

07-29 MNVBCA BOC Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 2025-07-29 16:03:27

Location: Lakeville South HS

Overview

This document consolidates and organizes the proceedings from this meeting. It covers a wide range of topics including organizational housekeeping, contract negotiations, tournament logistics, rule enforcement, coach and player recognition, event planning, and operational challenges. The content reflects ongoing efforts to improve participation, ensure fair play, streamline administrative processes, and enhance event experiences for players, coaches, and the broader volleyball community. Action items are grouped at the end for clarity and follow-up.

1. **Welcome and Introductions** - Attendance was confirmed for both in-person and Zoom participants, with introductions for all present.
2. **Treasurer's Report, Treasurer: Kim Duis**
 - No change in financial position since winter meeting in February. Provided financial reports from that meeting once again.
 - The Baden contract was renegotiated, increasing the allocation from 14 to 20 mini balls per team for the state tournament, with the association covering the additional costs - 6 balls / state tournament participating team. This was approved by Advisory Committee prior to today's meeting to ensure all balls could be received before state tournament.
 - **Baden Contract Renegotiation and Equipment Allocations**

The new contract provides \$8,450 in value (up from \$2,340), including:

 - \$1,500 for the state tournament banquet
 - 36 balls for clinic giveaways
 - 12 Matrix Volleyballs (balls used primarily for boys' volleyball - also clinic giveaways?)
 - 450 mini-volleyballs for the state tournament
 - A hammock ball cart as a clinic giveaway

The contract is for one year, with renegotiations planned after the state tournament.

The MSHSL has a separate contract with Baden for girls volleyball and has contracted with Molten for boys' volleyball for the next year.
3. **Distinguished Service Award** - The Distinguished Service Award recognizes significant contributions to Minnesota volleyball by coaches, players, officials, or advocates.
 - Recipients receive a plaque and are honored at either the summer clinic or state tournament banquet.
 - There was some initial confusion regarding the nomination window; the website states nominations are accepted from November 1 to September 30, excluding October. It was concluded that this broad window is best.
 - The group discussed the need for better promotion and agreed to mention it in the president's address and through email communications.

- Timing and venue for presenting the award remain flexible.
- Hopefully, we will have nominations to consider at the fall MNVBCA meeting.

4. Boys Volleyball Update - Krista Flemming, President of Boys Coach Association

- The first season under the MSHSL was a success, with strong competition and high engagement.
- Playoffs, conferences, and sections were maintained, though the format was new to many.
- The state tournament at the University of St. Thomas provided an exciting atmosphere. The championship match was closely contested, with Eden Prairie overcoming Rogers in a dramatic final set.
- The league approved expansion to 96 teams for two classes (but each class would be organized into just four sections) with the next threshold at 126 teams (and would have two classes with eight sections each). Realignment requests must be approved; denied schools cannot reapply for three years.
- Many schools in northern and western Minnesota did not participate last year due to budget constraints, but some joined by self-funding.
- Creative solutions, such as an Invitational, are being considered for teams not qualifying for the state tournament. Also, they are considering aligning All-State recipients to school size in some way to ensure small school representation.
- Discussion point: Concerns were raised over inconsistent enforcement of sportsmanship rules between boys' and girls' matches. Boys were reportedly allowed more leniency, while girls received yellow cards for minor infractions. There was a call for equal application of rules of sportsmanship be emphasized.

5. Assistant Coach Recognition Award Update

- Updated for fairness and transparency, with criteria published online and nominations submitted electronically.
- Ongoing responsibilities include maintaining criteria and compiling nominee lists. Barb Johnson, Wabasso, Section 3A BOC Rep volunteered to replace Derek Hart in these responsibilities.

6. Updates from Advisory Board Meeting with Lisa Quednow

- Discussion regarding the new rule indicating there are no longer double calls on second contacts directed to a teammate. Lisa indicated there will be emphasis on this rule in official education.
- Lisa shared that switching sides and allowing players to stand in the bench area are essentially dead issues as they have not been approved by NFHS.
- The state tournament was seeded 1-8 for the first time last year and is viewed as a positive by the league and will continue.
- Starting in the 2026–27 season, states can begin using a textured ball, but adoption seems improbable with no perceived momentum toward use of a textured ball in the women's game aside from in international competition.
- The Grand Casino Arena (formerly Xcel Center) remains the preferred venue for the state tournament. Lisa indicated that the staff at the arena really enjoys having the girls volleyball state tournament at the venue and anticipates that we will be there for years to come.

