

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING
Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

The winter meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 8:00 a.m. via the Zoom virtual platform. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Sandy George, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall, who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association, was absent due to State Board of Education meeting commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Ken Brown, Chiquana Dancy, Pepper Hines, Tavares Toomer and Juli Kidd.

The minutes from the Spring 2020 Board meeting and special called meetings since May 2020, were submitted for approval; motion by Jackson to accept as presented, second by Gainey. Approved 19-0, with one abstention.

<p>CONSENT AGENDA NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING (Cases handled since April 14, 2020 and before November 16, 2020)</p>

NCHSAA MEMBERSHIP

1. **APPRENTICE ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL OF NORTH CAROLINA:** Accepted NCHSAA membership application from Apprentice Academy High School of North Carolina, effective 2021-22 school year.
2. **SEAFORTH HIGH SCHOOL:** Accepted NCHSAA membership application from Seaforth High School, effective 2021-22 school year.
3. **NORTH EAST CAROLINA PREPARATORY SCHOOL:** Accepted NCHSAA membership application from North East Carolina Preparatory School, effective 2021-22 school year.
4. **WILLOW SPRING HIGH SCHOOL:** Accepted NCHSAA membership application from Willow Spring High School, effective 2021-22 school year.
5. **BETHANY COMMUNITY SCHOOL:** Reinstated Bethany Community School's accepted NCHSAA membership application from the Spring 2019 Board Meeting. (Note: In May 2019, the Principal requested to delay membership to coincide with the start of the next alignment period.)

CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP

1. **SOUTHERN WAKE ACADEMY:** Accepted Central Tar Heel Conference approval of Southern Wake Academy's membership, effective 2020-21 school year.

HARDSHIPS

1. **LEJEUNE:** Approved waiver of Eight Semester Rule for Sarah Kristensen.
2. **MILLBROOK:** Approved waiver of Eight Semester Rule for Bryce J. Steele.
3. **SUN VALLEY:** Denied waiver of Transfer Policy for Issac Matos-Sprouse. The student followed a coach. Sun Valley appealed the staff decision, and the Hardship Committee, voted to overturned the decision.
4. **GATES COUNTY:** Denied waiver of Residence Requirements for Christopher Blake Bunch. The student started the semester with his father, who resides in Virginia. Gates County appealed the staff decision, which the Hardship Committee upheld.
5. **PAMLICO COUNTY:** Approved waiver of Attendance and Graduation Requirements for Phillip Pipkin.

TRANSFERS

1. **TRANSFER REQUEST:** 172
 - i. NCHSAA Authorized: 169
 - ii. NCHSAA Not Authorized: 3

1. Transfer Committee Appeals: 2
 - a. Transfer Committee Authorized: 2

The Board heard the consent agenda report from Brad Alford. There were no requests for further discussion on any items. Motion to approve by Blankenship, second by Edkins. Approved 19-0.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Tucker addressed the Board, expressing regret that aging the meeting was not able to be carried out in-person. She thanked them for the tremendous sacrifices that they have made for the NCHSAA and the students across this state to avail themselves for additional meetings and work above and beyond their regular duties in their positions across the state. She reflected that it has been a tremendously difficult fall, especially as other states around North Carolina have been playing high school athletics, while the NCHSAA has not been able to hold athletic seasons.

Auditor's Report: Blackman and Sloop provided the report on the most recent NCHSAA audit. Rob Lewis and Andrea Eason detailed the firm's findings to the Board. Lewis shared required communications about the audit process and the sampling methods they use to test and review processes. The firm issued an unmodified opinion on the Association's financial processes. They found no disagreements with management. Noted a positive return for the fiscal year on investments, despite the pandemic. Highlighted significant changes in revenues and expenses, explained by loss of championship events and revenues due to pandemic.

The Board had no further questions for the Auditors. Blankenship made a motion to approve the Auditor's Report as presented, seconded by George. Approved 17-0. (Stephen Gainey was called away and did not vote.)

Investment Report: Jessica Standifer and Geoff Hudson presented on behalf of the firm Morgan Stanley providing an update on the Association's investments managed by Morgan Stanley. Hudson noted that this has been one of the most challenging years, calling this a "year of extremes", while highlighting that even prior to the pandemic, the Association had moved to take less risk with the investment portfolio due to a feeling that the market was in an overvalued state. Highlighted the 30% correction when the market shut down due to COVID-19. The defensive positioning of the Association's portfolio allowed a chance to be opportunistic during the downturn, which proved true with a "v-shaped" recovery of the market. Noted that the portfolio has been managed in such a way to allow the assets to grow in even a difficult economic downturn. Several Board members thanked the firm and Staff for their hard work to maintain a conservative and forward-thinking portfolio, looking over the long-term and providing opportunities to help member schools for the long-haul.

Simmons prepared the Board for their committee work sessions and, at 9:00 a.m., members were dispersed into their "Zoom" break-out rooms for each committee.

LUNCH BREAK FOLLOWED COMMITTEE WORK SESSIONS.

TOPICAL DISCUSSION: Commissioner Tucker updated the Board of Directors on volleyball teams in quarantine. Noted that there have been no indications that any volleyball players have passed the virus to their teammates at the time, though several teams have been in quarantine. She introduced discussion about Basketball Season, both skill development and the start of the season. Noted that with her contacts across the nation and in our state, there are no other states requiring athletes to wear masks while participating in skill development and contests. Noted that NCHSAA contact at DHHS essentially said the only way to comply with the governor's order and play basketball would be if all wore a mask during participation. There were concerns about students and officials having to wear a mask during basketball contests. Moore noted that she had talked with Dr. Cohen at DHHS about wearing masks during athletics and Cohen noted that, "Wearing a mask during athletics is the expectation." Also noted that they had already issued guidance that did not recommend participating in basketball at this time.

