SPORTS COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Henry Rice (Chair), Dana Ayers (Vice Chair) Brett Lamb, Asim McGill, Eddie Doll, and Joe Franks **Staff**: Rhonda Dreibelbis

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
1. Lacrosse Shot Clock Submitted By: Dominic Koplar, NC Lacrosse Coaches Association Attachment S1	Discuss adopting a shot clock for men's and women's lacrosse, utilizing NFHS-authorized state association flexibility to determine feasibility, competitive impact, and implementation considerations.	**Rationale:** Research the requirements, feasibility, and implications of implementing a shot clock in men's and/or women's lacrosse. **Educational Impact:** None **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** None **Financial Impact:** Costs and equipment requirements would need to be evaluated. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Would require staffing and game management procedures for shot clock operation. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date**: Discussion only

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
2. Golf Regional Qualifications Submitted By: Matthew Dawson, NC Golf Coaches Association Attachment S2	Require players and teams to have a minimum of five posted nine-hole scores to receive an iWanamaker ranking (IWR). • Until a player or team has posted 12 scores, the IWR ranking will be calculated using the five lowest scores. • Once 12 or more scores have been posted, the IWR ranking will be calculated using the best 50% of all posted scores. • This calculation will continue to use the lowest 50% of posted scores as additional rounds are completed.	**Rationale:** Promotes fairness and consistency by accounting for differences in course access and competition opportunities while providing a more accurate measure of team and individual performance. **Educational Impact:** None **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** None **Financial Impact:** None **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Requires a modification to the iWanamaker ranking calculation methodology. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Spring 2027 Season
3. Golf State Championship Qualifiers Submitted By: Matthew Dawson, NC Golf Coaches Association Attachment S3	Allow additional individuals to be added to the state championship from regionals if open slots are available (a qualifying team does not have 5 players).	**Rationale:** Maximizes participation and ensures all available state championship qualifying spots are filled when advancing teams have fewer than five players. **Educational Impact:** None **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** None **Financial Impact:** Minimal; may result in an additional qualifying player or team. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** None **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Spring 2027 Season

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
4. Golf Schedules Submitted By: Matthew Dawson, NC Golf Coaches Association Attachment S4	To have all matches entered into iWanamaker (IWR) two weeks before the reporting deadline. Any match scheduled in the last two-week window must be approved by the NCHSAA golf director.	**Rationale:** Promotes fairness by reducing opportunities for end-of-season schedule manipulation and ensuring more consistent competitive comparisons. **Educational Impact:** None **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** None **Financial Impact:** None **Operational and Administrative Impact:** None **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year
5. Golf Regional Qualifications Submitted By: Red Dutta, Raleigh Charter High School Attachment S5	Change regional golf requirements from “Best Five Rounds” to “Overall Average” with five rounds minimum.	**Rationale:** Promotes regional qualification based on season-long performance and ensures the strongest team’s advance. **Educational Impact:** None **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** None **Financial Impact:** May reduce costs associated with additional playoff matches. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Reduces time spent scheduling and administering additional playoff matches. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
6. Softball Participation Submitted By: Dustin Kerley, Watauga County Schools Attachment S6	Exclude non-participation and courtesy runner appearances from a player's weekly and seasonal game participation limits. • If a player does not enter a varsity contest as a substitute, the game shall not count toward the player's weekly or season game limitation. • An appearance solely as a courtesy runner for a pitcher or catcher shall not be considered a game played for purposes of weekly or seasonal participation limits.	**Rationale:** Supports JV roster sustainability, reduces canceled JV contests, and increases meaningful participation opportunities for student-athletes. **Educational Impact:** None **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** Expands participation opportunities for student-athletes **Financial Impact:** None **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Spring 2027 Season

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
7. Women's Flag Football Weekly Game Limitation Submitted By: Grant Williams, Union Academy Charter School Attachment S7	To allow women's flag football teams to play four games within the week and remove the language that one game must be on a non-school day.	**Rationale:** Improves scheduling flexibility, increases official availability, and accommodates student-athletes who participate in club sports. **Educational Impact:** Provides more practice days and fewer game days, allowing additional time for academics. **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** Expands participation opportunities for multi-sport athletes. **Financial Impact:** May reduce travel costs and increase gate and concession revenue. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Improves officiating availability and scheduling flexibility through multi-team events. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
8. Game Ball for Men's Volleyball Submitted By: Sue Moon, NC Volleyball Coaches Association Attachment S8	Approve the Molten FLISTATEC NFHS V5M5000 textured volleyball for NCHSAA-sanctioned men's volleyball contests, including regular-season matches, conference tournaments, regional competition, and the state championship.	**Rationale:** Aligns with NFHS rules, supports equipment commonly used in club and collegiate volleyball, and provides consistency for men's volleyball. **Educational Impact:** None **Student Safety Impact:** May improve grip and ball control with no anticipated safety concerns. **Equity Impact:** Provides consistent equipment standards for all participating schools. **Financial Impact:** Minimal; many schools already have compliant volleyballs, and grant assistance is available for schools in need. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal; requires clear equipment specifications and communication to schools and officials. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Spring 2027 Season

