

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING  
Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

The spring meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Jerry Simmons at 9:04 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton RTP. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner. Michael Gainey and John Luciano were absent.

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, Tavares Toomer, Chiquana Dancy, and Pepper Hines.

The minutes from the Winter 2020 Board meeting and special called meetings since December 2020 were submitted for approval; motion by Jackson to accept as presented, second by Lindsey. Approved 16-0, with one abstention.

<p><b>CONSENT AGENDA</b> <b>NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION</b> <b>2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING</b> (Cases handled since November 16, 2020 and before April 16, 2021)</p>
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**NCHSAA MEMBERSHIP**

1. **ASCEND LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:** Accepted NCHSAA membership application from Ascend Leadership Academy, effective 2021-22 school year.

**HARDSHIPS**

1. **NORTH GASTON:** Approved waiver of Attendance and Graduation Requirements for Sadie Harless.
2. **MOUNT TABOR:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Anna Berger. The documentation provided does not indicate that the student was medically advised to take a reduced academic load.
3. **CEDAR RIDGE:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Nicholas Frank.
4. **LANGTREE CHARTER:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Damiam Hurtado.
5. **SOUTH ROWAN:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Karill D'Atis Amar Feaster.
6. **MOORESVILLE:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Nicholas Cromer. The documentation provided does not indicate that the student's medical condition is related to failing the two community college courses.
7. **EAST RUTHERFORD:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Davion Murray.
8. **ROCKINGHAM COUNTY:** Approved waiver of Attendance and Graduation Requirements for Bethany Denson.
9. **PERQUIMANS:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Brayden Russell. While the documentation indicates the student's grades were incomplete, the grades at the time of withdrawal were unsatisfactory. Additionally, there is no supporting documentation of the stated sever family issues.
10. **HOUGH:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Annabelle Chullli. The documentation provided indicates the school did not place the student in the minimum load of classes for athletic eligibility.
11. **NORTHERN GUILFORD:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Brady Andrew Mercer. Northern Guilford appealed the staff decision, and the Hardship Committee overturned the decision.
12. **CENTRAL DAVIDSON:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Keyshawn Breedlove.
13. **SOUTH IREDELL:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Ryan Brandon Heaney. The documentation provided indicates the student has been diagnosed with Situational A.D.D. However, there is no medical documentation indicating such diagnosis or that the diagnosis caused the ineligibility.
14. **BEDDINGFIELD:** Approved waiver of Residence Requirements for Jah'Vonte Rawlings.
15. **BRADFORD PREP:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Kamaria Johnson.
16. **KNIGHTDALE:** Denied waiver of Eight Semester Rule for Timothy Carlton Brown, III. Documentation provided indicates that the student has not been ineligible for athletics during his high school career and the broken foot was sustained while playing basketball. The NCHSAA does not have a precedent of waiving the Eight-Semester Rule due to athletic injuries.
17. **T.C. ROBERSON:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Kyleigh Martens. The documentation provided indicates the student was hospitalized due to mental health issues. However, there is no medical documentation indicating the need to drop classes.
18. **HOLLY SPRINGS:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Payton Allred.
19. **SWANSBORO:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Jared Moore.
20. **KNIGHTDALE:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Josue Umana-Bonilla.
21. **SANDERSON:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Kieran Guillory. The documentation provided indicates the student only passed 2 course.
22. **ANSON COUNTY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Mary Ashlyn Gatewood. The documentation provided indicates the school did not place the student in the minimum load of classes for athletic eligibility.

