

DATE: May 14, 2010

TO: Member Schools of the North Dakota High School Activities Association
NDHSAA Board of Directors/Staff

FROM: Committee to Restructure Basketball and Volleyball in the State of North Dakota

Representatives of a number of school districts have been meeting over the course of the past six months to develop a plan that would restructure the activities of basketball and volleyball in our state. Sherm Sylling, Executive Secretary for the NDHSAA was also able to attend one of our meetings and his input proved to be valuable to us in our discussions. Included with this letter you will find several attachments that hopefully will outline the details for these programs. The districts that have worked on the development of this plan are as follows:

Edgeley, Valley City, Fargo, Grafton, Enderlin, Beulah, Barnes County North (Rogers/Wimbledon/Courtenay), Griggs County Central (Cooperstown), Jamestown, Drayton, Richland, Wyndmere, and Lewis & Clark-Berthold

We believe there is a need for long term, consistent, and reasonably competitive divisions in our basketball and volleyball programs. On a consistent basis, the smaller Class B schools cannot compete with the larger Class B schools and some of the smaller Class A schools cannot compete with the larger Class A schools, thus the creation of new divisions for these programs. Our committee believes this plan will generate great interest because of similar size schools being in the same divisions and the tournament format we have developed is FANTastic.

This plan would allow flexibility for schools to schedule their neighboring school districts, even if they are in a different division. We would propose this plan to be implemented on a two (2) year trial basis, with the effective date of implementation being the start of the 2011-2102 school year. If the plan were to continue, we would propose it is evaluated every two (2) years by the NDHSAA Realignment Committee.

The proposed plan would leave the present "A" division as it is, with no changes proposed to the structure (state tournament would remain as is). These schools would become the "AA" division in the new structure. The next largest 40 schools would become the "A" division, with the remaining school districts becoming the "B" division. In essence, what we are proposing is a 3 Class system with a newly combined "A" and "B" division state tournament (one for girls and one for boys). The number of state tournaments would remain at three (3), which we felt was important due to television and scheduling. Any new co-op application that would cause a change in division placement would have to wait to go into effect until the next two year evaluation of the plan by the NDHSAA Realignment Committee.

Our hope is you will give this idea your full review and support. As educational leaders of our school districts, it is our responsibility to generate quality programming for our students. To create that quality requires a willingness to examine carefully the benefits of what we are proposing and step back from the selfish thoughts we are all prone to connect to change. Thank you for the great work you do for the students of North Dakota. We are hoping to have this plan on the agenda for the June meeting of the NDHSAA Board of Directors. If you have any questions or input, please contact Rick Diegel of Edgeley or Dean Koppelman of Valley City. Have a great finish to the school year!

RATIONALE FOR THREE CLASS BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL IN NORTH DAKOTA

- Re-energize the Class B basketball and volleyball by providing a new look from regional through state tournament.
- Schools competing against similar sized schools with the hope being provided a more competitive and exciting tournament is created.
- Small schools have a more equitable opportunity to advance to a state tournament.
- State tournament will feature a “David vs. Goliath” atmosphere on the final day as all four games will feature a school from class A against a school from class B.
- As some schools in North Dakota increase in population and others decrease in population, the population gap between schools continues to grow.
- As the number of schools continues to decrease, something needs to be done. Some districts will have six or fewer schools, with four advancing to the regional tournament. This plan attempts to address that situation by reducing “districts” and “regions”.

Significant changes and other points of interest in the 40/80 3 Class Plan

A. 3 classes: AA, A, B

AA- Schools over 400 enrollment (based on grades 7-10)

A- Next 40 schools in enrollment.

B- Remainder of the schools (approximately 73-75)

B Combined State tourney for boys A, B Basketball; girls A, B basketball; and A, B Girls Volleyball.

- a. 4 Teams from each Class would form the 8 team State Tourney
- b. Each class would have a separate champion
- c. There would be an overall Champion on the final night between A and B
- d. That last day's games would also feature match-ups between A and B for 3rd, 5th, and 7th.
- e. The AA super tourney would stay the same.

C In Class A there would be 4 regions of approximately 10 teams in a region.

1. Each team in the section should play everyone in their section twice. This would still leave 8 games for tournament play and play within other classes.
2. The regions would be divided into 5 team sections.
3. Team #5 would play #4 in a play in game at #4 site. Winner of that game would play at home site of team #1. Team #3 would play at home site of team #2. Winners advancing to region with highest remaining seed getting top section seed at region.
4. Each section would advance 2 teams to a Final Four Region Tournament
5. Each region would advance 1 team to the State A/B tournament.
6. There would be a 3rd place game.

D. In Class B there would be 4 regions of approximately 18-19 teams in the region.

- a. The regions would be divided into 2 districts of approximately 9 teams.
- b. Each district would advance 4 teams to the region.
 - i. Districts determine district format.
 - ii. District tournament revenue divided among the teams in the district.
- c. Each region would advance 1 team to the State A/B tournament.

E. There would be a weighting factor of 1.4 applied to schools in the state without school district boundaries.

F. The Class A schools would have the option of scheduling 2 more regular season games (21 games total) to make up for the loss of district play. Basketball and volleyball.

G. There would be a mandatory early season (first allowable weekend) shootout for regions that would feature inter section play. Basketball and volleyball.

Match-ups would be best on trying to line up the best match-ups based on preseason rankings. Winners would then play and losers the 2nd day. There would be one game with a winner playing one loser.

1. This shootout could be held at two sites on Friday night with 2 games at one site and 3 games at another and then on Saturday play all 5 games at one site.
2. All of the details are up to the region.
3. Shoot Out revenue would be divided among the 10 teams.

H. This would be a two-year plan with realignments looked at every two years.

I. Regional tournament and State tournament revenue would be NDHSAA revenue.

J. If there would be a coop formed that would put 2 teams from the B division into the A division this would move that coop team up and move the 40th team in the A division down to the B division.

CLASS A BASKETBALL FORMAT

CLASS A BASKETBALL FORMAT					
Section 1	REGION 1		Section 3	REGION 2	
	Section 2			Section 4	
Valley City	Oak Grove	Four Winds	Langdon		
Oakes	Northern Cass	Carrington	North Border		
Lisbon	Hillsboro	Midway-Minto	Grafton		
Kindred	May-Port	Larimore	Fordville-Lankin-Park River		
Central Cass	Finley-Sharon-Hope-Page	Hatton-Northwood	Cavalier		
Section 5	REGION 3		Section 7	REGION 4	
	Section 6			Section 8	
Linton	Watford City	Hazen	Surrey		
Fort Yates	Killdeer	Beulah	Bishop Ryan		
Kidder County	Heart River	New Town	Bottineau		
South Border	Dickinson Trinity	Stanley	Dunseith		
Shiloh Christian	Bowman County	Des Lacs Burlington	Rugby		
21 game regular season			Volleyball:		
2 game mandatory pre-season regional shoot-out			Stays the same with exception of		
Format determined by region			Garrison/Max moving into Section 7		
Revenue sharing by local schools			North Shore/Berthold into section 8		
			Region 2		
Section Tournament Format (State Revenue Tournament)			Four Winds & Midway/Minto not in Class A volley		
Game 1 - Play In - #5 @ #4			Fordville-Lankin-Park River moved to section 3		
Game 2 - Winner #4/5 @ #1					
Game 3 - #3 @ #2					
*Winners advance to Final 4 Regional Tournament					
*Winner of Final 4 Region Tournament advances to State Tournament					