



WDA Activities Directors Meeting via video conference

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2020, 10 a.m.

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Scott Nustad, Dr. Shane Martin, David Mieure, Brian Dokken and Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the Oct. 20 special meeting was reviewed. Moved by Fridley seconded by Wiest to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried**

Current finances were presented and reviewed. The beginning balance for the current period was \$21,121.16; Revenue: \$50 WDA Associate WDA Membership (Bottineau). There were no expenditures. The ending balance is: \$21,171.16. Moved by Nustad seconded by Lervick. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Fall Activities/Postseason Planning

Girls' Swim-Diving

Bismarck (swim events) and Mandan (dive event) are hosting the ND State Swim-Dive Meet. Zittleman said designated seating sections will be arranged for the AM and PM swim sessions.

Winter Activities/Scheduling

There has been some rumors/talk surfacing in the East that the hockey season will be suspended, possibly shut down due to COVID. ADs indicated they have not heard any comments or concerns regarding this from their respective programs/hockey people.

TMCHS Return to Play

Martin said, at this time, it's looking that TMCHS winter activities will be allowed to begin in mid-December. The plan is to start practices the week of Dec. 14 with competitions beginning the last week of December. This is subject to change, of course, as COVID protocols must be in place and approval by tribal, schools officials.

Gymnastics

The WDA Championships will remain in Dickinson (Feb. 19, 2021). For in-season events, the plan remains to not have any out-of-state teams compete in local events.

Boys' Swim-Dive

Schedule revisions are nearly complete. A few adjustments were needed to alleviate too many teams attending some events.

Competitive Dance

Only WDA teams (varsity, sub-varsity, middle school) will participate in the scheduled events. A pod system may be implemented to help separate teams and avoid large gatherings at the venue on competition days. A question was raised about whether the schedule on Rschool is updated and lists teams planning to attending competitions. Lervick will check into the dance schedule and make any needed changes on the Rschool site.

Postponements/Cancellations

Looking ahead to winter scheduling, it was discussed that schools should make the attempt to reschedule contests that are affected by COVID, other issues. ADs acknowledge that will be especially challenging this year as gyms/facilities are tied up more with other activities.

Tie-Break Plan

ADs agreed we should begin to look into developing a tie-break plan in the event all teams do not complete the same number of games/matches during the regular season. We do have tie-break criteria in place but it does not account for when teams do not play/complete the same number of contests. Issue to be revisited.

Tie-Break Girls' Hockey

Girls' hockey uses placement (top eight) in the ND League standing to determine seeding for the state tournament. A tie-break plan was developed by an EDC official to address potential ties if not all games can be played. After discussing some of the criteria, ADs agreed to go along with the tie-break proposal.

Attendance Policies/Guidelines

ADs continued to look into attendance guidelines/restrictions for upcoming winter activities. Obviously, attendance will be limited if many counties remain in the "Orange" risk level as established by state health officials. That would mean very limited attendance, largely just home crowd. A challenge is crowd control for non-ticketed contests (sub-varsity). It's hard to enforce/control kids from attending these contests. Different gyms/entrances pose unique challenges for schools. The discussion was to keep communicating with parents and students on observing and respecting the attendance limitations and do the best we can to provide a safe environment for the participants and spectators.

COVID Tracking

ADs discussed how schools/districts are handling COVID tracking in their buildings. It's apparent there are differences in the personnel who are conducting the tracing and how schools are getting contacted. Some building principals are doing the contact tracing. Some district health units are involved. Some schools have parents contact when they learn about positive testing. It's apparent there are many different ways COVID is being monitored.

New Business

Fall Coaches Meetings

Boys' Soccer: Coaches interested in exploring more Monday and Thursday match dates to allow more recovery time. Many still not supportive of a WDA Tournament.

Girls' Golf: It appears in the future iWannamaker scoring system will be implemented in regular season tournaments. It was used during the postseason meets. The 2021 tentative schedule is completed.

Boys' Tennis: No new issues of consequence/discussion to report.

Volleyball: Scheduling will be completed at a later date. Coaches want a roster turned in with lineup and not at captain's meeting. They prefer any player to represent the team at captain's meeting. Senior athlete of year to be voted on Saturday at the state tournament. All-tournament (state) team to be selected by coaches of teams in the tournament.

Cross Country: No new issues of consequence/discussion to report.

Medical Attention for injured athlete

D. Mieure wanted some feedback as to how schools are addressing the possibility of having to send a visiting athlete to the hospital to get medical attention when there is limited team representatives/parents at the event due to COVID restrictions. Usually a coach will stay behind or a parent. However, if a coach has to get back with the team or no parents are around, who stays back with the athlete? Nustad said this is where we help each other out and make sure the athlete has someone with them, whether it's one of their team representatives, or a host school representative. Usually, a parent will drive to the hospital once they are contacted about their son/daughter's injury.

Next Meeting

A video conference meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally



WDA Activities Directors Special Meeting via video conference

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020, 10 a.m.

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Scott Nustad, Dr. Shane Martin, David Mieure, Brian Dokken and Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Old Business

Fall Activities/Final Discussion

Nothing to report

Gov. Burgum's Executive Order

G. Fridley, who is on the NDSHAA executive board, outlined some of the guidelines and restrictions that schools will need to adhere to. Certainly many questions have surfaced as to what schools/programs can and cannot do during this suspended period.

In addition to no in-person practices, no open gyms, weight room sessions will be permitted outside of school PE class. Schools are not allowing outside groups to rent/use facilities.

No organized practice is allowed until Monday, Dec. 14. The first allowable date for competitions for boys' hockey and wrestling will be Dec. 21. The first allowable date of competitions for basketball, gymnastics and boys' swim-dive would be Dec. 28.

Fridley said NDHSAA Director Matt Fetsch is going to request Gov. Burgum allow organized practices to begin on Monday, Nov. 30. That would enable those competition dates to be moved up.

At this time, NDHSAA is not planning to adjust/alter the postseason tournament schedule/dates.

Gov. Burgum's office is allowing the completion of fall activities, including the state volleyball tournament. School activities that have a culminating event (such as a play/drama production) may be completed since it was started before the order came down. Impacted schools can make the call on whether keep them scheduled or cancel/postpone them. E-Sports or other activities that can be conducted remotely can continue. All other continuing school activities/clubs are not allowed to meet/participate until the order is lifted.

ADs discussed the importance of communicating with coaches and making sure they are adhering to the guidelines and not encouraging/organizing outside activities for players. There are NDHSAA penalties in place, if athletes/coaches do not follow the orders.

The concern is with parks and recreation district facilities/other community facilities and how they are playing a part in this Governor's order. It's likely athletes are going to find ways to continue to train/gather during this suspended period. Schools can't prevent them from finding other means to train/practice on own.

Winter Activities Scheduling/Adjustments

With the uncertainty of whether practice times can resume/start by Nov. 30, ADs wanted to hold off any scheduling changes at this time. They will meet with coaches to discuss possible adjustments. Basketball, for instance, may need to trim its schedule by four-five regular season games. If that occurs, the likely plan is for a single round robin conference schedule to determine seedings. The remaining five or so games on a schedule would be deemed "non counters". One of the challenges in adjusting the schedule to try and allow for an equal number of home and away games as possible for each team.

One of the sports that will likely need attention will be girls' hockey given its a statewide schedule. If the schedule has to be trimmed it may affect the number of games played. Travel is certainly an issue with the sport since the league spans across the state.

Middle Schools Activities (basketball/wrestling)

ADs are going to hold off making any decision on whether to end middle school activities at this time due to the imposed executive order by the Governor's office. There is a possibility seasons could be extended to enable some more games to be played. ADs want some more time to explore options, visit with coaches.

TMCHS Return to Play

Martin said his school is still on track to return to classes on Dec. 14 and this would enable activities to begin.

Next Meeting

A video conference meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m. If new information pertaining to a start date to resume activities comes sooner, a more recent meeting may be called.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally

NDHSAA FAQs for ND Executive Order 2020-43

1. Q. Are winter sports teams able to practice in-person between November 16, 2020 and December 13, 2020?

A. No. E.O. 2020-43 does not allow any organized activities outside of school hours.

2. Q. Are winter Fine Arts activities able to practice in-person between November 16, 2020 and December 13, 2020?

A. No. E.O. 2020-43 does not allow any organized activities outside of school hours.

3. Q. Are coaches allowed to hold virtual practices/workouts between November 16, 2020 and December 13, 2020?

A. Yes, provided they are approved by the local school district. Class A Basketball and Class B Basketball virtual practices/workouts prior to their traditional first allowable practice dates may not be mandatory.

4. Q. Do virtual practices/workouts count towards the nine-minimum practice rule for sports?

A. No.

5. Q. Are Fine Arts activities allowed to hold virtual practices between November 16, 2020 and December 13, 2020?

A. Yes, provided they are approved by the local school district.

6. Q. Are Fine Arts activities allowed to hold virtual competitions between November 16, 2020 and December 13, 2020?

A. Not at this time.

7. Q. Are coaches able to work with students in the school weight room between November 16, 2020 and December 13, 2020?

A. No. E.O. 2020-43 does not allow any organized activities outside of school hours.

8. Q. May a high school student use the school's weight room or athletic facilities as part of a physical education class?

A. Yes, provided it is done during the instructional day.

9. Q. Are schools able to sponsor an 'open gym' or 'open ice' or 'open mat' session off school grounds.

A. No.

10. Q. Are school sponsored camps allowed?

A. No.

11. Q. Are winter sports participants allowed to attend individual camps, off school grounds, on their own?

A. No. Special training camps during the season are not allowed.

12. Q. Are winter sports coaches able to instruct their players as part of a non-school team?

A. No. Student participation on non-school teams during the season is not permitted.

NDHSAA FAQs for ND Executive Order 2020-43

NDHSAA Board Approval: 11/17/2020

13. Q. May students participate out-of-state during the winter activities suspension?

A. No. A student that participates on a non-school team in a similar sport during the season is suspended for six contests for each non-school contest they participate in.

