



Board of Directors Meeting

September 29, 2026, 8:00 am MT

Blaine County School District Community Campus, Minnie Moore room, Hailey ID

Zoom Link

Members Present

Spencer Barzee, Jan Bayer, Jeremy Burgess, Burke Davis, Brady Dickinson, Dana Facer, Phil Hartman, Heath Jackson, Tyler Johnson, Mark Kress, Shawn Lawler, Randy Lords, Polley McLeod, Nick Smith, Shawn Tiegs (via zoom)

Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Mike Federico, Julie Hammons, Chad Williams, and Conlin Coburn as secretary

Visitors

Gerry Nutt, Retired

Buck Hendren, Richfield HS

Jason Warr, West Ada SD

Jon Hallock, Ridgevue HS

Keelan McCaffrey, Centennial HS

Tony Brulotte, Eagle HS

Tanner Baumann, Gooding HS

Ashley Green, Caldwell HS

Brodie Parrott, Filer HS

Travis Hobson, Thunder Ridge HS

Stacey Wilson, Buhl HS

DuWayne Kimball, Buhl HS

Tol Gropp, Timberline HS

Lee Jay Cook, Carey HS

Tom Shanahan, Bishop Kelly HS

Brian Walker, Boise SD

Jaycee Perron, Dietrich HS

Troy Rice, Rocky Mountain HS

Travis Bell, Highland HS

Richard Whitelaw, Sun Valley

Community School

Zach Dong, Kimberly HS

Kevin Stilling, Wood River HS

Matt Harris, Ririe HS

Brady Trenkle, Twin Falls HS

Jaren Wadsworth, Oakley HS

Chester Bradshawn, Cassia SD

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made to add April Board Meeting Date Change as a discussion item.

Motion carried

A motion was made to add the 2A cheer proposal as a discussion item.

Motion carried

A motion was made to approve the amendments to the agenda.

Motion carried

CONSENT AGENDA

Balance Sheet/Financial Report

Chad Williams reviewed the financial report and balance sheet. On the financial report, cell B20, Vehicles, is higher because an additional vehicle was purchased for Julie. Her previous vehicle will be sold soon.

On the financial statement, cell B9, AD Mentor Program, shows a year-to-date difference of approximately \$6,000. Chad explained that this is due to schools that have opted to receive mentors, along with funds provided by the IAAA to support the program.

Cell B22, Officials Cards, is slightly higher because the cost per card increased from \$35 to \$40. Cell B118, Grand Total Expenses, shows total expenses are higher than at the same time last year. However, this increase is primarily due to catastrophic insurance costs. Aside from that expense, the financials closely mirror where they were a year ago.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda which includes the Board of Directors Minutes from August 5, 2026, the Balance Sheet and Financial Report from July 1st, 2026 to August 31st, 2026, and the Board of Directors actions via phone or email.

Motion carried

REPORT ITEMS

Marketing: IHSAA Corporate Sponsors

Julie Hammons reported that Dairy West has rebranded and changed its logo from Unbottled to one that says Dairy West. The organization has also made changes to its branding and marketing efforts. Milk will no longer be distributed at tournaments, as Dairy West is placing greater emphasis on its Replenish program, which focuses on providing milk directly to athletes. Schools with signage displaying the former Unbottled logo are asked to remove and replace those signs as appropriate.

Officials: Data

Chad Williams reported that there is no update for officials this meeting.

Board Committees

- **State Tournament**

- **Play-in Game Template** - Mike Federico discussed the new play-in system for team sports. Discussion focused on how information will be communicated, as the process for representation and play-in games differs from previous years. Mike reviewed a sample page he created that outlines all information related to the play-in games, including representation and play-in qualifiers, MaxPreps rankings, host sites, participating teams, and other relevant details. The page is intended to provide schools with a clear understanding of the process and ensure all parties are informed about how teams advance and where games will be played.
- **Play-in Reconciliation Sheet** - Mike Federico reported that schools hosting play-in games will be sent a play-in reconciliation sheet. Schools hosting play-in games will be required to complete the sheet and document all revenues and expenses so funds can be properly distributed and consistent records can be maintained across all schools. Mike noted that these are school games, not IHSAA games; however, all play-in game rules will still apply.
- **3A Golf** - Julie Hammons reported that a host has been secured for the 3A Golf State Tournament. Kellogg High School and Priest River High School will co-host the event at Stoneridge Golf Course. Julie expressed excitement about the opportunity for golfers to compete at the course.
- **2A Cheer Survey** - Julie Hammons reported that last spring, Oakley High School submitted a proposal to add a 2A classification in cheer. Currently, 3A, 2A, and 1A schools compete together. She explained that a survey was sent to all 3A, 2A and 1A superintendents, principals, and athletic directors asking for their thoughts on the proposal. While some smaller schools do not currently offer cheer, several indicated they would consider adding a program if a new classification were created. The survey received approximately 82% approval, indicating strong interest among schools in expanding cheer classifications.

