



Representative Assembly Meeting

MINUTES

May 9, 2023

Minnesota State High School League
2100 Freeway Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1735
763-560-2262, www.mshsl.org

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

2022-2023 Representative Assembly Delegates

CLASS "A" REGIONS

Region 1A

1. Gary Sloan, Activities Director, Grand Meadow
2. Perry Iberg, Assistant Principal, Lake City
3. Josh Wieme, Activities Director, Goodhue

Region 2A

4. Ted Simon, Principal, Maple River
5. Cory Haala, Activities Director, Sleepy Eye
6. Paul Carpenter, Activities Director, Madelia

Region 3A

7. Andy Ourada, Activities Director, Redwood Valley
8. Joe Kemp, Activities Director, Wabasso
9. Greg Ewing, Principal, Red Rock Central

Region 4A

10. Jeff Beimert, Activities Director, North Lakes Academy
11. Josh Thurow, Activities Director, Minnehaha Academy
12. Nate Gautsch, Activities Director, Brooklyn Center

Region 5A

13. Dan Voce, Superintendent, Mora
14. Joel Swenson, Principal, Royalton
15. Lee Rood, Activities Director, Rush City
Substitute: Dave Schneider, Activities Director/Dean of Students, Eden Valley-Watkins

Region 6A

16. Brian Hovland, Activities Director, Underwood
Substitute: Greg Johnson, Activities Director, Verndale
17. Jake Foslien, Activities Director, West Central Area
18. Thomas Williams, Principal, Henning

Region 7A

19. Travis Vake, Activities Director, Chisholm
20. John Vukmanich, Principal, Northeast Range
21. Dave Foster, Activities Director, Cromwell-Wright

Region 8A

22. Tony Gullikson, Activities Director, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
23. Brian Longerbone, Principal and Activities Director, Marshall County Central
24. Rob Nudell, Superintendent, Norman County East

CLASS "AA" REGIONS

Region 1AA

25. Broc Threinen, Activities Director, Kasson-Mantorville
26. Keith Badger, Activities Director, Farmington
27. Brian Ihrke, Activities Director, Rochester John Marshall

Region 2AA

28. Josh Dale, Activities Director, Worthington
29. Brad Skogerboe, Activities Director, New Prague
30. Mike Bailey, Activities Director, Chanhassen

Region 3AA

31. Zach Prax, Speech Coach, Eastview
32. Jon Anderson, Activities Director, Bloomington Kennedy
33. Jeff Marshall, Activities Director, Prior Lake

Region 4AA

34. Brian Pelloquin, Activities Director, White Bear Lake
35. Joan Nelson, Speech Coach, St. Anthony Village
36. Jason Gonnion, Assistant Principal, East Ridge

Region 5AA

37. Dan Ohlgren, Activities Director, Rogers
38. Will Wackman, Activities Director, Spring Lake Park
39. Jake Henderson, Activities Director, Columbia Heights

Region 6AA

40. Meghan Potter, Activities Director, Wayzata
41. Keelie Sorensen, Activities Director, DeLaSalle
42. Jen Rademacher, Head Girls Basketball Coach, Robbinsdale Cooper

Region 7AA

43. Mike Cunningham, Activities Director, Elk River
44. Jon Martin, Activities Director, St. Francis
45. Anne Campbell, Activities Director, Grand Rapids

Region 8AA

46. Rob Nielsen, Activities Director, Detroit Lakes
47. Eric Ruska, Activities Director, St. Cloud Tech
48. Dave Niemi, Activities Director, Becker

PROGRAM

The Representative Assembly meeting was held at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park, MN.

President Troy Stein called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Following the opening announcements, reports were presented to the delegates.

TREASURER'S REPORT, John Ostrowski, 1-2A, Dover-Eyota High School

The Board of Directors anticipates revenues of \$10.2 million dollars for the fiscal year end July 31, 2023. This included tournament related revenues of \$5.2 million dollars. Sponsorship, Broadcast and Streaming revenues of \$2.2 million dollars. School Membership Fees of \$2.2 million dollars and other program related revenues of \$.6 million dollars.

