



# WDA Activities Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2022, 10 a.m., CT  
Video Conference: Microsoft Teams

**Present:** Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Paul Jundt, Scott Nustad, Mitch Lunde, Dr. Shane Martin, Colby Simonson, Brian Dokken and Matt Mullally, Jim Roaldson  
**Absent:** Robert Conley, Bruce Schumacher

President Zittleman called the meeting to order

Zittleman called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the Nov. 23, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Moved by Wiest seconded by Fridley to approve the minutes as e-mailed. **Motion carried**

## Treasurer's Report

Current finances were presented and reviewed. The beginning balance for the current period was: \$41,029.71. There were no revenues this period to report. Expenditures totaled \$3,041.48. This included the December payment for M. Mullally Exec. Secretary-SID services and \$51.48 for WDA Lifetime passes. That leaves an ending balance of \$37,988.23. Moved by Roaldson and seconded by Martin to approve the current finances. **Motion Carried.**

## Old Business

### Winter Season Scheduling/Issues

#### Girls' Wrestling

Discussion began on establishing a conference tournament for participants. One proposal was to have it tied into the boys' JV tournament (in Mandan) held a week prior to the boys' region tournament (in Jamestown). It was estimated there would be 90 participants. There were concerns that it would create a two-week off period from competition prior to the state tournament. Another proposal was to hold the event in Jamestown on Friday, Feb. 11; the day before the boys' region event. Zittleman asked Roaldson if that is workable given he is preparing to host the boys' tourney. Roaldson believed it can be, and the event would serve as a conference tournament not a region event which is under the oversight of the NDHSAA. Directors agreed to move ahead with this plan.

#### Boys' Soccer

Picked up discussion on regular season scheduling for the fall of 2022. ADs had three options they were considering. 1: Single WDA round robin schedule and teams can add non-conference/non counter matches as they see fit; 2. Double WDA round robin schedule and designate a pair of matches that would count (double points) in standings. This would prevent the need for three matches in a week on a couple of occasions; 3. Leave the schedule as is.

Some indicated a desire to go to a single round robin WDA schedule to provide more recovery time from week to week. However, this would mean teams would need to fill schedules with non-conference or non-counters. And likely would do so with conference opponents. And likely the Bismarck-Mandan teams would fill up those non-counters playing each other, so it would not create many matches for other members to fill their schedules.

The primary concern is when there are three matches in a week or when there is just one off day in-between matches (example: Tuesday to Thursday; Thursday to Saturday). Given how physically taxing matches can have, it's a main concern for coaches.

Jundt said in the past he's put together a proposal to create more recovery time. Monday-Thursday scheduling or Tuesday-Saturday scheduling. However, this hasn't been well received by many coaches. Many don't like having a bulk of matches on Saturday. Or, having a match on a Monday with no practice a day before. ADs acknowledged there is no perfect resolution. There has to be some give-and-take. One possibility to avoid three matches in a week would be to move up the first conference

match on the first available weekend of competition. It may also provide a chance for some of the longer road trips for some teams to be completed prior to the start of the school year. ADs decided to leave the scheduling as is. And teams have the option to place a WDA match on that first weekend, if desired. Scheduling changes for future years will continue to be looked into as likely a second Minot team will be participating.

## Football

The 2022 schedule has not officially been released. There is still the matter of appeal by Bismarck St. Mary's of being reclassified into AA. Once that is resolved by the NDHSAA the schedule will be ready for release. If there appeal is not granted, likely the plan would be to simply flip Williston and St. Mary's schedules. This would create less issues. ADs seem to be OK with that option.

