



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
SDHSAA OFFICE- PIERRE, SD (W/ZOOM OPTION)**

**APRIL 22, 2026**

**11:00 a.m. CST**

**Pierre, South Dakota**

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82601086886?pwd=YxcAQpmlq2bFWkPezPPsvrb7ZGLbJE.1>

Call the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #1 – Approve the agenda.

ITEM #2 – Determine that a quorum is present.

ITEM #3 – Designate a parliamentarian for the meeting.

ITEM #4 – Approval of the minutes of the April 23, 2025 Annual Meeting. **See Appendix B**

ITEM #5- Finance report from Mr. Brad Reinke, Reinke-Gray Wealth Management. **See Appendix C**

ITEM #6 – Accept nominations from the floor for the following Board Positions, beginning July 1, 2025:

- **Division IV Superintendent-** To be filled by a **Superintendent**. This position is currently held by Jeff Kusters of Frederick High School. The representative position in Division IV switches from an Athletic Director to a Superintendent position. The Division IV Principal may be a Superintendent from any school with a 25-26 ADM from Parker (100.55) to Elk Mountain (2.0). Eligible schools in Division IV include: Parker, Platte-Geddes, Stanley County, Britton-Hecla, Elkton-Lake Benton, Garretson, Bon Homme, Parkston, Clark, Crow Creek, Flandreau Indian, Hanson, Castlewood, Viborg-Hurley, Miller, Bennett County, Philip, Florence, McCook Central, Tiospa Zina, De Smet, Freeman, Sioux Falls Lutheran, Ipswich, Colman-Egan, McLaughlin, New Underwood, Deubrook Area, Warner, Alcester-Hudson, Howard, Canistota, Gregory, Timber Lake, Lemmon, Waverly-South Shore, Wolsey-Wessington, Chester, White River, Centerville, Wessington Springs, Bridgewater-Emery, Wall, Irene-Wakonda, Northwestern, Faulkton Area, Burke, Estelline, Gayville-Volin, Kimball, Corsica-Stickney, Lower Brule, Ethan, St. Mary's, Arlington, Plankinton, Sully Buttes, Dupree, Aberdeen Christian, Avon, Highmore-Harrold, Willow Lake, Edmunds Central, Montrose, Crazy Horse, Woonsocket, Rosholt, Armour, Kadoka Area, Mount Vernon, Gettysburg, Faith, Menno, Eureka, Scotland, Waubay, Wilmot, Marion, Selby Area, Langford Area, Newell, Marty, McCrossan Boy's Ranch, Hitchcock-Tulare, Frederick Area, Andes Central, James Valley Christian, Mitchell Christian, Henry, Jones County, Summit, Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, Iroquois, Herreid, Bison, Lake Preston, Sunshine Bible Academy, Sanborn Central, Tiospaye Topa, Leola, Oelrichs, Takini, White Lake, Tripp-Delmont, McIntosh, Wakpala, Doland, Edgemont, Colome, Hoven, Dakota Christian, SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Elk Mountain. Lyman and Harding County are not eligible as they already have someone on the Board. This position must be filled by a Superintendent. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** The person elected will serve a **five-year term** on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and is unable to run for re-election. Jeff Kusters is eligible to run for re-election as he filled a term of less than two years and qualifies for the position.

**ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS:** “Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to one five-year term. Nominations for membership on the Board of Directors shall be made orally at the Annual Meeting of the association. An election shall be determined by a majority votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election shall be held between the top two vote getters”. This complete section may be found on pages fifteen (15) and sixteen (16) of the Constitution and Bylaws.

ITEM #7 – Introduction of proposed constitutional amendments as submitted by the SDHSAA Staff. **SEE APPENDIX A**

- A. Recognition of SDHSAA Board Members/Staff who will speak on behalf of the proposed constitutional amendment as submitted by the SDHSAA Board of Directors as published in the 2026 Annual Meeting Bulletin.
- B. Recognition of delegates who wish to speak for or against the proposed amendment.
- C. Accept amendments, in writing, to the proposed amendment so long as they do not negate the intent of the original amendment.