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
9. Baseball Double First Base Submitted By: Jason Mills, NC Baseball Coaches Association Attachment S9	Adopt the NFHS-approved double first base as a mandatory requirement for all varsity and junior varsity baseball games statewide.	**Rationale:** Promotes consistency for players, coaches, and officials while enhancing safety, reducing first base collisions, and standardizing playing conditions statewide. **Educational Impact:** Supports a safer and more consistent playing environment. **Student Safety Impact:** Improves player safety by reducing the risk of collisions at first base. **Equity Impact:** Provides consistent playing conditions for all schools. **Financial Impact:** Minimal; double first bases typically cost $250-$350 per field. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Spring 2027 Season

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
10. Baseball Playoffs Submitted By: Jason Mills, NC Baseball Coaches Association Attachment S10	Revise the NCHSAA baseball playoff format to incorporate multi-game series and/or double-elimination rounds, creating a more competitive, equitable, and rewarding postseason that better reflects team performance, enhances the student-athlete experience, and strengthens community engagement.	**Rationale:** Research alternative baseball playoff formats, including multi-game series and double-elimination models, to better reflect team performance, enhance postseason competition, and increase engagement. **Educational Impact:** May enhance student-athlete development through additional postseason competition opportunities. **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** None **Financial Impact:** May increase revenue opportunities through additional home playoff contests. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** May result in additional home playoff games for participating schools with minimal impact on state-level administration. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Spring 2028 Season
11. Baseball Playoffs Reporting Deadline Submitted By: Jason Mills, NC Baseball Coaches Association Attachment S11	Move the final reporting date for baseball and softball from Saturday to Friday.	**Rationale:** Allows playoff brackets to be finalized and released earlier, providing schools, coaches, student-athletes, and families additional time for postseason preparation and planning. **Educational Impact:** Gives schools and students more time to prepare for potential missed instructional time. **Student Safety Impact:** None **Equity Impact:** Provides all playoff participants additional preparation time. **Financial Impact:** None **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Spring 2028 Season

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
12. A. 1A through 7A Bracketed Sports Playoff Qualifiers **B. Sports Calendar** Submitted By: Wes Mattera, Albemarle Athletic Conference Rex Wells, Western Highlands Conference Brian Carver, Mountain Athletic Conference Attachment S12	A. Reduce the playoff field from 48 teams with byes to 32 teams with no byes and evaluate postseason structures that improve competitive balance, reduce lopsided first-round contests, and provide greater scheduling flexibility for playoff enhancements. B. Shorten the season by one week in football, and one-half of a week in the other sports.	**Rationale**: See attachments **Educational Impact:** See attachments **Student Safety Impact:** See attachments **Equity Impact:** See attachments **Financial Impact**: See attachments **Operational and Administrative Impact**: See attachments **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** See attachments **Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
13. Indoor Track Events Submitted By: Rodney King, NC Track & Cross Country Coaches Association Attachment S13	Update the indoor track state championship program by replacing the traditional 300-meter dash, 500-meter dash, and1,000-meter run with standard metric distances: the 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, and 800-meter run.	**Rationale:** Aligns indoor track events with NFHS and NCAA standards, supports athlete development between indoor and outdoor seasons, and improves meet administration. **Educational Impact:** Supports student-athlete development and alignment with post-secondary competition standards. **Student Safety Impact:** Reduces injury risk by aligning event distances with standard training and competition formats. **Equity Impact:** Provides competition opportunities consistent with national standards. **Financial Impact:** None **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Simplifies meet management, officiating, and timing through standardized event distances. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective date:** 2027-2028 School Year

