

NORTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

Membership

The North Dakota High School Activities Association is a voluntary, non-profit organization of the high schools of the State of North Dakota. All 187 schools eligible for membership belong to the Association. Membership is granted upon application of the School Board, at which time the school agrees to enforce the rules which the members have established and to participate in the legislative processes of modification and revision of rules to fit changing needs of the member schools and students.

Purpose

To unify the high schools of the state in the promotion of pure amateur sports, music and speech activities.

To standardize the eligibility rules and regulations under which interscholastic contests are held.

To provide the schools of the state with sound and adequate programs of extra-curricular activities.

To promote the maintenance of standards which conform with the educational objectives of the schools.

To improve standards of play and to develop understanding of rules governing play.

To prevent the exploitation of the schools, the school activities, and the students enrolled therein.

Brief History

The Activities Association was founded in 1908 under the name of the High School League and originally was concerned only with athletics. In 1923 the state organization became affiliated with the National Federation of High School Athletic Association. A full-time executive director was employed in 1949, and assistant was added in 1963, a girls' sports supervisor in 1973, and a music and speech coordinator in 1978.

In 1950 the Consolidated League, an organization of the smaller schools of the state, affiliated with the High School League, thereby uniting all high schools of the state under one organization. Music and speech activities were placed under the direction of the Association in 1955, and the name was changed to the North Dakota High School Activities Association at that time.

Schools in the league were all in one class for basketball competition from 1908 to 1932. A two-class system was used from 1933 to 1947 and a three-class system from 1948 to 1963. In 1964 the two-class system was restored and this arrangement has been in effect since then up to the present time.

Official state champions have been named in track since 1908 and in basketball since 1914. Official champions in other sports were later added as follows: golf and tennis, 1938; baseball, 1950;

wrestling, 1959; cross country, 1961; hockey, 1967; girls' track, golf and tennis, 1966; girls' gymnastics, 1969; girls' basketball, 1974; boys' and girls' swimming, 1974. State football championships were determined off and on between 1916 and 1959, when the practice was discontinued, but again restored in 1975. Basketball tournaments for girls were conducted by the Consolidated League for a number of years, by the NDHSAA from 1952 to 1960, at which time they were discontinued because of the small number of schools fielding teams. Girls' basketball was reinstated as an Association-sponsored activity in 1973 on a district level, with separate State Class A and Class B champions being named since 1974. Class A girls' volleyball state champions were first named in 1984 and Class B girls' volleyball state champions were first named in 1989. Boys' state soccer champions were first named in 1995 and girls' state soccer champions in 1996.

Video Service

The Association maintains a library of videos on sports and fine arts and are on the file at the NDHSAA office and can be viewed by schools upon request.

Organization of Association

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of 11 members, three of which are administrators of member Class A schools, four superintendents of Class B schools, one high school principal as a member-at-large, and one athletic director. These representatives are elected by the membership as a whole, with each school having one vote. In addition, a representative of the North Dakota School Boards Association and the Superintendent of Public Instruction serve as members of the Board.

Representative Assembly

The superintendent or high school principal of each school serves as a member of the representative assembly, with each school being entitled to one vote. An annual meeting is held each year to adopt rules and regulations governing inter-school contests and eligibility regulations. All such rules are made by the Representative Assembly.

District Committees

The district activities are controlled and managed by committees elected by school officials in each area.

Executive Officers

The administration of the various programs and the implementation of the policies of the Association are placed in the hands of an Executive Secretary and three assistants who are employed by the Association.