The League's annual expenditure budget was anticipated to be approximately \$10.2 million dollars as well. The League continues to implement cost-cutting measures including reductions in publications, committee meetings, and other general operating expenses. Fall and winter state tournaments have returned to traditional venues, such as the University of Minnesota, US Bank Stadium, Xcel Energy Center, and Target Center. These facilities helped provide world-class events for our student athletes and communities. The League's Board of Directors extends appreciation to the League's member schools and their Corporate Sponsors for helping the League work through the financial challenges of the past few years.

The League is currently ahead of budget on the revenue side and is on budget for expenses for the 2022-2023 school year and thereby anticipates an excess in revenues.

In review of previous actions, the Finance Advisory Committee was established by the Board of Directors in December 2020, and held their first meeting in February 2021. The committee was tasked with reviewing the financial challenges and impacts created by the COVID pandemic and providing options for the Board of Directors to consider in the areas of membership dues for member schools, alternative or additional sources of revenue, and recommendations of other financial options or expertise that could assist the Board and staff in establishing a sustainable financial model. On June 1, 2021, the Committee recommended a new Membership Dues model. The

model consists of 3 separate items: a Base Membership Fee that all schools pay, a Per Activity Fee that is charged for each activity sponsored by the school, and a Per Student Fee which is based on MSHSL enrollment.

The anticipated 2023-2024 school year Membership Activity Fee and Per Student Enrollment fee will be \$160.00 per activity and \$2.25 per student. These are the same amounts as the current school year. The League does anticipate an excess of revenues over expenses at the end of this fiscal year. These excess funds will be refunded to schools through a credit to membership dues in the coming year.

The League's Board of Directors believes that the new Membership Dues Plan has provided a fair, equitable and sustainable financial model for the League and its member schools for both the short and long-term success of the organization and its members.

A complete audited financial report will be sent to each member school later this spring.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, Troy Stein, Regions 5-6AA, Edina High School

The Board of Directors met in August to set the direction of the MSHSL for the 2022-2023 school year. This annual meeting allows the board of directors and MSHSL staff to collaborate and prioritize expectations for the year. A major aspect of that annual meeting is establishing the Strategic Direction of the MSHSL for the year. This year the League's Board of Directors established 3 key areas of focus for the strategic directions:

- The MSHSL will support the health, safety and wellness of our students, coaches, administrators and officials.
- The MSHSL will further develop strategies and take actions that promote and support diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
- The MSHSL will focus on enhanced communication methods and systems to more effectively meet the needs of our students, schools and communities.

The League has taken action in each of the strategic directions thus far:

