

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE SPORTS COMMITTEE

The following items are to be discussed by the Sports Committee, and ultimately shared with the full Board of Directors during the NCHSAA Board of Directors meeting:

Committee Members:

Joe Poletti - Chair
Brad Craddock - Vice Chair
Patty Evers
Darren Hartness
Jeff Morris
Joe Franks

Staff:

Tra Waters
Chiquana Dancy

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. 2016-2017 NCHSAA Sports Calendar (Attachment 1)

- a. Recommendation:
To approve the 2016-2017 playoff calendar
- b. Rationale:
Will allow schools to begin scheduling for the next school year
- c. Budget Impact:
None
- d. Educational Impact:
Will allow teams/conferences to begin planning and scheduling games; helps by avoiding conflicts with school events in relation to the playoff calendar
- e. Equity Impact:
None
- f. Effective Date:
2016-2017 School Year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

2. Football Coaches Association Proposal #1

- a. Recommendation:
That the 10-day period in May for skill development be allowed to start after spring sports regular season play and ending prior to the exam dead period of each individual school/LEA.

b. Rationale:

In this interpretation of the 10-day skill development period, coaches will be provided more flexibility in scheduling spring football skill development with a maximum of ten days allotted during approximately a four-week period. Even though two Saturdays are currently provided for rain makeup, the flexibility would allow coaches to practice on off-days during the week if they choose to, so as not to cause transportation problems on Saturdays for athletes and to allow players, coaches, and support people to spend time with their families.

c. Budget Impact:

None

d. Educational Impact:

This allows for the 10-day period to be spread over more days before each individual school's exams and should give some breathing room before exams begin.

e. Equity Impact:

None

f. Effective Date:

May, 2016

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

3. Football Coaches Association Proposal #2

a. Recommendation:

To allow football coaches to transport their players to combines and/or work at combines if their own players are participating.

b. Rationale:

Student-athletes in the state of North Carolina are circumspect to socio-economic disparities, not all of them have families with the means to provide transportation to and from the winter and spring football opportunities they might be invited to attend. The combines can be a great bonding time for coaches and players, building mutual respect.

c. Budget Impact:

Could be transportation costs if schools allow use of a bus/van.

d. Educational Impact:

This opportunity enhances self-motivation and self-improvement, two important characteristics for an individual's success; also, the opportunity to promote discipline, respect, humility, and character are invaluable when coaches and players spend time together.

e. Equity Impact:

None

f. Effective Date:

March, 2016

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

4. Basketball Coaches Association Proposal #1 (Attachment 2)

a. Recommendation:

That the current skill development guidelines for basketball be amended from 4 players per session to 8 players per session.

b. Rationale:

Unlike most other sports, basketball defense is taught as team principles. While there are certainly drills that can be done to enhance individual defensive skills, players need to learn team defensive principles to be effective defensive players. It is almost impossible to teach team defensive principles without at least 8 players. The uniqueness of the team principles of basketball defense virtually dictate that at least 8 players are in a workout to effectively teach team defensive rotations. The "shell" drill is the most fundamental team defensive drill used and it requires 8 players to be taught effectively. Also, the current restrictions placed on skill development numbers is driving our players away from NCHSAA-member schools & coaches to other agencies (AAU, private schools & professional "trainers") so that they can receive training and skill development on a daily basis. The current limitations on numbers forces our coaches to turn their own HS students away every day, oftentimes leading parents to feel that their student is being discriminated against by the HS coach. The current skill development rule was created years ago to attempt to prevent specialization of athletes in one sport. While that is a great concept which we support in theory, the reality of the current societal climate we live in is that parents and students desire to be trained to develop their skills to the highest possible level believing that college athletic scholarships are just waiting for them

c. Budget Impact:

This change should have no negative impact on any school's athletic budget

d. Educational Impact:

This change would have no negative impact on school time or instructional time away from class. It may actually keep students involved more with teams on their own campuses instead of driving them to play at private schools or on travel, club, and AAU teams.

e. Equity Impact:

It would apply the same to both boys and girl's basketball teams.

f. Effective Date:

2016-2017 School Year

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

5. Basketball Coaches Association Proposal #2 (Attachment 2)

a. Recommendation:

That the seeding process be modified to include the use of the MaxPreps rankings

to seed teams within each of the tiers (#1s, #2s, #3s and At Larges), rather than using overall winning percentage.

b. Rationale:

The current seeding process that uses only overall winning percentage encourages coaches to try and pad their non-conference schedule with weaker opponents in order to improve their winning percentage. Better teams find it difficult to schedule non-conference games because opponents fear adding a loss to their record. The MaxPreps rankings use an algorithm (explained on attached sheet) that factors in not only winning percentage of a team, but the winning percentage of their opponents and the margin of victory or loss (with a 15 point maximum to discourage running up the score). This in effect creates a sort of power rating whereby a team can actually benefit from a close loss or losing to a good team. The hope is that this will discourage some of the schedule padding that currently exists.

c. Budget Impact:

This change should have no negative impact on any school's athletic budget. It may actually help some of the traditional powers to be able to schedule non-conference games with opponents nearer to them geographically, thus reducing travel and expenses (would be realized in 2016-2017).

d. Educational Impact:

This change would have no negative impact on school time. May actually aid in scheduling games with opponents that are geographically closer, thus reducing travel time.

e. Equity Impact:

It would apply the same to boys and girls teams.

f. Effective Date:

Basketball Coaches ask that it be piloted this season (2015-16) with the Basketball playoffs.

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

6. Basketball Coaches Association Proposal #3 (Attachment 2)

a. Recommendation:

That the playoff format for basketball be changed from the current format of 3 games the first week, 2 games the second week and 1 game the 3rd week to a format of 2 games each in the first and second weeks with the State Finals being played in a Final Four format (Saturday and Sunday).

b. Rationale:

The current format forces schools to scramble to play 3 games in the first week, something teams and players seldom do during the regular season. It leaves little opportunity for practice preparation for the next opponent and scheduling transportation and travel. No other sport in NC plays 3 playoff games during a single week of the playoffs. We realize this would require a change in the current

venue arrangements. We ask that the first 3 rounds be played at the higher seeded team, and then the 4th round be played on Saturday at a neutral site (Crown Arena, Minges Coliseum, LJVM complex, or even larger HS gyms). The Final two games (Final Four) would be played on back-to-back days the 3rd weekend of the playoffs. Because of issues with parking on the campuses of NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill during days they have classes, these final 2 days would need to be played on Saturday and Sunday (Sunday games not to begin before 2pm).

c. Budget Impact:

This change should have no negative impact on any school's athletic budget. Also, the Raleigh and Chapel Hill Tourism and Sports Bureaus would be more excited about the prospect of heads in beds and increased revenues generated by teams spending Saturday night in town under the Final Four format.

d. Educational Impact:

This change would have no negative impact on school time. There would be no greater loss of school time and possibly even reduced travel on school nights for the playoffs.

e. Equity Impact:

It would apply the same to boys and girls teams

f. Effective Date:

As soon as feasible.

Approved _____

Denied _____

Tabled _____

7. Golf Coaches Association Proposal #1

a. Recommendation:

That the state recognize a 1A champion in the sport of girl's golf. The tournament would not have to be separated. Simply recognize the highest finishing 1A girl's team as the states 1A Champion

b. Rationale:

The 1A teams should be recognized as a separate champion in classification. Throughout most of their season they compete only against 1A teams and often on limited budgets with fewer students to choose from.

c. Budget Impact:

Expenses, at minimum, would be the cost of a team trophy, individual trophy, and medals.

d. Educational Impact:

None

e. Equity Impact:

Fairer since the NCHSAA recognizes a 1A boy's champion when they compete only against 1A boy's competition. The girls have to compete against 1A and 2A competition.

- f. Effective Date:
2016-2017 School Year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

8. Golf Coaches Association Proposal #2

- a. Recommendation:
Adopt the same qualifying standard for girl's golf across all classifications. Currently the 4A girl's regional qualifying scores are lower than the other three classifications.
- b. Rationale:
To better insure the quality of competition across the board at regional competition. Regional competition should be the best of the best in all classifications. Making the same qualifications would help to insure this goal. Currently in 1A, 2A, 3A, many girls score extremely high numbers even with the required average of 55 on a minimum of five matches. For example, that gives them 110 as a score if they shoot 55 on both nines at regionals.
- c. Budget Impact:
Could lessen the monetary expenditure of hotel rooms, gas, practice rounds, and meals if athletes who do not meet the standards are excused from competition.
- d. Educational Impact:
Athletes who do not make the regionals would be able to stay in class.
- e. Equity Impact:
None
- f. Effective Date:
2016-2017 School Year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

9. Golf Coaches Association Proposal #3

- a. Recommendation:
Any girl's conference championship golf team should receive an automatic bid to the regional.
- b. Rationale:
Currently a girl's team that wins the conference championship may not qualify for regional competition as a team because the number three player does not average the score required according to classification (50 for 4A's and 55 for 3A's, 2A's, and 1A's). For example, a team has three golfers. Golfer 1 averages 38, golfer 2 averages 40, but golfer 3 averages 56. That team would not be eligible to compete as a team at the regionals even though it is a conference champion. The third player helped the team win the conference championship, and should be

able to help her teammates compete at the regional as a conference champion team.

