

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING
Tuesday, April 29, 2025**

The spring meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Dr. Stephen Gainey at 8:15 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included Dana Ayers, Paige Badgett, Past President Chris Blanton, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, President Stephen Gainey, Vice President Mark Garrett, Samuel Jones, Eddie Doll, Andy McCormick, Don Phipps, Allen Plaster, Henry Rice, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, Larry Williford, and John Williams. Jamie King and Stephanie Phillips were absent.

Affiliate members included Roy Turner representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Wendell Hall of NC State School Boards Association, and Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Austin Fleming, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, Juli Kidd, Kim Newman, and Brandon Moree. Attorney Paul Sun of Ellis and Winters was also in attendance.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: President Gainey began the meeting by welcoming the Board members and NCHSAA staff as well as individuals listening via live audio stream at 8:15 a.m.

Associate Commissioner Karen DeHart presented the Winter Board minutes.

President Gainey recommended approval of the winter Board of Director Meeting minutes.

Don Phipps made a motion to approve the minutes from the Winter 2023 meeting as presented, Chad Duncan seconded. Motion approved 17-0

Que Tucker, NCHSAA Commissioner, presented the Consent Agenda for approval. Noted three new schools requesting membership, two Early Colleges and a Charter School. Tucker also noted that since November 16, the NCHSAA has received 525 waiver requests, most involving attendance.

Henry Rice made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Eddie Doll. Motion approved 17-0.

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT: Geoff Hudson and Jessica Standiford from The Fordham Group provided a market update to the Board. Hudson noted that the news is not as bad as what is on television. Tariffs flamed the fire of market correction, seeing drops of twenty percent (20%) or more, but the NCHSAA portfolio is designed to mitigate risk, and half of the holdings were positive year-to-date. Over time, the portfolio averages eight percent (8%) growth. Year-to-date, it is down less than one percent (1%). The range of outcomes is as wide as it could be, from recession to an economic reacceleration.

Vice President Garrett noted that the portfolio is performing better than most personal accounts, crediting the Fordham Group.

President Gainey thanked the Fordham Group for their work.

COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS: Commissioner Tucker addressed the Board and thanked them for their attendance and participation with the Board of Directors. She noted that each committee has important tasks to discuss. Dr. Gainey and Paul Sun will be available to float between Committee Meetings.

Dr. Gainey offered congratulations to Stephanie Phillips for being named an Assistant Superintendent in Moore County. Commissioner Tucker also congratulated Dr. Chris Blanton for winning the Sam Houston Award for Leadership.

Dr. Gainey adjourned the morning session to move into committee work at 8:35 a.m.

Following lunch, President Gainey reconvened the Board at 1:00 p.m. for the afternoon work session of the full board.

BYLAW COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair Erica Turner, system athletic director of CMS, joined the Board of Directors Meeting by phone and presented on behalf of the committee. She commended the committee for their work on this committee that aimed to best serve the students and schools statewide and to ensure competitive balance. The Committee worked with the Coaches Associations of each sport affected by potential changes. The Committee's recommendations to submit to Board were:

Swimming & Diving

To run two championships at one time with the projected increase in time of one hour. They will go from having three regionals - East, Central, and West - to two regionals with one in the East and one in the West.

Golf

One class will start off the front nine and one off the back nine, with two championships conducted at one site. There will be three regional sites for men, two for women. All post-season and regular season results are required to be posted in the iWannamaker platform.

Wrestling:

Qualifiers reduced from 16 to 8; there will be two regionals for each class in wrestling and the top four from each regional will advance to the state championships. The classes would be 1A – 4A (Combined) and then 5A, 6A, 7A, and 8A.

Cross-Country:

Classes 1A-7A would have three Regional Meets (East, Central and West); 8A will have 2 Regional Meets (East and West); the top 6 teams and the top 7 individuals not on a qualifying team will advance to the state championships. The State Championships will go to a 2-day event with four (4) classifications competing each day.

Indoor Track and Field:

The top twelve entries in relay events and 12 entries in the individual events.

Outdoor Track and Field:

The top 16 entries in relay events and 16 entries in the individual events.

