

Combined Tournament Committee
April 6, 2011
Carrington, North Dakota

The Tournament Committee met on April 6, 2011 in Carrington, Steve Swiontek, Chairperson. Members present were Ed Lockwood, Fargo; Curt Jones, West Fargo; Jim Roaldson, Jamestown; Todd Olson, Grand Forks; Jeff Fastnacht, Ellendale; Lorell Jungling, Mandan, Pat McNally, Minot, Jim Haussler, Bismarck; David Looyesen, Minot and Clarke Ranum, Des Lacs-Burlington. Also present were NDHSAA Executive Secretary, Sherm Sylling and staff members, Matthew Fetsch, Brenda Schell and Sheryl Solberg. Guests present for the meeting were Jeremy Linstad and Cheryl Swanson from Grand Forks Alerus, Rob Sobolik from the FargoDome and Charlie Jeske from the Bismarck Civic Center.

Each person introduced themselves. The Executive Secretary thanked the committee for their contributions to this committee.

The committee notes from the December 8, 2010 and February 23, 2011 meetings were reviewed.

The Executive Secretary shared the request from the NDHSAA Board of Directors to include the Fargo Red Hawks Stadium in the rotation of State Baseball tournaments. Lockwood asked if this would be for the 2015-2016 year or would it be considered sooner to replace a site that was previously selected. This will be on the agenda for the December meeting which would be the most valuable meeting for venue managers to attend.

Placing certain tournaments at a permanent site was discussed. Haussler shared there is growing pressure on facility managers from organizations such as boat and home shows to lock up dates for multiple years. This makes it difficult to reserve dates for possible upcoming state tournament requests. Bismarck Civic Center manager, Charlie Jeske indicated the January through April timeframe is very tight. Jeske shared the situation would be eased somewhat if these two requests were considered: (1) extend placement of a tournament for more than one year and (2) when a site is selected, also indicate the actual date attached for that site. FargoDome manager, Rob Sobolik affirmed the need to know the actual dates when an event will be held in their facility. Alerus Center manager, Cheryl Swanson echoed what had previously been said along with welcoming any events they wish to place in the Alerus.

The Executive Secretary shared a history of the various site selection processes. Although cities benefit financially, there is not evidence of the communities buying into the process of inviting events to their community.

Haussler acknowledged in the selection of tournament sites, the committee must take into consideration how easy is the set-up. An example would be the setup for hockey in the Civic Center to put in ice. The committee must keep in mind being honest about facility, set up, and community while looking at finance. Political correctness will not go away along with the need to provide balance but should not be the number one criteria. Lockwood shared there is a strain on budgets if the site selection is causing the same schools to provide travel and lodging funds to go to the same tournament.

Looyen shared it is difficult in comparing our tournament to other states' tournaments, as tournaments are run in various ways.

Jungling asked who is to determine what facilities are better. Also he agreed we need to consider finances in the selections.

Roaldson said we have gone to some semi-permanent sites in some areas. Communities host to allow students to compete in front of their home crowd. If we are looking at "best" facilities, what are the requirements or recommendations so sites have the opportunity to be considered as a host.

Olson questioned are we going to change anything that we currently have selected? Can we put dates on the sites out to 2015? There may be a need for a 10-year calendar. The Executive Secretary informed the committee any calendar date change creates many issues.

Fastnacht stated maybe finance should be a concern. Maybe there needs to be some tough financial questions. Having both political and financial considerations is difficult.

Sobolik stated if there could be actual dates associated with sites 5 years out would be helpful.

Olson stated the tournament committee is partially self-regulatory by knowing what tournaments work or don't work in their own community.

Lockwood agreed the tournament managers do look at what will be successful in their own communities.

It was agreed by the committee going out 5 years with specific dates would be palatable to the group.

Motion by Haussler to set dates out 5 years and sites out for 7 years. Also invite key facility managers to the December meeting to allow reactions for the selections. By show of hands, it is the consensus of the committee to forward this recommendation to the NDHSAA Board of Directors.

Sobolik suggested facility managers visit with the tournament managers from their own communities prior to the December meeting. Also, these managers could bring the dates of the college conference schedules and any other possible conflicts to help the committee know when facilities are already committed.

Jones asked the committee if there is an interest in adjusting the playing times of tournaments such as a state basketball tournament to allow the home team in the first round to play the last game of the session. This would be for the purpose of home crowd. There was no further discussion.

The Exec Sec shared it was brought to his attention the Class B State Basketball individual reserve ticket sales are more attractive than the tournament ticket as some attending only attend three rather than the six sessions. Individual session tickets were discussed. It is a recommendation to change the adult reserve individual tickets to \$9 per session. By show of hands, the committee agreed with one opposed (Roaldson).

Lockwood presented on behalf of the Technology Committee. There is a concern over what webcasting is doing to ticket sales. What should be done and how? Chair Swiontek asked the Committee to meet one more time and bring their findings to the Tournament Committee at the December meeting.

Olson shared the negotiated schedule for the 2012 State Hockey Tournament. Roaldson suggested leaving all the girls' tournament at Purpur Arena. If some of the games are scheduled there, maybe all the games should be played there.

Olson mentioned the Sioux are gone the weekend of State Hockey in 2014 and they are at home in 2013. It was asked if there is a consideration to switch Fargo and Grand Forks allowing Grand Forks to host in 2014 when no Sioux hockey is scheduled. Lockwood indicated they are working on a second sheet of ice for their scheduled year. He will do some research and discussion will resume at the December meeting.

Discussion took place concerning the placement of State Swimming and diving. The committee recommends moving the 2012-2013 State Swimming and Diving site from Grand Forks to Bismarck, the 2013-2014 State Swimming and Diving site from Bismarck to Grand Forks and 1214-1215 from Grand Forks to Mandan. This recommendation for site changes will be presented to the Board of Directors.

The Executive Secretary presented the following:

- Review of the state tournament booth policy on how they should be approved
- Region tournament t-shirt sales are to be approved by the association office staff
- Farmers Union Insurance is our premier partner and National Guard is our supporting partner, and they are allowed a presence at our state tournaments including having a booth
- A reminder of the timeliness of finance reports
- A reminder the tournament information needs to be placed on the tournament manager portion of the website for manager's use in preparation for future tournaments

Jones asked if the committee needs to talk about hotel rooms and rates. With the situation in the western part of the state, we are seeing an increase in the hotel/motel room rates. Also Haussler asked what tournaments should block fan rooms. It is a practice the managers should attempt to discontinue.

The meetings dates for the 2011-2012 year were set:

- December 7, 2011
- April 11, 2012

With no further business, Chairman Swiontek closed the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Solberg
Asst. to the Exec. Sec.