14. May a student participate on an out-of-state winter sports team through a co-op with an out-of-state school?

A. No. E.O. 2020-43 applies to all North Dakota schools and students.

15. Q. May a non-school team use school facilities?

A. No.

16. Q. Will NDHSAA postseason event dates be altered?

A. At this time the plan is for all NDHSAA winter postseason events to be held as scheduled.

17. Q. Will sports specific regulations, including maximum allowable contests, be altered?

A. Sport-specific regulations will be reviewed in the near future.

18. Q. Are schools able to hold previously scheduled concerts, musicals, plays, esports, etc. prior to December 14th?

A. These events are not sanctioned by the NDHSAA. Administrators may refer to guidance from the Governor's Office.

19. Q. Is the nine-practice rule waived once activities resume on December 14, 2020?

A. No. Students will still need to participate in nine daily practices prior to competing in a contest.

20. Q. Do practices prior to November 16, 2020 count toward the nine-practice rule?

A. Yes. Sports that were suspended in the middle of their season (hockey, wrestling, junior high basketball in some areas, etc.) may begin playing contests on December 21, 2020.

21. Q. When is the first allowable contest for sports that had a delayed first allowable practice date?

A. Sports that have their first practice on December 14, 2020 may begin playing games on December 28, 2020.

22. Q. Is the deadline for winter sports teams to submit their schedule, roster, photo, and cutline extended?

A. Yes. The new deadline for submission will be Monday, January 4, 2021.



WDA Activities Directors

Special meeting via video conference

Tuesday, Oct. 20 2020, 10 a.m.
Google Meeting

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Scott Nustad, Dr. Shane Martin, David Mieure, Brian Dokken and Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the Sept. 30 and Oct. 7 special meetings were reviewed. Moved by Fridley seconded by Lunde to approve the minutes as presented. All voted yes. **Motion carried**

Current finances were presented and reviewed. The beginning balance for the current period was \$26,956.96; There were no revenues. Expenditures totaled \$5,835.80 for M. Mullally, WDA SID/Executive Secretary services for two months. Also, payment to Northern Trophy-Silkscreening for WDA Lifetime Passes. The ending balance is: \$21,121.16. Moved by Zittleman seconded by Wiest. All voted yes; **Motion carried**.

Old Business

Fall Activities/Postseason Planning

Girls' Swim-Diving

ADs discussed a talking point among some coaches about looking into holding the WDA Championships at two sites, thus splitting up teams. This would help to limit contact in a confined area. ADs believed its best to proceed with the one-day event in Williston. Steps have been taken by tournament planners to keep athletes not competing a safe distance away. If coaches are concerned about some swimmers/divers potentially getting affected by COVID, they can always hold them out of the meet. Unlike other sports, the meet does not provide state qualifying by place. It's only by qualifying times.

Volleyball

Zittleman outlined how gate admissions should be handled for upcoming region tournament matches. Host schools are to keep 20 percent of admissions for expenses and send the remaining funds to the tournament manager (Bismarck Tournaments). The play-in matches will be held between Nov. 5-7. Quarterfinals will be held on Nov. 10. Consolation (loser-out) and semifinals will be held on Nov. 12. The two state qualifiers and the championship will be hosted by Bismarck Legacy/BPS on Nov. 14. The NDHSAA set the live-streaming fee for \$200 for schools planning to upload it. Kevin Morast of NDHSAA was arranging officials. A total of 40 passes per school participating will be allotted (Essentially, 2 per participant). No general public tickets will be available. Host schools should email a pass design/copy to the visiting school, so they can print off and distribute their allotment of vouchers/passes. For final day's matches, Bismarck Tournaments will make the arrangements for passes/vouchers for participating schools. The match schedule for the final day will be: state qualifier, 11 am.; state qualifier, 2 p.m.; championship, 5 p.m.

Current Attendance Policies/Guidelines

With the continued rise in COVID-19 positive cases in the state, Gov. Burgum recently changed the COVID threat level status for several counties. As a result, there are new limits placed on attendance at public events by local health officials. In response to this, several schools have to adjust the number of spectators permitted at games/activities. A majority of the schools in the WDA are currently allowing just 50 vouchers/attendees (home parents/fans) and not allowing visiting fans. Jamestown was allowing up to 100 vouchers. Minot was allowing only parents of athletes for both teams.

If the restrictions continue heading into the winter, Wiest said it may be best to be consistent as to the number of spectators allowed to attend in each venue. This will provide a safe environment for all teams regard-

less of the venue/site.

Football

Playoff games will also see limitations on attendance. Hosts schools/sites are allowing is two vouchers per athlete. Livestreaming options are also possible at a cost of \$500 through NDHSAA.

Winter Activities

TMCHS return to play

Martin said he will find out more in the coming weeks whether his school district will be allowed to return to competition this winter. The school has to work with tribal government and health officials. If the school is permitted to offer activities again, it may not be right at the start of the winter season, Martin said. He hopes to have more answers in the coming weeks.

Wrestling

Coaches have expressed a desire to have some smaller (3-4) tournaments in place of triangulars. ADs acknowledged those pose challenges. It's hard to keep athletes contained during tournaments. There is limited space to do that. Duals and triangulars are easier to limit the number of athletes in a gym. You can set specific times of matches to avoid large gatherings and track whereabouts of athletes. ADs are more in favor of going with duals and triangulars. Scheduling triangulars on weekends will be completed once basketball schedules are complete to determine which dates for gyms are open.

A concern is the availability and number of matches for JV wrestlers. Often they get most of their matches in tournaments. Some JV matches are arranged during duals and that may need to take place more. Finding matches with neighboring Class B schools/towns can also be explored.

Dance

ADs explained that some coaches may not understand or realize there will be significant changes and/or limitations placed on competitions this winter due to COVID-19. Attendance will be limited. The number of teams allowed to participate in a venue at the same time will also be limited. Finding suitable space for teams to dress will have to be worked out. ADs understand competitions often serve as fundraisers for the host program. They often invite community youth dance organizations to perform as part of the event, and thus boost attendance. With limited crowd and team participation, those organizations won't be able to be part of the event this year. As a result, revenue from attendance will be significantly down. Competitions will be for WDA programs only (varsity and sub-varsity). One proposal is to have one or two sessions at each event. Three-four teams perform. And then the venue is cleared out and the next session is held. Nustad was going to contact dance coaches and organize a meeting/email to sort out some of the immediate concerns and explain how things will have to be to allow for a season to be held. The goal is to have a season and offer this participation. Concessions have to be made to allow for that.

Gymnastics

A few scheduling changes are needed as there was some confusion as to how many teams were attending the Bismarck Meet and the Dickinson Meet during the first weekend. The tentative plan is to move the WDA Championship from Dickinson to Jamestown in mid-February to better meet social distancing guidelines. Roaldson was going to check on whether that will be OK. Jamestown is also hosting the state meet.

Boys' Hockey

The plan is to play a conference double round robin schedule (16 games). No plans for non-conference games/WDA non-counter games.

Girls' Hockey

The plan is for WDA teams to only play statewide league games. No non-conference games/non-counter games vs. WDA teams.

Basketball

Moving ahead with the adjusted boys and girls schedules for 2020-21 which greatly reduce (boys-girls) doubleheaders in favor of single games. Question was raised about game opportunities for sub-varsity programs. Some schools may not have a full compliment of sub-varsity teams. It was agreed that scheduling nearby Class B teams/non-region opponents would be OK to get more games.

Boys' Swim-Dive

Minot coach Jake Solper is working on completing the schedule. More duals and small triangular duals will take the place of larger tournaments. No plans for East-West events in regular season. Attendance may be limited at events/venues to adhere to COVID safety guidelines.

Winter Attendance Guidelines

With the real prospect that COVID case numbers won't see a significant drop in the winter months, attendance for winter activities likely will be affected. Local health officials will limit public gatherings. As with fall sports, a voucher system will be used. The sports which will be most affected by limited attendance will be basketball and hockey. ADs are asked to relay their schools attendance policy/plan with fellow WDA members to better inform the public.

COVID close contact Interpretation

Roaldson asked how other member schools are assessing close contact in regards to COVID-19 positive testing. Some schools seem to have different interpretations or are getting different feedback from district health officials. Some schools have changed or adjusted what is classified as close contact. If students/athletes are masked and deemed close contact for 15 minutes, those would not be subject to quarantine. They would need to monitor themselves to see if symptoms manifested. A positive test among family would require quarantine. Looking ahead to winter, wrestling and basketball have been assessed as high risk activities. Determining close contact would be under the interpretation of the local health units. Therefore, it could vary as to how many students would need to be quarantined.

Playoff football tie-break/seeding

Seeding for the AAA football playoffs was settled via a special meeting on Oct. 16. Concerns were expressed that the board did not definitively take action on whether missed games due to COVID would be made up or not. One game was: Williston at Century; while one game was not: Williston at Jamestown. That lack of certainty created an awkward situation where one game was not played and caused an unbalanced conference schedule and created a three-way tie in the loss column. Compounding the issue was that the board went ahead and allowed COVID-related postponed volleyball matches to be made up, since it was early in the season and open dates to do so. Jundt said, as a board, we need to be more clear on how we will decide as a conference on such matters as missed games due to COVID. We need to vote on more items to be clear where we stand as a group. Zittleman agreed we didn't handle this well. To have a sport like football, which schedules just seven games, and failing to get a complete conference schedule played was not good.

There was some uncertainty early in the fall season as to whether games/matches would be made up or not if it was COVID related. The NDHSAA did provide some guidance on this matter of declaring no contests due to for COVID. Roaldson said we entered the year thinking we are not going to make these games up. Part of the challenge was the how COVID was going to impact schools and sports, especially in the first few weeks. Lervick said it was difficult with the information we had in August to make a decision at that point. We needed more time to see how COVID was going to impact our programs/schools before deciding how to address missed games. Looking ahead to the winter sports season, its imperative a decision is needed as to if games will be made up or not.

Tournament Committee

State Volleyball

Some adjustments may be for the tournament format. If changes are met, then likely quarterfinal matches would be played at home sites (like boys' soccer) and the remaining of the tournament would be held at one site (Fargo).

Executive Secretary/SID

Fall stat gathering/boxscores for the sports went fairly well. Still a challenge in getting stats for football each week due to many coaches using different stat programs and a lag in getting those prepared each week. Mullally said as we approach start up of winter sports then plans will be to prep the winter sports pages on the website.