23. **GRIMSLEY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Julianna Gwynn. The documentation provided indicates the student suffers from mental health issues. However, there is no medical documentation supporting the information nor that the issues are related to the ineligibility.
24. **MALLARD CREEK:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Jabriel Halim Blakeney.
25. **RAGSDALE:** Denied waiver of Scholastic and Residence Requirements for Julian Gomez. Ragsdale appealed the staff decision, and the Hardship Committee overturned the decision.
26. **LANGTREE CHARTER:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Savannah James.
27. **WILLIAMS:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Anthony Carey. Documentation indicates the student moved to North Carolina in November; however, he did not enroll in school. It is to be noted that the student is not eligible residentially based on the parent/legal custodian's residence.
28. **GRIMSLEY:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Jelel Isaiah Melton.
29. **NORTH BUNCOMBE:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Ethan Jones.
30. **CARY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Kristi Bellovoda. Information provided indicates psychological health issues; however, there is no medical documentation that supports such or that the ineligibility is directly related to the medical issue.
31. **EASTERN GUILFORD:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for DaMon Coleman.
32. **GRIMSLEY:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Darren Gray.
33. **MYERS PARK:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Nicholas Legrande.
34. **NORTHWEST GUILFORD:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Sean Sims.
35. **SOUTHWEST GUILFORD:** Approved waiver of Eight Semester Rule for Alyssa Hutchens.
36. **REAGAN:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Alexis Woelfel. It is to be noted that a student not academically eligible at the beginning of the semester is not eligible at any time during the semester.
37. **GRIMSLEY:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Cyrell Little.
38. **GRIMSLEY:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Lance Powell.
39. **GRIMSLEY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Aidan Schwartz.
40. **BERRY ACADEMY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Zaccheus Knight. The student did not pass the minimum load.
41. **HOUGH:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Sarah Benjamin. The student did not pass the minimum load.
42. **BEN L. SMITH:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Trevon Norman.
43. **ANSON COUNTY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Gavin Smith. The documentation provided indicates the student did not pass college level courses at the Early College.
44. **PORTER RIDGE:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Stephania Castillo.
45. **A.C. REYNOLDS:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Najeah Porter.
46. **CHERRYVILLE:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Kelssie Jane Cook.
47. **SOUTH GRANVILLE:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Storri Carroll.
48. **D.H. CONLEY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Meredith Setser. The student was advised by school counselors to drop two classes.
49. **D.H. CONLEY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Ashlyn Hubbard. The student was advised by school counselors to drop two classes.
50. **ORANGE:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Kaitlyn Perkins. There is no medical documentation to support the diagnosis of depression and anxiety.
51. **NORTHWEST GUILFORD:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Emma Moberg.
52. **ASHLEY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Brianna Oxendine. The school did not sign the student up for another course after dropping a course.
53. **ASHLEY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Lindley Schutte. The student did not pass the minimum load.
54. **HOGGARD:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Benjamin Boyd. There is no medical documentation supporting a diagnosis or the relation to academic performance.
55. **NORTHAMPTON COUNTY:** Denied waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Jahmeik Reid. The schools did not add any courses after courses were dropped.
56. **CEDAR RIDGE:** Denied waiver of Residence Requirements for Nigel Slanker. The request lacks documentation supporting the bullying claim.
57. **LEJEUNE:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for Elias Angel Oliverez.
58. **GRAY'S CREEK:** Denied waiver of Residence Requirements for Kobe Kinlaw. The request lacks documentation indicating the failed courses are directly related to medical matters. It is to be noted the student has failed to meet local standards which the NCHSAA can neither address nor waive.
59. **LEJEUNE:** Approved waiver of Scholastic Requirements for David Uribe.
60. **GHERRYVILLE:** Denied waiver of Residence Requirements for Brady Buchanan. The request lacks documentation that indicates the medial situation caused the student to become ineligible.

#### HARDSHIPS

##### 1. REQUEST:

- a. Approved 23/60 requests based on mutual agreement and not for athletic purposes.
- b. Denied 37/60 requests due to boundary criteria.
  - i. 2 were appealed to the Hardship Committee, and both were Overturned/Approved.