Tennis:

Each school will send two doubles teams and two individuals to a **pre-regional** to compete for the opportunity to advance to the regionals. From pre-regionals, 16 doubles, and 16 singles will advance to **regionals**. The top two from each regional will advance to the state tournament for a total of eight qualifiers per class. Note: Conference tournaments will be optional

The committee also determined minimum participation to be considered a “team” and set the following minimums: Swimming and Diving – 6, Women’s Golf – 3, Men’s Golf – 4, Women’s Wrestling – 7, Men’s Wrestling – 8, Track and Field – 2, Cross Country – 5 and Tennis – 4.

Sam Jones commented on the issue of NCHSAA Staff covering events as they grow in size and time.

Mark Dreibelbis asked if the time limit for reporting to iWannamaker for Golf scores is a change, Turner clarified that stipulation is only for schools/tournaments that do not use it on the day of the event.

Dr. Gainey thanked Turner for her report.

REALIGNMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE: Commissioner Tucker noted that the Association has gone through a long realignment process to move from four classifications to eight. The Realignment was based on the first 20-day numbers as reported by the PSU’s on behalf of the member school(s), not based on the usual report of ADM

numbers from the Department of Public Instruction. The Realignment Committed requested that the NCHSAA Staff create a first draft of the conference alignment. The Realignment Committee then made changes to this initial draft and it was sent to the membership for suggestions. The Realignment Committee then made changes based on membership suggestions and created a third draft. The membership was asked again for suggested revisions. The draft was updated again and the Board of Directors then heard final requests for consideration. The Board approved the final version after that meeting. There were four or five schools that appealed to the State Board of Education. Commissioner Tucker received a letter from the State Board of Education that stated the NCHSAA Realignment Committee and Board of Directors had done what they said they would do and the State Board of Education had no reason to overturn any decision.

Commissioner Tucker pointed out that there are several conferences that have multiple classifications and certain questions about playoff qualification remain that will be addressed at this meeting.

RESULTS OF BYLAW BALLOT MEASURES: Commissioner Tucker reported that all of the items that were voted on received the necessary votes to pass.

Item One changes the bylaw language to ensure one board member will represent each of the eight classes, and there will be two members of the Board that represent each of the Educational Districts recognized by the State Board of Education, instead of the NCHSAA Regions. This pertains only to the Board of Directors, the NCHSAA may continue to use its defined regions for its “Regional Meetings” in the fall.

Item Two amends the second paragraph of Bylaw VI as follows:

When at least 25% of the total number of member schools participate in a sport for at least two (2) years, that sport shall be sanctioned by the NCHSAA and shall culminate in a state championship.

Item Three amends the last clause of the fourth paragraph of Bylaw VI to remove the word “appeal” as follows:

“...and the process for requesting reconsideration of the classification and alignment decisions of the Association.”

Item Four amends Bylaw VII as follows:

An affirmative vote of not less than three-fourths of the ballots timely returned by member schools, as long as such ballots are returned by a majority of member schools, shall be necessary for a change in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws. Majority shall mean fifty percent of the then-existing member schools, plus one.

Item five was tabled; it was a recommendation to ask the membership about changing to a two-year realignment cycle.

Dr. Gainey suggested that there is no rush to decide on changing the length of the realignment cycle and opened the floor for discussion. Brian Carver agreed that there is no rush and many people are still frustrated by the latest realignment and would not be anxious to restart that process. Bryan Tyson also noted that having a playoff structure in place has resolved some of the panic regarding realignment.

Doll motioned to gather more information in the fall. Allen Plaster seconded. Motion passed 16-0 (John Williams left early).

Dr. Gainey thanked all of the committees for their morning work.

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT: Vice President Mark Garrett thanked Dr. Gainey and his Committee.

1. Investment Summary: Discussion Only Item
2. 2024-2025 Budget: Discussion Only Item
3. 2024-2025 Sports Comparison: Discussion Only Item

4. Cash Option: Will recommend use of a cash option where admission is charged for interscholastic athletic activities.
5. Playoff Ticket Prices: After discussion, the Committee decided to review its draft of price increases for playoff ticket pricing and recommend updated prices in Wednesday's session.
6. Senior Tar Heel Athletic Pass for playoff admission: Recommendation for implementing discounted ticket pricing for playoffs (must include presentation of Senior Tar Heel pass and identification) for half-price ticket, gate sales only, cash only did not make it out of committee.
7. Personnel Updates were given