Next Meeting

A video conference meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 10, at 10 a.m.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally



WDA Activities Directors

Special meeting via video conference

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020, 10 a.m.
Google Meeting

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Scott Nustad, Dr. Shane Martin, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Old Business

Winter Activities Scheduling/Planning

Boys' and Girls' Hockey

A preseason inter-conference scrimmage will be allowed.

Gymnastics

Fridley said due to a shortage of judges, it will be difficult for the West to conduct multiple meets this season. As a result, the plan is to set up a schedule where there will be one event (East) and one (West) on most weekends throughout the season. No out-of-state competitions/meets would be scheduled. As a result, some crossover of East-West teams competing at events may take place. Some adjustments may be necessary to the size of meets to enable proper social distancing in venues to take place. Attendance likely will be limited.

It was proposed the 2020-21 WDA Championship be moved from Dickinson to Jamestown as a result of needed spacing for social distancing and to handle the expected team sizes. Jamestown is scheduled to host the state event as well. Roaldson believes he should be able to host the conference event, but he will check on it.

Fridley said one concern for the larger WDA gymnastic programs will be to provide JV competition opportunities. Some additional scheduling may be needed.

Wrestling

ADs acknowledge it's the highest-risk sport we have to conduct this season.

An immediate question is who would need to quarantine in the event a wrestler tests positive. Will it be limited to those deemed in close contact, or will the team be subject to quarantine? Also, will the only opposing wrestler or will other opposing team members be quarantined? Coaches recently met and one of the requests was to hold some small (3-4 team) tournaments as opposed to a double round robin dual schedule. It may be best to conduct smaller tournaments earlier in the season to determine if they can be done safely and with limited risk to COVID exposure.

Triangulars would be better suited for weekends. This would alleviate travel and missed school time concerns as well as gym availability.

If a double round robin is put together, the first scheduled dual would count in the WDA standings and used for seeding purposes for the state dual tournament. The second would be a non-counter. ADs revisited discussion on allowing some non-conference scheduling of duals/triangulars. It was agreed to allow it on a limited basis.

A schedule set up with solely duals and triangulars does create some issues regarding number of available matches for wrestlers. Some schools may not be able to fill out all weight divisions. ADs are confident there will be sufficient opportunities for athletes to wrestle. This is a season like no other and some concessions/adjustments likely will be needed to assure a season can be conducted and with limited COVID exposure. Initially, the thought was to hold off any scheduling until late December or January. In essence, shrink the schedule. However, after further thought, it may be best to schedule earlier matches. Avoiding a build-up of matches in the second-half of the season may be a good thing. Especially, if a team or wrestlers have to miss time due to a COVID positive case. Mieure said perhaps a bye week toward the end of the schedule may be wise as teams prepare for the postseason.

As was the case with the fall schedule, no JV postseason tournament will be conducted.

Dance

The plan is to have WDA-only teams compete in the events. Likely a few teams competing at one time/and or two sessions of competitions in one setting with a break in the middle to clear out the venue.

No trophy/award presentations to avoid unnecessary gatherings.

Limited number of passes/vouchers for attendance.

Basketball

The initial proposal would be to move away from doubleheaders (boys-girls) and schedule single games in an opposite schedule arrangement (Boys in one place/Girls in another). This would avoid the challenge of clearing out gyms and limiting crowds when two varsity games are played back-to-back. Some schools have already scheduled single night games prior to this season due to limited gym space, officials.

There is the potential some Mondays could be used to schedule some games. Mieure said spreading games out likely will make it very challenging to find available dates for makeups. Especially with other activities and Fine Arts competing for gym space.

With the likelihood that TMCHS Belcourt will not conduct a basketball season, this would free up more dates in the WDA schedule.

P. Jundt said this format presents big challenges for the Bismarck-Mandan area. Among them finding enough officials to work multiple games that are played on the same night throughout the community. And spreading games throughout the week presents challenges as well. Many officials often can't commit to several nights officiating in one week due to work, family commitments. Gym availability for practices is also limited when several games have to be fit in during the week. Doubleheaders alleviated a lot of these challenges. A possible way to off-set some of these issues is for the Bismarck-Mandan schools get together and arrange their schedules for doubleheaders among them to be conducted. The Bismarck ADs planned to meet and look at possible dates and options. As with the case with hockey, pre-season scrimmages will be permitted.

Boys' Swim-Dive

Lunde said and his swim coach Jake Solper will look at the current schedule to see where adjustments will be needed to adhere to local health guidelines for attendance limits on public events. A schedule is in place, but some changes may be needed to take for account venue sizes.

Rschool

ADs were asked to review their Rschool scheduling and to pull off tournaments listed for wrestling.

Travel Teams Rental Space

Fridley said what other schools/districts are doing in renting facilities for travel basketball teams. Some are, some are not but no permitting tournaments or requiring limited seating.

Next Meeting

A video conference meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 10 a.m.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Boys' Swim-Dive

A schedule plan will be similar to the one implemented for the girls' season. Some meets will have to reduce the number of teams. More dual events may need to fill the gaps. Lunde said and his swim coach will look at the current schedule and confer with swim coaches about possible changes.

Wrestling

Discussion resumed about scheduling and challenges ahead in conducting a wrestling season.

Avoiding large tournaments is the plan. In its place, more duals and triangulars to fill the schedule and limit contact. Currently, Thursdays are the nights many teams host duals and adding Saturdays would be possible. Beginning the season later (late December/January) is being looked into as well. While shrinking the schedule won't be ideal, the goal is to provide opportunities for kids to compete and create a workable regular season to enable a chance to get to a postseason. Like other activities, there will be limited attendance. ADs will meet via video conference with coaches to outline a plan moving ahead for a season schedule and address foreseeable issues. Some coaches have indicated they would like to conduct some smaller tournaments to better condition their wrestlers to compete multiple times in a short period.

Roaldson asked if we are establishing a double round robin WDA schedule? If we are only looking at duals/triangulars this season, will Jamestown be permitted to conduct its traditional dual with neighboring Valley City?

A concern with going to duals/triangular-only scheduling is whether there will be a full lineup of matches on a night? Will wrestlers get the opportunities to compete, or will there be several open weight classes? Middle school programs will be starting later this fall and scheduling is an immediate concern. Smaller tournaments (two-three teams) may need to be conducted or duals to provide opportunities. The number of competition dates will likely be reduced this season as a result of the safety measures needed.

Dance

The scheduling proposal would be multiple locations on a given weekend, or scheduling similar to cross country where one venue, but have two sessions to limit the number of teams. Attendance would need to be limited. Likely, only home parents. As stated earlier, many of these dance groups count on their home events as a fundraiser and draw in local youth dance performers. Dance coaches will be contacted to look at these potential schedule options. While this is not ideal, it does provide an opportunity for their girls to have a season and compete.

State Cheer Competition

Schumacher asked if other schools were planning to send their cheer squads to the state event this fall in Fargo. The plan is for it to be conducted on Nov. 14.

Next Meeting

A video conference meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 10 a.m.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally



WDA Activities Directors

Special meeting via video conference

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020, 10 a.m.
Google Meeting

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Scott Nustad, Dr. Shane Martin, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the Sept. 25 special meeting were reviewed. Moved by G. Fridley seconded by D. Zittleman to approve the minutes as presented. All voted yes. **Motion carried**

Old Business

Fall Activities

Boys' Soccer

The WDA Tournament schedule is set with matches held at the higher seed. ADs were finalizing ticketing (vouchers) for participating teams.

Volleyball

The plan moving forward is to have the higher seeded team host a majority of the West Region Tournament matches. The final day will be conducted in Bismarck. Directors questioned who would be tasked with assigning officials. Since it's a NDHSAA region event, the state would handle the contracts.

At this point, ADs are still moving ahead with winning percentage in determining postseason seedings. Teams that meet just once in the regular season have that match count double (wins/losses) in the standings. Discussion ensued about what if a team can only play once and they were scheduled to play twice. Should that one match then be doubled? No plans to alter the matches in the event a match cannot be played. ADs acknowledge seeding may need to be adjusted, if several postponed matches cannot be made up and there is an imbalance in the number of matches among some teams, thus affecting winning percentage.

Boys' Tennis

Plans are set for the West Region Tournament in Minot. In the event matches need to be moved indoors due to weather, then no fans would be permitted at the venue, Lunde said.

Girls' Golf

The West Region Tournament was completed in Minot. The iWannamaker scoring system was implemented. Golfers recorded their hole-by-hole score using an App on their phone. This process will be used at the Class A Tournament in Minot as well to provide real time scoring and prevent large gatherings in the clubhouse by coaches/spectators for scoring to be recorded. Coaches did request that players continue to record scores on a scorecard as a backup/reference. Once those scores have been checked/finalized, then they would be confirmed or changed on iWannamaker scoring.

Cross Country

Plans are in place for the WDA championships at McDowell Dam, east of Bismarck. The middle school event will be held on Friday, Oct. 9. The high school will run on Saturday, Oct. 10. Plans are for the finish to be livestreamed using Facebook Live, according to Zittleman. M. Mullally also planned to video the finish of the varsity races and upload it to the website.

Girls' Swim-Dive

Planning is moving along for the WDA Championships in Williston. In an effort to save time, diving program will run while swimming events are conducted. Mieure is working with M. Lunde and swim coaches in Minot to set up a livestream fee of the events.

At this point, no fans would be permitted, due to the limited spacing in the venue and the need to house teams and event staff. Mieure was asked if he will have a rental fee to use the facility.

Sub-varsity tournaments

To remain consistent with past discussions, the plan is not to conduct any postseason sub-varsity tournaments (soccer, tennis, volleyball). While this is unfortunate for those athletes, these steps are necessary to assure the health and well-being of athletes, game officials and spectators by avoiding large gatherings of teams. There is also the concern that varsity athletes who also take part in some sub-varsity events don't risk contracting COVID, and thus, possibly jeopardize the remaining varsity season.

Football

Discussion continued on the 2021 football schedule plan. Still some uncertainties to work through regarding travel and picking up non-conf games. Some schools have been contacted about getting a non-conf game. However, the league schedule is not yet finalized. Lervick (AAA) and Schumacher (AA) will serve as the West representatives on the schedule committee.