Board noted that Coaches want to play, kids want to play. Many feel that if they need to wear a mask to play that is what they will do. Discussion of a timeout at the mid-point of the quarter to help with the difficulty of wearing a mask. Board discussed issues of spread relative to holidays and family gatherings. Discussed moving the season back and increasing the number of games a week for a few weeks to catch up. Officiating concerns and the number of available officials would make it difficult for regional supervisors to keep up with demand if more games were allowed per week. Officiating numbers are already down due to pandemic. Morgan mentioned some equity or competitive advantage issues with one team being able to get a mask exemption because of doctors who are more willing than others to write the exception.

Simmons summarized saying the Board could move the season to later, decrease the number of games, add a media timeout in each quarter, and provide some language to require some consistency across the state in regard to the medical waiver process for mask mandate. Commissioner Tucker asked whether or not the Board should consider not allowing medical waivers for masks in the DHHS "red designated" level.

Motion by Jackson to direct staff to revise the basketball rules, at the staff's discretion regarding exact language, to include a full official's timeout in the middle of each quarter, seconded by Stephen Gainey. Approved 19-0. The understanding is that basketball would be played while wearing a mask, as directed by the Governor and DHHS.

Motion by Michael Gainey to delay the start of basketball beyond December 7, 2020, seconded by Luciano. Morgan asked clarifying question about where basketball should be moved. Stephen Gainey cautioned that moving basketball would require a decision on football and other "red category sports." Lindsey asked what would be worse, delaying it now or taking a chance now and having to back off in January or later. Beverly expressed he would rather try and start and have the season ended early because of the stress and mental health issues our student athletes are dealing with. Blankenship expressed his frustration with watching other states around the country play and how restrictive NC was and we as a state are no better off while our student's pay the price. Blankenship felt that the Board needed to give the game and our students a chance. Luciano expressed his concerns due to no students in the building currently in Dare County and then being able to play athletics in the same buildings in which they cannot learn during the day. Garrett discussed the positive cases in McDowell and the only spikes in the student population have been after Halloween. Garrett continued that their concerns in McDowell are related to keeping students in a controlled, school-supervised environment instead of the unregulated activities like sleep overs, etc. George noted that she has confidence in this plan and kids need sports. Motion failed 16-3.

Motion by Byrd to ask staff to review and update the language on the mask exemption form with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, seconded by Blanton. Stephen Gainey highlighted reasons why he believes that decisions on exemptions should rest at the local school level. Blanton noted that his feelings on this motion would have been different a week ago, stating that they received a lot of concern from parents and students thanks to playing a team with a number of medical mask exemptions. Garrett asked the question about whether the Board should even entertain a motion that would allow waivers for mask requirements in "red sports" as classified by DHHS. Approved by consensus.

Board heard reports from morning work sessions:

FINANCE/PERSONNEL: chairperson Bobby Wilkins, Jerry Simmons, Brian Edkins, Cathy Moore, Masanori Toguchi and Wendell Hall (absent). Staff advisors Que Tucker, Karen DeHart and Tavares Toomer.

POLICY: chairperson John Luciano, Michael Gainey, Mark Byrd, Fred Lynch, Joy Warner, and Burt Jenkins. Staff advisor Brad Alford.

REVIEW/OFFICIATING: chairperson Rob Jackson, Sandy George, Chris Blanton, Mark Garrett, Troy Lindsey, and David Brown. Staff advisor Mark Dreibelbis.

SPORTS: chairperson Neil Blankenship, Ronnie Beverly, Tod Morgan, Stephen Gainey, Vernon Aldridge and Joe Franks. Staff advisors Tra Waters and Chiquana Dancy.

First day of the Winter Meeting adjourned at 4:00PM.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING
Thursday, December 3, 2020**

Day two of the winter meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 8:30 a.m. via the Zoom virtual platform. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Sandy George, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent due to State School Board of Education meeting commitments.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Ken Brown, Chiquana Dancy, Pepper Hines, Tavares Toomer and Juli Kidd.

STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC) REPORT: E.J. McArthur from Jack Britt presented on behalf of the group. He highlighted community service projects completed by him and his fellow committee members. Noted that SAAC had to cancel the student Leadership Conference in the spring of 2020, but SAAC hopes to be able to offer the Conference in-person this school year. The Committee is making preparations to hold this Conference virtually, if necessary. Spoke about questions numerous student-athletes have asked about the current pandemic, including why other states are able to play while NCHSAA student-athletes are still sidelined. Highlighted the "In the Huddle" webinars the Committee has hosted to reach out to student-athletes across the state and keep them engaged.

NC ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION: Vernon Aldridge presented on behalf of the group. Highlighted the numerous webinars the group conducted to develop leadership characteristics and help athletic directors prepare to relaunch athletics during the pandemic. Noted the NFHS NIAAA Conference will be held virtually this year, including the reduced cost to attend the virtual conference. Highlighted the March dates for the NCADA Conference in Wilmington, while highlighting their plans to move the conference virtually, if necessary.

NC COACHES ASSOCIATION: Joe Franks addressed the Board on behalf of the coaches association. Emphasized the outstanding working relationship between the NCCA, NCADA and the NCHSAA. Noted that Board Member Neil Blankenship is serving the NCCA as their Vice-President this year. Highlighted that their clinic attendance was only down about 1000 persons, despite the virtual nature of the conference. Discussed conversations the Association was having about in-person versus virtual clinic for 2021.

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS/OFFICIALS REPORT: David Brown, supervisor of officials for the Piedmont Basketball Officials' Association, addressed the board on behalf of the regional supervisors and officials. He thanked President Simmons for his leadership during the past year. Highlighted the difficulty in finding regional supervisors that will invest the time and resources necessary to grow the skill and numbers of officials in their regions. Displayed his new website highlighting the training, the testing, and growth opportunities that he is able to provide to his officials because of the leadership of the State Association and the "generational wealth" being created by investing in outstanding supervisors of officials. Hoped to help the Board understand the work that Regional Supervisors are doing behind the scenes to train and prepare officials for the season before they even assign the first game.