- Lisa volunteered that the league is asking NSPN to enhance championship match broadcasts with replays, more cameras, and a second announcer. We'll see what they accomplish.
- Lisa indicated that Channel 45 is not likely to wish to add girls volleyball contract for tournament coverage is likely to be reduced due to financial considerations and shifting viewership.
- Question from BOC: Did we discuss eligibility issues with Lisa in our discussion? No, the advisory board did not. Issues with player eligibility, particularly related to participation in outside tournaments, were discussed. Rules regarding participation in organized volleyball outside the school season are unclear. The \$100 lifetime payment rule for amateur status was reiterated. There is a need for better education and communication to coaches and athletes.

7. Fall BOC meeting will be 10/26 at STMA HS at 9am.

8. Hall of Fame - Jeff Groves - Ballots and packets were distributed, with arrangements for absent members to receive theirs (most on the following day).

9. Top 10 Voting, State Tournament Banquet, Coach Contact Spreadsheet - Darin Swenson

- The Top 10 process will continue with the same format, aiming for 100% participation. Each section requires a second voter; some sections have confirmed, others need follow-up. The preseason Top 10 will be determined by group discussion and vote.
- The state tournament banquet will again be held at the Roy, with all qualifying teams invited to attend. Sponsorships have played a significant role in offsetting costs. Darin requested that the BOC inform him of any leads toward additional sponsors. T-shirt sales are tied to the banquet, serving as memorabilia and also are helpful toward offsetting costs.
- BOC members are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the head coach contact spreadsheet. Members should verify coach names and email addresses, updating any that bounce back. Coach Association membership lists are not currently available but can be obtained closer to the fall meeting.

10. Online Rules Interpretation Mtg should be ready on August 5th - communicated to BOC

11. MSHSCA membership is up and running - communicated to BOC

12. All-Star match - Greg Sayuk, Marty Kiebel, Kevin Anderson, Josh Wastvedt

- The all-star match will feature four teams of 12 or 13, including underclassmen and some 4A players. Legend coach attachment to each team continued. The format has changed to three 30-minute timed games. Volunteer assignments for officials, line judges, announcers, and scoreboard operators were confirmed (Marty recorded). NSPN will stream one court; additional streaming options for second court will be secured (by Greg and Marty).

13. Individual Academic All-State and Team Academic Awards - a replacement for Derek Hart is needed. No work is needed for Individual Academic All-State - needed criteria is published on website and the certificate is available there for download /

printing as well. Steve Willingham indicated he could take on Team Academic Award processing that Derek previously took on. Side Note: Lonnie will work to secure a replacement for Derek Hart's open BOC seat.

- 14. Podcast updates - Darin Swenson** - The podcast has contributed to increased engagement, with 326 clinic preregistrations reported. Funding for podcast-related software is provided by MNVBCA; no additional equipment purchases are needed.
- 15. All-State Selection - Greg Sayuk** - Emphasis was placed on reminding coaches about award submission deadlines. The AVCA All-Region and All-American nomination process was explained. Scott Jackson serves as MN rep for these awards and shared that he hopes that coaches who nominate an athlete for All-State will also nominate her for these AVCA awards.
- 16. Clinic Discussion - Greg Ueland** - Volunteers are needed to introduce speakers at upcoming events. Additional help is requested for registration and payment tables. Volunteers are needed for lunch setup and organization. Lunch will be served from the commons area, with access to lunch tables confirmed. The marching band will be using the same space at noon, but there should be sufficient room for both groups. A secure room is needed to store personal items and event materials. Vendors will arrive the following day, and a process is in place for collecting door prizes. Some vendors still need to complete payments. Lakeville South was chosen as the venue after extensive outreach. There may be minor issues as this is the first time using this venue. Securing speakers has been challenging, but several individuals have stepped up. The event will feature a roundtable session inspired by ABCA practices. The date for next year's event is the last Wednesday and Thursday of July, with a decision to be on the venue to be made before October. Food will be available for all-star players, coaches, and volunteers.

Open Issues & Risks

- Ongoing uncertainty about the best timing and venue for presenting the Distinguished Service Award.
- The process for promoting and collecting nominations for the Distinguished Service Award needs further development.
- The challenge of expanding boys volleyball to two classes remains unresolved.
- Venue for next year's boys state tournament is not finalized.
- Budget constraints continue to limit participation for some schools in boys volleyball.
- The process for expansion to two classes for boys volleyball remains restrictive.
- Uncertainty about how to best structure All-State selections and class divisions as participation grows.
- Some rule changes may not be fully understood or consistently applied by all officials.
- Inconsistent enforcement of sportsmanship rules between boys' and girls' volleyball.
- Adoption and availability of a production-ready textured ball for future seasons remain unresolved.
- The future of expanded broadcast coverage is unclear.