Winter Activities Scheduling/Planning

Non-conference Play

To remain consistent with the fall scheduling plan, no East-West crossover games/matches are planned for several of the winter activities (basketball, boys' hockey, wrestling). In addition, no out-of-state contests/tournaments will be conducted. This decision does not affect girls' hockey which is a statewide league.

Basketball

A schedule proposal would be to break up many of the traditional doubleheaders (boys-girls varsity nights). Schumacher has been putting some schedule proposals together.

This arrangement would help to better limit crowd sizes on each night, however, it would create challenges for some teams/schools. Finding enough officials in the Bismarck area to work multiple games are played on the same night or spread throughout the week will be difficult. There is also the issue of gym availability for sub-varsity teams to practice if several games are being held throughout the week. Doubleheaders alleviated a lot of these challenges.

Another issue is what if we get to a point where fans will be severely limited or not permitted due to rising COVID cases in a highly-infectious county? As a conference we should be consistent on attendance policies.

Boys' Hockey

A double round robin (16 games) regular season WDA schedule will be conducted. No in-season tournaments will be planned. Discussion was held about possibly scheduling some additional non-counters among WDA teams. Some pointed out we are trying to avoid an unnecessary contact to better our chances of completing the season and getting to the postseason with limited COVID risks. Also, coaches and parents are going to wonder: if we are playing additional games, why can't we do that against East teams?

Girls' Hockey

The statewide league schedule will continue. There are no region tournaments and regular season games determine the eight state qualifiers.

Gymnastics

A meeting among WDA coaches will be planned to outline the season schedule and determine what challenges/issues may arise. Initially, the plan is to have West-only teams participate in events. Likely, each program would be able to host two events throughout the season. Some concerns to work out will be the availability of judges and the size of venues. How many teams and spectators could each venue hold? It may be an issue similar to swimming, where fans won't be permitted in some places. As a result, steps to provide livestreaming of competitions will be looked into. Zittleman said this is an opportunity for booster clubs to step up and help assist/promote their activities.

Basketball: To help avoid crowded gyms and multiple games at one location, the proposal is to get away from boys-girls doubleheader days this upcoming season. Some schools already hold boys and girls games on separate dates. This could mean an opposite schedule will be adopted (example: Mandan at Minot, boys; Minot at Mandan girls) on the same night. ADs wanted to review this with coaches. One of the key issues is availability of officials and getting the schedule to avoid a lot of potential back-to-back dates.

Next Meeting

A video conference meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 10 a.m.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally



WDA Activities Directors Special meeting via video conference

Friday, Sept. 25, 2020, 9 a.m., CT
Google Meeting

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Scott Nustad, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the Sept. 14 special meeting were reviewed. Moved by S. Nustad seconded by G. Fridley to approve the minutes as presented. All voted yes. **Motion carried**

Old Business

Postseason Tournament Changes/Formats

Boys' Soccer: The WDA Tournament schedule was finalized. Two play-in matches will be held on Sept. 29. Dickinson hosts Williston, 5 p.m. CT; Jamestown hosts Mandan, 6 p.m. Two state qualifiers will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3, Minot host Dickinson/Williston winner at 1 p.m. Legacy hosting the Jamestown/Mandan winner at 2 p.m. The tournament championship will have Century vs. Bismarck High at 4:30 p.m. The host will arrange for officials and the gate admission will be treated as a regular season event.

The plan for the state tournament is to have quarterfinal matches be held at the higher seed. So, Bismarck High and Bismarck Century would be hosting that quarterfinal on Tuesday, Oct. 6. There would be no consolation round. The final four would move onto Fargo to play out the tournament.

Volleyball: The plan moving forward is to have the higher seeded team host a majority of the West Region Tournament matches. Seeds 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be involved in the play-in round. No. 7 hosts No. 10 and No. 8 hosts No. 9. Winners advance to the quarterfinal round. The play-in round matches will be held between Nov. 5-7. Quarterfinals will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The semifinal and consolation/loser-out round is Thursday, Nov. 12. The two state qualifiers and championship will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14 and all three contests held at Bismarck Legacy. Having the matches in Bismarck will offset tournament costs (officials expenses) and likely cut down on travel. BEK Sports will broadcast the matches. With the change in format, WDA officials agree that Watford City, which was scheduled to host this year's three-day tournament, will be the site of the 2021 tournament.

Cross Country: WDA middle-school meet will be held on Friday, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. at McDowell Dam, east of Bismarck. The WDA Championships will be conducted on Saturday, Oct. 10, beginning at 1 p.m. at McDowell Dam. Attendance will be 2 passes per athlete. Only 10 will be allowed to participate per team in the varsity division. There is no cap on the JV races. D. Zittleman plans to send out information to coaches via email, including balloting for senior athlete and coach of year. Not sure if a conference call will be conducted or email exchanges will serve as the this year's coaches meeting/correspondence.

Girls' Golf: Plans are for the event to proceed as plans. One change will be players beginning at different holes (shotgun start) at 10 a.m. instead of only starting on No. 1 and No. 10 at set tee times. This change avoids a cluster of players on the opening tee boxes. No formal awards will be conducted. iWannamaker scoring will be used (paperless). This avoids close contact for golfers. This system also will be in place for the state meet which Minot is also hosting.

Fall scheduling

At this time, the plan for volleyball is to proceed with using winning percentage to determine placing in the conference standings.

ADs are aware there is the potential for some teams to have few matches played than others. There is the potential for a team with a higher winning percentage over other teams yet have played far fewer

matches. This may need to be addressed at a later date in the season, if it becomes apparent postponed matches won't be made up.

A question was posed as to what teams can do if they have a gap/lull in their schedule due to matches postponed due to COVID-19? If teams go a week or longer between matches, are they permitted to pick up other matches?

These matches would be considered "non-counters" in the standings. While this may serve some teams in the short term, there is the potential it could cause a bottleneck of scheduling/create a lack of scheduling options at the end the year for some teams. After continued talk, it was agreed to keep the schedule in tact with no additional matches picked up. The agreement is for teams to try and make up any matches postponed due to COVID positive testing.

Football

Looking ahead to 2021, there are still some issues to settle in terms of scheduling. The general agreement is that no West team will go out East (regularly) for games. The QFR rating system will likely be adopted for postseason qualifying. As always, travel balance and competitive balance are the key points in football plans. Likely it's one or the other, not both.

Livestreaming of postseason events

ADs agreed that limitations on attendance for postseason contests will mean livestreaming viewing options are essential for activities. In the case of NDHSAA-sponsored tournaments, this will require the association to allow schools to set up the livestreaming event for a fee (\$200-\$250). A private/media group would be required to pay more. ADs will pursue setting up livestreaming options for the postseason.

New Business

Winter Activities

Dance: Plans are to keep teams competing/participating in WDA/West-only competitions. Ask that no awards be presented. The number of participating teams will be limited as well as limited attendance to adhere to local public health guidelines at the present time.

Girls' Hockey: Given the fact there is only a state-wide league/conference, the plan is to keep the schedule in tact. No out-of-state games, however, are planned. To pick up some additional games, a West-only tournament will be offered in Minot over the holiday break.

Boys' Hockey: Plans are not to have any East-West crossover games this season. As a result, the WDA/W. Region schedule will include double round robin schedule. Like the girls' season, some West-only tournaments may be an option over the holiday break to enable teams to pick up some more games. Attendance limitations will be practiced, similar requirements as currently in place.

Wrestling: Proposal to delay the start of the season. Likely competitions to begin in late December or January. No major tournaments are planned (Rumble on the Red, Bismarck Rotary). Scheduling will consist largely of duals, triangular of quads. A double round robin schedule of WDA matches is considered with match dates set for Thursdays and Saturdays. Middle school schedules, which start in a few weeks, will stay on as planned. In place of tournaments, smaller duals, triangular events. This may require some last-minute scheduling changes since Bismarck may not enable MS programs to travel out of Bismarck-Mandan. ADs were asked to visit with their coaches about these possible changes to shrink the schedule and a later start.

Boys' Tennis

M. Lunde said plans are to move ahead with holding the tournament in Minot as traditionally planned over three days (Day 1: team dual play; Days 2-3: singles and doubles state qualifying). Hammond Park/Roosevelt court facilities have enough courts and spacing for social distancing of athlete and spectators. The only issues is if matches would need to be played indoors due to weather. In the event of that, the indoor facility in Minot has four courts and only players/team and match officials would be permitted inside. As discussed earlier this fall, no awards or presentations will follow the conclusion of postseason tournament. NDHSAA officials are still working on the state tournament format. Some proposals call for limiting the number of individual qualifiers, and/or consolation rounds. Also, moving team dual quarterfinals to the site of the higher seed.

Cross Country

D. Zittleman said plans are moving ahead with holding the WDA Championships on Saturday, Oct. 10 at McDowell Dam, east of Bismarck. A JV division would be set up to help limit participation numbers in the varsity races. He's expecting varsity participation to be around 80-85 runners in each race (boys and girls). One of the challenges is dealing with spectators/crowd control. Portable restrooms will be set up. Some will be designated for teams while others for the public. Team camps will also be socially distanced.

As discussed earlier this fall, no awards or presentations will follow the conclusion of postseason tournament matches/events.

A middle school division is also being considered for Friday, Oct. 9. Zittleman said there may be some adjustments needed for the state event in Jamestown. Perhaps a "wave start" to limit the close contact of athletes at the start for the races. No final decisions have been made.

Girls' Golf

M. Lunde said plans are to move ahead with holding the West Region Tournament at Minot's Souris Valley G.C. as planned. As discussed earlier this fall, no awards or presentations will follow the conclusion of postseason tournament matches/events.

Minot is also hosting the Class A Tournament, Oct. 5-6. Plans are to conduct the tournament as planned over two days.

Girls' Swim-Dive

D. Mieure said plans at this time are for the only the eight teams and tournament workers to be inside the Williston facility during the event. Swimming and diving would be held at the same time to cut down on time. Livestreaming would be arranged to enable events/races to be viewed. As discussed earlier this fall, no awards or presentations will follow the conclusion of postseason tournament matches/events.

Football

At this time, NDHSAA officials are proceeding as normal with plans for the playoffs. One of the main issues to resolve is whether the Dakota Bowl would need to be conducted over two days. There is the matter of the Forum Communications/ABC TV contract to work around as well as determining how to handle attendance at the games.