NC STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: Wendell Hall was not able to attend due to State Board of Education meeting commitments.

NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Burt Jenkins presented on behalf of the Department. He thanked the Board members for what they are doing for the students of NC. Highlighted changes to the middle school manual, and noted the resources available through DPI for coaches and middle school administrators. He stressed Gfeller-Waller requirements and that there were only three high schools not in compliance during 2019-2020 school year, Missing signatures was often the culprit. Is asking local boards and administrators to mirror what the NCHSAA is doing, though they, at the local level, control the seasons and offerings of middle school athletics.

TOPICAL DISCUSSION: Commissioner Tucker provided the Board an update on the current status of Realignment. She highlighted the Board's previous approval of the process for determining a school's Final Realignment Score,

comprised of ADM, ISP and State Cup data points. Noted that the Staff had posted data and allowed schools to make adjustments due to changes in Board of Education policy, etc. Highlighted anomalies in the ISP data, particularly in the east during the year Hurricane Florence struck the state. Requested that the Board consider the staff and Realignment Committee proposal to use only the two smallest ISP yearly data points for each school, removing the highest year of the three-year data set from consideration. Shared Chairperson Rodney Shotwell's thought that we should eliminate outlier data to ease the transition to this new system for member schools.

Motion by Stephen Gainey to accept the staff and Realignment Committee proposal to remove the highest ISP data point from the three-year ISP data set for each school, seconded by Jackson. **Approved 19-0.**

Commissioner Tucker provided the Board with the timeline for the release of Classification data and the next steps in the Realignment process.

FINANCE/PERSONNEL: chairperson Bobby Wilkins, Jerry Simmons, Brian Edkins, Cathy Moore, Masanori Toguchi and Wendell Hall (absent). Staff advisors Que Tucker, Karen DeHart and Tavares Toomer.

1. Motion by Wilkins to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Drafts, seconded by Toguchi.
 - a. There are four proposed budgets and recommend approval all of those budgets ultimately to use the budget that ends up fitting the circumstances relative to spectator attendance and restrictions at championship events due to the pandemic and state government/DHHS regulations in place throughout the year.

Approved 19-0.

2. Motion by Wilkins to approve entering into a partnership with Teale Properties Group (TPG) as the exclusive sales generator and manager of all new partnership business, seconded by Lindsey. **Approved 19-0.**
3. Motion by Wilkins to approve recommendation out of committee to approve distribution of \$4,000,000 in General Endowment earnings/Board Designated/Undesignated funds for a special, one-time subsidy to qualifying member high schools, seconded by George.
 - a. This subsidy would be utilized to offset a portion of the essential athletic program operating costs/expenses otherwise covered by gate receipts, concession sales, etc., incurred during the 2020-2021 athletic year. Sports Committee requests President Simmons create an ad hoc committee to work with staff on a method/formula to determine how funds are distributed.

Approved 19-0.

Committee Members appointed by President Simmons: Bobby Wilkins, Cathy Moore, Rob Jackson, Masanori Toguchi, Neil Blakenship

4. Review and discussion of investment summaries by account/fund and comments received from money management companies.
5. Review and discussion of 2019-2020 sport-by-sport financial comparisons. Noted that football and basketball spectator tickets and revenue were positive last year, keeping the NCHSAA net nearly the same as it was a year ago despite missing spring and basketball championships.
6. Review and discussion of funds distributed to member schools. Nearly \$13 million given back to schools over the last 10 years. Gave back \$1.2 million last year to members.
7. Review and discussion of NCHSAA publications including the discontinuation of the NCHSAA Directory. Discussed options for NCHSAA Handbook production and online access.
8. Review and discussion of personnel updates.
 - a. Gary Cavanaugh resigned effective June 30, 2020 after 14 years on staff.
 - b. Tavares Toomer hired effective August 31, 2020 as Director of Finance & Business.
 - c. Justice Parker, a part-time receptionist, resigned effective August 18, 2020 to take a position in a field aligned with her college major.
 - d. Malika Butler remains a part-time receptionist with hours increased to 29 hours per week.

POLICY: chairperson John Luciano, Michael Gainey, Mark Byrd, Fred Lynch, Joy Warner, and Burt Jenkins. Staff advisor Brad Alford.

1. Motion by Luciano to approve virtual monitoring as an alternative to face-to-face monitoring for the Concussion Return to Play Protocol, seconded by Toguchi. **Approved 19-0**
2. Motion by Luciano to approve the preparticipation physical evaluation monography, fifth edition, seconded by Edkins.
 - a. Developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Sports Medicine, American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine and the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine and endorsed by the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the NFHS.

Approved 19-0. Effective for use starting In 2021-2022

3. Review and discussion of the current Transfer Policy relative to what constitutes "athletic purposes" during a transfer request or approval. Clarified that this is more of a request to how staff seeks information about athletic purposes, etc. Committee recommends staff ask for concrete evidence of "athletic purposes" when indicating that as a reason for the transfer request
4. Review and discussion of State Board Policy relative to the second semester eligibility. No recommendation from the committee in submitting a motion, etc.
5. Review and discussion of policies and procedure relative to required law enforcement at a contest (NCHSAA Handbook 2.5.3 (a)). Committee recommended to leave it up to the LEA to determine any changes relative to the number of officers at an event while sticking with the NCHSAA rule as a standard.
6. Review and discussion of the implementation of checklist approval of lighting standards for 2021-2022.

REVIEW/OFFICIATING: chairperson Rob Jackson, Sandy George, Chris Blanton, Mark Garrett, Troy Lindsey, and David Brown. Staff advisor Mark Dreibelbis.