## TRANSFERS

### 1. FIRST TIME TRANSFER REQUEST:

- a. Approved 75/76 requests based on mutual agreement and not for athletic purposes.
- b. Denied 1/76 requests due to boundary criteria.
  - i. 1 was appealed to the Transfer Committee, and it was Upheld/Denied.
    - a. Transfer Committee Authorized: 2

The Board heard the report on the consent agenda from Brad Alford. No items had further discussion requested. Motion to approve by Toguchi, second by Morgan. Approved 16-0.

**Commissioner's Report:** Commissioner Tucker addressed the Board, discussing updates on the legislative inquiry into the Association's operations. The Commissioner also highlighted how appreciative she has been of having the support of the Board of Directors over the course of the last several months. Discussed the opportunity to improve communication with member schools about what an endowment is and how they work, providing better financial transparency and clarity to our member schools.

Requested the Board consider whether or not to host an NCAA Scholastic Team Event, around the weekend of June 19th. Motion to support the conduct of an NCAA Scholastic Team Event in June, operated by the NC Basketball Coaches Association, motion by Toguchi, second by Blankenship. Approved 16-0.

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

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

**REVIEW/OFFICIATING:** chairperson Rob Jackson, 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.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Jimmy Tillman, chairperson and system Athletic Director for Wilson County Schools, made the presentation on behalf of the committee. Tillman thanked the Board of Directors for their hard work and efforts. He noted how proud he was to be a member of this Association and how the member schools have successfully navigated the challenges this year with COVID-19. Will submit the following recommendations for Board of Directors Officers and Members pending consideration by the membership at the Annual Meeting on Thursday:

1. Elect as President, Bobby Wilkins, Principal of Hendersonville High School.
2. Elect as Vice-President, Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent of Carteret County Schools.
3. Elect as Past-President, Jerry Simmons, Principal of New Bern High School.
4. Re-elect to finish a three-year term, Tod Morgan, Principal of Jones Senior High School, Region 2, class 1A.
5. Elect for a four-year term, Tanya Turner, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, in Region 1, class 1A.
6. Elect for a four-year term, Chad Duncan, Athletic Director of Gaston County Schools, in Region 6, class 2A.
7. Elect for a four-year term, Brian Carver, Athletic Director of Enka High School, in Region 8, class 3A.

Motion from the floor to affirm the decision to suspend the endowment game concept indefinitely by Wilkins, seconded by Jackson. Approved 16-0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The Board heard reports out of each committee relative to the agenda items set forth for each group. Discussion ensued. The Board discussed adding catastrophic insurance premium payment for sanctioned sports as a member benefit. Made clear that the catastrophic insurance premium payment by the Association should only be for sports with a championship conducted by the NCHSAA and cheerleading. Discussed solidifying standing Board and Staff operations as written policy in the area of endowment disbursement and operational reserves. Spent an extended period of time debating SMAC recommendation for an additional dead period between June 28 and July 3. Many felt that student-athletes had been away from conditioning and weight training long enough and had heard concerns from coaches about the higher frequency of injuries this year. Understood the need for a break for athletic trainers and first responders, especially those that are school-based and working long hours teaching and covering events and practice in the compressed seasons.

After committee reports, the Board adjourned for the day at 3:15 p.m.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021**

The spring 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. at the DoubleTree by Hilton RTP. Members in attendance included Jerry Simmons, Bobby Wilkins, Ronnie Beverly, Neil Blankenship, Chris Blanton, Mark Byrd, Brian Edkins, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Rob Jackson, Troy Lindsey, John Luciano, Fred Lynch, Cathy Quiroz Moore, Tod Morgan, Masanori Toguchi, Joy Warner. Michael Gainey and John Luciano were absent.

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, Tavares Toomer, Chiquana Dancy, and Pepper Hines.

