Play Production

Wrestling

Boys & Girls Basketball

Baseball

Speech

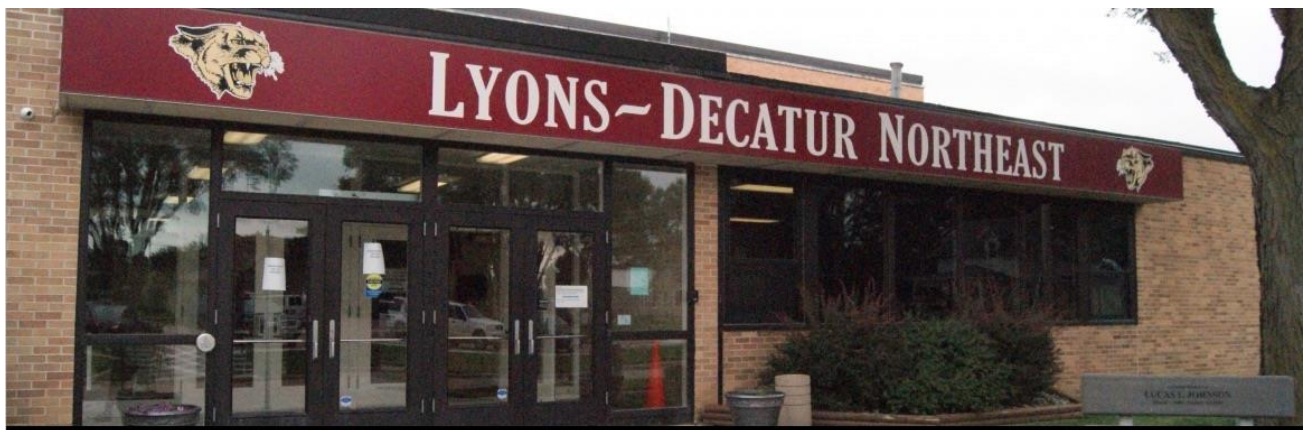
Music

Boys & Girls Track

Boys Golf

**NSAA State Championships:** 3**What's Happening at Lyons-Decatur Northeast:**

"We have been trying to improve our overall sportsmanship with our players and fans. To help with this, we have implemented what we call a guardian/player code of conduct," said Activities Director Bruce Knaak. "In short, this is a contract that all of our student athletes and their guardians have to sign in order to compete in extracurricular activities. This contract states that the player and the guardians will conduct themselves with good sportsmanship at any event. If they do not, then there are consequences that could lead to a guardian or player not being able to come to the next activity."



District 3: Osmond**Location:** Osmond**K-12 Enrollment:** 195**School Mascot:** Tigers**Twitter Handle:** [@oz_tigers](https://twitter.com/oz_tigers)**NSAA Participation:**

Boys & Girls Cross Country

Volleyball

Football

Play Production

Wrestling

Boys & Girls Basketball

Speech

Music

Boys & Girls Track

**NSAA State Championships:** 2**What's Happening at Osmond:**

"The Osmond Community Schools will be holding a special bond election in March seeking to add an activity center that will better serve our students' academic and activity needs," said Athletic Director Brian Guenther. "The activity center will bring all of our facilities under one roof and will be attached to the north side of the current building. The current plans call for a weight room, fitness center, wrestling room, activities gym, and a concessions and commons area. The activity center will also serve a dual purpose as it will be able to be utilized by patrons in the community."



District 4: Litchfield

Location: Litchfield

K-12 Enrollment: 106

School Mascot: Spartans

Twitter Handle: [@LitchfieldPS](https://twitter.com/LitchfieldPS)

NSAA Participation:

Boys & Girls Cross Country

Volleyball

Football

Play Production

Wrestling

Boys & Girls Basketball

Speech

Music

Boys & Girls Track



NSAA State Championships: 6

What's Happening at Litchfield:

"We have a new gym floor and bleachers in the Spartan Gym here in Litchfield. New weight room equipment in the old Trojan Gym. This is open to the public before or after school hours as a fitness center for the community with purchase of FOB card," said Superintendent/AD Wade Finley. "We are in our 7th year of the Sports COOP with Ansley. The partnership continues to get stronger with the collaboration from both boards, administration, coaches, parents and most importantly the student-athletes. We have also just joined a new conference and look forward to the competition and camaraderie within the traditionally rich and competitive Fort Kearny Conference."