1. Motion by Jackson to approve the Incident and Penalty Report, seconded by Garrett. **Approved 19-0.**
2. Review and discussion of the ejection report, which there are none to date.
3. Motion by Jackson to approve the establishment of a new local official's association in Asheville for Women's Lacrosse, seconded by Wilkins. **Approved 19-0.**
4. Motion by Jackson to approve a new regional supervisor, seconded by Stephen Gainey.
 - a. John Getty for Eastern Wrestling
Approved 19-0.
5. Review and discussion of an update for on-site and webinar Coaches State Rules Clinics. All State Rules Clinics will be completed online in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19.
6. Review and discussion of the NCHSAA requiring all officials in Wrestling, Football, Soccer, Swimming, Basketball and Lacrosse to wear a manufacturer's approved whistle shield. All other face covering recommendations pre-and post-event will be required.
7. Review and discussion of the use of Dragon Fly versus the Arbiter assigning system. Will consider moving from Arbiter assigning system to Dragon Fly platform in 2021-2022.
8. Review and discussion of updates relative to the Student Services Program.
 - a. Virtual "Inside the Huddle" webinars
 - b. Student Leadership Conference in the spring – Hope to be in-person but are making plans for virtual format if necessary.
 - c. SASI programs – Hopeful to have in person in 2021. Had to cancel last summer due to COVID-19.
 - d. Student Leadership Workshops – Conducting virtual trainings upon request of member schools.

SPORTS: chairperson Neil Blankenship, Ronnie Beverly, Tod Morgan, Stephen Gainey, Vernon Aldridge and Joe Franks. Staff advisors Tra Waters and Chiquana Dancy.

1. Motion by Blankenship to approve the elimination of subdivision in the football playoffs, returning to the 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A classifications in the football playoffs, seconded by Morgan..
 - a. Effective 2021-2022 season.
Approved 19-0
2. Motion by Blankenship to reduce the maximum number of regular season contests from 11 (including endowment game) to 10 (including endowment game); additionally, the first contest may occur no earlier than 2 days prior to the last Friday in August, seconded by Stephen Gainey. **Approved 19-0.**
3. Motion by Blankenship to approve the recommendation of the playoff bracketing ad-hoc committee for use during the 2020-2021 team sports playoffs, seconded by Stephen Gainey.
 - a. Effective December 3, 2020 for the 2020-2021 athletic year.
Approved 18-1
4. Motion by Blankenship to approve the staff proposal regarding the number of student-athlete participants for the men's and women's golf state championships in 2020-2021, seconded by Morgan.
 - a. 48 Boys Qualifiers
 - b. 45 Girls Qualifiers
Approved 19-0.
5. A proposal from Southwestern Athletic Conference to allow the use of emergency or "lack of depth" players for other sports, as done in football, for the 2020-2021 school year did not emerge from committee.
6. A proposal from the Southwestern Athletic Conference to allow an adjustment to the modified sports manual to reflect the current NCHSAA Handbook limitations did not emerge from committee.

7. Motion by Blankenship to approve an adjustment to the football acclimatization period for the 2020-2021 season for football student-athletes that have actively participated in a sport season during the 2020-2021 school year, seconded by George.
 - a. Participants in volleyball, cross-country, swimming & diving, basketball, men's soccer, or lacrosse must meet the following acclimatization requirements:
 - i. Practice Day 1 – Helmets Only
 - ii. Practice Day 2 – Shoulder pads may be added
 - iii. Practice Day 3 – Football pants may be added
 - iv. Practice Day 4 – Live action contact may occur
 - b. Any athlete that has not actively participated in a sport season during the 2020-2021 school year must still abide by the requirements as outlined in 4.5.3.c of the NCHSAA Handbook.
 - c. Effective December 3, 2020.

Approved 19-0.

8. Motion by Blankenship to approve a SMAC recommendation of a 24-hour rest period for athletes participating in both Men's lacrosse and football contests, seconded by Lynch..
 - a. This would not affect participation in back-to-back lacrosse contests or back-to-back participation in football while utilizing the 8-quarter rule.
 - b. Toguchi asked a point of clarification--24-hour period would start at the conclusion of the first game in question.
 - c. Effective December 3, 2020.

Approved 17-2

9. Review and discussion of options based on final realignment approval in March 2021.
10. Review and discussion of modified sports manual in Swimming & Diving, Soccer, Men's Lacrosse and Women's Lacrosse.

Motion by Toguchi to approve an amendment to the Modified Sports Manual for 2020-2021 Diving events, allowing for a maximum of 30 boys and 30 girls, regardless of the number of schools involved, due to the lack of diving facilities available for competition, seconded by Moore. **Approved 19-0.**

Motion by Luciano to approve Modified Sports Manual for 2020-2021 additions for Men's and Women's Lacrosse, Soccer, and Swimming & Diving as presented by staff, seconded by Lindsey. **Approved 19-0.**

COMMISSIONER'S FINAL REPORT: Commissioner thanked the staff for the hard work that has been done during the difficulties of COVID-19. Highlighted the creativity and innovation the staff has shown to conduct the work of the Association. Thanked Sandy George for her service to the Association and Board of Directors as she announced her retirement from Mount Airy City Schools. Thanked all members of the Board, particularly President Simmons, for the long hours and extra work that has been placed on them during the pandemic. Thanked them for leading by being willing to make tough decisions. Highlighted the way the Board has led, not with power, but with compassion towards the young people of our state.

HEARD FINAL COMMENTS FROM RETIRING BOARD MEMBER SANDY GEORGE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Simmons commented on the steady leadership and disposition of the Commissioner and the Staff. He commented on the kindness, compassion and honesty that Sandy George has shown in her years of service to the Board and Association. Noted the tremendous amount of information that the Board is able to cover in a brief amount of time thanks to the homework done by the Board and Staff in preparation for these meetings. Simmons spoke to the challenges this year, and how he viewed it as an honor to lead in a time such as this with tremendous people like are on the Board at this time. Asked the Board members to find time to rest and connect with family while recharging their batteries to attend to the tasks at hand in education.

President Simmons Adjourned the 2020 Winter Board Meeting at Noon.