ITEM #8 – Explanation of voting procedure and time frame to be followed:

- A. The ballot pertaining to the Board of Directors positions will be e-mailed to the Superintendent of each member school within ten (10) days following the annual meeting, May 2, 2026.
- B. Deadline for return of all ballots is Sunday, May 31, 2026.
- C. In order to be elected to the Board of Directors, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast in the election. If none of the candidates receive a majority, a runoff election will be held immediately following May 31, 2026 between the top two vote recipients.
- D. The ballots pertaining to the proposed constitutional amendment will be e-mailed to the superintendent of each member school within ten (10) days following the Annual Meeting, May 2, 2026.
- E. Deadline for return of all ballots is Sunday, May 31, 2026.
- F. For a constitutional amendment to pass, it must receive a sixty percent favorable vote of the Association members who cast a ballot.

ITEM #9 – Recognition of all past members of the SDHSAA Board of Directors and retiring administrators present.

ITEM #10 – Member comments.

ITEM #11 – Any other business that the membership and/or Board of Directors might wish to consider.

ITEM #12 – Adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dr. Daniel Swartos  
SDHSAA Executive Director



# APPENDIX A

## ***SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION***

### ***2026 OFFICIAL AMENDMENT BALLOT***

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2026**. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% favorable vote. Please refer to the accompanying document for the text of the amendment and the rationale that was given at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### **AMENDMENT NO. 1**

*To Amend Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D of the SDHSAA By-Laws*

Yes

No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (School Board President)

**Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.**

**BALLOTS DUE: May 31, 2026**

**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
AMENDMENT #1**

**1.) Amend Chapter 1, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D of the SDHSAA By-Laws.**

**C. Eight Semester/Twelve Trimester Rule.** A student shall be eligible for four first semesters and four second semesters OR twelve trimesters of interscholastic competition while enrolled in grades 9-12. For the purpose of this subsection, enrollment and attendance in school or participation in one or more contests shall count as a semester/trimester of eligibility. Once a student enrolls as a ninth grader, all semesters/trimesters must be consecutive unless waived as per Article VII, Section 3 (l), page 18 of the Constitution.

**D. Four Semester/Six Trimester Middle School Participation Rule.** Middle school students shall be eligible for four consecutive semesters OR six consecutive trimesters of high school interscholastic competition while enrolled in grades 7-8. The four semesters/six trimesters begins when the student enrolls as a 7th grader or is a student enrolled in alternative instruction as set forth in SDCL 13-27-3, must be consecutive, and are not dependent upon actual participation in high school level interscholastic competition (the four semesters/six trimesters start at enrollment/recognition as a 7th grader, not upon participation in high school competition). **Upon initial completion of the 8th grade (four semesters/six trimesters of 7th and 8th grade), the student shall begin their eight semesters/twelve trimesters of high school eligibility. No “redshirt” or “reclassification” years will be recognized.**

NOTE: Attendance Defined: If the student is used in the ADM count, full or partial day, they are considered to have attended school.

**Rationale:** Clarifies the intent of the previous year’s amendment limiting middle school participation in varsity sports to four semesters/six trimesters, specifies that “redshirt” and “reclassification” years between 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 9<sup>th</sup> grade are not recognized.

**Positives-** Provides clarity to schools and families on a question that is being asked on an increasing scale of “can my child repeat 8<sup>th</sup> grade for sports before starting 9<sup>th</sup> grade”, “can my child homeschool for a year after 8<sup>th</sup> grade before entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade and not have their high school eligibility start?”, and “can my child homeschool and do a year of club sports between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade before starting their high school eligibility?” The answer to all of those questions is No; the whole concept of redshirting and reclassifying for the purpose of sports goes against the concept of education-based activities.

**Negatives/Things to Look For-** Parents need to be aware of this rule and need to know that if they do this, the high school eligibility clock starts after completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and their child may run out of eligibility a year sooner than they anticipated. We need to be clear with parents on this rule so there are no surprises.