## New Business

### 2022 Spring Sports

**Softball:** As discussed at the Nov. 23 meeting, there was a proposal to move the WDA Tournament from Dickinson to Bismarck. Dickinson is in the process of updating its softball facilities and changes won't be ready this spring. The proposal is for Dickinson to host in 2023 and Bismarck would take this year's spot. Formal action on changing postseason sites is necessary. It was moved by Martin seconded by Lervick to make the site change. **Motion carried.**

### Sub-varsity softball/baseball tournaments

The plan is for Minot to host the WDA softball JV 1-2 tournaments while Bismarck would host baseball JV 1-2. These would be conducted May 20-21, weather permitting. Once schools know what their sub-varsity participation numbers will be for these activities, the host schools can plan a tournament format (bracket/pool).

**Girls' Soccer:** With the NDHSAA tournament committee indicating a desire to move state tournament events to turf fields, discussion on whether the WDA Tournament should be played on turf this spring as well. Mandan is hosting the state tournament at Starion Sports Complex (June 2-4), but was going to host the WDA Tournament at its Dacotah Centennial Park/Dakota Community Bank and Trust field (grass). Wiest indicated that Starion Sports Complex was not available for use during the week of WDA. A possible alternate location/host would be St. Mary's. ADs were open to the proposed move and Schumacher will be contacted to see if this could be arranged.

## Volleyball

With schools still waiting on football scheduling plans to be completed, 2022 scheduling is still not finalized. Schools will be entering Year 5 of the five-year plan that was originally drafted by Dickinson. Given the fact another school (Minot 2) would be added in a few years, it would be best to hold off any major changes to scheduling at this time. Fridley and Lervick agreed to begin work on future scheduling options. The understanding is the current five-year scheduling plan would "roll over" into its first year in 2023. And then when Minot 2 comes into varsity play, a new schedule format would be put in place. Minot 2's first year of varsity competition is tentatively planned for the 2024-25.

## NDIAAA Scholarship

Applications should be available soon on the association's website. ADs are encouraged to promote this scholarship program to its student-athletes. As custom, applicants will be reviewed and selected by a sub-committee in early March. Recipients will be announced at the West Region Basketball Tournament. Farmers Union Insurance is again providing a \$500 match and also providing recipients with a plaque.

### **Boys' Wrestling**

Future scheduling is usually conducted by coaches during the Bismarck Rotary Tournament in early January. However, with the prospects of some changes in scheduling due in part to facility availability and establishing more girls' wrestling events in the future, it may be best to hold off until the state tournament to complete the schedule until those issues are resolved. Zittleman pointed out that coaches did do scheduling at state last year as well. The matter will be revisited at the March meeting.

### **Hazen-Beulah hockey**

A question was posed as to the future of varsity-level hockey for associate WDA member Hazen-Beulah. With 10 teams now participating in the boys' region and the prospects of another Minot team added, there are concerns about having enough non-conference game options. Hazen-Beulah's program has struggled to be competitive in recent years. Some schools have opted to play them just once for a region counter and other member schools are considering that. Lunde agreed to discuss H-B's future at the varsity level with their coach.

### **TMCHS/COVID Protocols**

Martin said tribal leadership has set new requirements and safety guidelines in response to the uptick in COVID cases associated with the new variant. There was a possibility school activities there would be put on a pause, but Martin was able to persuade school officials/tribal leaders that steps could be made to enable those activities to continue. Any event hosted by TMCHS will not be open to the public. Only those related to the activity. Also, masks and other health practices will be put in practice. TMCHS offers NFHS live-streaming of its games, however, the feed has been hit or miss at times. Martin said he would keep fellow ADs informed of any changes over the course of the school year. ADs would relay these new guidelines to their respective programs.

### **Second High School in Minot**

Lunde provided some insight on the tentative timeline for a second high school opening in Minot. Citizens there approved a bond vote to build a second public high school. The goal is to begin forming sub-varsity teams and programs and begin play as soon as possible. Some sports may be ready to participate sooner than others. Lunde said it's important for those programs/students to form their new identity right away. The plan is for full varsity play by the 2024-25 school year. There is still a lot of ground work to be put in place, but it's moving forward steadily. Selecting a name for the new school/nickname will be part of the early steps. Lunde will continue to provide updates of the progress.