- Eligibility rules for participation in non-school volleyball events lack clarity.
- Communication gaps exist between athletic directors, coaches, and athletes regarding eligibility and rule changes.
- Streaming logistics for the auxiliary gym remain unresolved.
- The process for verifying Coach Association membership is unclear until the updated list is available.
- Derek Hart's resignation leaves a gap in BOC responsibilities.
- Uncertainty about who will take over certain electronic and academic support tasks.
- Continuity of t-shirt production is uncertain if Hultgren declines to participate.
- Additional sponsorship is needed to prevent further increases in banquet ticket prices.
- Some volunteer roles remain unfilled and may impact event execution.
- It is unclear if a secure storage room will be available for the duration of the event.
- Some vendors have not yet completed payment.
- The roundtable session format is untested and may present logistical challenges.
- Venue constraints and shared space with the marching band could cause crowding during lunch.
- Recruiting high-profile speakers remains difficult.

Action Items

- ☐ Mention the Distinguished Service Award nomination process in the president's address.
- ☐ Communicate the award nomination link and details via email to coaches.
- ☐ Pass out last year's report to members who did not receive it in February.
- ☐ Ensure assistant coach award criteria are up to date and accessible on the website.
- ☐ Communicate with local officials and athletic directors regarding venue-specific concerns and fan placement.
- ☐ Consider scheduling adjustments for next year's state tournament to improve attendance.
- ☐ Lisa to check with NSPN regarding the feasibility of adding replays, more cameras, and a second announcer for tournament broadcasts.
- ☐ Begin negotiations to extend the Grand Casino Arena contract beyond the current two-year term.
- ☐ Send out an email to all coaches on August 11 to remind them about eligibility rules and best practices.
- ☐ Double-check with Tim from Hutch to confirm if he will serve as a second voter again.
- ☐ Finalize assignment of one remaining line judge for the all-star match.
- ☐ Determine and communicate the streaming platform and setup for the auxiliary gym.
- ☐ Obtain and distribute the updated Coach Association membership list before the fall meeting.
- ☐ Reassign Derek Hart's BOC duties.
- ☐ Contact section coaches individually to recruit a new section representative.
- ☐ Coordinate with Steve Willingham regarding team academic responsibilities.

☐ Reach out to potential sponsors for the state tournament banquet, especially those with volleyball connections.

☐ Confirm t-shirt production plans with Hultgren or explore in-house alternatives if necessary.

☐ Assign volunteers for speaker introductions at all scheduled sessions.

☐ Recruit additional volunteers for registration and payment tables at the event.

☐ Steve to confirm and secure a room for storage and as a home base near the check-in area.

☐ Volunteers to assist with lunch setup and food organization on day one.

☐ Becca to manage door prize collection and storage.

☐ Collect outstanding vendor payments and distribute checks as needed.

☐ Finalize next year's event dates and joint event decision before October.

☐ Attendees to review and submit Hall of Fame materials and preseason top ten lists.

AI Suggestion

AI has identified the following issues that were not concluded in the meeting or lack clear action items; please pay attention:

1. There is ongoing uncertainty and lack of clarity regarding the enforcement and communication of eligibility and sportsmanship rules for both boys and girls volleyball, particularly concerning recent rule changes (such as double contacts and side switching) and participation in non-school events. This increases the risk of inadvertent violations and highlights significant communication gaps between athletic directors, coaches, and athletes, necessitating immediate action to improve education and outreach.
2. The resignation of Derek Hart from the BOC has left all his duties unassigned, with no immediate replacement identified and unsuccessful attempts to contact him. This creates a critical gap in leadership and operational responsibilities, including electronic and academic support tasks, which must be reassigned promptly to avoid disruption of ongoing projects and event execution.
3. The process for expanding boys volleyball to two classes remains unresolved, with no clear strategies in place to increase participation among smaller schools or to support schools with limited budgets, especially in northern and western Minnesota. Additionally, the restrictive realignment process, which forces denied proposals to wait three years to reapply, further complicates efforts to address these participation and resource challenges.
4. Key event logistics remain unsettled, including the finalization of the venue for next year's state tournament, the extension of the Grand Casino Arena contract, and unresolved streaming logistics for both the all-star match and auxiliary gym. These uncertainties could impact event planning, attendance, and broadcast quality if not addressed promptly.
5. The process for verifying Coach Association membership and maintaining accurate contact information is unclear, as updated membership lists are not currently available. This lack of verification could affect voting processes, communication, and overall organizational integrity, requiring immediate attention to ensure accuracy and transparency.