Media Briefing was scheduled for 3:00PM

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE ACTION ITEMS
BETWEEN WINTER 2020 MEETING & SPRING 2021 MEETING**

1. On March 22, 2021, the Board of Directors approved the Track & Field season modifications. Approved 18-0.
2. On March 31, 2021, the Board of Directors approved the Wrestling season modifications. Approved 17-1.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

A special called meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 7:33 p.m. via the Zoom virtual platform. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner. Ronnie Beverly was absent due to a home basketball game.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent due to State Board of Education and David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors were absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, James Alverson, and Brad Alford.

Commissioner Tucker provided the Board of Directors an update on the number of teams in quarantine at this time. Highlighted the particular teams in volleyball that were quarantined and not able to participate in the playoffs that will be beginning next week. Updated the Board on plans for bracketing the volleyball playoffs on Saturday and the timeline of competition.

Commissioner Tucker asked the Board to consider spectator policy relative to the volleyball playoffs. The governor's limit for spectators is 25 persons in the gymnasium. Some systems are only allowing home team spectators during the regular season. Presented the options of no spectators, 25 home spectators, dividing the allotment 13 home and 12 visitors. Simmons presented his thoughts on not having spectators until the final round. Toguchi raised the question on who would cover the expenses. Blanton noted there would likely be tremendous backlash with not allowing any parents in. Moore highlighted the idea of increasing safety by keeping your bubble of potential exposure as small as possible.

Jackson made a motion to allow host schools in the volleyball playoffs 25 home spectators for the first round through the regional finals, encouraging host schools to provide a live video stream for those unable to attend the opportunity to watch, seconded by Wilkins. Approved 14-3.

Commissioner discussed the Association share for the volleyball playoffs. Shared staff recommendation to not take an Association share or dollar surcharge for the endowment for the playoffs.

Wilkins made a motion to accept the staff proposal as presented to not take Association shares or endowment dollar surcharge for volleyball, cross country and swimming and diving playoffs and championships in 2020-2021 academic year. Seconded by Garrett. Approved 17-0.

Commissioner provided an update relative to some legislative inquiries into the finances of the Association. Noted that she and staff had been in discussion with our auditors about how to respond to some of their particular requests.

Commissioner shared some updates relative to the realignment process and timeline. Shared that the Association had fielded numerous suggestions and concerns from member schools about their conference placement or classification. Warner addressed some concerns about the clustering of charter school members in conferences due to whispers about whether or not the Association wants charter members in the Association or not. Commissioner asked the Board to address concerns about members that choose not to play other members schools because of the type of school they are.

Vice President Wilkins made a report from the subcommittee relative to the Board's pledge of \$4,000,000 of general endowment earnings to be distributed to member schools.

Wilkins made a motion to accept the two "CAPS" (COVID Athletic Program Subsidy) committee recommendations, seconded by Toguchi. Approved 17-0.

1. Sub-committee recommends that membership dues amounts are a factor in the Covid19 Athletic Program Subsidy distribution formula.
Note: 2020-2021 ADM numbers will be used to calculate each school's membership dues for 2020-2021 and 2020-2021 ISP% and actual teams fielded by schools in 2020-2021 will provide datapoints.
2. Sub-committee recommends that staff use the '\$2 million in Base with Membership Dues' model to calculate distribution amounts.
Note: Using the '\$2 million Base with Dues' model allows for the larger portion of the \$4 million Board-approved subsidy to be distributed across all member schools regardless of how many teams are fielded in 2020-2021.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Sunday, January 24, 2021**

A special called meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 6:03 p.m. via the Zoom virtual platform. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi. Joy Warner was absent.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent due to State Board of Education and David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors were absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, James Alverson, and Brad Alford.

The Board meeting was called to consider classification appeals for the 2021-2025 Realignment and also discussed academic concerns of the student athletes relative to eligibility.

President Simmons reminded of the discussion during the winter board meeting about academic eligibility. The Board did not make a recommendation to the State Board of Education about a waiver at that time. No Board members wanted make adjustments to the current eligibility requirements.

Schools presenting appeals were granted 10 minutes to present their case and rationale to the Board. The following schools made appeals to the Board of Directors to adjust their proposed classification in the 2021-2025 Realignment:

A.C. Reynolds: Principal Doris Sellers, Steve McCurry, athletic director, and David Ball, Buncombe County Schools athletic director were on the presentation. A.C. Reynolds appealed to the Board to move to the 3A Classification. Argued that the enforcement of a fixed boundary for regions has created an even larger imbalance between schools near the cutline of each classification. Made arguments about the size of schools and playoff travel time. Asked to reconsider the subdivision of football, and all other team sports, to consider the disparity between schools in each classification.

Motion by Blankenship, to approve a request to move A.C. Reynolds to the 3A Classification as requested, seconded by Beverly. Denied 15-1.

West Iredell: Mickey Jordan, athletic director, and Ellyn Gaither, principal, made the appeal on behalf of the school, Richard Armstrong, district athletic director for Iredell-Statesville Schools was also present. West Iredell appealed to the Board to move to the 2A Classification. Principal indicated that they only have 799 students at West Iredell, and they are concerned about health and safety of student athletes competing on the 3A level. Noted that an early college that does not have much athletic participation bumped their numbers up some to the Alignment ADM. Brought up that they were .0008 away from being a 2A school in the current realignment proposal. Brought up budget concerns of not fielding a competitive athletic program at the 3A level. Mentioned the number of multi-sport athletes and that if the students are getting beaten because of numbers they may specialize. Highlighted incoming eighth grade class could send several students to specialty programs at Statesville and North Iredell.

Motion by Toguchi, to approve a request to move West Iredell to the 2A Classification, seconded by Blankenship. Denied 12-4.