1. Supporting the health, safety and wellness of our students, coaches, administrators and officials.
 - a. The League formed the Student Advisory and Leadership Team (SALT). This is the first student leadership team the formed by the League and this advisory team will:
 1. Provide student input to League Staff and the Board of Directors.
 2. Communicate needs and challenges students face in our schools.
 3. Inspire thoughtful, student-led ideas and strategies that the MSHSL can proactively use to support students and schools throughout the state of MN.
 - b. The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, composed of state and national experts who helped guide the League through COVID, has increased its meeting dates to every other month to help guide our policy decisions at the staff and board level.
 - c. The League showed tremendous flexibility by making two key adjustments this year to provide a safe, competitive and supportive environment for our student-athletes. The Board of Directors supported the addition of more opportunities for female wrestlers prior to the section tournament to accommodate the increase in female participants. In addition, this spring, the Board approved adjustments related to baseball/softball 5 inning double headers. The health and safety of our students continues to be tremendously important for the Minnesota State High School League.
2. Develop strategies and take actions that promote and support diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.
 1. In June of 2022, the Board allocated \$25,000 to collaborate with multiple state educational organizations for the Together We Make A Difference initiative. Fall regional conferences along with a January state conference were held to gather input from all students throughout the state of Minnesota. This inclusive effort will be ongoing as all member schools strive to provide safe, inclusive and positive environments for our students to thrive.
 2. The League's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Committee (DEIB) continues to evolve and influence the League Staff and the Board of Directors. League Staff and the Board committed to the equity journey by reading "From Athletics to Engineering: 8 Ways to support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for all". The DEIB Committee is taking the lead in helping shape a new 'Code of Commitment' for our member schools. This code of commitment is being pulled from the Together We Make A Difference student input sessions from this year. This DEIB committee will help guide the Board and League Staff to view all aspects of the League through a lens of equity and inclusion for all.
3. Focus on enhanced communication methods and systems to more effectively meet the needs of our students, schools and communities.
 1. In October, the Board of Directors took action to provide more clarity to the Activity Advisory Process by establishing expectations for all proposals coming to the Board. This enhanced process provides clear and concise information for all submissions to the board.
 2. As Vice President last year, while visiting caucus rooms at this representative assembly meeting, the number one aspect heard was "How do we know what the threshold is to add a sport for the MSHSL?". That feedback from last year's Representative Assembly provided the Board of Directors the inspiration to provide Representative Delegates a process with some objective measurements to assist in your decision making today. In December of 2022, the Board approved the recommendation from the Adoption of Programs Task Force, chaired by VP Jim Smokrovich, and established a policy related to the emerging status application process. The policy establishes minimum benchmarks needed to make emerging status and minimum benchmarks needed to be considered by the Representative

Assembly to be fully sanctioned. This policy will have a lasting impact and allow the League and the Representative Assembly to objectively review new program offerings today and into the future.

The League's Board of Directors stated that the biggest accomplishments this year includes the Adoption of Programs Task Force and the approval of the Emerging Status Application Policy. The collaboration of League Staff, Representative Assembly members and the Board of Directors has been remarkable for us to get back to this moment. We are all working collaboratively to grow the number of students who compete under the umbrella of the Minnesota State High School League.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, Erich Martens

Growth and Improvements

As we all know, the League has recently been challenged like never before, and yet over the past two years, incredible work has been done to reclaim the domain of education-based athletics and fine arts.

- From attendance at tournaments to the strong financial position of the League, to the passionate interest and appetite for the opportunities that the MSHSL provides through its member schools, there are a number of reasons for us to celebrate! To illustrate this, consider the following:
 - Our spectator attendance at state tournaments this past fall is the second highest in the past ten years, eclipsed only by 2016-17, the first year US Bank opened.
 - Should our spring activities hit even average numbers for spring, we are likely to be in the top three over the past ten years.
 - Our participation numbers continue to be strong and despite the recent interruption in education and programming, our students are coming back to their chosen activities.
 - Financially, our regions have provided payments back to member schools in almost all regions and there are no dues being paid to our regions.
 - In addition, you heard our treasurer share the news that with projected dues identical to this year, there is likely to be a credit to all member schools which could drop membership dues below pre-pandemic levels.
 - At the same time, the League has followed the guidance of the Finance Advisory Committee in building reserved funds to ensure that even if a financial challenge is encountered, there are reserves that will keep membership dues at its projected level.

How does this happen?

1. It starts with leadership and the League, as a member-driven organization, is led by representatives of our member schools. At the Board level, at the Region Committee level, here at Rep Assembly, through numerous committees like our ADs Advisory and our Principals Advisory. Through task-based groups like our Appeals Committee for Competitive Section Placement, the District Football Committee and our Adoption of Programs Task Force, who create recommendations for our Board. To groups that advise like our Education Advisory and our sport specific advisories, and our Lead Liaisons who connect this incredible network. Again, the strength of this organization is the people who serve.

It is also the result of the incredible work done at each of our member schools. Providing safe, enjoyable and valuable experiences for students is the work of our school staff and officials, and throughout each of our regular seasons, our schools do a great job.