### **Class A expansion**

Given the creation of new Class A schools across the state as well as the possibility of existing schools moving up to the level due to enrollment, NDHSAA and Class A athletic officials need to bring the conversation of whether expanding from two to three or more Class A regions is an option. Fridley said this is an issue ADs should start thinking about.

### **Athletic Review**

No report at this time.

### **NDHSAA Tournament Committee**

Officials met in December to review possible future sites for state events.

### **NDIAAA**

The dates of the spring workshop will be April 2-4.

### **Games potentially affected by COVID**

Mullally inquired about the conference plan to determine outcomes in standings for basketball and boys' hockey in the event a game cannot be played due to COVID-related issues. Last year, prior to the season, ADs approved action to count the result of the first meeting (wins-losses) twice in the standings. This was approved by a 10-2 vote. There were two WDA basketball games that could not be completed late in the season as a result of a team having multiple positive COVID tests and could not field a team.

Since this season is underway and no action was taken prior to the start of the season to change or discontinue the existing policy, ADs agreed it will remain in effect.

### **SID/Executive Secretary Report**

Mullally said he's still waiting on Associate Membership payment from Hazen-Beulah for boys' hockey.

Next meeting will be in Bismarck on Wednesday, March 2 and hosted by Bismarck Public Schools. The time has not yet been determined.

President Zittleman adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Matt Mullally, WDA Executive Secretary



# WDA Activities Directors Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2021, 10 a.m., CT  
Video Conference: Google Meet

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

President Zittleman called the meeting to order

Zittleman called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the Aug. 11, 2021 meeting were reviewed. Moved by Fridley seconded by Nustad to approve the minutes as presented. **Motion carried**

## Treasurer's Report

Current finances were presented and reviewed. The beginning balance for the current period was: \$38,609.96. Among the noteworthy revenue, there was \$10,000 in 2021-22 WDA membership fees. There was \$2,849 from the WDA Boys Soccer Tournament and \$1,250 from the WDA Cross Country Championships. Total revenues was \$14,379.75. Expenditures totaled \$11,960 and were M. Mullally Exec. Secretary-SID services. That leaves an ending balance of \$41,029.71. Moved by Nustad and seconded by Wiest to approve the current finances. **Motion Carried.**

## Old Business

### Winter Season Scheduling/Issues

#### Girls' Basketball

Participation numbers continue to see a declining trend for many programs. One potential reason is the lack of a break between the fall and winter seasons. This may cause some athletes to pass on competing in basketball. ADs would like to see if changes can be made in the volleyball season to have it end a week earlier. However, this would be challenging given Class A and B are tied to together for a state tournament and there are other end-of-season state tournament to work around. The length of the volleyball team also presents challenges for other sports that overlap like girls' hockey.

ADs were asked to send Mullally a listing of their potential sub-varsity basketball team numbers for boys and girls. Mullally will put a listing together.

#### Wrestling

ADs discussed whether a one-day region tournament can continue, or will there be a need to extend it to two days with the addition of a girls division and changes to daily match limitations. This year's tournament will be held in Jamestown. ADs were going to confer with their coaches on what their preference is. Meanwhile, Roaldson was going to check on venue availability options. It's likely four mats would be used to conduct the tournament.

## New Business

### Fall Sports/Coach Meetings

**Girls' Golf:** Several coaches indicated a preference to begin by Aug. 1 to enable another tournament be held prior to the start of the school year. However, this is not supported by EDC schools because they don't have flexibility in scheduling meets at courses. There is also the concern that starting too soon will continue to cut more into summer vacation plans for many. Coaches have decided to have Watford City host the first meet of the season in place of TMCHS (Dunseith). That course provides an adequate practice area and is 18 holes. That will enable varsity and JV golfers to participate. The Dunseith course only has nine holes. Coaches discussed using the iWanamaker scoring APP by golfers. Golfers register scores for their groups using phones. Some coaches still have reservations about having golfers use phones to record scoring in place of a paper scorecard. There is still concern for errors and technology issues that could arise with the APP. There may be a decision to

switch from iWanamaker to another scoring system, Golf Genie.