POLICY COMMITTEE: Paige Badgett presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Educational Districts vs. Traditional NCHSAA Regions for Board Members: Will recommend to align all NCHSAA regional references Regions 1-8 with the North Carolina State Board of Education Districts 1-8 for NCHSAA Board of Directors.
2. What numbers constitute a team? Discussion Item Only
3. Women's Flag Football: Staff was asked to form a committee to discuss all aspects of starting flag football: what season; training of officials; the new rules as presented by NFHS, etc.
4. Eligibility request from Special Olympics NC was discussed. No action taken to change the current eligibility rules that are in place for all students, including those participating on unity teams
5. Academy Eligibility/GPA Requirements vs Semester from Hopewell High School: The recommendation to evaluate a student athlete's GPA from quarter-to-quarter when determining eligibility did not make it out of the committee as it does not align with the State Board of Education rules.
6. Eligibility checks for winter sports athletes from the ADs of WSFCS and Central Piedmont Conference: The recommendation to conduct a one-time check of eligibility for winter sports' athletes did not make it out of the committee as it does not align with the State Board of Education rules.
7. Grade-level Eligibility from Durham School of the Arts: The recommendation to allow student-athletes in the 8th grade to participate in high school athletics did not make it out of the committee as it does not align with the State Board of Education rules.
8. NIL and Amateur Rule Language Comparison;; will continue to work with DPI/SBOE to ensure all language used by NCHSAA is accurate
9. Skill Development Duration from Union County Public Schools: Will recommend to extend skill development sessions during the school year from 1.5 hours to 2 hours.
10. Athletic Trainers and Mandated Locations from NCHSAA SMAC: Discussion Item Only
11. Criteria for addition of Parochial Schools to the membership: Discussion Item Only.

REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Bryan Tyson presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Violation Report: Discussion Item Only
2. Ejection Report: Discussion Item Only. Tyson noted that so far this year, there have been 993 total ejections of which 564 were between August and November. The majority were for fighting/flagrant contact and profanity. Feedback from membership is that the penalty isn't strict enough to act as a deterrent. Data will be shared with the State Board of Education.
3. Report from the Officiating Sub-Committee: Discussion Item Only
4. Mercy Rule in basketball: The recommendation to change the current threshold of 40 points to a 30-point differential will be re-evaluated by the committee.
5. Mercy Rule in football: The recommendation to change the current threshold of 42 points to a 35-point differential will be re-evaluated by the committee.
6. Review of Establishment of a Structured Process for Annual Review of Officials Pay: Will recommend to ensure an annual evaluation of officials' pay to ensure equitable compensation, retain experienced officials and maintain the quality of the officiating program within the NCHSAA.
7. Triad Basketball Officials Association Regional Supervisor Position: Will recommend to approve Gerald Moyd as the Triad Basketball Officials Association Regional Supervisor, Stephen Clayton for Women's Lacrosse Coastal Association and Wayne Merritt in the Men's Lacrosse Wilmington Association.
8. Registration Fees for Officials: Discussion Item Only
9. Insurance Fees for Officials: Discussion Item Only

President Gainey called for a break from 3:46 p.m. to 3:51 p.m.

SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Bryan Carver reported on behalf of the committee.

1. Women's Wrestling Minimum Match number for Seeding from NC Wrestling Coaches Association: Will recommend raising the minimum match number for the women's regional seeding from 7 to 15.
2. RPI Formulas from Rocky River Conference: Discussion, and no action taken.
3. MaxPreps Metric for Seeding from Croatan, et al: Will recommend for playoff seeding and qualification, the NCHSAA only the RPI (MaxPreps, the 40-40-20 model with no point differential) metric.
4. Change in Spring Sports Calendar from West Stanly High School, et al: As written, did not make it out of committee. The Committee will recommend a sports calendar subcommittee to take an in-depth look at the sports calendar as a whole with consideration of start and end dates as well as when championships will occur.
5. Reporting Platform Individual Tennis State Championships from North Carolina Tennis Coaches Association: Will recommend the state individual tennis tournaments use the USTA High School Digital Platform (a component of the USTA's Serve Tennis software) for ranking.
6. Shot Clock for Basketball from NC Basketball Coaches Association: The recommendation for the use of a shot clock for preseason scrimmages, regular season invitationals and special event games, if the host school can provide the shot clock and there is mutual agreement by all participating schools, was discussed, did not make it out of committee.
7. Adjust the 2025-2026 NCHSAA Sports Calendar: Will recommend adjusting the 2025-2026 Sports Calendar to reflect corrected Swimming and Diving dates for the reporting deadline, regionals and state championships.
8. Basketball five-quarter rule: Will recommend to continue the use of the five-quarter rule, making the pilot program a permanent rule.
9. Separate Parochial and Charter School Championships: Discussion Item Only

Dr. Gainey adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPRING MEETING
Wednesday, April 30, 2025**

The spring meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Dr. Stephen Gainey at 8:59 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included Dana Ayers, Paige Badgett, Past President Chris Blanton, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, President Stephen Gainey, Vice President Mark Garrett, Samuel Jones, Eddie Doll, Andy McCormick, Don Phipps, Allen Plaster, Henry Rice, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, and Larry Williford. John Williams, Jamie King and Stephanie Phillips were absent.