**SAAC REPORT:** Rachel Bowers from Research Triangle High School presented on behalf of the group. Highlighted the turbulent year but highlighted how grateful student-athletes have been for the hard work of Principals, Athletic Directors and other administrators in offering a season. Noted several community service projects conducted by SAAC, from clothing and food drives to tournaments and other fundraisers. SAAC will not hold a Student Leadership Conference this year but highlighted the numerous ways SAAC has tried to engage student-athletes across the state. Group hopes to be able to offer the Conference again next year.

The Board moved into closed session to deal with a Hardship Appeal from Sun Valley High School.

**NC ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION:** Vernon Aldridge presented on behalf of the group. Noted how refreshing it has been to be face-to-face for the last few days. Association has worked with AD's across the state, presenting the "Transformational Leadership" series, discussing leadership and building successful programs. They have tried to provide professional development and educational opportunities for Athletic Directors during the pandemic. Making plans to host a summer leadership academy in Greensboro, during the week of the Coaches' Clinic. They also plan to honor Hall of Fame inductees and award winners in Greensboro this summer. Highlighted the benefits of membership for athletic directors. Noted the National AD Conference in December in Denver, CO and the state conference April 2-5, 2022 in Wilmington.

**NC COACHES ASSOCIATION:** Joe Franks addressed the Board on behalf of the group. Commended the Board for getting together in person. Discussed the ways the NCCA has had to lean on other partner organizations like the NCADA, NOCAD and other groups to navigate the pandemic. NC will host the National NOCAD conference in January. Neil Blankenship will serve as the incoming vice president for the NCCA. Will have an in-person Coaches Clinic for 2021 with some modifications. Plan to send registration out next week and notification that there will not be a trade show for this year. Pre-registration will be required for former and current members. They will offer new registration only in Greensboro. Conference will only be three days instead of four with state rules sessions moved online. Encouraged the Board to keep getting back to normal.

**REGIONAL SUPERVISORS/OFFICIALS REPORT:** David Brown, supervisor of officials for the Piedmont Basketball Officials' Association, addressed the board on behalf of the group. Noted one regional supervisor that has 2200 changes due to COVID. Highlighted the ways that regional supervisors grew as leaders, adapting to needs and changes. Challenged the Board to step up to the plate in the way we address the demographic shift in officiating. Asked them not to be lukewarm about doing new things to help recruitment and retention of new officials like a credited officiating class for students, etc. When you lead, almost everything you do should be to better someone else.

**NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:** Burt Jenkins presented on behalf of the Department. Noted that the DPI Staff has not been in the building yet after COVID. Targeting June and July for a return to the office. Thanked the Board for their support of their middle school programs across the state. Discussed the challenges we all face right now and noted that much of the difficulties we face are created by a very small minority of the population. Aske the Board to remember the many we do not hear from that are appreciative of the way that thing have been done and have been impacted in a positive way by the work of the Association.

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

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

1. Proposal by the Triangle 8 Conference to change the first contest date of basketball in the 2021-2022 sports calendar from November 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> did not emerge from committee.
2. Recommendation to increase the number of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students allowed to utilize the 8-quarter rule in a given season for 3A and 4A schools to ten (10), motion by Blankenship, seconded by Blanton. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Committee amended a proposal from the Big South Conference to include 4A in the motion.
3. Proposal by the NC Basketball Coaches Association to allow 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in five (5) quarters of basketball games on the same day did not emerge from committee.
  - a. Board requested staff and Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) review daily limitations for basketball, lacrosse, and soccer.

4. Recommendation to extend the scratch period from 30 minutes after the conclusion of each regional competition to 3:00 p.m. on the Monday before the State Championship Competitions, motion by Blankenship, seconded by Toguchi. Approved 16-0.
5. Recommendation to require all NCHSAA member schools fielding a Swimming & Diving team to register user accounts with NCPrepSwimming.com by November 15<sup>th</sup> of each year at the cost of \$20 per year, effective with the 2021-2022 school year, motion by Blankenship, seconded by Wilkins. Approved 16-0.
6. Proposal by the NC Track and Cross Country Coaches Association to change the qualifying procedure to the State Cross Country Championship meet did not emerge from committee.

