

Arkansas Activities Association

Annual Meeting *of the* Governing Body

Statehouse Convention Center
Wally Allen Ballroom
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sign In From 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM
July 28, 2025 3:30 PM

AGENDA

- Call to order - President
- Invocation
- Approval of minutes of previous meeting, July 2024
- Reports from: Treasurer, Kevin Hesslen and President, Kelvin Hudson
- Citation Awards /Board Awards
- Sportsmanship Awards
- Consideration of proposals to amend the AAA Constitution and Bylaws; discussion of the immediate and long-term effects on member schools of such legislation; voting as stated below

METHOD of VOTING

Balloting on all proposals will be conducted at the governing body meeting. Written ballots will be used. The ballots will be given to the voting representative upon signing in at the meeting. The voting power rests with the superintendent. The superintendent may authorize, *in writing* an assistant/deputy superintendent, or principal or assistant principal as the voting representative for each member school. An individual shall represent *only one* school.

PREPARING FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

In preparation for the upcoming school year, the Arkansas Activities Association Board of Directors has studied proposals from the various activity districts, suggestions from the AAA staff, results of the spring survey and advice from various committees before making recommendations and submitting the proposals included in this agenda. Clarifications and interpretations were made as well.

The board expresses its opinion on the long-term effect the proposals will have on the association through its recommendations and explanations. If a DO NOT PASS recommendation is made, the board feels that the long-term effect would not be in the best interest of the association.

NO RECOMMENDATION indicates that the effect of the proposal could best be determined by the opinion of a majority of the schools voting. Discuss these proposals with your various staff members, then come to the meeting and express your opinion by voting.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Kelvin Hudson , President.....Flippin
Billy Adams, 1st VP Lakeside—LV
Jared Cleveland,, 2nd VP..... Springdale
Shawn Halbrook, Secretary Morrilton
Kevin Hesslen, Treasurer Greenwood
Jeremy Mangrum, Parliamentarian Elkins

Jason CarsonConway Christian
Trent Goff Booneville
Hugh Inman Marion
Susan Kissire.....Poyen
Tim Massey..... Melbourne
Nathan MorrisCross County
Jeremy Owoh Jacksonville North Pulaski
Robert Poole..... Ashdown
Jeff Priest Riverside
Jason SandersDe Queen
Dean Stanley Searcy
Gary Williams White Hall
Logan Williams..... Nemo Vista
Heidi Wilson East End

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Lance W. Taylor, Executive Director: Interpretation of Association Rules.
Administrative Assistant, Christyal Parker

Dr. Eric Saunders, Associate Executive Director: Rules Interpreter for Basketball, Tennis, Soccer, Public Relations, AHSCA Liaison, Sports Medicine.
Administrative Assistant, Leah Spafford

Nick Lasker, Associate Executive Director: Rules Interpreter for Track, Cross Country, Volleyball, Swimming and Diving, Coaches Education, AHSAAA Liaison.
Administrative Assistant, Leah Spafford

Dax Hill, Associate Executive Director: Rules Interpreter for Baseball, Wrestling, AOA Liaison.
Administrative Assistant, Kristy Clark

Steve Roberts, Associate Executive Director: Rules Interpreter for Football, Softball, Sponsorships.
Administrative Assistant, Kristy Clark

Amber Balboa, Assistant Executive Director: Business Manager, Personnel Policies, Accounting.
Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Mays

Bobby Swofford, Assistant Executive Director: Rules Interpreter for Golf. Media Relations, Publicity, Marketing, Editor of Publications.
Administrative Assistant, Nicole Cunningham

Christyal Parker, Assistant Executive Director: Rules Interpreter for Cheer, Dance, Bowling, Non-Athletics, Student Recognition Programs, Awards, Sportsmanship.

Michelle Langley, Receptionist

GOVERNING BODY

Arkansas Activities Association

Governing Body Meeting Monday, July 29, 2024

Steve Straessle, President of the Arkansas Activities Association, reported that a quorum was present and called to order the annual meeting of the AAA Governing Body on Monday, July 29, 2024, at 3:30 PM at the Little Rock Convention Center.

MINUTES – Minutes of the 2023 Governing Body meetings were unanimously approved as published.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Jared Cleveland, Treasurer, reported on the overall financial status of the AAA. The treasurer’s report was approved unanimously.

ACTIVITY DISTRICT CITATIONS – Sixteen AAA Citation awards were presented to recognize individuals who were named by their activity districts as administrators who have had a long standing and distinguished record of involvement and support of school activities programs. Citations were presented to:

Activity District 1E	Tami Richey, Lead Hill David Wyatt, Yellville
Activity District 1W	Pete Joenks, Prairie Grove
Activity District 2	Brent Howard, Mountain View John May, Viola
Activity District 3	Tiffany Morgan, Armored
Activity District 4	Eddie Ray, Hackett Shane Storey, Charleston
Activity District 5	BJ Applegate, Mountain Pine Toby Packard, Jessieville William Rountree, Carlisle Donald Westerman, Lake Hamilton
Activity District 6	Nathan Morris, Cross County
Activity District 7	John Gross, Parkers Chapel Ricky Tucker, Camden
Activity District 8	Kristi Ridgell, Dermott

RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS – Three retiring board members were recognized.