Finally, beyond the many outstanding school leaders, there is a dedicated group of professional staff members at the MSHSL who invest their time, their intellect and their hearts in their work. With four hires this past year, the League is approaching pre-pandemic levels of staffing and lives out the mission of the MSHSL each day in providing educational experiences for our students and support and leadership for our schools.

As a League, we recognize that there is great work yet to do...

- The partnership that exists between the Minnesota State High School League and our associations of school boards, superintendents, principals, ADs and coaches, has grown considerably over the last three years.
- Many of the challenges that we currently face exist, largely in the area of human capital. We continue to struggle to fill positions for coaches, officials, bus drivers, activities administrators, and others who support all of the wonderful activities our students love. Beyond recruiting, retaining is just as important, because although we may have people in these positions now, they need our support. We all need appropriate and respectful behavior within our practices and contests. We have to set expectations, educate all who participate and do all in our power to maintain great behavior.
- It is more important than ever that we are steadfast in the principles and standards for education-based activities. While at many other levels, these principles are under attack, we must remain committed to education first, respect, sportsmanship, and fair and equitable competition.

There are two action items to be considered:

- The proposal submitted by member schools in collaboration with the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association would establish a separate set of bylaws that best fit their programs and provide an even greater opportunity for these student-athletes to engage in multiple seasons.

- The second action item considers the adoption of boys volleyball. In doing so, it is important to recognize that these students who already participate in boys volleyball are seeking the opportunity to do so in the same way, and under the same guidance and guidelines as 48 other programs within our League and our schools.
- The League and its Board is ready, should boys volleyball be approved for 24-25, to call a task force of school representatives just like you, to study boys volleyball and develop a recommendation for the season of competition. The factors of available facilities, number of sports in a season, availability of officials and coaches, youth programs, factors considered in other states, etc. will all be studied and evaluated as part of the development of a recommendation and final decision.

The mission of the MSHSL has not changed. We exist to provide educational opportunities through athletics and fine arts. And we are here to provide support and leadership for our member schools. Your votes today matter and will be critical for the League to continue its work in living up to the mission that was established many years ago yet remains just as true today as it ever has.

COMMENTS ON ACTION AMENDMENTS

Following the opening announcements, Members of the public, school representatives, and Representative Assembly delegates in attendance were offered an opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments:

There were no speakers on behalf of Bylaw 506/511/514/515.

Mike Redmond, Shakopee Public Schools Superintendent spoke in favor of Bylaw 520, Boys Volleyball.

CAUCUS GROUPS and ROLL CALL

The Assembly broke into six caucus groups at 9:37 a.m. to discuss the two proposed amendments brought forward to the Representative Assembly for consideration. The meeting was called back to order at 10:12 a.m.

Roll call was taken. The following delegates were absent and were represented by the following proxies: #15, Lee Rood, Activities Director, Rush City, proxy Dave Schneider, Activities Director, Dean of Students, Eden Valley-Watkins; #16, Brian Hovland, Activities Director, Underwood, proxy Greg Johnson, Activities Director, Verndale.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded and passed by unanimous vote to dispense with the reading of the May 10, 2022, Representative Assembly Minutes and that they be approved as provided to member schools. Motion by Delegate #27 Brian Ihrke, and second by #24 Rob Nudell. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE CAUCUS GROUPS

A delegate from each caucus group gave a summary of their discussion.

VOTING ON THE AMENDMENTS

Forty-eight delegates were present. A two-thirds majority of the delegates present is required for passage of any amendment. Thirty-two votes were required for passage of the presented amendments.

- 1. Proposed Amendments to:
Bylaw 506.00, 511.00, Bylaw 514.00, and Bylaw 515.00 Adapted – Co-Educational**

Submitted by: Six Member Schools

Proposal: This recommendation will remove all adapted programs from the able-body programs. This will create their own bylaw which will allow better flexibility for changes specifically for adapted athletics.