Affiliate members included Roy Turner representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent but joined via telephone to make his affiliate report

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Mark Dreibelbis, Austin Fleming, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, Kim Newman, Juli Kidd, Evan Sauer, and Brandon Moree. Attorney Paul Sun of Ellis and Winters was also present.

President Gainey recognized Evan Sauer, who summarized the accomplishments this year of the Senior SAAC members and indicated where they will attend school after graduation. He then introduced the SAAC member, senior Alice Neelon of R.J. Reynolds High School.

SAAC REPORT: Alice Neelon of R.J. Reynolds High School, presented a report on behalf of the SAAC. She highlighted her experience on SAAC. She reported that the Student Leadership Conference will be held 5/6/25 with more than 300-student athletes from more than 40 schools. She also noted the efforts of other members of the SAAC and the work they have accomplished at their schools. She credited the NCHSAA SAAC for granting her several unique opportunities including attending the NFHS Conference and working with other driven students across the student. She closed out by thanking the Board for their support.

President Gainey commended Neelon and thanked Sauer for his work with SAAC and for presenting on behalf of the group. He noted that students like Neelon are a great reminder of what the work of this Board is all about.

NCHSAA FOUNDATION REPORT: Dr. Bill Steed joined the meeting via phone to report on behalf of the Foundation. The Foundation is a separate 501c3 entity from the NCHSAA, with a separate Board of Trustees that manages it and its funds. The Foundation can provide grants to schools and scholarships to students. The NCHSAA does not have that authority other than donor-directed scholarship funds as a result of SB 452. There are currently seven members of the Board of Trustees and plans to name two additional members in the future. Dr. Steed highlighted that the Foundation approved a distribution of \$800,000 for 2023-2024, split across member schools, and approved distribution of \$63,500 for scholarships/awards in 2023-2024, and \$72,050 for grants. Total distribution for 2023-2024 was \$935,950 from the NCHSAA Foundation. The Board has also developed a number of policies dealing with spending, a code of ethics, gift acceptance, conflict of interest, and social media that are in line with other Foundations and non-profits of its type. The Foundation will explore avenues for future fundraising and will continue to monitor the market volatility as it affects the total amount of funds.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION REPORT: Mr. Wendell Hall joined the meeting by phone and presented on behalf of both entities. Mr. Hall thanked the president for allowing him to present and commended the members of the board for their efforts in the Board Meeting so far. Hall noted that the State Board of Education is watching several bills in the North Carolina State Legislature, including House Bill 2, which would require cash payment at high school sporting events. Senate Bill 48 would require the State Board to allow students at private schools or home schools to participate in sports at their base high school and would allow public school students to participate in sports at another public school if their base school does not offer that sport. There is also a bill that would address the school calendar, but the full details are still unclear. Superintendent Mo Greene has appointed four new members to the appeal board to make up the 15-member board. Hall also noted that Brad Alford has been hired as the Director of the Office of Athletics at the Department of Public Instruction. Hall reported that since July of 2024, there have only

been 18 appeals to the Board, and only three were reversed. Hall thanked the committee and regretted that he could not attend in person.

Dr. Gainey thanked Mr. Hall for his report.

NORTH CAROLINA COACHES ASSOCIATION: Joe Franks, Executive Secretary, presented on behalf of the group and noted the collaborative effort between the Coaches Association and the NCHSAA, specifically centered around the Coaches Clinic annually in Greensboro. This year's event will be July 21-23. Franks also shared the numerous opportunities available to attendees and highlighted the accolades of the clinicians who will present this year.