- c. Budget Impact:
None
- d. Educational Impact:
None
- e. Equity Impact:
Boys conference champion teams receive automatic bids.
- f. Effective Date:
2016-2017 School Year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

10. Golf Coaches Association Proposal #4

- a. Recommendation:
Allow two certified coaches to “coach” at Regional and State Competitions.
- b. Rationale:
1. At this level of competition it would be much easier for two coaches to cover 5 players in men’s golf and up to 5 in girl’s golf. More athletes could receive much needed coaching during crucial times. 2. Coaches would help monitor the involvement by parents and spectators. Many times parents, no matter what they are told, “are going to coach their kids”.
- c. Budget Impact:
It would cost a school an additional coach’s expense for travel and meals.
- d. Educational Impact:
None
- e. Equity Impact:
It would be the same for both males and females.
- f. Effective Date:
2016-2017 School Year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

11. Request for format change in JV Volleyball (South Mountain Athletic Conf.)

- a. Recommendation:
To allow a conference, if desired, to cap the third game of the JV Volleyball match at 15 points instead of playing to twenty-five. This would align JV’s third game with the Varsity’s fifth game, both playing to fifteen.
- b. Rationale:
Member AD’s expressed concern over the third game of the JV match taking so long by playing the third game to twenty-five, then having a thirty minute warm

up period for the Varsity. Several of the AD's commented they were leaving the gym anywhere from 8:30-9:30 after conclusion of the Varsity match (fifth game).

c. Budget Impact:

None

d. Educational Impact:

Getting home earlier helps players get to bed earlier; thus more alert in class the next day.

e. Equity Impact:

None

f. Effective Date:

2016-2017 school year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

12. Playoff Proposal from North Central 1A Conference - All Sports

a. Recommendation:

To change the playoff seeding system to reflect the following format:

- Conference regular season champions get an automatic bid and are guaranteed at least one home game (16 seed or better), regardless of record.
- Second and third place teams from each conference are guaranteed a playoff bid, provided they finished the year with an overall win percentage of at least .500, but are not guaranteed a particular seed. If a top-3 team doesn't win half of their games, they go back into the wild card pool.
- After conference champions and top-3 teams with winning records are given a bid, fill in the remainder of the field with teams based on overall record, regardless of conference. Note that no one has been slotted into a particular seed at this point – See #5.
- If a conference has 4 or 5 teams playing that sport in their classification, only two teams from that league automatically receive a bid. If a conference has 3 or fewer teams in their classification, only the conference champion receives an automatic bid. Everyone else goes into the wild card pool.
- All 32 teams in each region will be seeded by overall record regardless of finish in conference, except in the case of conference champions being automatically seeded no lower than 16th.

In the event of ties in overall record, the precedence of tiebreaker is: 1) Where the teams finished in their respective conferences; 2) Total number of wins; 3) Conference win percentage; 4) Draw lots.

- In the event of a matchup between two teams in the same conference, the lower seeded of those two teams shall be moved down one seed, and the next lowest team moved up one seed, in order to avoid conference rematches in the

1st round. If the #1 and #32 teams are from the same conference, the #31 and #32 seeds will be switched.