SEASON BEGINS

The Monday of the assigned number of weeks preceding the finals of the state tournament.

Soccer Season 11 weeks

Hockey Season 15 weeks

Softball Season 10 weeks

Bowling Season 11 weeks

PRACTICE SESSIONS BEFORE FIRST CONTEST

Cross Reference: Bylaw 411.10 (Scheduling of Contests)

Two weeks of organized practice shall precede the first game.

CONTESTS

Maximum number of game allowed soccer – 15

Maximum number of game allowed hockey – 15

Maximum number of game allowed softball – 15

Maximum number of game allowed bowling – 16

Bowling - Two games would constitute a match. Sixteen (16) matches (2 matches per week) will comprise a season. The maximum number of matches played per season shall not exceed 16 matches exclusive of League tournament play. All games shall be bowled in an official bowling alley.

Non-League Tournaments

Conference or division champion may schedule one additional game to determine an inter-conference or intra-conference champion. The game must be listed on the school schedule. Tournaments not a part of League play: Each game played in the tournament will count as one game toward the maximum number of games allowed for the season.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS

Cross Reference: Bylaw 502 (Daily/Season Player Participation Limitations)

EQUIPMENT ISSUED

Equipment may be issued on the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for the opening of practice (except Sunday).

ADAPTED ATHLETICS – ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The League has three competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI), Cognitively Impaired (CI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for bowling.

Participation in the interscholastic program of a high school is limited to students in grades 7 through 12. Students in an ungraded setting are first eligible when their age peers are in the 7th grade. Students will be eligible for 12 consecutive semesters (6 years), beginning with their or their peers' initial entrance into the 7th grade.

The League requires a sports qualifying exam every three (3) years for participants in competitive athletics. The League acknowledges that some students with disabilities, like some students without disabilities, will be unable to participate in adapted athletics due to the competitive nature of the programs and for reasons unrelated to their disability. Like other students who do not “make the team”, these students should be directed to alternative programs which are less competitive and more recreational in nature.

Students may not participate in both PI and CI divisions. If a student participates in both divisions, the penalty for the use of an ineligible player will be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of the game.

PI Division – The League Adapted Athletics PI Division program is specifically intended for students with physical impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the PI Division with one of the following criteria.

The student must have a diagnosed and documented impairment specified from one of the two sections below: (Must be diagnosed and documented by a Physician and or Physician's Assistant):

Neuromuscular, postural/skeletal, traumatic, growth, or neurological impairment that affects motor function, modifies gait patterns, or requires the use of a prosthesis or a mobility device including but not limited to, canes, crutches, or wheelchairs.

Cardio/respiratory impairment that is deemed safe for competitive athletics but limits the intensity and duration of physical exertion such that sustained activity for over five minutes at 60% of maximum heart rate for age results in physical distress in spite of appropriate management of the health condition.

Note: A condition that can be appropriately managed with appropriate medications, which eliminate physical or health endurance limitations, will NOT be considered to be eligible for adapted athletics.

Specific exclusions to PI competition:

The following health conditions without coexisting physical impairments as outlined above do not qualify the student to participate in the PI Division even though some of the conditions below may be considered Health Impairments by an individual's physician, student's school, or a government agency. This list is not all-inclusive, and the conditions are examples of non-qualifying health conditions; other health impairments that are not listed below may also be non-qualifying for participation in the PI Division.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)

Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)

Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD)

Autism Spectrum Disorders (including Asperger's Syndrome)

Tourette's Syndrome

Neurofibromatosis

Asthma

Reactive Airway Disease (RAD)

Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD)

Blindness
Deafness
Obesity
Depression
Generalized Anxiety Disorder
Seizure Disorder
Other Similar Disorders

CI Division – The MSHSL Adapted Athletics CI Division program is specifically intended for students with cognitive impairments who have medical clearance to compete in competitive athletics. A student is eligible to compete in the CI Division by meeting criteria 1 or 2 below:

Minnesota Rule: 3525.1333 DEVELOPMENTAL COGNITIVE DISABILITY

Subpart 1. Definition: "Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD)" means a condition resulting in significantly below average intellectual functioning and concurrent deficits in adaptive behavior that adversely affects educational performance and requires special education and related services. DCD does not include conditions primarily due to a sensory or physical impairment, traumatic brain injury, autism spectrum disorders, severe multiple impairments, cultural influences, or inconsistent educational programming.

