

## **SOSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES - Dec. 16th 2024**

Present: Scott Barr, Justin Pychel, Hana Roukema, Jon Cairns, Kristina Alderdice, Jen Benoit, Jaymi Edwards, Sean Medeiros, Jim Whittard, Jamie Coull, Brian Fuller.

**1. 6:50 - Call to order:** There were no additions to the agenda and it was accepted as presented.

**2. Financial:** Membership Fee collection has been interrupted by the postal strike and we will be patient in collecting fees into the new year. Reimbursement cheques for convening SOSSA events were distributed to Zone athletic coordinators to pass along to schools. The SOSSA account looks to be in good standing and we will know more after fees are collected and the winter sport season is over. After a discussion on items SOSSA will reimburse for convening championships it was determined we will remain with the system in place. SOSSA covers officials, necessary facility rentals, and first aid personnel for designated activities as required by OPHEA.

### **3. Winter Sport Convener Information and Championship Representation confirmation:**

Convener pages were reviewed for revisions, corrections, or typos. Convener clarification - there is no alpine/snowboard convener and therefore no SOSSA championship this year. A swimming convener has stepped forward - thanks to Courtney Taylor from Eastdale.

Zone commitments to winter team championships. Note: Boys A/AA hockey only has two zones competing therefore it will be a one game SOSSA event. Zone #1 is hosting "A" boys b-ball and will need to provide a second entry to fill the zone #2 spot. Zone #3 is hosting "A" girls v-ball and will need to provide a second entry to fill the zone #2 spot. All other winter team championships will run as four team events - one entry from each zone.

**4. Fall Sports Wrap up and Zone issues or concerns:** The question of helmet communication in football will require more time and discussion. Presently the issue in question is, any tampering with a helmet will void the safety warranty making it unusable for high school football.

**5. Correspondence and Discussion/Action Required Items:** The student eligibility rule stating - "a junior moving up to play in a senior SOSSA championship must have appeared on one regular season league game sheet to be eligible" After discussion it was agreed to maintain this regulation and if coaches and schools choose to move a student(s) up then it becomes their responsibility to explain the rationale for such a move to athletes and parents.

HDCH inquiry regarding athletes competing in another association's snowboard championship in order to move on to OFSAA. The SOSSA Board does have to O.K. this arrangement and are willing to vote in favour providing all SOSSA schools are offered the same opportunity or "equal

access". Brian will look into the number of available spots the CISAA is willing to provide and also how many SOSSA schools may be interested in this opportunity. Further, we have requested an official notice from the CISAA governing body that this arrangement is within local, association and OFSAA rules.

If no options come forward from member schools then SOSSA executive shall draft a motion for the June AGM to continue with the SOSSA football playoff structure presently in place. We had a brief discussion on the three year rotation system presently used and the rationale for putting it into place. It was also explained that if any member school wishes to submit an alternative play-off structure they are welcome to do so.

SOSSA Pete Beach Award for 2025-26. Discussion will occur with the Director and OFSAA reps ASAP as there is a January 30th deadline to submit to OFSAA.

HRTO Update - OFSAA has settled their HRTO case with the plaintiff. We have not been informed at this time if the plaintiff will continue to pursue their case with SOSSA. OFSAA director Shamus Bourdon wanted the SOSSA Board to know there was no fault at the SOSSA level and associations should be confident in following and enforcing their regulations without fear of legal challenges.

The football helmet communication was discussed under fall sports and will go on pause until we can be confident helmet warranties will not be compromised in fitting them with communication devices.

**6. Transfer Committee Update:** Jamie Coull, transfer chair reported all is going smoothly and the virtual meetings are working well.

**7. OFSAA report:** Kristina Alderdice, Jamie Coull, Scott Barr. It was noted that all the changes coming down from OFSAA will not go into effect until next academic year.

**8. Meeting dates:**

**Next Meeting - Monday, Feb. 24th - location T.B.A.**

**Tentative Meeting - Director and Zone Co-ordinators - Championship Conveners 2026-27.**

Monday, May, 12th - (tentative) - will confirm at the Feb. 24th meeting.

AGM - Tuesday, June 24th/2025 - location T.B.A.

**9. 8:20 pm - Meeting was adjourned. Best wishes for a restful holiday break.**