Example: If the #10 and #23 seeds are from the same conference, #23 and #24 will switch.

b. Rationale:

The current playoff seeding system, in which the top three teams in each conference are seeded before all other teams, results in brackets and pairings that defy common sense, especially in sports that aren't sponsored at a significant number of schools. To wit: multiple schools with 2 or fewer wins have been given top-16 seeds, and therefore, a home game – in 1A soccer brackets. This unfortunate scenario punishes teams from stronger conferences with more teams, and allows below-average teams to benefit simply from playing in a conference that only has a handful of teams (fewer than 4) in a particular sport.

c. Equity Impact:

The shortcoming of this plan is that it passively rewards teams for scheduling easier non-conference opponents (because teams want a higher overall win percentage), but this problem also exists in the current system and will likely persist unless the NCHSAA begins to utilize a subjective "committee approach" to awarding playoff bids.

d. Effective Date:

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

13. Playoff Proposal from Piedmont Triad 4A Conference - All Sports

a. Recommendation:

To adopt the 4A/4AA State Playoff format for all sports in the 4A classification. This would mirror the 4A/4AA playoff format currently used in Football.

b. Rationale:

This format would create much greater equity and opportunity for the student-athletes, coaches, schools, and communities of the small 4A schools to compete for a State Championship. Due to the vast range in enrollment for the 4A classification (1600-2900), this proposal would create a more level playing field for schools that fall in the small 4A range, in regards to competing for a State Championship.

c. Budget Impact:

Financially, this would be a positive in terms of the schools throughout the state impacted by this proposal. Transportation expenses for the traveling teams would most certainly be covered through revenue generated through the home school's ticket sales. With added interest generated through a school's community and the probability of competing for a State Championship, game attendance should make this format financially profitable for all schools involved.

d. Educational Impact:

In regards to academics, parents of student-athletes, community members, and student-athletes themselves, will embrace this format with great enthusiasm, as the opportunity for daughters and sons to make history at their respective high schools is tremendously rewarding and attractive. More than likely, research will show that student-athletes perform at a higher rate academically during the season (as compared to the off-season). For the schools affected by this playoff format, scholastic performance should actually increase.

e. Equity Impact:

This proposal would have an enormously positive impact on female and male student-athletes throughout the state of North Carolina. By adopting this proposal and the enhancement of equity that comes with it, female and male athletes will only increase the enthusiasm, participation, and joy associated with being involved in being a team member of a high school that is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

f. Effective Date:

This proposal would go into effect with Realignment (fall of 2017)

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

14. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Recommendation #1

a. Recommendation:

Require two (2) licensed athletic trainers (LAT) or certified 1st Responders to be in attendance at all summer 7-on-7 football contests that have three (3) or more teams in attendance.

b. Rationale:

Increases and improves medical coverage of all student-athletes participating at the event.

c. Budget Impact:

Expenses may increase due to the addition of medical personnel, especially in the summertime.

d. Educational Impact:

None

e. Equity Impact:

None

f. Effective Date:

Summer 2016

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

15. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Recommendation #2 (Survey to be provided)

a. Recommendation:

To not allow any football related equipment (helmets, shoulder pads, football pants/girdles) to be worn during any skill development session, and to allow only helmets to be worn outside of the 185-day school year (summer workouts).

b. Rationale:

The reduction of equipment may lead to a decrease in head injuries and heat-related illnesses; lessens likelihood of body-to-body contact.

c. Budget Impact:

None

d. Educational Impact:

None

e. Equity Impact:

None

f. Effective Date:

Immediately

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

16. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Proposal #3

a. Recommendation:

That the 8-quarter rule may only be used once per week (inclusive of postponements) per J.V. player.

b. Rationale:

Reduce the amount of instances where an athlete could potentially play in multiple football games in a 7-day period.

c. Budget Impact:

None

d. Educational Impact:

None

e. Equity Impact:

None

f. Effective Date:

2016-2017 School Year

Approved _____ Denied _____ Tabled _____

2016-2017 NCHSAA Sports Calendar

Attachment S1

	2016
WOMEN'S GOLF	
Reporting deadline	Oct. 12; 3pm
Regional	Oct. 17 or 18
State	Oct. 24-25
VOLLEYBALL	
Seeding	Oct. 20
1st Round	Oct. 22
2nd Round	Oct. 25
3rd Round	Oct. 27
4th Round	Oct. 29
Regional	Nov. 1
State	Nov. 5
WOMEN'S TENNIS	
Individual	
Reporting deadline	Oct. 17; 3pm
Regional	Oct. 20-22
State	Oct. 28-29
Dual Team	
Bracketing	Oct. 17
1st Round	Oct. 18
2nd Round	Oct. 25
3rd Round	Oct. 31
Regional	Nov. 2
State	Nov. 5
CROSS COUNTRY	
Reporting deadline	Oct. 21; 3pm
Regional	Oct. 29
State	Nov. 5
MEN'S SOCCER	
Seeding	Oct. 31
1st Round	Nov. 2
2nd Round	Nov. 5
3rd Round	Nov. 9
4th Round	Nov. 12
Regional	Nov. 15
State	Nov. 18-19
CHEERLEADING	
	Nov. 19
Start Date	
First Contest	
FOOTBALL	
1st Practice	Aug. 1
1st Scrimmage	Aug. 11
1st Date	Aug. 19
2nd	Aug. 26
3rd	Sept. 2
4th	Sept. 9
5th	Sept. 16
6th	Sept. 23
7th	Sept. 30
8th	Oct. 7
9th	Oct. 14
10th	Oct. 21
11th	Oct. 28
12th	Nov. 4
Seeding	Nov. 5
PLAYOFFS	
1st Round	Nov. 11
2nd Round	Nov. 18
3rd Round	Nov. 25
Regionals	Dec. 2
State	Dec. 9-10