Subpart 2. Criteria: The team shall determine that a pupil is eligible as having a DCD and is in need of special education instruction and related services if the pupil meets the criteria in items A and B.

The pupil demonstrates below average adaptive behavior in school and home, and, if appropriate, community environments.

For the purposes of this item, "below average" means:

a composite score at or below the 15th percentile on a nationally normed, technically adequate measure of adaptive behavior; and documentation of needs and the level of support required in at least four of the seven adaptive behavior domains across multiple environments. Systematic observation and parent input must be included as sources to document need and level of support. All of the following adaptive behavior domains must be considered:

daily living and independent living skills;

social and interpersonal skills;

communication skills;

academic skills;

recreation and leisure skills;

community participation skills; and

work and work-related skills.

Other sources of documentation may include checklists; classroom or work samples; interviews; criterion-referenced measures; educational history; medical history; or pupil self-report.

The pupil demonstrates significantly below average general intellectual functioning that is measured by an individually administered, nationally normed test of intellectual ability. For the purposes of this subitem, "significantly below average general intellectual functioning" means:

mild-moderate range: two standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement; and

severe-profound range: three standard deviations below the mean, plus or minus one standard error of measurement.

Significantly below average general intellectual functioning must be verified through a written summary of results from at least two systematic observations with consideration for culturally relevant information, medical and educational histories, and one or more of the following: supplemental tests of specific abilities, criterion-referenced tests, alternative methods of intellectual assessment, clinical interviews with parents, including family members, if appropriate, or observation and analysis of behavior across multiple environments.

Students will also be eligible for the CI Division if they meet the following criteria:

The student must have a diagnosed and documented cognitive impairment. Cognitively impaired refers to students with sub-average intellectual function defined by a Full Scale intelligence quotient of 70 or below, using a standardized, nationally normed, technically adequate, and individually administered intelligence test.

Specific exclusions from CI competition:

A student becomes ineligible to participate in Adapted Athletics when they have attained a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements. A student who has reached a level of cognitive performance that exceeds the eligibility requirements after the start of a season will be permitted to complete that sports season.

Challenges to a student's eligibility to participate in PI and CI adapted athletics:

A school may file a written challenge regarding a student's eligibility to participate in Adapted Athletics based on the

qualifications stated above. Challenges must be submitted within 24 hours of the end of a game in which an ineligible player participated. A challenge submitted after the deadline will not be honored. The student shall remain eligible during the review process. The committee's findings will be final and follow the student through the remaining years of eligibility unless there is a change in physical or cognitive status.

Upon receipt of a written challenge the League will activate the following review process:
request a brief statement from the school/coach supporting the eligibility of the athlete; and
review the school's/coach's submission and the school's supporting data (testing, medical history, school documentation) by one reviewer who will submit a brief written statement regarding the eligibility status.

Appeal Process:

If the initial review denies eligibility an appeal can be requested. A panel of three (3) reviewers will be convened. Two (2) of these reviewers must be from different disciplines (MD, Adapted PE teacher, PT, etc). The school/coach will be asked to submit a video of the player during a game or during PE class that will best demonstrate the disability. The video will be at the school's expense.

LAST DATE TO JOIN A TEAM

To be eligible for section and state competition, a student must be a member of that school's team no later than the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season.

Membership Defined: A student must:

- be practicing with the high school team;
- be on the school's master eligibility list; and
- be under the bylaws of the League.