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
14. 8A Cross Country State Qualifiers Submitted By: Rodney King, NC Track & Cross Country Coaches Association Attachment S14	Expand qualifying spots for teams from six to eight and individuals from seven to ten from each region.	**Rationale:** Expands championship opportunities in 8A by increasing the number of qualifying teams and individuals, helping ensure top-performing athletes and teams advance to the state meet. **Educational Impact:** Increases access to championship competition and recognition while supporting student-athlete development and college exposure. **Student Safety Impact:** None; the proposed field size remains smaller than other state championship classifications. **Equity Impact:** Improves access and reduces regional disparities in state championship qualification. **Financial Impact:** Minimal to positive; additional qualifiers may generate increased ticket and merchandise revenue. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
15. Men's Lacrosse Participation Submitted By: Dale Oehler, South Brunswick High School Attachment S15	Replace the current one game per day participation limit in men's lacrosse with a six-quarter daily participation limit.	**Rationale:** Supports JV program development by providing greater roster flexibility and increasing participation opportunities for younger student-athletes. **Educational Impact:** Increased playing opportunities may enhance student-athlete engagement and motivation. **Student Safety Impact:** Supports the overall well-being and development of student-athletes through increased participation opportunities. **Equity Impact:** Expands participation opportunities for student-athletes at multiple levels. **Financial Impact:** Minimal; any additional costs associated with roster growth would be incremental. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** May support the expansion of JV programs and create additional coaching opportunities. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None identified **Effective Date:** Spring 2027 Season
16. A. 1A through 7A Bracketed Sports Playoff Qualifiers **B. Seeding Conference Champions** Submitted By: Rex Wells, Western Highlands Conference Attachment S16	A. Reduce the playoff field from 48 teams with byes to 32 teams with no byes. B. Restore defined preferential seeding consideration for eligible conference classification champions, including those in split-classification leagues, while retaining RPI as an important tool for ranking other qualifying teams.	**Rationale**: See attachments **Educational Impact:** See attachments **Student Safety Impact:** See attachments **Equity Impact:** See attached **Financial Impact**: See attached **Operational and Administrative Impact**: See attachments **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** See attachments **Effective Date**: 2027-2028 School Year

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
17. A. Flag Football Quarter Length **B. Flag Football Mercy Rule** Submitted By: Elbert Lassiter, North State Football Officials Association Attachment S17	A. Adopt 10-minute quarters for flag football contests. B. Adopt a mercy rule for flag football: • Any time after the beginning of the 3rd quarter, if a 35-point differential is obtained in the score, the clock will revert to a running clock and will only be stopped on team time-outs, injury time-outs, and on scores after the extra point ends until the ball is next legally snapped.	**Rationale:** Reduces the length of competitions and improves scheduling efficiency. **Educational Impact:** Allows contests to conclude earlier on school nights. **Student Safety Impact:** Supports reasonable competition end times for student-athletes. **Equity Impact:** Provides a more manageable competition schedule for participating schools. **Financial Impact:** None **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Minimal **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
18. Women's Wrestling Regional Schedule Submitted By: Ian Roper, NC Wrestling Coaches Association Attachment S18 *Also includes information for Policy Committee Agenda Item 8.*	Allow regional hosts the option of scheduling the women's regional wrestling championships on the weekend immediately preceding the men's regional championships if the women's and men's postseason classification structures remain unaligned.	**Rationale:** Improves equity and participation opportunities in women's wrestling while reducing postseason scheduling conflicts for schools with shared coaching staffs. **Educational Impact:** Expands participation opportunities and creates a more equitable postseason experience. **Student Safety Impact:** Supports student-athlete well-being through increased access and improved coaching support. **Equity Impact:** Provides more equitable postseason opportunities for smaller schools and aligns with the NCHSAA's commitment to fair competition. **Financial Impact:** Minimal; additional participation may increase travel and event costs but could also generate additional revenue. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Requires adjustments to regional assignments and scheduling but may reduce conflicts and improve event management. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Winter 2026-2027 Season

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
19. Lacrosse Participation Submitted By: Dominic Koplar, NC Lacrosse Coaches Association Attachment S19	Adopt a six-quarter rule for lacrosse which would allow student-athletes to participate in up to six quarters in a single day, with an overall limit of 16 quarters per week.	**Rationale:** Supports JV roster sustainability by providing greater roster flexibility and increasing meaningful playing opportunities for student-athletes. **Educational Impact:** Increased participation opportunities may enhance student-athlete engagement and development. **Student Safety Impact:** Requires appropriate management of player workload and recovery, with participation limits serving as a maximum rather than an expectation. **Equity Impact:** Expands participation opportunities and supports the development of JV programs. **Financial Impact:** Minimal; schools with additional JV contests may incur increased officiating costs. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** May support additional JV scheduling and increased use of facilities. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** Winter 2026-2027 Season

Agenda Item	Recommendation	Impact Analysis Summary
20. 2027-2028 NCHSAA Sports Calendar Submitted By: NCHSAA Staff Attachment S20	Adopt a 2027-2028 Sports Calendar	**Rationale:** Establishes a consistent calendar framework that supports effective scheduling, participation opportunities, and long-term planning for member schools. **Educational Impact:** Provides predictability for schools, students, and families, helping balance athletics with academic responsibilities. **Student Safety Impact:** Supports appropriate participation, recovery, and scheduling considerations for student-athletes. **Equity Impact:** Provides a consistent structure and participation opportunities for all member schools and student-athletes. **Financial Impact:** Minimal; implemented within existing operational budgets and scheduling structures. **Operational and Administrative Impact:** Provides clear scheduling parameters and improves coordination for schools, conferences, and the NCHSAA. **Legal or Compliance Considerations:** None **Effective Date:** 2027-2028 School Year