New Business

Postseason Attendance/Admission Plans

ADs discussed a suitable arrangement for vouchers/admissions during postseason events. Since it's a tournament contest, an equal number of voucher/tickets should be allotted to the participating teams. The proposed number would be 250 per team for each game/match, but that is subject to change. M. Lunde understands the need to create a neutral site environment, but said it's doubtful road teams will use/need all their allotted vouchers.

Dance Competitions

G. Fridley asked what other schools are doing to move forward with scheduling this fall and winter seasons. There likely needs to be a limitation on the number of teams participating at a meet/event due adhere to COVID-19 health guidelines. A plan to perhaps limit this to WDA teams first, and then open it up to other dance groups. It was pointed out that these events often serve as fundraisers for the dance programs. Lots of questions need to be answered and ADs were asked to meet with their dance advisers. The issue will be revisited.

Sub-varsity Tournaments

ADs affirmed that no sub-varsity postseason tournaments will be conducted this fall season due to the ongoing health risks associated with COVID-19.

NDIAAA

ADs were reminded the fall conference (on-line) was approaching.

Winter Activities

ADs agreed we need to begin discussion soon on winter activities (scheduling, fan limitations, etc). The topic will be brought up at the next meeting.

Executive Secretary/SID Report

M. Mullally inquired about region coaching meetings. Due to COVID-19, it's likely most of these will be conducted via video conference.

Next Meeting

A video conference meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 10 a.m.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Matt Mullally

Friday, Sept. 18 Special Meeting

Several ADs met on Friday afternoon, Sept. 18 via video conference to discuss whether points should continue to be used to determine postseason seeding for boys' soccer or go to winning percentage, as agreed in August. At issue, is the fact there may be at least one match not made up, causing for an unbalanced conference schedule. After discussion, it was generally agreed to leave points as the deciding factor at this time for seeding. There is a possibility the match between BHS and Century would be made up.

Discussion then centered on postseason volleyball seeding. Winning percentage is being used, but there are issues with teams (Williston, so far) that may not be able to complete a full schedule due to COVID-19 positive tests. If other teams also need to be quarantined, it could continue a domino effect of several teams not completing a full schedule. Will winning percentage still be used to determine placings? What if teams have only a handful of matches played but have a better winning percentage than teams that have played several more matches? Another issue is what to do with matches that are double counters in the standings. What if a team(s) can't make those matches up? No action was taken, since there are still several weeks before the reg. season ends. ADs wanted more time to ponder any needed changes/decisions to determine postseason seedings. However, changes should be made sooner than later.



WDA Activities Directors Special meeting via video conference

Monday, Sept. 14, 2020 10 a.m., CT
Google Meeting

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Scott Nustad, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Current finances were reviewed. The beginning balance for the current period is \$26,831.96; Revenues totaled \$3,000 and were comprised of 2020-21 WDA membership fees for three members. There was just on expenditure that totaled \$2,875 and that was monthly salary for M. Mullally, WDA SID/Executive Sec. The ending balance is: \$26,956.96. Moved by M. Wiest seconded by G. Fridley. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Scheduling

Football Makeup Plans

Due to a COVID-19 positive case, the Williston at Century football game for Sept. 18 will not be played. B. Lervick asked if we can move ahead in plans to re-schedule it since bye/off weeks were built into our football schedule in the event of a positive case and games could not be played. A potential reschedule date would be Oct. 2. There is a potential that Williston's next scheduled game, vs. Jamestown on Sept. 25 may not be played, either. There may not be sufficient time following quarantine for the program to be prepared to play. ADs are looking to see if that game could be pushed back to Saturday, Sept. 26. J. Roaldson said if the Williston-Jamestown game cannot be played, there is a possibility to fill the void in Jamestown's schedule with a non-conf. game vs. neighboring Valley City. VC's future opponent, Kindred, is also facing a quarantine period that will affect scheduling.

Livestreaming

Most WDA programs/schools have implemented forms of livestreaming capabilities for many of its activities. Some are using HUDL, NFHS, Facebook Live, Youtube or other video streaming platforms. Much of the content and Internet sites are free to users. ADs agreed its a "work in progress" to provide this service to fans and followers of the programs. Officials will also look into providing some form of viewing options for postseason due to limitations on attendance.

Fine Arts/Festival Scheduling

ADs are checking on dates for upcoming Student Congress events. The state festival is set for Nov. 5 at the capitol. Other fine arts events/programs won't begin until later this fall/early winter. Schools are still looking into changes in how these events/concerts will be held in their buildings to adhere to COVID safety guidelines and limit health risks.

New Business

Postseason Tournaments/Format changes

ADs reviewed each fall sport to determine at this time if any format changes are necessary to limit health risks for participants and game personnel and assure postseason tournaments can be conducted.

Boys' Soccer

M. Wiest proposed a plan which would move the conference tournament away from a neutral site setting in Mandan on Oct. 3 and have the higher seeded teams host all the tournament matches that day. The tournament would still be conducted over two days. Tuesday, Sept. 29 would be two play-in matches -- No. 8 at No. 5; No. 7 at No. 6. Winners would advance to a state qualifier vs. No. 4 (5/8 winner) and vs. No. 3 (6/7 winner) on Saturday, Oct. 3. The top two seeds would also meet that day in the tournament championship. No. 1 seed would host. Both would automatically qualify for the state tournament.

Wiest said that although this would not create a traditional tournament atmosphere, there is still the potential for good crowds under this plan. Hopefully, this is just a one-year departure from our current tournament format. A question was raised as to why we went with this format since we are now at eight teams and could conduct a traditional bracket tournament (1 vs. 8; 4 vs. 5 etc.). Coaches had requested this plan last year as a compromise. Some didn't want to have back-to-back weeks of a three-day tournament (WDA followed by state). Some coaches prefer not to conduct a postseason WDA tournament at all. Instead, opting for the top four seeds/placewinners automatically qualify for the state tournament. Attendance at postseason matches would continue to be limited to adhere to local health unit guidelines for public events. Since its a postseason tournament event, an equal number of vouchers would be presented to the participating teams. G. Fridley said it's likely no gate/admission would be taken at Dickinson's venue. Logistically, it's not possible to contain crowd into a single entrance/admission point there on the Biesiot Activities grounds. Moved by Wiest seconded by Fridley to change the WDA Tournament format for this year. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

As discussed earlier this fall, no awards or presentations will follow the conclusion of postseason tournament matches/events.

Volleyball

Similarly with boys' soccer, a proposal is to move individual tournament matches to the site of the higher seed and conduct the tournament over Tuesday, Nov. 10, Thursday, Nov. 12 and Saturday, Nov. 14. Prior to Nov. 10, the play-in matches (7 vs. 10; 8 vs. 9) would be played the weekend before.

Quarterfinal matches would be held on Nov 10; Semifinals and loser-out would be held on Nov 12; and the two state qualifying-matches and the championship would be held on Nov. 14. This format certainly creates challenges for travel, especially between Tuesday and Thursday. However, it does limit the COVID risks by keeping teams separated.

B. Lervick asked if proceeding with this format likely will be setting the precedent for region tournaments in the winter (basketball, hockey)? M. Wiest added things could change in the future, hopefully for the better, so perhaps its best to hold off before making decisions about future tournaments.

B. Dokken proposed holding all the Saturday matches (2 state qualifiers and championship) at Watford City. The facilities there at the Rough Rider Center and adjacent high school would be able to provide adequate social distancing and enable the matches to be played without teams having to be in close proximity. This would create some semblance of a tournament setting/atmosphere, albeit for one day. P. Jundt added there is some credence to holding at least one day of tournament at one site to provide a tournament feel for the participants.

D. Zittleman said he would visit with M. Fetsch with NDHSAA to determine how livestreaming could be set up for tournament matches. Since the region tournament is under the control of NDHSAA, they would need to approve any livestreaming/broadcasting plans.

As discussed earlier, no awards or presentations will following the conclusion of final tournament matches. After continued discussion, it was moved by B. Lervick seconded by G. Fridley to hold this year's tournament matches at individual/home sites of the higher seed throughout the tournament. G. Fridley added he would be in favor of having Watford City host next year's tournament.

Voting Yes, 8 (B. Schumacher, B. Lervick, S. Nustad, G. Fridley, M. Wiest, J. Roaldson, M. Lunde, D. Mieure, D. Zittleman; No, 2 (P. Jundt, B. Dokken). **Motion carried**



WDA Activities Directors Special meeting via video conference

Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 4 p.m., CT
Microsoft Team Meet

Present: Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Dr. Shane Martin, Scott Nustad, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the Aug. 6, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Moved by Nustad seconded by Fridley to approve the minutes. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Scheduling

Cross Country: Zittleman said the first-half of the WDA composite schedule is set and some adjustments are required on the back-half of the schedule as host teams firm up their meet information. It's likely some decisions will need to be made soon regarding attendance/meet fees and other race-day logistics.

Attendance Plans

ADs resumed discussion on options/plans for attendance at regular season events. Minot Public Schools along with Bismarck Public Schools submitted plans pertaining to limited attendance guidelines.

There continues to be mixed messages from various district health units in determining the maximum number allowed to attend events. Some ADs have said the 500 maximum attendance capacity does include the teams/game-day workers, according to local health officials. Others are saying the 500 maximum does not include teams/game day workers. Minot's proposal includes 100 student tickets and students may sit together with masks on. Players and coaches would be allowed 2-4 tickets per event. Opposing/Visiting players would get two tickets. Parents would be asked to leave the facility once their son/daughter's game is completed.

Masks will be required for indoor events and recommended for outdoor events. Spectators will not be allowed on the field or court after the event. No pep band will perform.

Only home fans (Minot) will be permitted for middle school events due to limited seating in the small gyms used. Masks will be required.

Attendance may not be allowed at swimming-diving events due to the small venue space.

BPS' attendance plan would limit and designate tickets to parents of athletes (Home/Visitor). Spectators would also be required to leave once their son/daughter's event is completed. Masks will need to be worn to the restrooms and whenever social distancing cannot be maintained. Spectators must avoid high traffic areas. There may be some additional guidelines per sport. Vouchers would be handed out to athletes to give to parents prior to the event. These vouchers along with an admission fee would allow people to get into the event.

