



Executive Director's Update

National Federation of State High School Associations

PO Box 690, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206 • 317-972-6900 • www.nfhs.org

An Update from Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, Executive Director

National Federation of State High School Associations

April 2020

NFHS Summer Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFHS Summer Meeting, which was planned for June 28-July 2 in Denver, will not be held in its traditional format. A survey is being sent to the membership with options for a shortened meeting in Denver and a virtual meeting as two possibilities. State associations will be receiving an update regarding the status of the Summer Meeting later this month.

NFHS Participation Survey

The annual NFHS Sports and Activities Participation Survey was distributed to member state associations in January. We ask your diligence in completing the survey online by the deadline of Friday, June 5. We trust that you will be able to gather fall and winter sports participation figures; however, we realize that you might not be able to secure spring sports participation numbers and/or any performing arts data due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we may not be able to compile comprehensive survey totals as in past years, we would like to be able to report totals in those sports with complete data. If you are unable to collect any information, please let us know immediately. If you have any questions, please contact B. Elliot Hopkins (ehopkins@nfhs.org) at the NFHS office.

Educational Services Update

New Homepage: We hope you have had an opportunity to see the new NFHSLearn.com homepage.

Course of the Month:

Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

This course has a focus on wellness, including both physical and psychological, and highlights causes, strategies and provides helpful resources. For students, their peers and anyone responsible for their care and well-being, take the course Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

Courses Currently in Development:

- "First Aid, Health and Safety" (Revision)
- "PA Announcing"
- "Speech and Debate Event Management"
- "The Collapsed Student" (working title)

NFHS Center for Officials Services (COS)

If you would like to receive more information regarding the state-of-the-art NFHS COS platform, please contact Theresia Wynn (twynn@nfhs.org) and request a one-on-one demonstration.

National Campaigns Update

During this unique time in our country, we want to be sensitive to the messaging we are providing for our national campaigns. We have decided to put a hold on #MyReasonWhy and #BecomeAnOfficial and focus our efforts on two new campaigns – "Together" and "NFHS Learning Center."

The "Together" campaign will focus on comforting, uplifting and motivational messaging with a "push-to-post" feature where state associations can post provided social media content to their Facebook and Twitter pages with a click of a button.

The "NFHS Learning Center" campaign will focus on getting coaches, officials, athletic directors and others to "sharpen their skills" by taking courses on NFHSLearn.com. State associations will also be provided "push-to-post" emails to share the messaging socially. Also, the NFHS School Honor Roll program will be shared with athletic directors and school administrators to get their high school recognized as a Level 1 School. For more information regarding the NFHS School Honor Roll program, visit NFHSLearn.com/home/administrators.

Both campaigns will run through June 4.

Track and Field

- Rule change proposals for track and field are now being accepted through the online [Rule Change Proposal System \(RCPS\)](#). Rule proposals can be submitted by designated state association staff and/or executive directors. Once logged into the [NFHS website](#), select NFHS For You > State Association Staff > Rule Change Proposal and complete the required fields. The state association administrator, through the Manage Rule Change Proposals, may view all proposed changes, edit and submit proposals to the NFHS. It is from this management area the state association staff member must approve or reject each proposal submitted by a coach or official in order to submit a proposed rule change to the NFHS. The deadline for all proposed rules changes is May 1.
- The NFHS will again distribute the Track and Field Rules Questionnaire. We are aware of the varying amounts of competition that have occurred across the country under the 2020 rules. Any feedback, even if limited, will be invaluable to the rules committee as it conducts its 2020 rules meeting. The Track and Field Questionnaire will open on May 11 and will close May 27. Each state association specific sport administrator will receive two emails. One email will be for state association administrators only. The second email will contain a link that each state can distribute to coaches and officials. We encourage you to circulate the second questionnaire link to coaches and officials across your state to obtain input for the rules committee.

Softball

The NFHS Softball Rules Committee is preparing for its annual meeting, which will be held virtually on June 8-10. The deadline for submission of rules change proposals is May 1. Sport specific questionnaires will be forwarded to state associations in late April.

Swimming and Diving

The 2020-21 NFHS Swimming and Diving Rules Proposals have been approved by the NFHS Board of Directors. All approved rules will be disseminated to the membership in mid-April.

Water Polo

The NFHS Water Polo Rules Committee met through video conference on April 1 to consider a variety of proposals submitted by state associations and committee members. The committee will be working hard this year to review and update play rulings. The two-year NFHS Water Polo Rules Book will be published this year for 2020-22.

Volleyball

A PDF of the 2020-21 Volleyball Rules Book is now available in the Volleyball [My Groups](#) page for state association volleyball administrators. The 2020-21 Volleyball PowerPoint will be available for state associations by May 1.

Girls Lacrosse

The NFHS/US Lacrosse Girls Lacrosse Rules Committee is preparing for its annual meeting to be held virtually on June 22-24. The deadline for submission of rules change proposals is May 1.

The NFHS will again distribute the Girls Lacrosse Rules Questionnaire. We are aware of the varying amounts of competition that has occurred across the country under the 2020 rules. Any feedback, even if limited, will be invaluable to the rules committee as it conducts its 2020 rules meeting. The modified questionnaire schedule for girls lacrosse is as follows: open – May 11 and close – May 27. Thank you for your cooperation

Ice Hockey

The NFHS Ice Hockey Rules Committee will meet via Zoom webinar on April 27-28 for its annual meeting. The rules proposals have been circulated to the membership. Please contact [Dan Schuster](#) with any questions.