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

1. Review and discussion of 2020-2021 budget versus actual revenues and expenses through March 31, 2021.
2. Review and discussion of 2020-2021 financial report relative to sports comparisons from previous year(s).
3. Recommendation to approve 60% NCHSAA, 40% participating schools gate split for football championship finals, motion by Wilkins, second by Wilkins. Approved 16-0.
  - a. State Championship financial breakdowns determined at a later date for remaining sports.
4. Review and discussion of investment accounts based on market perspectives from management groups and quarterly statement ending March 31, 2021.
5. Review and discussion of the use of fine monies for partial reimbursement of courses towards AIC and/or CIC certification for coaches.
6. Review and discussion of an update of 2019-2020 Grants and 2020-2021 Grant request including applications, awards and projects funded.
7. Review and discussion of funds provided to schools through COVID Athletic Program Subsidy (CAPS).
8. Review and discussion of status of TPG partnership and new partnership sales.
9. Review and discussion of handling of playoff streaming fees.
10. Recommendation to consolidate the existing endowment funds into one money management firm, The Fordham Group, Morgan Stanly and establish an Endowment Review Committee to work with the Finance & Personnel Committee, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 16-0
11. Recommendation to adopt a Spending Policy which outlines parameters for distribution of Board Designated interest earnings from the General Endowment Fund, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Jackson, Approved 16-0.
12. Recommendation to continue Student Services Program and integrate funding for Student Services programming into the annual operating budget, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Morgan, approved 16-0.
13. Recommendation to approve the following items as a motion by Wilkins, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Affirm suspension of endowment game concept indefinitely.
  - b. Revise the NCHSAA gate share percentages as follows:
    - i. Lacrosse First Round revise from 15% share to 0% share
    - ii. Lacrosse Third Round revise from 25% share to 15% share.
    - iii. Dual Team Wrestling First and Second Round revise from 15% to 0%
    - iv. Dual Team Tennis State Finals round implement 25% revenue share with participating schools.
  - c. Implement travel reimbursement for Dual Team Tennis.
    - i. Travel paid at the rate of \$0.05 per mile for each qualifier, including coach, up to a maximum of \$0.35, effective July 1, 2021.
14. Review and discussion of personnel matters
  - a. Jonathan Leonard, Assistant Director for Business & Finance, has submitted resignation effective April 28, 2021 to take a position with a company in RTP.
  - b. Annual review of NCHSAA Employee Handbook policies is underway.
  - c. Insurance bids are underway through Marsh & McLennan for Association employee and organization's insurance for 2021-2022.
15. Recommendation to approve a revision of the Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy from \$500 to \$2500 effective July 1, 2021, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Stephen Gainey. Approved 16-0.
16. Recommendation for the NCHSAA to assume coverage of catastrophic insurance premiums as a membership benefit for member schools for sanctioned sports and cheerleading, motion by Wilkins, seconded by Beverly. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Sanctioned sports are as follows Men's Cross Country, Women's Cross Country, Football, Men's Soccer, Women's Volleyball, Women's Golf, Women's Tennis, Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Men's Indoor Track & Field, Women's Indoor Track & Field, Men's Swimming & Diving, Women's Swimming & Diving, Wrestling, Baseball, Men's Lacrosse, Women's Lacrosse, Men's Golf, Men's Tennis, Softball, Men's Track & Field, Women's Track & Field, and Women's Soccer.

**POLICY:** Fred Lynch served as chairperson in Luciano's absence, Mark Byrd, Fred Lynch, Joy Warner, and Burt Jenkins. Staff advisor Brad Alford. Chairperson John Luciano and committee member Michael Gainey were absent.

