

Date: Jan. 13, 2021

Postseason state tournament modifications approved

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) Board of Directors recently approved postseason tournament modifications for the sports of wrestling and hockey.

The action was taken in response to continued concerns with the spread of COVID-19 and health risks associated with it. In efforts to mitigate those risks and safeguard all athletes, coaches, game officials and the public, changes in the postseason format were deemed necessary.

Wrestling

No region wrestling tournaments will be conducted this season at the Class A or B levels. Seeding for the individual portion of the state tournament will still be conducted by region representatives and state officials prior to the event. The individual portion of the state tournament will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18 and Friday, Feb. 19 at the Fargodome with separate sessions for Class A and B on both days. The entire dual state tournament (Class A and B) will be held on Saturday, Feb. 20. Ticket information for the state tournament will be released in the near future.

Hockey

The postseason hockey tournaments will also see significant changes. The region tournaments (East and West) will be comprised of quarterfinal games at the home site of the higher seed on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Semifinal and loser-out play will be held on Thursday, Feb. 18 at the site of the higher seed in respective brackets. Two state qualifying games and the region championship will be conducted at MAYSA in Minot (West Region) and Purpur Arena in Grand Forks (East Region) on Saturday, Feb. 20. Four seeds from each region will qualify for the 2020-21 state boys' tournament.

The quarterfinal round of the state tournament will be held at the home site of the higher seed (West No. 1 & No. 2/East No. 1 & No. 2) on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Quarterfinal winners will advance to semifinal play on Friday, Feb. 26 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks. The third place and championship games will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27.

The girls' state hockey tournament will also follow this format. Quarterfinal games will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at the site of the state's four highest seeds based on finish in the ND League standings. Winners will advance to the semifinals to take place on Friday, Feb. 26 at Ralph Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks. The third place and championship will be conducted on Saturday, Feb. 27. Ticket information for these tournaments will be announced in the near future.

Modifications to other winter postseason tournaments as well as fine arts activities will be announced at a later date. As always, the health and well being of all stakeholders of high school activities remain the highest priority.

For more information regarding the postseason changes, go to ndhsaa.com