	2016-17
INDOOR TRACK	
Reporting deadline	Feb. 4; 9pm
State	Feb. 10-11
SWIMMING	
Reporting deadline	Jan. 28; 8pm
Regionals	Feb. 3-4
State	Feb. 9-11
WRESTLING	
Dual team	
Bracketing	Jan. 30
1st/2nd	Jan. 31
3rd/Regionals	Feb. 2
State Championship	Feb. 4
Individual	
Reporting deadline	Jan. 30; 3pm
Indiv/Reg	Feb. 10-11
Indiv/State	Feb. 16-18
BASKETBALL	
Conference	Feb. 13-17
Seeding	Feb. 18
1st Round	Feb. 21
2nd Round	Feb. 23
3rd Round	Feb. 25
4th Round	Feb. 28
Regional	Mar. 4
State	Mar. 11
Start Date (Basketball-NON-FB)*	
First Contest (Basketball-NON-FB)	
Start Date*	
First Contest	

SUMMER DEAD PERIODS
JULY 4 - 10, 2016
JULY 18 - 24, 2016

	2017
MEN'S GOLF	
Reporting deadline	Apr. 26, 3pm
Regional	May 1 or 2
State	May 8-9
MEN' S TENNIS	
Individual	
Reporting deadline	May 1, 3 pm
Regional	May 5-6
State	May 12-13
Dual Team	
Bracketing	May 1
1st Round	May 2
2nd Round	May 9
3rd Round	May 15
Regional	May 17
State	May 20
TRACK	
Reporting deadline	May 6; 6pm
1A/3A Regional	May 12
2A/4A Regional	May 13
2A/4A State	May 19
1A/3A State	May 20
LACROSSE	
Bracketing	May 1
1st Round	May 3
2nd Round	May 5
3rd Round	May 9
4th Round	May 12
Regional	May 16
State	May 19-20
WOMEN'S SOCCER	
Seeding	May 8
1st Round	May 10
2nd Round	May 13
3rd Round	May 17
4th Round	May 20
Regional	May 23
State	May 26-27
SOFTBALL	
Seeding	May 8
1st Round	May 10
2nd Round	May 13
3rd Round	May 16
4th Round	May 19
Regional	May 23-27
State	June 2-3
BASEBALL	
Seeding	May 8
1st Round	May 10
2nd Round	May 13
3rd Round	May 16
4th Round	May 19
Regional	May 23-27
State	June 2-3
Start Date	
First Contest	

2) gender you coach?	3) The MaxPreps rankings should be used to seed teams within each tier (#1s, #2s, #3s & wildcards) rather than base seeding solely on overall winning percentage	4) The playoff format should be changed to 2 games in 1st week, 2 games in 2nd week and 2 games in Championship week (a Final Four).	6) Change the Skill Development guidelines. Keep the current 5 Dead Periods (1st month of each sport season & last 5 days of each semester) - but outside those Dead Periods, coaches can work with unlimited numbers of athletes (required of none, open to all)
	228 Boys Coaches responded		
	172 Girls Coaches responded		
	89 Strongly Agree	208 Strongly Agree	303 Strongly Agree
	176 Somewhat Agree	137 Somewhat Agree	58 Somewhat Agree
	265 total Agree (66%)	345 total Agree (86%)	361 total Agree (90%)
	76 Strongly Disagree	22 Strongly Disagree	13 Strongly Disagree
	37 Somewhat Disagree	19 Somewhat Disagree	19 Somewhat Disagree
	113 total Disagree (28%)	41 total Disagree (10%)	32 total Disagree (8%)
	22 No opinion	14 No opinion	7 No opinion