REGIONAL SUPERVISORS & OFFICIALS REPORT: Elbert Lassiter, Regional Supervisor for the North State Football Officials Association, presented on behalf of the Regional Supervisors and Officials. Lassiter noted that the work of the officiating advisory committee is paying off. He is excited about the game reports that allow him to have a better idea of what is happening on-site at games. There are 7,700+ officials in North Carolina and the NCHSAA staff is responsible for registering and insuring them and the staff does an amazing job. Lassiter noted that they probably need 500-600 more officials so recruiting efforts will continue. Lassiter thanked Mark Dreibelbis for his leadership in his interim term as Director of Officiating. Lassiter thanked the Board for their efforts and their recognition of the role that officials play in education-based athletics.

Dr. Gainey thanked Lassiter and spoke about the quality of officials and the role they play in North Carolina High School sports.

NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION: Roy Turner, Executive Director, presented on behalf of the group. He noted both Karen DeHart for her Lifetime Achievement Award from the NCADA and Chad Duncan for being inducted into the NCADA Hall of Fame. He highlighted the theme for the upcoming school year, "Fill the Gap – Gratitude, Accountability and Purpose." He recognized the NCADA Board of Directors and spoke about the close working relationship and collaboration between NCADA, NCCA, NCHSAA, NCATA, NFHS, and NIAAA. He showcased the digital toolbox resource available to athletic administrators. He highlighted the various benefits of partnering with the NCADA, including insurance, security and safety certifications, professional development for coaches, partnering with parents, state and national recognitions/award, and leadership development opportunities. He shared the upcoming events of the NCADA and encouraged participation with the Association. Dr. Gainey thanked Turner for his report.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Burt Jenkins presented on behalf of the group and thanked the Board for allowing him to report. Jenkins reported that no NCHSAA member schools were out of compliance with the Gfeller-Waller Law for the 2023-2024 school year. This year is the first year of PSU Annual Interscholastic Athletic Reports, they are due July 15, 2025 to the state board and the Board report is due in October to the General Assembly. NC Schools will shift from Power Schools to Infinite Campus and has begun the transition. Beginning in 2025-26, middle schools will be able to send appeals to the State Board and there will be a presentation regarding that process at the Middle School Monday session at the NC Coaches Clinic in July. Middle School Manual Changes this year will include the appeals process and weight classes for Middle School Girls Wrestling. Jenkins thanked the Board for allowing him to be included in the work for education-based athletics. He noted this as his last meeting.

President Gainey thanked Jenkins for all his work and his contributions to the NCHSAA Board of Directors.

President Gainey called for a break at 10.11 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:24 a.m.

President Gainey asked the board to consider the playoff plan presented by Ericia Turner from the By-Law Task Force Committee in Tuesday's meeting. **Motion by Chad Duncan to approve the plan as presented, seconded by Larry Williford. Approved 16-0.**

President Gainey noted that there is an overlap in the calendar between the Superintendent's Association Meeting and the December NCHSAA Board Meeting. Discussion followed on potential dates for the December Meeting.

Motion made to move the December 2025 meeting to Monday, December 1, and Tuesday, December 2, **by Andy McCormick. Seconded by Chris Blanton. Approved 16-0.**

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Vice President Mark Garrett thanked Dr. Gainey and his Committee.

1. Investment Summary: Discussion Only Item. Garrett noted that the investment portfolio is down less than one percent (1%).
2. 2024-2025 Budget: Discussion Only Item. The Association is on track with what was budgeted for the 2024-2025 school year. Football and Basketball ticket revenues were down this year.
3. 2024-2025 Sports Comparison: Discussion Only Item. Revenues are down from previous years and expenses are elevated.
4. Cash Option: Motion from Committee for the use of a cash option where admission is charged for interscholastic athletic events specific to NCHSAA-controlled events (playoffs), effective 2025-2026 school year. **Seconded by Tanya Turner. Approved 15-1.**
5. Playoff Ticket Prices: Garrett highlighted that ticket prices have not increased since the 2017-2018 school year yet expenses (i.e. security, number of required officials, venue costs) have continued to rise over time. Motion from the Committee to increase playoff ticket pricing as follows:
Soccer and Volleyball prices increase to \$10 for Rounds 1-2, \$12 for Rounds 3-4, \$12 for Regionals.
Cross Country, Cheerleading Invitational, Soccer and Volleyball will be \$15 at the State Championships.
Football will increase to \$10 in Rounds 1-2, \$14 for Rounds 3-4, \$16 for Regionals, \$20 for State Championships.
Swimming would increase to \$10 for Regionals, at the State Championships \$5 diving only, per session would be \$12, and the All Session Pass would be \$15.
Dual Team Wrestling prices-- increase to \$10 in Rounds 1-2, \$12 in Rounds 3-4, \$15 at State Championship.
Basketball (one game) -- increase to \$10 in Rounds 1-2, \$12 in Rounds 3-4
Basketball (two games) -- increase to \$12 in Rounds 1-2, \$13 in Rounds 3-4
Basketball Regionals -- remain at \$15, State Championship tickets remain at \$20.
Lacrosse (one game) -- increase to \$10 in Rounds 1-2, \$12 in Rounds 3-Regionals, \$15 at State Championships.
Lacrosse (two games) -- increase to \$12 in Rounds 1-2 and \$13 in Rounds 3-Regionals.
Softball and Baseball -- increase to \$10 in Rounds 1-2, \$12 in Rounds 3-Regionals, at State Championship: \$12 for Friday, \$15 for Saturday, and \$25 for the All-Series pass.