NDHSAA officials are looking into it.

**Boys' Soccer:** Coaches want to see an extension of the season by a week to help alleviate three matches in a week. Want officials to be required/recommended to take more training in the offseason. There is also the continued issue of whether the NDHSAA is going to require future state tournaments to turf-only venues. This is a concern as Mandan, Dickinson and Jamestown play on grass for regular season matches. Mandan is also the regular host of the conference tournament. Jamestown has hosted several state events.

Discussion again focused on the postseason tournament. Currently it is two days (play-in matches on the first day; and 2 state qualifiers and the title match on the second day). There was debate on why can't the tournament be three days and mirror other region/conference postseason tournaments. No automatic state qualifiers. Double elimination and the Traditional 1-8, 4-5, 2-7, and 3-6 bracket. Concerns are having those three conference tournament matches would adversely effect the WDA teams that would then play the following week at the state meet. Two matches seems to be the compromise that has worked. As it stands now, four teams have just one tournament match while the play-in winners would play two. Many coaches maintain they would like to drop the conference tournament, but ADs are opposed to. Tournaments are set up to enhance the student-athlete experience and kids want to play in them. ADs realize there is no easy solutions. Soccer is a short, but demanding season.

A few options looked at to help address the concern of playing three matches in a week during the season.

1: Single WDA round robin schedule and teams can add non-conference/non counter matches as they see fit.

2. Double WDA round robin schedule and designate a pair of matches that would count (double points) in standings. This would prevent the need for three matches in a week on a couple of occasions.

3. Leave the schedule as is.

ADs were going to look into those options with their coaches before setting the 2022 schedule.

**Cross Country:** Discussion relating to moving postseason meets exclusively to trail courses instead of golf courses. This would alleviate issues of tearing up courses in the event of wet weather. However, not all are on board.

**Volleyball:** Coaches discussed being more consistent in compiling stats to assure accurate accounting. Determined if students can be paid to be side judges for matches in the event there is a shortage in officiating. Some schools do pay students to assist in officiating. Coaches plan to come together soon to complete the 2022 schedule. Did not complete it at the coaches meeting since the football scheduled was not finalized. This is year five of the five-year plan.

**Girls' Swim-Dive:** Discussed possibly limiting the number of entries at the WDA championships to help reduce the length of time of the meet. Also, review facility choices for the region event.

**Football:** Looked into potential changes to the classifications for the 2022 year. It's likely some schedule changes (home and away swaps) are needed for some teams to create more home-away balance. There is potential adjustments will be made to the Class AA and A field next year to create more competitive balance. ADs acknowledge any changes (teams moving up/down) will cause some friction and won't be well received by all. The schedule will be officially released in December.

### Spring Sports

#### Girls' Soccer Tournament

The board set the dates for the 2021-22 WDA girls' soccer tournament for Tuesday, May 24 and Thursday, May 26 in Mandan. Tuesday, May 24 will be the play-in match. Time of matches on the final day will be: State qualifiers, 4 and 6 p.m.; Championship: 8 p.m.

**Softball**

The 2021-22 WDA Softball Tournament will likely be moved from Dickinson to Bismarck this coming May. Would be held at the Cottonwood Complex (South Bismarck). Dickinson is in the process of updating its facilities and won't be ready. They would host in 2023. Formal action will be held at a future meeting.

**Track-Field**

Zittleman is working on completing the 2021-22 track schedule. Still finalizing some dates. Will get a scheduled to coach in December/

**Spring Sports Schedules**

Ben reminded ADs the deadline to release varsity spring sports schedules is Dec. 1. Will be posted on rSchool Today.