- [2027 Soccer Schedule](#) - Julie Hammons reported that staff reached out to AC Boise regarding the possibility of hosting high school championship games. Following a tour of the facility, AC Boise expressed interest in hosting championship games beginning in 2027. Julie noted that because six soccer championship games are required and the venue can host only four games per day, adjustments to the tournament schedule would be necessary. To allow all classifications to compete at AC Boise, one tournament would need to shift to a Wednesday-Thursday-Friday schedule. A proposal was submitted to either split boys' and girls' competitions or move an entire classification to the adjusted schedule. The committee voted to keep classifications together so fans and school administrators could remain with their classification throughout the event. The initial plan is for 6A to use the earlier schedule, as most of those schools are located locally. Once AC Boise finalizes its 2027 schedule, a contract will be signed.

- **Girls' Basketball Venues** - Chad Williams reported that he had discussions with the Ford Idaho Center regarding the Girls' State Basketball contract and was informed that venue costs would increase. He researched and compared pricing at several alternative locations and found the costs to be comparable. After reviewing the options, the committee decided to remain at the Ford Idaho Center. A contract is expected to be signed soon.

- [4A Baseball Representation Modification](#) - Mike Federico reported that representation and tournament formats are approved with modifications as needed. He explained that 4A baseball representation was originally based on 20 teams competing in a 12-team tournament. However, with now there are 19 teams, which means the tournament will transition to an 8-team format this year. The representation structure itself will not change. He noted that the format is very similar to those used in the past and is considered a much better model.

- **Legends of the Game** - The committee met and discussed its selections for this year's Legends of the Game honorees. For the Boys Legends of the Game, the committee selected the 1974 West Jefferson Panthers. For the Girls Legends of the Game, the committee selected the 2003 Timberline Wolves. The committee's recommendations will be presented for approval later in the meeting.

[Activities Director Mentor Program](#)

Mike Federico discussed the amount of turnover among activity directors over the past several years. He noted that there are 42 new athletic directors this year, with some that have started as late as mid-September. He shared that the mentoring program has been very successful, with data showing positive results. Feedback regarding both the onboarding process and meetings for new athletic directors has been overwhelmingly positive. While some adjustments have been made to improve the program, the overall response has been excellent.

Gerry Nutt, a mentor in the program, thanked the IHSAA Board for its support of the initiative. He noted that the program has had a meaningful impact on both new athletic directors and their mentors. He expressed hope that the program could eventually be expanded beyond first-year athletic directors to include those in their second and third years, helping reinforce important processes and procedures as they continue to develop in their roles.

[Section 7/8 Conference](#)

Chad Williams reported on the Section 7/8 Conference held in Cody, Wyoming, where representatives from western states discussed common issues facing high school activities and athletics. Tyler Johnson and Brady Dickinson attended and noted that states are facing many of the same challenges, particularly regarding classification and eligibility. Mike Federico shared that the conference provided valuable ideas and resources from neighboring states, including information related to media and social media management for schools. Attendees also met with representatives from MaxPreps and GoFan. Chad Williams reported that 46 of 51 state associations are members of the NFHS Network and noted that the 2025-26 year set a new record for extracurricular participation, with girls accounting for 75% of the growth. Overall, the conference was considered informative and successful.

Hall of Fame: Financials

Julie Hammons reviewed the Hall of Fame budget, noting that the event is expected to operate at a loss each year and that efforts are made to minimize that deficit. She reported that ticket sales generated approximately \$7,700 in revenue, while food costs increased, as anticipated. Overall, the event finished about \$17,000 in the red, which she noted was a positive outcome given the goal of keeping the loss under \$20,000. Julie added that the event continues to be a memorable experience, with many individuals contributing to its success.