There may be legitimate reasons why a student would need to be held back a year between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. For that situation we have our hardship process to examine the situation individually.



***SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION***

***2026 OFFICIAL AMENDMENT BALLOT***

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2026**. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% favorable vote. Please refer to the accompanying document for the text of the amendment and the rationale that was given at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

**AMENDMENT NO. 2**

*To Amend Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Subsection J of the SDHSAA By-Laws*

Yes

No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (School Board President)

**Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.**

**BALLOTS DUE: May 31, 2026**

**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
AMENDMENT #2**

**2.) Amend Chapter II, Part I, Section 1, Subsection J of the SDHSAA By-Laws as follows:**

J. The eligibility of a student is not affected by a transfer from a school that closes. **The transfer cannot occur until the date of the school closure or the end of the school year in which the school closes. End of school year would include the end of all SDHSAA state championships for the school year.** A student living in a district that does not support and maintain a high school may be declared eligible at a high school that regularly serves that district to which the student commutes daily.

RATIONALE: Existing language is not specific that when a school closes, the transfer cannot take place until after the school closes. We have had questions the last few years regarding schools that are going to close (or are rumored to be closing) and parents wanting a free transfer prior to the school closing. This amendment clarifies that it cannot occur until the school closes.

**Positives-** Provides clarity to parents, students, and schools of schools that are closing, as well as the surrounding area schools who will be absorbing those students at the closure of the school.

**Negatives-** We will continue to get questions from families who want to transfer early and families who desire to transfer early to get a head start on academic and athletic participation at the new school.



***SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION***

***2026 OFFICIAL AMENDMENT BALLOT***

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2026**. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% favorable vote. Please refer to the accompanying document for the text of the amendment and the rationale that was given at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

**AMENDMENT NO. 3**

*To Amend Chapter I, Part III, Section IV of the SDHSAA By-Laws*

Yes

No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Member School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature (School Board President)

**Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.**

**BALLOTS DUE: May 31, 2026**

**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
AMENDMENT #3**

**3.) Amend Chapter I, Part III Section IV of the SDHSAA By-Laws as such:**

**SECTION 4. POST GRADUATE PARTICIPATION.** Student eligibility terminates at graduation, with the exceptions listed below. Graduation means graduation from a traditional school setting, graduation from an alternative instruction setting, graduation from an online school setting, or completion of a GED program.

Exceptions:

1. Students who graduate at the end of the first semester/first or second trimester are eligible until the first day of classes of the second semester/second or third trimester.
2. High school graduates are permitted to participate in inter-school meets or tournaments sanctioned by the Association during the summer months immediately following a second semester/third trimester graduation date.

~~Notwithstanding Section 1 of this chapter, high school graduates may be permitted to participate in inter-school meets or tournaments sponsored by the Association during summer months immediately following such graduation, unless the Board of Directors rules otherwise in the case of any such tournament or meet.~~

**Rationale:** This clarifies that completion of a high school program, an online high school degree program, graduation from an alternative instruction high school degree program, or graduation/completion of a GED program constitutes graduation and terminates eligibility with the listed exceptions.

**Positives-** Provides clarity to schools, students, and parents on what constitutes graduation and what happens if you graduate early.

**Negatives-** Still quite a bit of grey area on what constitutes “graduation” from some listed programs, and manipulation could occur. With the increased use of alternative instruction, homeschool collectives, microschools, and self-guided online degree programs we will likely have to continue to work through these scenarios to address them as they come.



**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SDHSAA MEMBERSHIP  
SDHSAA OFFICE BUILDING**

## APPENDIX

April 23, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Pierre, South Dakota

The SDHSAA membership held its annual meeting on April 23, 2025 at the SDHSAA office in Pierre, with a Zoom option for membership attendance. The meeting was called to order by SDHSAA Executive Director Dr. Daniel Swartos at 11:00 A.M..