**Sub-varsity basketball tournaments**

Wiest asked for feedback on whether we should look to expand the field of sub-varsity basketball tournaments at the end of February. Agreed to keep the Soph. A boys tournament to an eight-team field. Other tournament formats will be looked at for Soph. B to allow more participation. Girls will hold only one Sophomore Tournament.

**Athletic Review**

No report at this time.

**Tournament Committee**

The committee will be meeting in December to look at facilities/sites for future tournaments.

**SID/Executive Secretary Report**

M. Mullally said Farmers Union Insurance will again serve as our partner in matching our two WDA Senior Scholarships. And providing a plaque to the recipients.

Next meeting will be a video conference set for Wednesday, January 5, at 10 a.m.

President Zittleman adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted  
Matt Mullally, WDA Executive Secretary



# WDA Activities Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 2021, 11 a.m., CT  
Minot Central Campus

**Present:** Bruce Schumacher, Dave Zittleman, Ben Lervick, Guy Fridley, Mark Wiest, Paul Jundt, Scott Nustad, Mitch Lunde, Dr. Shane Martin, Brian Dokken and Matt Mullally, Robert Conley, Jim Roaldson (video conference)

Robert Conley, new Williston athletic director, introduced himself to the board.

President Schumacher called the meeting to order and turned over the presidency to the new office holder Dave Zittleman.

Zittleman called for additions to the agenda

Minutes of the June 14, 2021 annual meeting were reviewed. Moved by Lunde seconded by Schumacher to approve the minutes as presented.

## **Motion carried**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Current finances were presented and reviewed. The beginning balance for the current period was: \$41,885.44. Recent revenue coming in was \$2,263 for WDA girls' soccer tournament and \$851 for WDA baseball tournament. Expenditures for the period totaled \$6,378.48. A majority coming from SID/Exec. Secretary salary (final payments for 2020-21. Ending balance is \$38,609.48. Moved by Martin seconded by Fridley to approve the current finances. **Motion carried**

A second and final reading was held on the 2021-22 WDA budget. The beginning balance is \$38,609.96. Revenue projections total \$75,209.96. Expenditures are projected at \$43,280. That leaves an ending balance of \$31,929.96. It was moved by Jundt seconded by Nustad to approve the 2021-22 budget. **Motion carried.**

### **Old Business**

#### **WDA/West Region postseason formats**

##### **Soccer**

The board discussed the format for the WDA boys' soccer tournament in the fall. The proposals included operating a three-day tournament (quarterfinals/semifinals/consolation/state qualifiers and championship). Or, a two-day tournament which features two play-in matches and then state qualifiers and the championship. This format would also award the top two teams with an automatic berth into the state tournament. The ADs decided to visit with their coaches and make a final decision next week. (UPDATE: ADs voted 6-1 on keeping it a two-day tournament. Day one will feature play-in matches at the site of the higher seed. Day two will feature two state qualifiers and the championship. The top two finishers in the WDA standings would qualify for state.

-A point of discussion moving forward is whether state tournaments may be held exclusively on turf fields to mitigate potential problems with weather that can affect grass fields. It's not determined if the state will consider this requirement in the future.

-Another item of discussion was whether a single round robin WDA schedule should one day be implemented. This would enable the schedule to be spread out more and provide more practice time and rest in a week. This would also allow potentially more non-conference matches. A concern is whether this would make it difficult for some schools (outliers) to fill out the schedule and get opportunities to play non-conference opponents.

##### **Basketball**

ADs resumed discussion on whether to adjust the West Region Tournament format for boys and girls basketball. The two proposals would be to return to the traditional Thursday-Saturday format at one location (Bismarck Event Center). The other was to play the quarterfinal round at the site of the higher seed and then host the final two days of the tournament

(Friday-Saturday) at the Bismarck Event Center. Benefits to changing the format would be to save the conference substantial costs on facility rental, award teams that finish high in the standings with a home tournament game and produce a better tournament atmosphere for the opening round. This format also enables coaches to practice between the first round game and the second. Drawbacks is there is always the concern with weather and travel of the outliers on a weekday to get to the quarterfinal game. Playing on a home site may mean less potential first round upsets. Several ADs prefer to return to the traditional three-day event which has been one of the signature tournaments in the state. It draws a big following and fans, coaches and players look forward to it. The three games in three days prepares teams which are advancing to the state tournament the following week. It was voted 10-1 to return to the traditional three-day tournament at one site.