Exceptions: At the member school's discretion, students may be allowed to join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season and be fully eligible for regular season and post-season competition if they meet any of the four conditions below:

transfer students who become eligible in their new school; or students who are participating in another sport and wish to drop that sport or participate in a second sport during that same sport season, provided they have not delayed their membership in order to gain a competitive advantage; or students who, were under the care of a physician and were medically unable to join the team by the specified date (students must have written documentation from the physician); or students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season, and have not participated in the same sport: on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or in a camp or clinic; or received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

Students who join a team after the fourth Monday (the 22nd calendar day) from the official start of that sport season are eligible for the regular season only (not postseason) if they have participated in the same sport: on a non-school team or as an individual competitor; or in a camp or clinic; or received private instruction in that sport during the high school season.

History: Based on feedback from the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association Leadership and their member membership (coaches), we are recommending the following change. This change will remove the adapted program(s) out of the able-bodied bylaws and create a specific bylaw for our adapted programs. This allows for a change in the length of season, number of contests and other language which is specific to our adapted programs.

Rationale: This will help promote multi-sport adapted student-athletes. We also believe this change may help with the recruiting and retention of coaches and officials. This change will foster the importance of the social, emotional and educational values of our programs for our student-athletes, parents/guardians, officials and coaches. Currently with the overlap in season our participation numbers are decreasing, and we need to do something to foster participation. The current length of season is very taxing on the students and their parents/guardians.

Motion by Delegate #46 Rob Nielsen, and second by #29 Brad Skogerboe. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Amendments to:

Bylaw 520.00 - Volleyball, Girls becomes Bylaw 520 "Volleyball, Boys & Girls"
(Adding Boys' Volleyball to the list of available sports through the MSHSL.)

Submitted by: 49 Member Schools, Modified by MSHSL Board of Directors 12/1/2022

Proposal: Boys Volleyball has been approved by the Board of Directors as an emerging sport in 2023-2024 and with sufficient participation, it would be approved as an interscholastic sport beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

Boys volleyball provides students the opportunity to connect and compete with people that represent the diverse community, especially those financial, ethnic, and socially underserved groups, that have a desire to play this sport.

Boys volleyball is an opportunity for schools to provide more options resulting in more choices for students in a non-discriminatory manner regardless of their race, color, national origin, or financial ability to participate.

This proposal is submitted with the understanding that not all member schools are obligated or will be able to offer Boys volleyball. This proposal supports a large number of students that want to play volleyball and offers a sanctioned activity that appeals to specific ethnic groups that have not traditionally participated in MSHSL school activities.

History: On December 1, 2022, the MSHSL Board of Directors took action to amend the previously submitted Representative Assembly Proposal that would add “Boys” to Bylaw 520 Girls Volleyball. The amendment included both the addition of a date of implementation in the 2024-2025 school year, and the directive that the proposal moves directly to the Representative Assembly as provided within the powers of the Board of Directors. The amending of the Boys Volleyball proposal by the Board of Directors is in alignment with the previous action of the Board of Directors in June 2022 that called for development of a clear pathway by which activities or sports may be added to the League’s programming.

This amendment was made possible through the following steps:

- In late summer of 2022, the MSHSL formed an Adoption of Programs Task Force charged with developing a process for the adoption of new MSHSL programs. The task force brought forward their recommendation for an emerging status process specifically for programs that are requested by the requisite number of member schools. The recommendation of the Adoption of Programs Task Force was approved by the Board of Directors establishing a new process through this emerging status method.
- Following the approval of the emerging status process, the Board of Directors took separate action to classify Boys Volleyball as an emerging program for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Finally, the Board of Directors approved that the Boys Volleyball proposed bylaw amendment submitted on 10/11/22 be sent directly to the Representative Assembly for its consideration.

Motion by Delegate #41 Keelie Sorensen, and second by #40 Meghan Potter. The motion passed 39-7 with two abstentions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. Motion by Delegate #45 Anne Campbell, and second by #4 Ted Simon. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted



Erich Martens
Executive Director and Representative Assembly Secretary