Representing the SDHSAA staff in the SDHSAA office were Dr. Dan Swartos, Mr. Randy Soma, Mrs. Kristina Sage, Mr. Brooks Bowman, and Mr. Ryan Mikkelsen.

**Item #1-Determine that a quorum is present**

Dr. Swartos took a count of represented schools and determined that the threshold of ten (10) member schools was present, with the following 39 schools represented:

SF Public Schools	Spearfish	RC Central	Ipswich	Groton Area
Pierre TF Riggs	Todd County	Frederick	Madison	Lyman
Watertown	Dell Rapids	Selby Area	Belle Fourche	Hoven
Hamlin	Irene-Wakonda	Yankton	St. Thomas More	Harding County
Harrisburg	SF Roosevelt	Sioux Valley	Elk Mountain	Corsica-Stickney
Hot Springs	Hill City	Sturgis Brown	Dakota Valley	Parkston
Canistota	Webster Area	Arlington	Lakota Tech	White River
Little Wound	Chester Area	Herreid	RC Stevens	

**Item #2-Approval of the Agenda**

It was moved by Jeff Kosters, Frederick Area, seconded by Randy Hartmann, Pierre, to approve the agenda as presented.

*The motion carried 39-0.*

**Item #3-Designate a parliamentarian for the meeting**

Dr. Swartos designated Randy Soma of SDHSAA as the meeting parliamentarian.

**Item #4-Approval of the minutes of the April 17, 2024 Annual Meeting**

It was moved by Adam Shaw, Madison, seconded by Jeff Danielsen, Watertown, to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2024 minutes of the SDHSAA Annual Meeting as presented.

*Motion Carried 39-0.*

### **Item #5- Financial Report:**

Mr. Brad Reinke of Reinke-Gray Wealth Management presented an overview of the SDHSAA financial position to the membership.

### **Item #6- Accept Nominations from the floor for Board of Directors positions, beginning July 1, 2025**

Dr. Swartos announced that he was ready to receive nominations for the **Small School Board of Education Representative**- to be filled by a School Board Member. This position is currently held by Marty Weismantel of Groton Area. The Small School Board of Education representative may be nominated from any SDHSAA member school with a high school physically located West of the Missouri River. The position must be filled by a School Board Member. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** The person elected will serve a five-year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and is unable to run for re-election.

Dr. Swartos recognized Kelly Messmer, Harding County, who placed the name of Billy Clanton, Harding County, in nomination.

Hearing no more nominations, Dr. Swartos declared nominations closed.

Dr. Swartos announced that he was ready to receive nominations for the **East River At-Large Representative**- to be filled by a Secondary Principal/Assistant Principal. This position is currently held by Trent Osborne of Ipswich. The position switches from a Superintendent position to a Principal position. The East River At-Large Representative may be nominated from any SDHSAA member school with a high school physically located East of the Missouri River. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** Ryan Rollinger of Harrisburg is eligible to run for this position even though he is finishing a term as Division I representative because he filled a vacant term of less than two years in length. The person elected will serve a five-year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and is unable to run for re-election.

Dr. Swartos recognized Bill Clements, Dakota Valley, who placed the name of Brittney Eide, Corsica-Stickney, in nomination.

Dr. Swartos recognized Jeff Kusters, Frederick Area, who placed the name of Tim Leibel, Hitchcock-Tulare, in nomination.

Dr. Swartos recognized Marty Weismantel, Groton Area, who placed the name of Shelby Edwards, Groton Area, in nomination.

Dr. Swartos recognized Trent Osborne, Ipswich, who placed the name of Bo Beck, Aberdeen Central, in nomination. NOTE- It was determined that Bo Beck was not eligible because he is a middle school principal. Dr. Tina Board, Aberdeen Central (who had asked her name to be put in prior to the meeting and whose name was neglected to be added by mistake), was placed on the ballot as a replacement.

Dr. Swartos recognized Adam Shaw, Madison, who placed the name of Ryan Rollinger, Harrisburg, into nomination.