Electronic Activity Cards

Chad Williams discussed the transition to the new electronic activity cards and thanked everyone for their patience throughout the process. He acknowledged that the learning curve was steep and that the transition presented some challenges, but staff and schools have worked through those issues successfully. He noted that the process should be smoother moving forward.

Eligibility Regulation Waiver (Hardship) Data

Chad Williams reviewed the hardship data and noted that the Board has considered a significant number of hardship requests this year. He thanked Board members for their time and diligence in reviewing and voting on those requests. Chad noted that the data reflects a continuing trend when compared to previous years, with 100 hardship cases already recorded this year. He added that the total could potentially double by the end of the year.

Tour of Idaho

- **Media Days** - Mike Federico reported on the media days he conducts throughout the state, where he meets with media representatives to review rule changes and discuss expectations for the upcoming school year. He noted that the credentialing process was changed this year to an online system. Based on the feedback received, media members appreciated receiving a summary of key information and did not mind receiving their credentials later in the process.
- **Administration Meetings** - Chad Williams reported on his visits to administrative meetings across the state, where he met with athletic directors and principals to discuss new rules and other important updates. He noted that a major focus of those discussions was developing strategies to address legislative issues when support from the entire membership is needed. Chad explained that the IHSAA closely monitors legislation affecting student safety, the educational foundation of interscholastic activities, and competitive equity. He added that if legislation impacting those areas is introduced, the IHSAA will take steps to address those issues.
- **SAC Student Section Guidelines** – The Student Advisory Council updated the student section guidelines, which are intended to help schools promote positive behavior and sportsmanship among students. When the SAC met last, it was noted that their three primary areas of concern are student behavior in student sections, coach behavior, and parent behavior. These topics will serve as key discussion points during the group's fall symposium meetings.

District Board of Control President and Secretaries Meeting

Chad Williams reported on the District Board of Control Presidents and Secretaries Meeting, where attendees gathered at the IHSAA office for training and to share ideas and best practices. He noted that Rule 14 was a significant topic of discussion. While Rule 14 does not allow for protests, the longstanding practice has been for the Board of Control to review cases in which a student was ejected and it was later determined that the official had ejected the wrong player. In those situations, the Board of Control has been able to correct the error. Chad explained that this practice does not currently align with the language of Rule 14, and a rule change is being proposed to bring the rule into alignment with current practice.

Online Rules Clinics Data

Julie Hammons reviewed the rules clinic data and discussed the growing number of coaches and officials who are choosing to watch clinic recordings rather than attend the in-person sessions. While the online option provides flexibility, she noted that there is currently no reliable way to verify who actually watched the recording. Julie added that the commissioners do an excellent job of making themselves available to participants, but attendance verification remains a challenge for those who view the clinics online.

- Soccer: 63 attendees, 6 viewed recording
- Volleyball: 90 attendees, 16 viewed recording
- Swimming: 23 attendees, 5 viewed recording
- Football: 94 attendees, 7 viewed recording
- Dance/Cheer: 41 attendees, 8 viewed recording

Director's Committees

- **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)** - Chad Williams reported that he met with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, which is working to help schools develop emergency action plans if they do not already have them. He noted that the committee is currently developing a template that can be provided to schools to assist with the creation and implementation of those plans.
- **Classification** - The Classification Committee met to review three proposals submitted by the September 10 deadline. Members discussed the current classification system and agreed that they are not completely satisfied with how it is currently structured. However, there was also little support for any of the proposed alternatives. The overall feeling of the committee was that while they do not necessarily like the current system, they are not convinced that any of the proposed changes are better. The committee will continue its discussions and provide a report at the December Board meeting.
- **Track & Field** - Chad Williams reported that he met with the Track and Field Committee and that several rule change proposals resulted from those discussions. He noted that the proposals would be presented, discussed, and voted on later in the meeting.