Among the immediate concerns is if COVID-19 cases continue to rise in some areas (Burleigh/Morton counties), health officials will more than likely decrease the maximum number of people who can attend, or decide not allow anyone to attend, expect for teams and game-day workers.

Other ADs and their schools are developing similar attendance plans. Many are also looking into allowing just a limited number of tickets per athlete (Home and Away). And requiring or strongly recommending people to wear masks when social distancing cannot be maintained. And for parents to leave once the game/match is completed. Fridley said his superintendent also wants to explore the possibility of opening up attendance to the general public, in addition to set-aside tickets for parents, provided it falls within the health district unit guidelines. It's apparent the differences in attendance plans/COVID safety guide-

lines among schools will create challenges. Parents who will be attending events in various communities will have to expect some differences from school to school in how attendance will be handled and what safety measures will be observed.

Lunde said most people really have two questions. Will they be allowed to attend? And should they bring a mask?

ADs will continue to look at their attendance plans and expect to make final decisions in the coming days before releasing it to the public.

In-Game Protocols in response to COVID-19

ADs took a moment to review a few in-game protocols.

In football, chain gains will be required to wear masks and will remain on the visiting sideline.

In volleyball, some schools are requiring its players on the bench and coaches to wear masks. Bench areas may also need to be adjusted (chairs spread out) to enable social distancing to be maintained.

No decisions were made on limiting the number of rostered players on the sidelines/bench at events. Individual schools will likely determine roster sizes and travel lineups.

Tie-Break Changes

No action was taken in regard to any possible changes/adjustments to tie-break procedures in the event a complete WDA regular season schedule cannot be played.

Livestreaming

In response to limited attendance, most schools will be offering livestreaming of events for activities. Several schools have signed on with NFHS or Hudl to provide the service. A couple are using YouTube. Once schools have established/set up their livestreaming service providers, they are encouraged to get the Internet link information to Mullally. He will set up direct links to those services on the website for each school.

New Business

NDIAAA fall conference

Fridley said the annual fall conference will go to a virtual format due to COVID-19. Continuing education credit opportunities will be available. More details on the conference will be coming.

Next meeting

ADs set a brief video conference meeting for Monday, Aug. 17 at 4 p.m. to get an update on attendance plans per school as well as go over any scheduling changes.

In the future, Lunde said it would be good to hold a weekly video meeting just to stay up on any issues that need attention in short order. These would be fairly brief and wouldn't require an agenda. Others agreed this would be a good way to remain connected.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally



WDA Activities Directors Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020 10 a.m., CT
Minot Public School Administrative Office
215 2nd St. SE Minot, ND

Present: Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Dr. Shane Martin, Scott Nustad, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Scott DeLorme, Matt Mullally
Conference Call: Bruce Schumacher

Dave Zittleman called the meeting to order

Zittleman called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting were reviewed. A brief discussion was held regarding the issue of limited non-conference scheduling for some fall activities, which was approved during the 7-27 meeting. Moved by Lunde seconded by Nustad to approve the minutes. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

Executive secretary Mullally presented current finances. The beginning balance for the current period is \$19,592.65; Revenues totaled \$8,000 and were comprised of 2020-21 WDA membership fees for eight members. There was just on expenditure that totaled \$760.69 and that was a reimbursement to Mullally for the payment of a two-year website site management contract through Go Daddy.com. The ending balance is: \$26,831.96. Moved by M. Lunde seconded by B. Lervick to approve the current financial report as presented. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

G. Fridley said it would be a good idea for the board to keep in mind that additional or temporary operating funds may be necessary in the event WDA postseason tournaments can't be conducted or are scaled back significantly during the 2020-21 year. Sources of funding could be in the form of sponsorships or increased membership fees. The board will revisit the matter at a later date.

A final reading was held on the 2020-21 WDA budget. It's projecting revenues of \$47,192.65 with total expenditures of \$42,015.00; leaving a carryover balance of \$5,177.65. Moved by Fridley seconded by Lunde to approve the final budget reading. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Scheduling

Football: ADs reviewed and discussed scheduling options for sub-varsity football programs. Games may need to be moved to different dates to accommodate some teams and work around varsity scheduling and facility availability.

Volleyball: The plan is to proceed with the current scheduling format which was established three years ago and features 18 matches. Teams will play 8 teams twice and two teams only once. Matches that can't be played due to COVID will be deemed a "no contest" and will not be counted in the conference/league standings. It's understood that if a match can't be played due to weather/travel, then efforts will be made to reschedule.

Tennis: A revised schedule was completed and now features a double round robin WDA dual schedule. Teams will use the 6 singles/3 doubles format. No in-season tournaments or non-conference matches vs. EDC/East Region opponents will be played.

Soccer: A double round robin WDA schedule is in place. No non-conference matches vs. EDC/East Region opponents will be played. In the event teams cannot complete all the matches, than winning percentage will be used to determine postseason seeding instead of points.

Girls' Golf: The schedule will now be comprised of seven regular season meets with the recent cancellation of the TMCHS Invite on Aug. 14. ADs discussed possibly moving the BHS Invite at Tom O'Leary G.C. in Bismarck from Aug. 18 to Aug. 14 to avoid tournaments on back-to-back

days: Aug. 17 (in Jamestown) and 18 (in Bismarck). Another proposal was to move the Williston Invite scheduled for Sept. 19 up to that Aug. 14 date to alleviate back-to-back meets on Sept. 18 (in Minot) and 19 (in Williston). After continued discussion and reviewing the impact any changes would have on travel/hotel stay by members, it was decided to leave the current schedule in place.

P. Jundt commented that a last-minute change by golf coaches to move the BHS Invite from Aug. 25 to Aug. 18 was not cleared through the ADs. Subsequently, that switch was allowed to be made, but Jundt asked his colleagues to communicate with their golf coach that any proposed changes from now on must come before the ADs for review and approval.

Cross Country: Adjustments continue to be made on a season schedule which has to be overhauled due to limitations on teams/participants due to COVID-19 concerns. It was agreed that all regular season meets will involve only WDA teams as a way to assure members get an equal, or as close to equal as possible, number of meets to attend. Zittleman is working on a schedule which will feature a bye week for teams. One of the challenges is course availability on particular weekends. It would be easier to schedule, if more than one course/site could be used during a weekend. Meet organizers still have to address a number of issues to assure social distancing, providing and cleaning restroom and crowd control and moving teams in and out between race sessions. Events for middle school programs will need to be held independent of high school races.

Girls' Swim-Dive: Adjustments continue on the schedule which also had to be overhauled due to limitations on teams/participants due to COVID-19 concerns. One of the immediate challenges for schedule makers is planning how many teams can take part in meets. Some venues are smaller and can't handle as many teams as others. Some teams are smaller in participation numbers which may allow some adjustments in the number of allowable participants. The goal is to provide as balanced a schedule as possible for participating schools. One issue looked into is adjusting the start times for some meets. This may allow schools to travel on the day of the event instead of staying over the night before.

COVID-19 positive tests

ADs discussed when should a school/ADs make the determination that a team is not capable to field a team to compete due to COVID-19 outbreak/positive tests? How many athletes need to be out? If one athlete is out, that shouldn't prevent a team from competing. ADs agreed a proper perspective has to be taken in regard to our present-day condition. It's not about winning games and earning a favorable seed for the postseason. It's about keeping everyone safe while at the same time trying to provide a season and opportunities to compete. We need to be up front and relay that to our coaches.

Tie-Break Changes

It may be necessary for our current tie-break format to be adjusted in the event there is an imbalance in the number of games/matches played for several sports (football, tennis, soccer and volleyball) this fall due to COVID-19. At the July 27 meeting, Mullally was asked to provide some changes to the tie-break format that would address the possibility of a schedule imbalance. Tie-breaks may become necessary to decide postseason seeding. Mullally presented the tie-break changes which would only be used if a complete season could not be played. ADs will review it and a decision on any tie-break adjustments will come at a future meeting.

Transportation Guidelines

ADs shared plans/guidelines for transportation for activities for the fall season. Most districts are allowing full or near capacity on buses, but will likely require mask wearing and students to be assigned to riding in the same seats. A handful of districts are also allowing parents to transport their children to events, in addition, to transporting them home.

Hotels/Lodging

Some schools have yet to make formal decisions on whether they will permit teams/activities to stay overnight in hotels. Others are going to permit it at this time, but with some adjustments, like limiting each room to two occupants. This may require additional costs for athletic budgets and/or parents.

Return To Play Procedures/Game management

ADs will continue to review game day protocol proposals/plans which have been created by ADs, local districts and the NDHSAA. Fridley said it would be good for all districts to be fairly consistent with these protocols. That will make it easier for schools/teams when attending out-of-town activities. Among some of the issues to clear up: amount of time allowed in locker rooms before/after events; access to trainers for pre-game taping/therapy; teams would have to supply own water bottles or water stations; controlling and limiting the number of team personnel and others on the sidelines.

Livestreaming

Limitations will be placed on attendance at activities this year and members schools will provide livestreaming for a number of activities as a service to patrons. NFHS and HUDL are the associations/companies the majority of WDA schools are working with to provide livestreaming. Cameras are installed at gyms/other venues. Some schools won't require paywalls or subscription fees to watch the activities.

Fine Arts/Festivals

ADs were expecting to receive more direction by NDHSAA officials in the coming day regarding fine arts offerings. It's apparent changes will be made, namely reducing the number of students in rooms/practice areas to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Large concerts/festivals/drama productions likely won't go on as planned, or may possibly be moved to the spring. Some schools may plan smaller concerts that feature fewer performers. The issue will be revisited at a future meeting.

New Business

COVID Waiver

Several district administrators/officials are looking to draft a COVID-19 waiver. This would identify the risks COVID poses to those attending schools and participating in school-related activities.

Middle School Activities

Several districts, including Bismarck Public Schools, are not permitting its middle school teams/programs to travel to events out of town this fall. As a result, finding games/matches may be a challenge for some WDA outliers. Those schools will collaborate to schedule games/events for its middle school participants.