##### **Volleyball**

The 2021 West Region Tournament will return to the three-day format in one location. Watford City's Rough Rider Center will be host. (Nov. 11-13). Also, the 2021 season means the return of in-season tournaments. Bismarck Public Schools will again host an East-West Crossover at the end of August. Sub-varsity tournaments are also planned at a handful of WDA locations throughout the season.

##### **Cross Country**

Zittleman said a meet fee for teams participating in events this fall should be consistent. The cost would be \$100 per schools based on 6-12 participants. A lesser fee would be collected if fewer athletes from a school are participating (\$5 per runner).

##### **Girls' Golf**

The West Region Tournament is planned for Bismarck (Riverwood). The intent this season is for scoring for meets to be done on the iWanamaker app. Groups would be responsible for uploading scores per hole on the app during their round. This would also be used in scoring at the region event. There are some concerns/issues regarding in terms of accuracy and potential problems in recording. Scorecards will still be used.

##### **Coaching Meetings**

Coaches meetings are traditionally held in-person and usually before or during a region postseason event. In the interest of saving time and potentially expense, should video conference be implemented for these meetings? It's evident that some meetings should continue to be held in person because they are usually prompt and held on the morning/afternoon of the postseason event (ex: cross country). But perhaps others could be held by video conference a few days before the quarterfinals. Especially if teams are involved in play-in games the weekend before and may not advance to the quarterfinal round. ADs decided that video conference remain an option and leave it to the hosting AD of the tournament to reach out to those coaches and see how the meeting should be conducted.

### **New Business**

#### **Winter Sports**

##### **Girls Wrestling**

ADs discussed where schools were in regard to coaching hires for girls' wrestling season. Some schools are looking at absorbing the program into their current boys' program and sharing existing coaches on staff. Others will be hiring a separate girls coach. Zittleman asked for feedback from members on what their intentions are. Participation numbers will likely determine whether an additional coach(es) will be hired. Certainly there are a lot of logistics to work out. Another item to review is how will middle school and high school girls' wrestling seasons be set up. Certainly there will be some crossover athletes who will be able to compete in both divisions. The key is to make sure those athletes stay within the confines of match limitations.



**E-Sports Platform**

Discussion on what e-sports platform schools are using when sponsoring their activities. Several schools that offer E-Sports use the PlayVs platform, but there may be other viable alternatives (Fan Works). The issue will be discussed at a future meeting.

**COVID-Updates**

At this time, no adjustments are being made to the schedules/season in regard to COVID. Of course, school districts have the right to make any requirements/guidelines as they see fit in the interest of public safety. Martin said his school will be testing athletes and masks likely will be required for those attending indoor events at his school (does not affect playing participants).

**Athletic Review**

No report at this time.

**Tournament Committee**

In September, the committee will look at facilities/sites for future tournaments.

**NDIAA Fall Workshop**

Is planned again for Mandan in September.

**SID/Executive Secretary Report**

M. Mullally said the 2020-21 on-line yearbook is on the website. This is our sixth edition and provides a comprehensive recap of the past years activities (sports/fine arts) as well as other conference information. Mullally also supplied an annual review of our website and social media traffic using Google Analytics.

Mullally asked how schools are setting up/providing live streaming of activities this year. Some will continue to provide streaming at no charge for patrons. Others will require a subscription/pass. BEK and Midco is also broadcasting a number of WDA events.

Next meeting will be a video conference and is set for Tuesday, November, 23 at 10 a.m.

President Zittleman adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Matt Mullally, WDA Executive Secretary