- Brent Howard, Mountain View 2021-2024
- Ronnie Kissire, Poyen 2019-2024
- John Ward, Magnolia 2013-2024

PROPOSALS – Proposals to be voted on were sent to each voting representative in June. The director announced that there would be an explanation of each proposal and that questions and discussion would be permitted prior to voting on each. He further explained that each vote would be taken by a written ballot as provided when the voting delegates checked in for the meeting. Ballots would be counted by the AAA’s administrative staff members. Shawn Halbrook served as the Parliamentarian for the voting procedures.

The motion to vote on each proposal as a Do Pass recommendation was approved.

Proposals and results of voting were as follows.

Proposal #1 – Baseball Championship Brackets - Baseball and softball are the only sports where games are played at a neutral site, yet being home or away on the scoreboard does more than decide what uniform teams are required to wear. It gives teams unique advantages and disadvantages that can affect strategy. The higher seed should have first choice how they want to make use of those advantages. If teams are of equal seed, they should have equal opportunity to do so. Designating a team in advance to be home does that arbitrarily. There are instances where a team is a higher seed, yet would prefer to be the away team on the scoreboard, this change would allow for that as well. (For – 144, Against – 24) Effective 2024-2025 school year

Proposal #2 – Softball Championship Brackets – Baseball and softball are the only sports where games are played at a neutral site, yet being home or away on the scoreboard does more than decide what uniform teams are required to wear. It gives teams unique advantages and disadvantages that can affect strategy. The higher seed should have first choice how they want to make use of those advantages. If teams are of equal seed, they should have equal opportunity to do so. Designating a team in advance to be home does that arbitrarily. There are instances where a team is a higher seed, yet would prefer to be the away team on the scoreboard, this change would allow for that as well. (For – 142, Against – 24) Effective 2024-2025 school year

Proposal #3 – Administrator Responsibilities – To clarify the role administrators have in certifying athletic eligibility. (For – 260, Against – 3) Effective 2024-2025 school year

Proposal #4 – Sportsmanship Course - Ejections - To reinforce the importance of sportsmanship in extracurricular activities for coaches and participants. (For – 248, Against – 18) Effective 2024-2025 school year

Proposal #5 – Reporting Violations - To clarify the role of the reporting system in filing violations and designating penalties. (For – 260, Against – 3) Effective 2024-2025 school year

Proposal #6 – Soccer Participation - To clarify participation on non-school soccer teams during the school soccer season. (For – 251, Against – 12) Effective 2024-2025 school year

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

President/Chair

Secretary

Date

PROPOSAL # 1	SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL			
FROM: AAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS				
2025-2026 AAA HANDBOOK	ARTICLE	SECTION	RULE	PAGE 125-126

AMEND TO READ

***add language to indoor and outdoor venues**

The home team has authority over all sound systems at the venue during pre-game, game, and post-game activities. The visiting team may use their own sound system in the locker room but are prohibited from using their own sound system at indoor and outdoor venues.

PURPOSE

95.9% spring survey

EFFECTIVE DATE

2025-2026 school year

BYLAW

Requires majority vote

VOTING

All schools may vote

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS

Do Pass (20-0)

EXPLANATION FOR BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION

Same as purpose

PROPOSAL # 2	BOWLING CLASSIFICATIONS			
FROM: AAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS				
2025-2026 AAA HANDBOOK	ARTICLE II, IV	SECTION 5,7	RULE 3,1	PAGE 27, 67

AMEND TO READ

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION. Classification of schools for bowling shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A and 1A Combined

PURPOSE

To promote competitive balance amongst all classifications and assist with assigning conference/state venues.

EFFECTIVE DATE

2025-2026 school year

CONSTITUTION

Requires 2/3 vote

VOTING

Only high schools may vote

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS

Do Pass (20-0)

EXPLANATION FOR BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION

Same as purpose

PROPOSAL # 3	CROSS COUNTRY SEASON LIMITATIONS			
FROM: AAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS				
2025-2026 AAA HANDBOOK	ARTICLE XI	SECTION 12	RULE	PAGE 90-91

AMEND TO READ

To change the start of cross country season from Week #9 to Week #8 on the AAA calendar beginning with the 2026 season.

PURPOSE

93.2% spring survey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

2026-2028 classification cycle

CONSTITUTION

Requires 2/3 vote

VOTING

Only high schools may vote

BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS

Do Pass (20-0)

EXPLANATION FOR BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION

Same as purpose

CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE COVERAGE

FOR: 7th grade through 12th grade during interscholastic activities

COVERAGE PERIOD: August 1, 2025—August 1, 2027

INSURER: National Union Fire Insurance Company

AGENT: Loomis & LaPann, Inc.
PO Box 2158
Glens Falls, NY 12801
Phone - 1-800-566-6479
Fax - 518-792-3426

PLAN MAXIMUM: \$1,500,000

MAXIMUM BENEFIT PERIOD: 10 years

DEDUCTIBLE: \$25,000

INCURREAL PERIOD: 52 weeks

DEATH BENEFIT: \$20,000