Rules & Regulations

- **Rule 8-14-14c: Schools without a JV team** - Chad Williams reviewed Rule 14-14c and explained that, in some hardship cases, the committee grants eligibility at the junior varsity level only. If a school does not have a junior varsity team, the student may participate at the varsity level during the regular season; however, the student remains ineligible for postseason competition.
- **Rule 8-13-3: Ineligible students may practice** - Chad Williams reviewed Rule 18-3-3 and explained that students who are awaiting a hardship decision, or who are otherwise ineligible, may continue to practice with their team but are not permitted to compete until eligibility has been established.
- **Rule 1-1-4 & Rule 9: Game Supervision** - Chad Williams reviewed Rule 1-1-4 and Rule 9, which outline the guidelines, responsibilities, and expectations for administrators regarding game management.
- **Milk Bowl Rotation** - Chad Williams discussed plans for the football state championships and noted that the 6A championship game will likely be played at Boise State, depending on the teams that qualify. If hosted there, the game would be played on a Monday night, similar to last year. He also noted that scheduling conflicts at the Kibbie Dome may affect some playoff rounds leading up to the championship game; however, the championship game itself can still be played there.

ACTION ITEMS- FINAL READINGS

Winter Season Proposal: Retract game limits and delay season reduction

Chad Williams discussed the rule change process, emphasizing that changes should be driven by member schools and committees. He noted that the Board serves its member schools and has been responsive to school feedback when considering rule changes. He added that the proposal under consideration is an example of that process in action.

A motion was made to approve the Winter Season Proposal with modifications as needed as a Final Reading.

Motion carried

Rule 11-3

Mark Kress reported that Rule 11-3 has been updated to align IHSA policy with current Idaho law regarding transgender student-athlete participation.

A motion was made to approve the proposed changes to Rule 11-3 with modifications as needed as a Final Reading.

Motion carried

PitchKount Requirement

Randy Lords thanked Mike Federico and the Baseball Committee for their work on the proposal, noting that its primary purpose is to enhance athlete safety. Discussion centered on pitch count management, with Tyler Johnson sharing that some coaches expressed concerns about implementing the system at this time. Mike Federico noted that pitch count tracking is a growing national trend, and Tony Brulotte reported that the system was used successfully at the state tournament and was effective and easy to use.

- **Coaches Survey**

A motion was made to approve the PitchKount Requirement proposal with modifications as needed as a Final Reading.

Motion carried
11 Approve, 2 Deny

26-27 Legends of the Game

Girl's Basketball: 2003 Timberline Wolves

Boy's Basketball: 1974 West Jefferson Panthers

A motion was made to approve the 2026-2027 Legends of the Game recommendations with modifications as needed as a Final Reading.

Motion carried

ACTION ITEMS-FIRST READINGS

Rule 18: Appeals, editorial revisions

Chad Williams reported that he is revising the rule language to improve clarity and readability. He noted that references to the local Board of Control were added for clarification, and that the highlighted portions of the proposal consist of editorial changes.

A motion was made to approve the changes proposed for Rule 18 with modifications as needed as a First Reading.

Motion carried

3A Soccer proposal

Julie Hammons discussed a proposal to add a separate 3A soccer classification for both boys and girls. She reviewed how schools would align under a new classification structure based on current enrollment numbers and noted that some leagues would consist of only two or three teams. Duwayne Kimball, Buhl's soccer coach, spoke in support of the proposal, explaining that many 3A programs struggle to compete against larger schools and that a separate classification would provide more equitable competition. Discussion also included the potential impact on existing co-ops and the flexibility of some programs. It was noted that the request is for the Board to consider adding a 3A soccer classification and not to address tournament format at this time.

- Team Breakdown

A motion was made to approve the addition of a 3A soccer classification beginning with the 2028-30 classification cycle, with tournament format to be addressed separately, with modifications as needed as a First Reading.

Motion carried

2027- 2028 Calendar: Move from tentative to approved with modifications as needed.

Julie Hammons noted that the calendar dates will be reviewed and adjusted as needed to align with any changes resulting from the delayed shortened winter sports season proposal.

A motion was made to move the 2027-2028 Calendar from tentative to approved with modifications as needed as a First Reading.

Motion carried

2028-2029 Calendar: Move from suggested to tentative with modifications as needed

A motion was made to move the 2028-2029 Calendar from suggested to tentative with modifications as needed as a First Reading.

Motion carried

2029-2030 Calendar: Move to suggested with modifications as needed.

A motion was made to move the 2029-2030 Calendar to suggested with modifications as needed as a First Reading.