Parkland: Spencer Hardy, principal, and Lynwood Jerald, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Parkland appealed to the Board to move to the 3A Classification. Nelson Calvin, assistant principal, highlighted the unique ADM situation where 177 students do not ever attend school at the school. They live in the district, but attend a different high school, and do not have transportation provided to the school and do not participate. Noted the on-campus population at Parkland has about 20% participation. Noted the school and the other schools that can participate at Parkland are all in a high-poverty area where students do not have transportation to participate in athletics at Parkland. Jerald noted that from a health and safety standpoint, 3A was a much better fit for them.

Motion by Beverly, to approve a request by Parkland to move to the 3A Classification, seconded by Toguchi. Denied 13-3.

Ashe County: Amanda Hipp, principal, David Koontz, athletic director, and Dr. Eisa Cox, superintendent presented on behalf of the school. Ashe County is requesting to be moved to the 2A Classification. Provided some historical context of Ashe County's initial placement in 3A when opened in 1999 and dropped to 2A in 2001. Travel concerns within the county for students in participating in athletics. Noted increased travel time within the conference for participating students. Highlighted the amount of class time that students would miss, 1.5 periods of lost instructional time for JV, Varsity basketball and cheerleading. Discussed the funding concerns relative to fuel costs for the current conference proposal. Highlighted the ADM discrepancy between schools within their proposed conference. Averaged 470 or so less students than all other members of proposed conference. They were .247 points ahead of largest 2A school in the west. Dr. Cox highlighted that they are expected to continue to lose student population in Ashe County over the next four years.

Motion by Garrett, to deny Ashe County request to move to the 2A Classification as requested, seconded by Blanton. Approved 16-0.

East Carteret: James Westbrook III, principal, and Daniel Griffiee, athletic director, made the presentation to the Board on behalf of the school. East Carteret is requesting a move to the 1A Classification for the 2021-2025 Realignment. Noted that there were 16 schools with larger ADM numbers that were still 1A. Highlighted the difficulty of their conference placement as a 2A school in a 2A/3A split conference. Mentioned safety concerns in some sports because of ADM discrepancy. Highlighted the difficulty that they face as a small school fielding teams in many sports. Noted they had a very successful run in the State Cup due to three or four outstanding athletes. Noted they were not in a high growth area, like other schools in their county, but they are actually dropping ADM rather than growing.

Rob Jackson, superintendent of Carteret County Schools recused himself prior to any discussion and vote on the appeal of East Carteret High School.

Motion by Morgan, to approve request by East Carteret to move to the 1A Classification, seconded by Stephen Gainey. Denied 11-4.

Kinston: Kellan Bryant, principal, Ryan Gieselman, athletic director, Nicholas Harvey II, system athletic director and Brent Williams, superintendent, presented on behalf of the school. Kinston is requesting to move up to the 2A Classification for the 2021-2025 Realignment. The school highlighted the history of success they have as well as solid performance in the State Cup each year. They also highlighted the lack of JV programs in 1A, which would negatively impact student's athletic growth. They noted they serve a high ISP score, which had an unintended consequence to negatively impacted the opportunities available students at Kinston. They noted the financial responsibility that each school has to sustain an athletic program. Highlighted the decrease in expected gate as well as increase in travel time and expense for Kinston as a 1A school.

Motion by Garrett, to approve a request by Kinston to move to the 2A Classification as requested, seconded by Stephen Gainey. Approved 15-1.

Hunter Huss: Bryan Denton, principal, Elliott Bridges, athletic director, and Chad Duncan, system athletic director for Gaston County Schools presented on behalf of the Board. Hunter Huss is requesting to move up to the 3A Classification. Highlighted their hope to move from Conference 40 to Conference 50. Discussed numbers that led to Huss being classified 2A for this Realignment, believed that the ISP number was the only reason for Huss dropping to the 2A ranks. Highlighted that they are twice as large, in terms of ADM, than two member schools in their currently proposed conference. Noted that they are trending up in terms of ADM, not down, believing that trend will continue for the foreseeable future. Believes that the consequences of the ISP factor inclusion on Hunter Huss have in an unintended way harmed the school in terms of equitable competition. Believes that the loss of gate revenue from games with similarly sized schools could put their school at a disadvantage because of a loss of resources. Believes that a 2A classification, largely based on use of ISP data, would only exacerbate their self-perception and view of their school.

Motion by Lindsey to approve Hunter Huss request to move to the 3A Classification, seconded by Stephen Gainey. Approved 15-1.

Princeton: The Board of Directors reviewed an appeal via electronic correspondence from Princeton to move from the 2A Classification to the 1A classification. The appeal was not approved. The vote was unanimous via electronic correspondence.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

A special called meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 6:33 p.m. via the Zoom virtual platform. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Stephen Gainey, Michael Gainey, Mark Garrett, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan and Masanori Toguchi. Rob Jackson, John Luciano, Joy Warner was absent.

Affiliate members included Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent due to State Board of Education, Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, and Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. David Brown of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors was absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Chiquana Dancy, Mark Dreibelbis, and Brad Alford.

Commissioner opened with some brief comments on what has been going on in the office over the last two weeks. Mentioned the outstanding work of Green Level High School in Wake County in hosting the Volleyball Championships and discussed the championship expenses for volleyball. Posed a question to the Board as to whether or not the Association should keep any money from the volleyball championships or how the money should be divided.

Motion by Mark Byrd to waive the State Association's 60-40% split of revenue for Volleyball for 2020-2021 only, with all money going to the member schools participating, seconded by Blankenship. Approved unanimously.

Commissioner asked the Board to consider several factors relative to the Basketball playoffs and seeding coming up. Seeding is scheduled for Saturday, but winter weather and inclement weather over the last two weeks could pose a reason to extend the season by one day. Staff would propose moving seeding to Sunday and extend the season by one day to allow teams to play three games in this week regardless. An extra day may also allow two teams tied for first place to play a tiebreaker.

Toguchi made a motion to extend the basketball season by one day while allowing three games in a week for any reason for teams without NCHSAA approval, seconded by Wilkins. Would keep the playoff schedule the same for basketball with the exception of seeding occurring on Sunday instead of Saturday. Motion approved unanimously.