Hearing no more nominations, Dr. Swartos declared nominations closed.

Dr. Swartos announced that he was ready to receive nominations for the **Division I Representative**- to be filled by an Athletic/Activity Director. This position is currently held by Ryan Rollinger of Harrisburg. The position switches from a Principal position to an Athletic/Activity Director position. The Division I Representative may be nominated from any SDHSAA member school with a 2023-24 ADM of Rapid City Central to Sioux Falls Roosevelt. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** The person elected will serve a five-year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and is unable to run for re-election.

Dr. Swartos recognized Craig Nowotny, St. Thomas More, who placed the name of Jordan Bauer, Rapid City Central, into nomination.

Dr. Swartos recognized Casey Meile, Sioux Falls Public Schools, who placed the name of Steve Moore, Sioux Falls Roosevelt, into nomination.

Hearing no more nominations, Dr. Swartos declared nominations ceased.

Dr. Swartos announced that he was ready to receive nominations for the **Division III Representative**- to be filled by an Secondary Principal/Assistant Principal. This position is currently held by Adam Shaw of Madison, who is moving to a new position in a different school and no longer qualifies to be the representative. The position stays as a Principal position for the remaining three years of the term. The Division III Representative may be nominated from any SDHSAA member school with a 2023-24 ADM of O’Gorman to Wagner. **Any member school may nominate a person for this position and all member schools have the opportunity to vote.** The person elected will serve a three-year term on the SDHSAA Board of Directors and is unable to run for re-election.

Dr. Swartos recognized Jim Hulscher, Hamlin, who placed the name of Jeff Sheehan, Hamlin, into consideration.

Dr. Swartos recognized Ryan Rollinger, Harrisburg, who placed the name of Chad Allison, Lennox into consideration.

Hearing no more nominations, Dr. Swartos declared the nominations ceased.

**Sample ballots are found in Appendix A**

**Item #7- Introduction of five (5) proposed constitutional amendment as submitted by SDHSAA staff**

Executive Director Dr. Daniel Swartos introduced five proposed constitutional amendments, as approved by the SDHSAA transfer rules task force.

It was moved by Marty Weismantel, Groton Area, seconded by Chris Long, Lyman, to send constitutional amendments #1-#5 to the membership for vote.

*Motion carried 39-0*

**Sample ballot can be found in Appendix B**

**Item #8- Explanation of voting procedures and time frame to be followed.**

Dr. Swartos explained the following voting procedures:

- The ballot pertaining to the Board of Directors positions will be e-mailed to the Superintendent of each member school within ten days following the Annual meeting- May 3, 2025.
- Deadline for return of all ballots is May 31, 2025.
- The ballots pertaining to the proposed constitutional amendment will be e-mailed to the Superintendent of each member school within ten days following the Annual Meeting- May 3, 2025.
- Deadline for return of all ballots is May 31, 2025.
- For a constitutional amendment to pass, it must receive a sixty percent favorable vote of the Association members who cast a ballot.

**Item #9- Recognition of all past members of the SDHSAA Board of Directors and retiring administrators**

Dr. Swartos asked all past members of the SDHSAA Board of Directors and any retiring administrators to be recognized. Craig Nowotny of St. Thomas More was recognized as a past Board member and as a retiring administrator. Tim Graf of Harrisburg was recognized as a retiring administrator. Thanks and best wishes were sent to all retiring administrators and coaches.

**Item #10-Member Comments**

Dr. Swartos asked if there were any comments from member schools in the crowd. No further comments from the membership were offered.

**Item #11- Any other business that the membership and/or Board of Directors might wish to consider**

Dr. Swartos asked if there was any other business. No other business was raised.

**Item #12- Adjournment**

It was moved by Jeff Kosters, Frederick Area, second by Chuck Wilson, Todd County, to adjourn. *Motion carried 39-0.*

There being no further business, Dr. Swartos declared the Annual Meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel Swartos, Ed.D.  
SDHSAA Executive Director