Motion carried

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Rule 14: editorials revisions – Chad Williams explained that the proposal originated from the Board of Control meeting and is not a revision of the rule, but rather a rewrite intended to align the rule language with the practice that has long been in place. He noted that, based on feedback from other states, many are handling similar situations in the same manner. The proposed language provides clarification and formally allows for the review of certain situations that have historically been addressed through practice.

A motion was made to move the Rule 14 editorial revisions, with modifications as needed, to a First Reading.

Motion carried

2. **IHSAA App** – Mike Federico discussed the IHSAA's partnership with Playfly and noted that the agreement includes funding for projects that could expand engagement and sponsorship opportunities. Potential uses include a redesigned website, mobile improvements, an app, or other digital media initiatives. The office is currently evaluating options and seeking feedback.

Board members discussed the importance of creating a more user-friendly and engaging website, referencing features used by other state associations such as athlete recognition and mobile-friendly design. Discussion also focused on balancing a fan-focused experience with the primary goal of serving member schools. Members emphasized the need to determine the website's target audience and how best to deliver content that provides value to both schools and the public. No action taken.

3. **Cross Country: Meet Limitations** - Chad Williams reported that the proposal originated from the Track and Field Committee and reviewed the Idaho modifications to the rules and regulations for cross country, track and field, and swimming. He explained that the proposed change is a clarification rather than a substantive revision. The current rule references "teams," when the restriction is intended to apply to individual athletes. This clarification addresses situations in which a coach may send some athletes to one meet and others to a different meet on the same day.

A motion was made to advance Discussion Items 3, 4, and 5, with modifications as needed to a First Reading.

Motion carried

4. **Track & Field: Meet Limitations** - Advanced to first reading as part of the motion approved under Discussion Item 3.

5. **Swimming: Meet Limitations** - Advanced to first reading as part of the motion approved under Discussion Item 3.

6. **Track & Field: Javelin Certification** - Chad Williams reported that this proposal originated from the Track and Field Committee. He explained that, while pole vault coaches have historically been required to complete a certification course, no such requirement previously existed for javelin coaches. The proposed change would establish a certification requirement for javelin coaches and add it to the Rules and Regulations.

A motion was made to advance the Track and Field: Javelin Certification Proposal: with modifications as needed, to a First Reading.

Motion carried

7. **Virtual Schools & Enrolled Full-Time** - The item was postponed until the next Board meeting pending additional information.

8. **2027 Girls Wrestling Representation** - Chad Williams reported that the rules require district alignments to be approved when a new classification cycle is established. While district alignments were approved in the spring for most activities, girls wrestling was not included due to the expansion of the sport. He requested approval of the proposed girls wrestling alignment so that representation can be accurately calculated on January 10. Chad noted that the alignments must also be approved by the Board of Control and that, although not all approvals have been finalized, the feedback received thus far has been positive.

A motion was made to advance the revisions to the 2027 Girls Wrestling Representation, with modifications as needed, to a First Reading.

Motion carried

9. [2A Cheer](#) - Julie Hammons reported that Oakley High School proposed the creation of a 2A cheer classification and noted that survey results showed strong support for the idea. Jaren Wadsworth, Principal of Oakley High School, explained that smaller schools face competitive challenges when competing against larger programs and believes an additional classification would provide greater competitive equity. He also expressed hope that a new classification would encourage increased participation and potentially lead more schools to offer cheer programs. Discussion included the potential impact on district and state competition structures.

A motion was made to advance the 2A Cheer proposal, with modifications as needed to Final Reading.

Motion carried

10. [April Board Meeting Date Change](#) -Jeremy Burgess reported that the IAAA Conference is scheduled for April 4-6, and the conference's regular facility is unavailable during that time, requiring the event to be relocated. He requested that the Board move the April Work Session and Board Meeting to April 12-13 so that individuals who attend the IAAA Conference would also be able to participate in the Board meeting.

A motion was made to advance the April Board Meeting Date Change proposal, with modifications and needed, to a First Reading.

Motion carried

INFORMATION

1. Letters
 - a. [Interscholastic Star Letter](#)
2. Boards of Control
 - a. [District I Minutes](#)
 - b. [District II Minutes](#)
 - c. [District III Minutes](#)
 - d. [District V Minutes](#)
 - e. [District V Financials](#)
 - f. [District VI Minutes](#)

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting 9:46 a.m.