1. Proposal from Cabarrus County Schools to have the NCHSAA fully govern cheerleading did not emerge from committee. Board is requesting NCHSAA Staff survey member schools to determine their preferences relative to the classification status of cheerleading.
2. Proposal from Cabarrus County Schools on winter sports season academic eligibility did not emerge from committee.
3. Recommendation to prevent equipment from being worn that would require a Licensed Athletic Trainer or First Responder to be present during the week of June 28-July 3, 2021, motion by Laney, second by Blankenship. Approved 15-1.
  - a. Board amended a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee proposal requesting an additional dead period.

4. Proposal from the Football Coaches Association to establish a fine for a school that does not cast a vote on an amendment change did not emerge from committee. Board is requesting for better and more frequent communication with AD's when information is sent to Principals for voting items.
5. Review and discussion of the non-athletic calendar.
6. Recommendation from SMAC to approve revision to modified sports manual to follow CDC guidance that a fully vaccinated student-athlete, coach, or athletic staff member who has had direct exposure does not need to quarantine or test for COVID-19 unless they exhibit symptoms, effective April 28, 2021, motion by Lynch, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 16-0.

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

1. Recommendation to approve the comprehensive listing of incidents per school, motion by Jackson, second by Lindsey. Approved 16-0.
2. Review and discussion of the ejection report to date.
3. Recommendation to change Handbook regulation 3.3.2 (f)(2) as a one-year pilot program, motion by Jackson, seconded by Edkins. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Delete "must be 18 years of age and not in high school."
  - b. Recommend the officials only be utilized in middle school and private school contests.
4. Review and discussion of a potential change from ArbiterSports to DragonFly in 2022-2023.
5. Recommendation to approve the below Regional Supervisor appointments effective April 28, 2021 by Jackson, seconded by Moore. Approved 16-0.
  - a. Scott Arbena – Asheville Women's Lacrosse
  - b. Bryan Yates – WNC Football
  - c. Eric Usher – WNC Soccer
  - d. Cindy Christie – Mountain West Volleyball
  - e. Greg Fogleman – Triangle Basketball
6. Review and discussion of all 2021-2022 State Rules Clinics for officials and coaches being conducted online.
7. Review and discussion of discontinuing state support of the Student Services "Coach Mentor Training Program" grant. NCHSAA will create a budget for the 2021-2022 academic year to ensure continued service to member schools.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Tucker provided the Board with updates relative to legislative inquiries and action into the business and finances of the NCHSAA. Provided an update to the Board relative to legislative questions about the NCHSAA's status as applies under the State Tort Claims Act of 1994. Highlighted that the definition of State Agency varies for different functions. Also noted that our auditors are very clear that the NCHSAA is not a private organization, but rather a public charity, subject to all federal and state regulations regarding public charities. Reminded the Board that legislators have even said that the Association has done nothing wrong, but we will continue to fight to do the most right we can for the students and member schools of North Carolina. Updated the Board that NFHS Section 3 has requested that Commissioner Tucker will serve out the one-year remaining term of Steve Savarese, Executive Director of the Alabama High School Athletic Association, on the National Federation of State High School Associations Board of Directors due to his retirement this summer. Publicly thanked President Simmons and vice-president Wilkins for their leadership and care this year.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Simmons remarked how good it has been to be together as a Board. Thanked the Board for the ways they have stepped up to make this year happen and particularly make this Board meeting happen face-to-face. Highlighted the language surrounding this year, but in all the challenges, remarked about the opportunities to share our story and reflect on what we are doing. Challenged the Board to continue to be measured in their approach and data-driven with research in response to challenges. Stated how proud he was of what the Board has accomplished for this Association this year. Complemented the Board on how special they truly are.