District 5: Hayes Center**Location:** Hayes Center**K-12 Enrollment:** 106**School Mascot:** Cardinals & Wolves (Co-op with Maywood)**Twitter Handle:** [@HCPublicSchools](https://twitter.com/HCPublicSchools)**NSAA Participation:**

Boys & Girls Cross Country

Volleyball

Football

Play Production

Boys & Girls Basketball

Speech

Journalism

Music

Boys & Girls Track

Boys Golf

**NSAA State Championships:** 24**What's Happening at Hayes Center:**

"Hayes Center School has been increasing its student population at a steady rate. Over the past 5 years, the school district has grown by over 50%," said Athletic Director Aaron Gallegos. "Over that time, the school has formed a very successful athletic cooperative with the Maywood School District. In addition, under the direction of Randy Vlasin, Hayes Center's FFA program has become one of the elite programs in the state. Just last year, Hayes Center's Agriculture Sales team was the Nebraska State Champion and finished sixth at the National Convention in Indianapolis. Its Parliamentary Procedure team finished second at the State Convention in Lincoln losing to the eventual National Champion Imperial team."



NSATA Training Table

Brooke Hughes, ATC



March is National Athletic Training Month -- ATs Impact Health Care Through Action

The month of March is recognized as National Athletic Training Month. Every year the National Athletic Training Association (NATA) rolls out a theme to help celebrate the profession of Athletic Training. This year our slogan is "ATs Impact Health Care Through Action." This is a fun and exciting time for athletic trainers, all over the nation, to promote our profession and share what it is that we do.

Athletic Trainers are highly skilled health care professionals who work behind the scenes of your favorite sports team to prevent, diagnose, treat and rehabilitate injuries for all athletes. Athletic Trainers are known for their compassionate work and the endless hours that they put in with their teams to keep them healthy and active. The profession of athletic training is beginning to rapidly expand as the general population becomes more aware of their sports-related injuries and also as our aging population continues to stay active and needs additional support. In Nebraska, the Nebraska State Athletic Trainers Association (NSATA) is lucky enough to work closely with the Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA) and our high school athletes. The NSATA proudly provides athletic trainers to cover all NSAA championship events.

This year, the NSATA will be promoting National Athletic Trainers Month by passing out stick-on tattoos to teams, coaches, student sections, families and friends around the state. The tattoo will be the NSATA logo with a heart around the AT. Everyone will be asked to wear their tattoos with pride and post pictures on social media with hashtag #NSATALovesNATM2020 and hashtag #NATM2020. The tattoos are a fun and easy way for everyone to show their love for their favorite Nebraska athletic trainers.

The NSATA will also have a downloadable "LOVE" poster for everyone to print out. The idea of the printout is for groups such as: teams, businesses, schools, clubs, families, etc. to take pictures with it. The "LOVE" poster is an easy way for groups to give a shout out to their favorite Nebraska athletic trainers and let them know how much they are appreciated and loved. They will also be using hashtag #NSATALovesNATM2020 and hashtag #NATM2020 in their posts.

Nationally there are three separate contests going on that athletic trainers can participate in for National Athletic Training Month. The first contest is a general social media contest. Athletic Trainers are asked to post a photo or video on Twitter or Instagram using the hashtag #NATM2020 that shows how they are celebrating the month of March. The second contest is a poster contest. The NATA provides a poster in their NATA news or on their website for athletic trainers to post in their athletic training rooms. Athletic trainers are asked to post a photo or video to Twitter or Instagram in March using the hashtag #NATM2020 that shows where they are displaying their posters. The third, and final, NATA contest is "ATs Impact Healthcare Through Action." In honor of the "ATs Impact Healthcare through Action" theme, they are asking athletic trainers to post a photo or video to Twitter or Instagram that shows them in their unique work settings and use the hashtag #HealthcareInAction. If you see your athletic trainers with these posts, please show your support and share them.

Please join in the fun with the NSATA and promote National Athletic Training Month on social media. The tattoos and posters should be available during March NSAA championship events. We love seeing all of the pictures and shout outs about how much you love your athletic trainers.



Student Advisory Committee Spotlight

Terin Frodyma, Junior at Omaha South High School



Small things Truly Do Matter

A little goes a long way, a phrase many of us heard growing up, a phrase that was assigned to us to decode this phrase of contradicting terms that give us a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. This phrase may be most evident in the world of competition. For example, when in an attempt to perfect a craft and improve as an athlete, it is the small, technical, detailed steps that we constantly repeat that turn us into the champions we aspire to be. A little bit of encouragement from our coaches and trainers who devote their time in helping us break through the obstacles that we set up for ourselves. Personally, my favorite example of when the little things matter comes from an opposing side in a competition. Whether it just be a high five after a race, a simple handshake after the end of a match, or even just an opposing coach or spectator congratulating you for whatever you've done.