Ticketing/Attendance Plans

ADs spent a lengthy discussion on how to proceed with the issue of spectator attendance at activities. Health officials have placed limitations on the number of people at a public venue, which includes athletes/coaches. Questions were raised as to how many spectators should be allowed, and whether it should be limited to the home team? What about allowing only the parents of athletes to attend, or a specific number of tickets for each athlete? What is the best procedure in getting tickets to the people approved to attend?

If health officials place stricter enforcement on public events, then no spectators will be allowed at activities. ADs wanted to get direction and feedback from fellow administrators before taking formal action on this issue. It was clear ADs are in favor of having uniformity throughout the conference in addressing this matter. Lervick put together some items to consider regarding attendance.

Football: 500 capacity, including players and staff. 100 tickets for visiting fans; 250 tickets for home fans; 150 tickets for players, coaches and other essential game day personnel.

Volleyball: (capacity limit would depend on gym size). 4 tickets per athlete for home; 2 tickets per athlete for visitor.

Venues would be cleared out between matches to allow any cleaning to be held and preparing to allow new crowd to enter.

Soccer (500 capacity)

ADs don't foresee any restrictions need to be placed on attendance at this time.

Swim-Dive (capacity limit would depend on venue). May need to go with no spectators. Facebook Live may need to be an alternative.

Small Gyms with tight confines and limited seating used for sub-varsity and middle school activities may not be suited to handle spectators in this current state.

Weight room access/limitations

Roaldson asked if other schools have looked into how they will monitor weight room access for its athletes/teams and assure COVID-related safety guidelines are followed. Will schools limit capacity, especially after school? Many ADs admitted those details have yet to be worked out.

Game programs

Some schools are not going to print game programs/roster sheets for its activities as a health precaution. Instead, they will direct fans to view the rosters on-line. Some schools will continue to offer game programs to fans, or will only provide a handful of paper copies to scoring table workers and the media.

Coaching Staffs affected by COVID-19

A question was posed as to what schools are going to do in the event coaches test positive for COVID-19. Certainly it would have an adverse affect to that particular program and may require mass testing due to contact tracing. This could cause temporary shutdown of that program. If those coaches need to be quarantined, it's likely finding a replacement coach(es) would need to be done in a very short period of time. It's an issue that ADs have to keep in mind.

Multi-sport athletes

Schools are allowing athletes to participate in more than one sport this fall, but ADs acknowledge this certainly increases the risk potential associated with COVID-19. These athletes will be in the presence of more athletes and coaches.

TMCHS Participation in fall activities

Martin said Tuesday, Aug. 11 is when a decision by tribal leadership is expected on whether TMCHS will be permitted to participate in NDHSAA-sponsored activities at this time. TMCHS will begin the school term with on-line classes and likely will not be able to participate in sports until in-person schooling returns.

Athletic Review

No report

Tournament Committee

No report

Executive Secretary/SID Report

Mullally sent out an updated 2020-21 ADs/Coaches guide which includes sport-specific COVID-19 guidelines as provided by the NDHSAA and national federation partners. The guide also includes updated varsity coaching contacts.

Next Meeting

We are scheduled to hold a Microsoft Teams video conference on Monday, Aug. 10 at 4 p.m.

Zittleman adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally



WDA Activities Directors Special Meeting via video conference

Monday, July 27, 2020 10 a.m., CT
Meeting Link: Microsoft Team

Present (Video Conference): Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Dr. Shane Martin, Scott Nustad, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Matt Mullally

President Schumacher called the meeting to order

Schumacher called for additions to the agenda.

Minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Moved by D. Zittleman seconded by G. Fridley. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

Old Business

School District Start-up Plans

With the start of the school year approaching, many districts are determining how to proceed with a start-up amidst continued concerns of COVID-19. A handful of districts will or likely will be moving toward an in-person start to school with contingency plans of distance learning. One, as of now, will begin with distance learning and then assess whether in-person school can be offered. Still others have not made a decision on schooling options.

Transportation

With many questions still left to answer regarding district busing/transportation matters, ADs believed it was best to hold off any serious discussion until the next meeting. And to pause any talk on mask wearing and/or other safety recommendations for passengers until more information or directives come from state health or school officials. At this time, however, many WDA members are intending to move ahead with plans to have sub-varsity teams travel. Some districts, however, are not planning to have middle school activities travel out of town.

Tie-Break Changes

With the potential that teams may not be able to complete all the games on its conference schedule due to COVID-19, ADs want to address how to determine seeding in the event ties occur in winning percentage and teams have not played the same number of contests. Mullally will put together some tie-break options.

Non-conference scheduling

After a lengthy discussion, it was moved by Fridley seconded by Lervick not to schedule/play any non-conference/East (EDC) crossover contests in fall sports with the exception of Class AA football. All voted yes.

Motion carried.

There was concerns this decision prevents some schools in close proximity with long-standing rivalries to continue to meet in some activities. ADs believed it was a reasonable request to allow these scheduling arrangements to continue between non-conf. teams.

A motion was made by Roaldson seconded by Lunde to allow WDA outliers to participate in limited non-conference contests/activities in the sports of cross country and boys' tennis. S. Martin moved to amend the motion to include volleyball in non-conference scheduling and it was seconded by Roaldson. After further discussion, concerned cropped up whether that would precipitate more volleyball coaches to request that option since there will be no in-season tournaments. Roaldson rescinded his second on the amendment to the motion. The initial motion moved by Roaldson and seconded by Lunde was called for a question. Yes vote: B. Lervick, S. Nustad, P. Jundt, B. Schumacher, G. Fridley, M. Lunde, B. Dokken, D. Mieure, M. Wiest, D. Zittleman. No vote: S. Martin. **Motion carried: 11-1**

AAA Football

It was moved by Jundt seconded by Roaldson not to hold any AAA football East/EDC non-conference games in 2020. The AAA scheduled would

also be adjusted. (Week 3 games would be moved to Week 1...Week 6 games would be moved to Week 2; Week 3 would be a conf-wide bye week; and Week 6 would also include a bye) All voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Volleyball

It was moved by Zittleman seconded by Wiest to proceed with the planned current volleyball schedule plan and not to hold any in-season varsity tournaments. All voted yes. **Motion carried**

Boys' Soccer

Fridley proposed we go to a single round robin schedule for boys' varsity soccer given the concerns that soccer is a contact sport and therefore has a potentially higher risk of COVID-19 spread. Limiting the number of games would reduce the risk. Football is also a contact sport and only has seven games. Scaling the schedule back to single round robin would create a lot of gaps/days between contests, Jundt pointed out. The season begins in early August and ends in October. Having seven matches in that time frame would create quite a void between contests. It was moved by Zittleman seconded by Wiest to leave the WDA boys' soccer season as a double round robin format. Voting yes: D. Zittleman, M. Wiest, P. Jundt, S. Nustad, B. Lervick, B. Schumacher, D. Mieure, B. Dokken, S. Martin, M. Lunde. Voting no: G. Fridley, J. Roaldson. **Motion carried: 10-2**

Boys' Tennis

With the concern the 2020 WDA boys' tennis schedule would be limited to just six conference duals as a result of no non-conference matches, it was moved by Zittleman seconded by Jundt to create a double round robin WDA schedule using the 6 singles-3 doubles format. All voted yes. **Motion carried.**

Similar to boys' soccer, a single round robin schedule would have created quite a void to fill in terms of time/days between matches. In order to assure more opportunities to play and the fact tennis is viewed as a sport with a lesser COVID-19 risk factor, ADs believed the change was prudent. Lunde along with Minot coach Scott DeLorme will work on creating a double round robin schedule for the conference.

Girls' Swimming-Diving

Like cross country, ADs believe limiting the number of teams/participants at girls' swim-dive meets this fall would be an appropriate step to help reduce COVID-19 exposure. Limiting the number of teams and participants will mean changes to the WDA scheduling. Some meets will need to be scaled back. Perhaps more duals and/or triangular events will have to be scheduled. Jundt and Lervick agreed to look into changing/altering the current schedule. Schools that have swim-dive programs were asked to assist by giving feedback on the capacity levels of their swim facilities.

Girls' Golf

With the annual two-day East-West Classic in Jamestown canceled, the Blue Jay program will now instead host a one-day WDA event in its place, according to Roaldson. The tournament will take place on Monday, Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. at the Jamestown CC.

Cross Country

In an effort to provide a safe environment for competitions, the plan this season is to reduce the number of teams participating in cross country meets to a maximum of six. This limitation would mean additional events would have to be scheduled to enable WDA teams opportunities to compete. Zittleman is working on additions/changes to the 2020 schedule. ADs are asked to consult with their coaches and confirm the dates of when they are planning to host their meets. A consequence to these limitations on teams participating in an event, is some Class B schools would not be able to compete in many of the annual events hosted by WDA programs/schools.

Middle school CC races that often were held in conjunction with the high school events would likely have to be moved to a different day.

New Business

Return To Play Procedures

Game/match/meet guidelines/protocols

The ADs believed it was best to hold off any discussion on these matters until the next meeting until more information and recommendations become available from school district and health officials.

Among the issues that need attention: Mask wearing for workers/volunteers...Fan Limitations and Guidelines... Locker

rooms...concessions...media access...end-of-game protocols ... Other necessary changes to meet safety guidelines

Cheerleading

It was discussed whether any changes/limitations should be placed on cheer teams this season, including the removal of stunting, to reduce any COVID-19 threat. ADs agreed to allow cheerleading activities to go on as usual as this time.

Dance Competitions

At this time the ADs did not take any formal action on whether limitations on the number of teams/participants in competitive dance should be made to reduce the COVID-19 threat. The season will begin later this fall. Local districts/WDA members that have participating teams will determine if any adjustments and/or limitations are needed in terms of hosting these dance competitions/festivals.

Fine Arts/Festivals

ADs are in the early stages of gathering information and meeting with Fine arts advisors/school officials on how to provide and host Fine Arts activities in the upcoming school year. Immediate issues include limitations on class sizes and how many students can be in close proximity when performing. It's likely large-scale festivals will not be held. Instead, smaller gatherings will be planned to reduce health risks and COVID-19 spread.

Student Congress

Student Congress activities will likely be confined to each region this fall prior to the state competition in Bismarck in November. Just a handful of WDA members sponsor Student Congress. One event is planned in the region in October and school officials will look into scheduling another.