Effective for the 2025-2026 school year. **Seconded by Bryan Tyson. Approved 16-0.**

Garrett asked the Board if they would consider a pre-sale student ticket option. Discussion followed, but no action taken. Garrett then asked the Board to consider a process to review ticket prices on a more regular basis at the next Board Meeting.

6. Senior Tar Heel Athletic Pass for playoff admission: Recommendation for implementing discounted ticket pricing for playoffs (must include presentation of Senior Tar Heel pass and identification) for half-price ticket, gate sales only, cash only did not make it out of committee. Garrett noted that its always good to authenticate use of this pass and use of a photo ID is a good way to validate the card's use by the presenting cardholder.
7. Personnel Updates: Garrett thanked Mark Dreibelbis for his role as an interim Director of Officials as he approaches his second retirement.

POLICY COMMITTEE: Paige Badgett presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Educational Districts vs. Traditional NCHSAA Regions for Board Members: Recommendation to geographically align all NCHSAA references of Regions 1-8 with the North Carolina State Board of Education Districts 1-8; this will comply with the MOU relative to the NCHSAA Board of Directors. **Motion by Don Phipps, seconded by Eddie Doll. Approved 15-0 (one stepped out).**
2. What numbers constitute a team? Discussion Item Only. This item was covered by the By-Law Task Force Committee.
3. Women's Flag Football: Request to sanction flag football was tabled for the December 2025 Board Meeting. The Committee asked staff to create an ad hoc committee to study school participation numbers, what season that participation should fall in, status of officials, medical coverage, etc. Report should be made at the next Board meeting.
4. Eligibility request from Special Olympics NC: Discussion Item Only
5. Academy Eligibility/GPA Requirements vs Semester from Hopewell High School: The recommendation to evaluate a student athlete's GPA from quarter-to-quarter when determining eligibility did not make it out of the committee as it does not align with the State Board Athletic Policy.
6. Eligibility checks for winter sports athletes from the ADs of WSFCS and Central Piedmont Conference: The recommendation to conduct a one-time check of eligibility for winter sports athletes did not make it out of the committee as it does not align with the State Board Athletic Policy.
7. Grade-level Eligibility from Durham School of the Arts: The recommendation to allow student-athletes in the 8th grade to participate in high school athletics did not make it out of the committee as it does not align with the State Board Athletic Policy.
8. NIL and Amateur Rule Language Comparison: Discussion Item Only
9. Skill Development Duration from Union County Public Schools: Motion by the committee to extend skill development sessions during the school year from 1.5 hours to 2 hours. **Motion by Chad Duncan, seconded by Bryan Tyson. Approved 16-0. Commissioner Tucker encourages coaches to work with their athletic trainers.**
10. Athletic Trainers and Mandated Locations from NCHSAA SMAC: Discussion Item Only
11. Criteria for addition of Parochial Schools to the membership: Discussion Item Only.

REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE REPORT: Bryan Tyson presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Violation Report: Discussion Item Only. Tyson shared that there have been 69 violations to-date this year.
2. Ejection Report: Discussion Item Only. Tyson noted that in addition to the 993 ejections mentioned the day before, an additional 37 ejections have occurred, bringing the total to 1,030 ejections for the school year as we head into spring playoffs. He indicated that conversations need to be held with stakeholders to review associated penalties.
3. Report from the Officiating Sub-Committee: Discussion Item Only
4. Mercy Rule in basketball: Recommendation to change the current threshold of 40 points to a 35-point differential. Motion by Andy McCormick. **Seconded by Brian Carver. Approved 15-0. (One member out of room)**
5. Mercy Rule in football: Recommendation to change the current threshold of 42 points to a 35-point differential. Motion by Chad Duncan. **Seconded by Bryan Carver. Approved 13-2. (One member out of room)**
6. Review of Establishment of a Structured Process for Annual Review of Officials Pay: Recommendation to ensure an annual evaluation of officials' pay to ensure equitable compensation, retain experienced officials and maintain the quality of the officiating program within the NCHSAA. Took no action as this was already required for review every two years— was approved by the Board at the Winter 2022 meeting. This will be an agenda item for the winter 2025 meeting.
7. Triad Basketball Officials Association Regional Supervisor Position: Recommended approval of Gerald Moyd as the Triad Basketball Officials Association Regional Supervisor, Stephen Clayton for Coastal Women's Lacrosse Officials Association and Wayne Merritt in the Wilmington Men's Lacrosse Officials Association. **Motion by Allen Plaster, Second by Chad Duncan. Approved 15-0. (One member out of room)**

8. Registration Fees for Officials: Discussion Item Only
9. Insurance Fees for Officials: Discussion Item Only

President Gainey and Commissioner Tucker noted that the ejection report reflects a large number of ejections and efforts should continue in an effort to decrease that number.

SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT: Bryan Carver reported on behalf of the committee.

1. Women's Wrestling Minimum Match number for Seeding from NC Wrestling Coaches Association: Recommendation from the committee to raise the minimum match number for the women's regional seeding from 7 to 15. Motion by Henry Rice. **Seconded by Tanya Turner. Approved 15-0.**
2. RPI Formulas from Rocky River Conference: Discussion Item Only
3. Recommended that the NCHSAA use only the MaxPreps ranking system (the 40-40-20 model with no point differential) for playoff seeding and qualification. **Motion by Bryan Tyson, Seconded by Henry Rice. Approved 15-0.** Carver notes that conference finish no longer has any bearing on seeding and qualification.
4. Change in Spring Sports Calendar from West Stanly High School, et al: As written, did not make it out of committee. The Committee recommended a sports calendar subcommittee be formed to take an in-depth look at the sports calendar as a whole with consideration of start and end dates as well as when championships will occur.
5. Reporting Platform Individual Tennis State Championships from North Carolina Tennis Coaches Association: Recommendation by the committee for the state individual tennis tournaments to use the USTA High School Digital Platform (a component of the USTA's Serve Tennis software) for ranking. **Motion by Mark Garrett. Seconded by Allen Plaster. Approved 15-0.**
6. Shot Clock for Basketball from NC Basketball Coaches Association: The recommendation for the use of a shot clock for preseason scrimmages, regular season invitationals and special event games if the host school can provide the shot clock and there is mutual agreement by all participating schools, did not make it out of committee.
7. Adjust the 2025-2026 NCHSAA Sports Calendar: Recommendation from the committee to adjust the 2025-2026 Sports Calendar to reflect a corrected Swimming and Diving reporting deadline, regionals and state championships. **Motion by Chad Duncan, Seconded by Mark Garrett. Approved 15-0.**
8. Basketball five-quarter rule: Recommendation by the committee to continue the use of the five-quarter rule, making the pilot program a permanent rule. **Motion by Larry Williford, Seconded by Dana Ayers. Approved 15-0.**
9. Separate Parochial and Charter School Championships: Discussion Item Only. Committee recommends a response letter to the NC School Board Associations from the NCHSAA with consultation from legal counsel.

President Gainey thanked the Board, the committee chairs, and staff for their work throughout the meeting.

Commissioner Tucker thanked the Board and praised their efforts. She thanked the Board Members rolling off the Board, but noted they do not end their terms until July 1, 2025. Tucker also thanked the affiliate members and noted the Association's respect for their opinions and contributions to the Board of Directors meetings. Tucker reminded the Board of the Virtual Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 1.

Commissioner Tucker announced that Director of Marketing, Development & Student Programs Evan Sauer has accepted a position at Cardinal Gibbons High School as Assistant Athletic Director. She also announced that the Assistant Commissioner for Sports and Championships position had been offered to Athletic Director Alfie Wheeler from Manteo High School and he had accepted the position with plans to start no later than July 1, 2025.

President Gainey again thanked those rotating off the board and encouraged the Board to play to win, not to keep from losing. Gainey adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.