Many people don't choose to admit this, but those little things really do make the world of athletics and competition worth it. From the hours that you put in, to all of the success that comes as a result, paired up with a simple sign of respect from someone else. It's always the little things that make us better, and it's the little things that others do that make us want to pursue success. It's not hard to be that little change, usually they just come naturally. It's never a bad idea to work on the little things every once in a while.

Whether you are a player, a member, an administrator, a coach, or even a spectator, everything you do has an impact, make sure that even the little things are positive. It's better to build somebody up than to break them down.

NSAA Intern Tales

Dylan Ullman, NSAA Intern



Following the conclusion of the Nebraska high school state volleyball and football tournaments I was completely exhausted. Fortunately, over the past three months the NSAA staff and myself have had ample amounts of down time to re-charge our batteries. In that, "down time," we have been working persistently in the office to prepare for the winter championships, which include wrestling, swimming, and basketball. During this time I have seen up close how much work is put into preparation for these state tournaments, and it is quite extensive. In contrast to this, during state volleyball and football I did not see as much backend work, because most of it had already been completed months before. While I did love working the state tournaments, these last few months learning about the logistical side of the business has been even more interesting to see.

It has been quite thought-provoking because I have learned it is the most crucial part to the whole operation. During the months leading up to the state tournaments, the NSAA staff must organize tickets, find sponsors, coordinate with the host facility about parking and concessions, and so much more. While the tasks seemed endless at first, I learned it is nothing more than a puzzle that can be solved with hard work and determination. I am excited to get started with the winter sports championship season and hope to continue to learn more about this remarkable business.



Have you followed the NSAA social media channels?

The Winter Championships are in full force! Be sure to follow all of the NSAA social media channels to stay updated on the latest NSAA happenings and Championship scores and updates.



Update Your School Membership Directory

The NSAA utilizes your School Directory to send communication to the administration and coaches listed. Please make sure that this information is correct and updated **at all times**. To do so, login to your AD login page and under OTHER FORMS select School Directory, which will then take you to your School Directory Information page where you can make changes as necessary. This is also where you'll go to see if your coaches have completed their online rules meetings. Please contact the NSAA office at 402-489-0386 with any questions.

[-] OTHER FORMS:

[NCPA Academic All-State Nominations](#)
[NSAA Activities Registration Form](#)
[NSAA Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement Forms](#)
[NSAA Sportsmanship Manual](#)
[Olympic Development Waiver Request Form \(Word .doc\)](#)
[Reimbursement Forms for State Championships](#)
[School Directory](#)
[Schools' Emergency Contact Number Report](#)
[State Participation Certificates](#)
[Believers & Achievers Nomination Form](#)



Statement of Principle on Conduct Synopsis

Adopted by the NDE, NSAA, NCSA, NASB, NSEA, NRCSA, NCA and NSIAAA

Recently, students in our schools have been experiencing negative, harassing, and bullying conduct during the school day, and at school activities by the spectators attending those events or, and at times by opponents in an activity, that is directed at the school's participants and spectators, often with a racial component. Such conduct is unacceptable and does not reflect the foregoing basic tenants of our society.

It is the responsibility of our organizations to promote and respect the liberty interests of all persons who may participate in or attend any educational endeavor sponsored by our organizations which includes ensuring that common courtesy is shown for all persons, insuring tranquility for all, and being responsible that no one person abuses their liberties to the detriment of other persons.

As the educational leaders of Nebraska's school system, we firmly support Nebraska schools and communities in proactively involving teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community members in developing and maintaining a positive school and community culture that supports learning opportunities for all persons, and ensures that respect and courtesy are shown to all persons.

Conduct by any person that does not show respect for and courtesy of other persons in Nebraska schools and any school activity is prohibited and shall not be tolerated – period.

A Reminder to Compete with Respect

Concerns have been expressed regarding the lack of respect being afforded to students, coaches, officials, spectators and host staff. Schools should understand the seriousness of their responsibility to everyone and the privilege of representing their school and community. As educators, we must recommit ourselves to the preservation of respect. Unfair acts prohibited by the spirit and intent of the rules include the use of disconcerting acts or words.

Deliberately disrespecting the rules and fellow participants in the hope or expectation of gaining an advantage is deplorable and indefensible. It is imperative that administrators, coaches, officials and students make an extra effort to model the type of behavior that illustrates the educational values of activity participation. Conduct that berates, intimidates or threatens anyone, based on gender, ethnicity, or sexual preference is unacceptable.