Commissioner posed the question how the Board would like to handle the spectator limitations for basketball, whether or not they would be in favor of continuing to allow home fans only for the basketball playoffs like they have for volleyball.

Blankenship made a motion to keep the spectator limitations as they were for volleyball is until new executive orders or guidance is issued from the State Government, seconded by Toguchi. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner Tucker asked a question about the ticket price, particularly eliminating the doubleheader ticket price for basketball. Staff proposed \$7 per game in the first three rounds, \$9 in the regional round and \$15 per contest for the State Championships.

Blankenship made a motion to accept the staff proposal for ticket prices in the basketball playoffs (\$7 per game for rounds 1-3, \$9 per game for regional, and \$15 per game for State Championships), seconded by Toguchi. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner proposed that the Association would not take any shares or \$1 surcharge throughout the playoffs through the regional rounds.

Lindsey made a motion that the NCHSAA would not take a percentage of the gate or the \$1 surcharge per ticket for the first four rounds of the basketball playoffs, seconded by Blanton. Approved unanimously by voice vote.

Commissioner brought up issues surrounding cheerleading and the updated or changed guidance for cheerleading. NFHS has left the decision about whether or not cheerleaders in masks should be allowed to partner stunt. Based on input from SMAC, the staff would propose to allow stunting beginning on February 25th, 2021, if local districts and coaches will allow it.

Toguchi made a motion to allow cheerleading to begin stunting at contests beginning on February 25, 2021 following NCHSAA and NFHS Guidance relative to securing masks and safety, seconded by Blankenship. Motion was approved 13-2.

Alford updated the Board relative to updated golf guidance for USGA rules and regulations in the conduct of matches. Will provide an update via email early next week.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Wednesday, March 10, 2021**

A special called meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 7:33 p.m. via the Zoom virtual platform. Members in attendance included **Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Nell Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Michael Gainey, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner.**

Affiliate members included **Vernon Aldridge** representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, **David Brown** of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors, **Joe Franks** of the North Carolina Coaches Association, **Burt Jenkins** of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and **David Brown** of Piedmont Baseball Umpires Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. **Wendell Hall** who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent due to State Board of Education were absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner **Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Mark Dreibelbis, Chiquana Dancy, and Brad Alford.**

The Board gathered to address procedural realignment appeals and a host of other topics of pressing concerns.

PROCEDURAL REALIGNMENT APPEALS

Jacksonville HS: Maria Johnson, principal for Jacksonville, appealed on behalf of the school. Greg Grantham, athletic director for Onslow County was on the call as well. Expressed concern that early in the process, some principals were contacted for feedback on the plan, while others, including her, were not. Felt that she should have been contacted because their school was being pulled out of Onslow County to play schools further away. Noted there are six 3A high schools in the Onslow County District, which provides the opportunity to allow those schools to play within their district. During first appeal, she brought up the idea that perception is reality, and that Richlands had been moved while Jacksonville and Northside-Jacksonville are not. Noted that Jacksonville and Northside-Jacksonville are the lowest socio-economic status in Onslow County, and they are being impacted the most by travel and taking time off work to participate in their children's activities and education. Staying in the county for conference games, would allow the parents of students at Jacksonville to be better involved and with the options for conference opponents within 45 minutes of the school make it unreasonable. Requested that the Board consider a one-year postponement for realignment due to the financial crisis that has hurt school's athletic budgets because of hurricanes and COVID. Noted that this is the time, if there ever was one, to make the unprecedented move of postponing a realignment.

Toguchi asked about whether there was work between Conference 16 and Conference 19 to solve these issues. Johnson noted that the efforts to try and compromise allowed other schools to simply say "no we don't agree" while Jacksonville and Northside-Jacksonville were not able to try and move the pieces around to find a more workable solution for everyone.

Gainey addressed a question about Havelock's objection to the move of Jacksonville and Northside-Jacksonville relative to non-conference scheduling. Johnson noted that she assured them that she would be willing to play against Havelock in non-conference.

Midway HS: Aaron Lane, athletic director for the school, made the presentation on behalf of the school. Highlighted the school's concerns about travel to the Robeson County area, specifically about safety of the bus trips on I-95 and missed instructional time for students. Presented a graphic showing the travel time and proximity of Midway to Johnston County and Wayne County. Asking for relief to be placed in Conference 8.

Lindsey asked whether the members of Conference 8 would approve Midway coming into the conference. Said that they have been in phone conversations with many schools in the league and have gotten pretty good feedback from those schools. North Johnston was the only school that had any type of concern about Midway joining the conference.

Morgan asked about JV games and programs relative to how they align with schools in Conference 7. Lane noted that there is some concern about being able to find games for the number of JV programs that they field at Midway. Many schools in Conference 7 do not field JV programs in all sports.

Draughn HS: Shane Gardner, principal, and Brandon Wykle, athletic director, presented on behalf of their school. Highlighted the concerns of the school due to travel times and finances. Noted students would be leaving school at 12:30 pm for away games at 4 pm. Students may not arrive home by midnight due to the late-night nature of basketball. Discussed safety issues with 7th and 8th grade students participating on JV football teams. Burke County Public Schools does not allow that. Outlined financial concerns detailing current travel expenses of \$5,712 for yearly expenses. New conference would cause an increase in yearly expenses for travel to \$17,388. Average of 19 miles one-way trip in current conference. Would increase to more than 70 miles one-way trip average in Conference 42. Also noted concerns about lack of golf and swimming programs in the new conference, programs that they do offer. Discussed that Conference 40 would support Draughn's move to their league.

Blankenship highlighted a question about JV rules using the 7th and 8th grade students. Noted that they would not lose eligibility because teams using 7-9th grade students are under the middle school rules.

Edkins requested clarification on the financial numbers provided by Principal Gardner, who detailed that the comparisons were "apples to apples" meaning using the same number of buses and cost-per-mile factor.

