



# 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, then 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 proce-

sure 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