Overnight/Hotel Stays

A number of WDA member school districts are not planning over night trips for teams/activity groups to safeguard against COVID-19. Other districts have not yet made any decisions on the matter. It's likely some scheduling adjustments will be needed to work around back-to-back games presently in place for some activities and for some schools. ADs will revisit the issue.

Livestreaming Events

Several WDA members/schools already conduct Internet livestreaming of its activities through NHSF/Hudl/Youtube or other social media platforms. Others are studying possible livestream options at this time.

Athletic Review

No report

Tournament Committee

No report

Executive Secretary/SID Report

No report

Next Meeting

We are scheduled to hold an in-person meeting on Thursday, Aug. 6 in Minot at 10 a.m. Location has yet to be determined.

Schumacher adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally



WDA Activities Directors Special Meeting via video conference

Monday, July 20, 2020 10 a.m., CT
Meeting Link: Microsoft Team

Present (Video Conference): Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Jim Roaldson, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Mitch Lunde, Paul Jundt, Dr. Shane Martin, Scott Nustad, David Mieure, Brian Dokken, Matt Mullally

D. Zittleman called the meeting to order

Zittleman called for additions to the agenda.

Minutes of the June 29, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Moved by M. Wiest seconded by B. Lervick. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report

M. Mullally, executive secretary, presented current finances. Beginning Balance: \$25,592.65; Only expenditures in last two months were for final 2019-20 contract monthly payments for SID/Executive Sec. services. Ending Balance: \$19,592.65. Moved by G. Fridley seconded by B. Lervick to approve the current financial report as presented. All voted yes; **Motion carried.**

Old Business

2020 Summer Camp/Training Programs

As we are now well into July, schools continue to conduct summer skill/strength training programs while observing and practicing health guidelines which include a limit on the number of participants in a session, temperature testing and social distancing measures and regular cleaning of training areas. Some schools are now or soon will be moving into sport-specific or team-play offerings. However, many are not engaging in "close contact" drills. Some of the camps/schools have reported a few incidents of COVID-19 positive testing of participants. They are following state and local health protocols on addressing positive cases/contact tracing and quarantine.

Coaching Contracts

D. Zittleman said it appears a majority of our schools/member districts are adopting similar provisions for new coaching contracts/work agreements to take in account the current COVID-19 challenges.

New Business

Return to Play Procedures

Addressing COVID-19 positive tests/contract tracing/quarantine

It's evident better communication and clearer guidelines/procedures are necessary in addressing COVID-19 positive cases that undoubtedly will arise in the future and affect schools/activities. Communication and timely feedback are critical between health officials and impacted schools/parents/team and activities officials. It appears the positive test results/contact tracing will be done through local health officials on a case-by-case basis.

Some of the issue that need to be clarified are: Does everyone have to be tested, if someone on the team contracts COVID, or is just those who were in close contact with the affected person(s)? And what is the definition of close contact? If someone tests positive but does not show symptoms, how long do they need to be held out?

ADs agree one of the challenges is to try and maintain consistency among schools in regard to addressing positive tests and communicating that out to other members. No shortcuts can be taken and all the stakeholders are up front and honest throughout this process. Safety is the ultimate concern.

Transportation

One of the main sticking points to proceeding with activities on a full scale is transportation. There are different policies or information being shared by different busing companies/services in regard to COVID-19 safeguards. As a result of the differences, travel budgets, bus and driver

availability all remain in question to how schools/programs proceed. Until more firm details/policy agreements are set by districts and the companies, schools can't realistically move ahead with travel plans. Other related issues is the number of permitted riders/passengers per bus. And will riders/passengers be required to wear masks? The impact of limited busing/riders will make it more challenging for programs to take sub-varsity teams on road trips. This could alter schedules for some activities/sports that have larger participation numbers. ADs agreed to work together to do what we can be done to assure those sub-varsity teams/athletes will be given opportunities to play.

Fan Limitations/Attendance

Putting limitations on fans attending games may need to be addressed at some point. It will likely be a local issue of each school district/school. However, Lervick said if conference members could adopt/and or agree to similar provisions it would help to prevent confusion to the public/parents and fans. In the event fans/or limited fans would be allowed to attend the games, then other issues would have to be addressed. Social distancing implementation in the bleachers and entering and exiting the facilities. Will fans be required or strongly encouraged to wear masks? Will only home team or local fans be permitted to attend to reduce the risk of spreading between communities? Local schools would have to monitor these potential requirements.

Livestreaming Options

Some member schools already have Internet livestreaming options within their facilities. This enables fans to view contests via computer. Other schools are looking into it as well. National High School Federation (NHSF) provides this service. They provide/install cameras in gyms/other facilities, and through pay-per-view, fans can access the games on computer.

Schedules

It's evident some varsity, sub-varsity and middle school schedules/sports seasons will likely need to be altered/changed or shortened to reduce the threat of virus spreading and/or address positive COVID-19 cases that arise.

ADs began discussion on whether to limit the regular season schedule to conference play for such sports as football, volleyball, soccer, tennis and put limits on the number of teams participating in cross country and swim-dive meets.

In the case of football, it would mean the two non-conference games in AAA would be eliminated and likely would mean the start of the season would be pushed back or current schedule order altered. The three WDA members that play AA football, St. Mary's, TMCHS and Watford City, would need to develop a different plan, since their reg. season includes four non-conf. games. No non-conference play in volleyball would mean the in-season tournaments in Bismarck, Fargo and Dickinson would be canceled. A vast majority of the boys' soccer season is WDA matches, but there are a handful of non-conference games scheduled during the opening weekend vs. EDC teams. Limiting the season to just in-conference matches may be challenging in boys' tennis, however. There are only seven WDA tennis teams and the schedule now is a single round robin schedule. That would mean a lot of open dates to fill. A new schedule may need to be drafted to include a double round robin offering among WDA members to make up for lost duals against EDC teams. Any in-season tournaments would be nixed. For girls' swimming-diving and cross country, ADs would support limiting the number of participating teams to a half-dozen or so. This would require additional meets to be scheduled to provide more opportunities for athletes to take part. In the case of swimming-diving, duals and triangulars would help to create more chances to compete.

Another possibility is to go from double round robin WDA schedules to single round robin schedules for some sports (volleyball, soccer). This would potentially free up more room in schedules to enable sub-varsity teams/games to take place that otherwise would not be held due to limited transportation options. Reducing the schedule could also enable the start of some sport seasons to be pushed back and would reduce the amount of contact time among athletes. Whatever adjustments are made, they will create challenges, ADs admitted.

ADs also acknowledged it will be difficult to sell the idea to coaches that conference-only play would apply to some sports and not all. If we decide to reduce the schedule to conference play, it should apply to all activities where its applicable (soccer, tennis, volleyball, football).

Some ADs wanted a little more time to communicate with administrators about possible changes to the schedules and hopefully get more feedback/direction on transportation availability or limitations. It's evident both issues are inter-related.

A question was raised as to whether limiting seasons to conference play would also extend for winter activities. At this time, ADs wanted to focus on the fall seasons/schedule before potential changes for the winter schedules are made.

Overnight/Hotel Stays

D. Miere asked if any members have looked into the issues/challenges of having teams stay in hotels this upcoming season. Williston does have sports teams that need to stay over for a weekend conference road trip. If school officials elect to avoid overnight stays, changes will be needed in scheduling for some teams to avoid having to stay over.

Athletic Review

P. Jundt, who is part of the NDHSAA board's Return To Play Committee highlighted the discussion points and the board's recent recommendations on several issues moving forward in regard to fall activities. In mid-July, the NDHSAA board announced its support to move ahead with allowing fall activities. Jundt said the reasoning behind the board's decision to move ahead with fall sports is that not all areas of the state are experiencing the same impact/challenges regarding COVID-19. It would be difficult to justify suspending or shutting down activities because some areas are harder hit. A blanket approach didn't seem practical. Ultimately, it will be up to school districts to determine if they want to proceed with offering these activities to its students/schools.

Some districts have already committed to returning to in-person schooling this fall. Others are developing a blended/hybrid schedule of in-person and distance learning. Some, including TMCHS, will begin with distance learning with the hope of returning to in-person schooling. Others have yet to make a decision. The committee recommended allowing schools which choose not to have in-person instruction or use a blended school to still have their students eligible to compete in activities. The committee recommended daily logs be mandatory to better track student attendance using distance learning.

Other issues the committee weighed in on included: Should schools be penalized for opting to play just conference schedules? The committee voted those schools should not be penalized.

On the matter of what happens if a game/contest is canceled due to COVID, the committee said it should be classified as a "no contest". It would not be viewed as a forfeiture.

The committee also supported playoff changes for football and boys' soccer to lessen the risk of COVID exposure. Among this discussion was whether it would be best to hold first round/state quarterfinal tournaments at the higher seed in soccer and then play the remaining games at a neutral site to help reduce the risk of exposure. Another item discussed was the Dakota Bowl. Is it practical to hold the event on two days or at two sites to limit health risks. It's clear any changes to postseason formats will likely pose challenges and issues that need to be worked out.

The committee also recommended limitations on the number of teams/individuals participating in some events, such as cross country and swim-diving meets. The committee agreed to yield to local public health officials in determining what would be acceptable limitations. And lastly, the committee supported pursuing a formal testing process

of athletes/coaches prior to a state tournament event. Specific details, including when tests would be conducted, must be worked out.

Tournament Committee

No Report

Executive Secretary/SID Report

No Report

Next Meeting

With so many pressing issues, it was decided another video conference is needed to move ahead with fall sports planning. Zittleman set the next meeting for Friday, July 24 at 11:30 a.m. using Microsoft Teams.

The main points of discussion for the meeting should include:

Transportation issues...start dates for regular school and activities (delay start possibilities)...conference-only schedules...addressing protocols for in-game workers/volunteers/officials to assure safety...concessions/booster personnel...locker room availability and cleaning.

Also, ADs entertained the idea of setting up an in-person meeting in the very near future as its evident some scheduling changes will be necessary as well as addressing other timely issues.

ADs feel it wouldn't be practical to complete these tasks via video conferencing or through emails. No date was set for an in-person meeting. There is one scheduled for Aug. 6 at 10 a.m. in Minot, but ADs want to meet sooner, if possible.

Zittleman adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Matt Mullally