Northside-Pinetown: Tracey Nixon, principal, and Jared Adams, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Highlighted the travel concerns in Conference 3, requested moving to Conference 1 where they believe that travel would be less. Also highlighted the loss of class time having to leave at 12:30 for conference games. Wanted to consider a football-only conference with Conference 3 and Conference 1. Wanted to reduce travel in sports where they play multiple games on the same day, to reduce loss of class time. Highlighted the school only has two activity buses and to secure another one it is 30 miles to go pick one up.

President Simmons asked for any discussion or a motion to entertain Northside-Pinetown's appeal to move from Conference 3 to Conference 1.

The Board discussed options for football and other sports for Northside-Pinetown. Commissioner Tucker noted that Northside-Pinetown did not begin appealing until East Carteret joined Conference 3 late in the process. Discussed the lack of 11-man football teams in Conference 1. Also discussed the loss of a conference school for Conference 3, to make sure that there were six teams in that conference for scheduling purposes.

Beverly made a motion to uphold the Realignment Committee decision to place Northside-Pinetown in Conference 3, seconded by Michael Gainey. Lindsey requested clarification that they were voting to deny Northside-Pinetown's request to be moved to Conference 1. Motion approved 16-0 with Morgan and Jackson recused.

President Simmons asked for any discussion or a motion to entertain Draughn's request to move from Conference 42 to Conference 40.

Luciano made a motion to uphold the Realignment Committee decision to place Draughn in Conference 42, seconded by Lynch. Motion approved 18-0.

President Simmons asked for any discussion or a motion to entertain Midway's request to move from Conference 7 to Conference 8.

Board brought up discrepancies with the average mileage presented by Midway. Actual numbers of average miles between the two conferences are only four miles average.

Lindsey made a motion to uphold the Realignment Committee decision to place Midway in Conference 7, seconded by Blanton. Motion approved 18-0.

President Simmons asked for any discussion or a motion to entertain Jacksonville's request to move from Conference 19 to Conference 16. Jackson recused himself from the discussion on Jacksonville and Conference 16.

Commissioner discussed that Jacksonville made a request to postpone the Realignment implementation for one year. Simmons clarified that he believed that the Board should make a decision on Jacksonville's request to join Conference 16.

Toguchi made a motion to uphold the Realignment Committee decision to place Jacksonville in Conference 19, seconded by Lindsey. Motion approved 16-0 with Jackson and Simmons recused.

President Simmons entertained a motion and discussion on postponing realignment.

Wilkins made a motion to deny Jacksonville's request to postpone realignment implementation for one-year, seconded by Garrett. Motion approved 16-0 with Jackson and Simmons recused.

Commissioner requested the President and the Board entertain a motion to formally accept the final realignment plan as presented by the Realignment Committee.

Byrd made a motion to accept the Realignment Committee's final proposal for the 2021-2025 Realignment, seconded by Morgan. Motion approved 18-0.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: The Board looked at general discussions relative to the 2021-2022 Sports Calendar and playoff qualification plans for the upcoming year. They reviewed the recommendations of the Playoffs & Bracketing Committee, as a proposal for a playoff and championship plan coming into the new alignment.

The Board discussed the overlap of seasons and start dates for football, how many weeks of regular season in football, including whether or not to include a bye-week. They discussed a proposal to reduce the number of games in all sports and include a proposal to allow a tournament to count as one contest in basketball, as is done in volleyball. The Board also discussed a specific RPI formula as a tool to seed for NCHSAA Playoffs during the upcoming year. Toguchi believes that having a formula like this sets aside many concerns that schools have about not knowing what goes into the formula for the qualification process.

Toguchi made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 playoff seeding formula and process as presented from the Bracketing Committee and Staff, seconded by Lynch. Motion approved 17-0 with Jackson absent.

The Board shifted discussion to the 2021-2022 Sports Calendar and two-year football calendar. The Staff presented the proposed 2021-2022 Sports Calendar relative to the just approved playoff procedure. Blankenship noted that football coaches would probably prefer to have an extra week in the season to deal with scheduling issues for teams on conference byes. Also noted that having an extra week during the season would be important for the number of players that participate on offense and defense.

Toguchi asked for clarification on whether the Board should establish a date that summer workouts could begin, based on a compressed season and varying end dates for LEAs across the state. SMAC had conversations about this topic on Monday and are soliciting feedback from the Football Coaches Association. Toguchi pressed a question about a potential dead period for the end of seasons this year and leading into a reset of the school year.

Blankenship made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Sports Calendar and two-year football calendar, seconded by Edkins. Motion approved 17-0 with Jackson absent.

The Board discussed the awarding of a 2021-2022 Tennis Team State Championship. Unlike wrestling, tennis does not have a procedure to award points based on individual tennis championship bracket advancement in the regionals and state tournaments. Board discussed that this could be an equity issue based on awarding a tournament team champion in wrestling but not in tennis.

Warner made a motion to award an individual tournament team champion in tennis for the 2021-2022 tennis season, seconded by Michael Gainey. Motion approved 17-0 with Jackson absent.

Commissioner prompted the Board to address whether attendance should be allowed at scrimmages now that the governor has loosened restrictions relative to COVID.

Byrd made a motion to allow spectator attendance at all scrimmages but not at other practices, effective immediately, seconded by Garrett. Motion approved 17-0 with Jackson absent.

The Board discussed wrestling and concerns that DHHS has with moving forward with wrestling. Board generally felt that based on feedback from other states that have already competed in wrestling and the number of wrestlers in NC that are participating in club and individual tournaments, that the Association should move forward with wrestling, provided they wear a mask during competition.

The Board had conversations about allowing three contests per week with the week of spring break being an issue. Schools are wanting to move their games from the week of Spring Break to other weeks. Board discussed some issues with testing dates and overlapping seasons. President entertained a motion to allow three games in a single week.

Blankenship made a motion to allow three contests in a week for any reason, seconded by Warner. Motion was approved 12-5.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson
Assistant Commissioner