The Board adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



James Alverson  
Assistant Commissioner

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, April 29, 2021**

In accordance with Bylaw IV of the NCHSAA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Annual Meeting of the Association was held via the Zoom virtual platform due to COVID-19 and restrictions put in place by the governor of North Carolina. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. and was brought to order by President Jerry Simmons who gave a word of welcome on behalf of the Board of Directors

**SAAC REPORT:** E.J. McArthur, senior from Jack Britt High School, presented on behalf of the Committee. Thanked the Staff, Board, and Chiquana Dancy for being able to be a part of the Student Athlete Advisory Council. Highlighted his opportunity to go to the Student Leadership Conference for the NFHS and his community service project to establish a food pantry for the members of his local community. He closed by recognizing his fellow graduating SAAC Members and Chiquana Dancy for her work with the group.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Simmons provided information about his time as Board President, said that we could focus on the challenges and failures of the last year, but he would prefer that we focus on the future and the strengths of an Association that serves hundreds of thousands of athletes and 421 member schools. Highlighted that athletic directors, athletic trainers, coaches and first responders are the ones who implemented the procedures and protocols that allowed us to reach the point where we are nearly able to complete a full sports season. Noted that the student-athletes are the real heroes this year, going the extra mile to carry themselves safely through the year at home, in school and in these programs. Thanked the NCCA, NCADA, DHHS, NCDPI, State Board of Education and a renewed partnership with the General Assembly as providing the support necessary to carry out a successful year for our student athletes.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Jimmy Tillman, System Athletic Director for Wilson County Schools, made the report to present the candidates for the 2021-2022 Board of Directors. Tillman noted that based on ByLaw IV of the NCHSAA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall submit to the membership at the Annual Meeting the following recommendations for the 2021-2022 school year:

1. Elect as President, Bobby Wilkins, Principal of Hendersonville High School.
2. Elect as Vice-President, Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent of Carteret County Schools.
3. Elect as Past-President, Jerry Simmons, Principal of New Bern High School.
4. Re-elect to finish a three-year term to fulfill a full four-year term served, Tod Morgan, Principal of Jones Senior High School, Region 2, class 1A.
5. Elect for a four-year term, Tanya Turner, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, in Region 1, class 1A.
6. Elect for a four-year term, Chad Duncan, Athletic Director of Gaston County Schools, in Region 6, class 2A.
7. Elect for a four-year term, Brian Carver, Athletic Director of Enka High School, in Region 8, class 3A.

Tillman made the report from the Nominating Committee in the form of a motion. The motion was seconded by Doris Sellars, Principal for A.C. Reynolds High School. Tillman yielded the floor to Commissioner Tucker to conduct the vote. The motion was approved by a vote through the Zoom Virtual Platform polling mechanism with 82 yes votes, 1 nay votes.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Tucker gave her report, thanking the nominating committee for their work. She also thanked the members for their nominations and suggestions for individuals who could serve on the Board of Directors. Thanked the members for the work they have done this year to provide educational opportunities for students and young people this year. Commended the Board of Directors, particularly President Simmons, for the leadership and guidance they provided as well as many different times that they convened to respond to the pandemic on behalf of the member schools that the Board serves. Commissioner highlighted the Board of Directors decisions from this past year, first from the Winter 2020 meeting and then the Spring 2021 meeting. Particularly highlighted the COVID-19 Athletic Program Subsidy (CAPS) distribution of \$4,000,000 in Board designated endowed funds to schools, elimination of subdivision in football championships beginning with the 2021-2022 season, and final approval of the 2021-2025 Realignment Plan. For the Spring Meeting of the Board the Commissioner highlighted the changes to the eight-quarter participation rule for football, a pilot program for allowing high school students to register as officials, modifications to the guidance on COVID-19 exposure for vaccinated individuals, updates to NCHSAA Gate Share percentages in Lacrosse, Dual Team Wrestling and Dual Team Tennis, and assuming financial coverage of catastrophic insurance premiums for cheerleading and NCHSAA sanctioned sports, effective 2021-2022 school year. Commissioner announced that in accordance with announced changes by Governor Cooper yesterday, starting Friday, masks will be optional for outdoor sports participants.

Once Commissioner Tucker concluded her remarks yielding the floor back to President Simmons who adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James Alverson