Medical Personnel at Regular Season Contests

Severe injuries, sudden illnesses and other critical incidents do not often occur during school activities, but it is important for every school to have an emergency action plan (EAP) for administrators, faculty, coaches and staff members to follow should emergencies occur. Due to lack of universal availability of medical coverage and other logistical reasons, NSAA does not require that schools have a physician, trainer or ambulance on-site at regular season activities; however, each school should have a plan in place should there be an emergency involving students, coaches, officials or spectators requiring medical attention.



Requirements for Ejected Coaches & Players

Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” for ejections from high school contests for unsportsmanlike conduct is a responsibility of the member school. Failure to properly enforce this rule could result in other sanctions by the NSAA.

Administrators will be expected to promptly file a report with the NSAA whenever a participant or coach from their school has been ejected from any high school contest. Such filing must be done online under the AD login section of the NSAA website.

Enforcement of the “sit-out rule” is expected to begin immediately, regardless whether it is regular-season or tournament play.

Any athlete ejected from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next athletic contest at that level of competition and any other athletic contest at any level during the interim. Any athlete ejected for a second time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next two contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim. Any athlete ejected for a third time during a season from a contest for unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for the next three contests at that level of competition and all other athletic contests at any level during the interim, in addition to other penalties the NSAA or school may assess. During the time of their “sit-out” suspension, athletes who are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct may not suit up or participate, but it is the school’s discretion whether such athlete is able to travel with the team or sit on the team bench. (The athlete is permitted to practice per school’s discretion.)

Coaches who are ejected for the first time will be required to sit-out the next contest at that level, plus all other contests at any level during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. The coach will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS online course “TEACHING AND MODELING BEHAVIOR” within 10 days of the ejection.

Coaches who are ejected a second time in a season will be required to sit-out the next two contests at that level, plus all other contests at any level during the interim. Coaches may not be present at the contest site during the time of their “sit-out” suspension. The coach will also be required to successfully complete the NFHS online course “FUNDAMENTALS OF COACHING” within 10 days of the ejection.

Are your officials on the NSAA Officials Roster?

3.12.2 Officials for Varsity Contests.

Only those officials who are registered with the Association may be used by member high schools to officiate varsity competition in football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, soccer, softball and volleyball competition, and start track & field meets.

Athletic Directors are expected to confirm that all officials hired to officiate varsity contests have been classified by the NSAA. The NSAA Officials Roster is available on your AD login page under “**NSAA OFFICIALS & JUDGES.**”



Are your head and assistant coaches C.E.R.T.I.F.I.E.D?

NSAA Bylaw 2.12 stipulates, *“In order to serve as a head or assistant coach or sponsor of any activity sponsored by the NSAA, the individual must possess a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate or Nebraska Administrative and Supervisory Certificate and have a written contract of employment as a coach or sponsor with the schools in which he/she is to perform these duties.”* Yes, this does include coaches/directors/sponsors/advisers in the non-athletic activities as well: Play Production, Music, Speech and Journalism.

Individuals that do not possess either of the certificates listed above, may serve as a head or assistant as long as they successfully complete the requirements for a Special Services Coaching Permit (*NSAA Bylaw 2.12.2*). This information can be found on the NSAA webpage under the Coaches tab. It is important to remember that certification is not complete until the individual has applied and received their certificate from the Nebraska Department of Education Certification Office. Schools should request a copy of the certificate and have it on file at the school.

Non-certified personnel may be contracted by the school, but such personnel shall be Coaches Aides. (*NSAA Bylaw 2.12.3*). There are restrictions and limitations for Coaches Aides. Refer to the respective Bylaw for a complete listing in regard to Coaches Aides.

If you should have questions in regard to coaching requirements, contact NSAA Associate Director Jennifer Schwartz at jschwartz@nsaahome.org.

Required Courses for All Coaches

This is a reminder that **ALL** head, assistant and volunteer coaches are required to take the three online NFHS courses at least once every three years:

Concussion in Sports, Heat Illness Prevention and Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

These courses can be accessed on the NFHS website, and all three courses are free. These courses should be taken prior to any preseason or regular season physical workouts in which the coach would be present for or involved in administering.

Any course taken after May 1st would be considered valid to the following school year.

Social Media Handles Needed

NSAA Marketing Specialist Ashton Honnor is in need of your school's main activities account social media handles. Below you will find the three accounts that we are in search of if your school utilizes those platforms. If your school does not utilize the social media platforms listed below, please let Ashton know regardless.

- Twitter Handle (ex. [@nsaahome](https://twitter.com/nsaahome))
- Facebook Handle (ex. [Nebraska School Activities Association](https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaSchoolActivitiesAssociation))
- Instagram Handle (ex. [@nsaahome](https://www.instagram.com/nsaahome))

Social media handle information can be sent to Ashton at ahonnor@nsaahome.org.



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