Basketball

The NFHS Basketball Rules Committee met via Zoom webinar on April 14-16 for its annual meeting. All approved rules changes for 2020-21 will be available in May.

Soccer

The 2020-21 NFHS Soccer Rules Book will be shipped to all state associations at the end of May along with other fall sports rules publications.

New Staff Members

Two individuals were added to the NFHS staff last month to fill open positions. Abby Toppe joined the Educational Services Department as Coordinator of Educational Services. She will work with Dan Schuster and will assist the NFHS Learning Center, the NFHS Coaches Association and the sport of ice hockey. Abby is a graduate of Indiana University and most recently led United Way of Central Indiana's ReadUp program. Averi Glover has joined the Publications and Communications Department as Coordinator of Sports, Publications/Communications and Graphic Arts. She will work with Bruce Howard in the prepress/graphic arts area and will serve as the department's coordinator. She also will serve as coordinator for Lindsey Atkinson in the sports of volleyball, girls lacrosse and tennis. Averi is a graduate of Ball State University and has graphic design and social media experience in previous jobs, in addition to her most previous position of working with children with autism.

Membership Management System

The NFHS utilizes its Membership Management System (MMS) to communicate with staff members, assign access to website content and My Groups. During these challenging times, we are asking that all state association staff members update their contact

information within the MMS. Individually, staff members can log into the [NFHS website](#) and edit their profiles. Please consider adding mobile phones and pertinent contact information. Alternatively, the executive director or his/her designee can update all staff records on behalf of the association. Taking the time to update this information will assist our staff in being able to communicate with yours. If you are in need of assistance, please contact Kathy Caudill (kcaudill@nfhs.org) or Mike Meenan (mmeen@nfhs.org). (As a reminder, this contact information is restricted to the NFHS and state association staff and is never made public.)

Legal Department

The Legal Department is most appreciative of the executive directors, commissioners and lawyers who volunteered to be speakers at the NFHS Legal Meeting that would have been held later this month. Obviously, the pandemic intervened. Nonetheless, your willingness to share your insights with fellow Legal Meeting attendees is appreciated.

NFHS Network Holdings (Holdco) Board and NFHS Foundation Board Meetings

The NFHS Network Holdings (Holdco) Board meeting and the NFHS Foundation Board meeting were held virtually on Tuesday, April 14. We thank these groups for their flexibility and the important work they do.

Committee Nominations

Committee nominations were due to be completed by April 1. Please contact Davis Whitfield (dwhitfield@nfhs.org) if you need assistance completing this process.

June Scholastic Events

Applications for June Scholastic Events were due March 1 with review and approval to be completed April 1. Please contact Davis Whitfield (dwhitfield@nfhs.org) if you have any questions about this process.

Sport Season Survey

In response to requests from member state associations, the NFHS Sport Season Survey will become an annual survey. The NFHS will be sending an individual link and template on April 20 for state associations to submit their 2019-20 sport season dates of competition, date of championship(s) and number of allowed competitions in all girls and boys sports. The NFHS will display the information in real time on the NFHS website as states update their information and will publish the information in the NFHS Handbook. The deadline for completing the survey is Monday, June 1. If you have any questions, contact Elliot Hopkins (ehopkins@nfhs.org).

NFHS Sportsmanship Card Program

The NFHS Sportsmanship Pocket Card, developed by the NFHS Citizenship & Equity Committee, is in its 14th year of availability for the membership and is offered to promote sportsmanship and develop good citizens. The card is designed to be read prior to each athletic contest. The laminated 3x5 card will have a sportsmanship message on the front and the NFHS/Your state/provincial association logo printed on the back of the card. These cards are offered to state associations at no cost. The memo, sample card and request form was sent to the membership earlier this week. Please complete the request form and return by email to Elliot Hopkins (ehopkins@nfhs.org) by **Friday, April 27**. We will ship the cards to your association by late spring. There is a minimum order of 100 cards, and there is no limit on the maximum number of cards you can order. If your state/provincial association

logo has changed from last year's order, please provide us with a .jpeg or .tiff electronic file so we can update our records.

ACT/SAT Programs Available

The NFHS is continuing its longstanding relationship with eKnowledge as the exclusive NFHS partner of interactive e-learning products and services by once again offering SAT/ACT prep materials to the 51-NFHS member state associations and their 19,500 high schools for the 15th year in a row. All students associated with the NFHS are eligible for this valuable resource. The eKnowledge programs include hundreds of hours of video, thousands of questions with detailed multi-media explanations, and diagnostic tools to assist students preparing for these important exams. The program's full price is up to \$1,500, but through this partnership with the NFHS, the full price is waived and students pay only a minimal fee between \$19.99 and \$49.99. Also, 100 percent of the student fees are re-invested into the project to continuously improve the program and reach more families. For more information, and to secure a donated program, visit www.eknowledge.com/NFHS, or order by phone at 951-256-4079 and reference the NFHS, or contact Cheryl Litras (Cheryl@eknowledge.com). Included is a link to a [YouTube video](#) explaining the program in its entirety:

Upcoming 2020 SAT and ACT TEST DATES (as of 4/8/20)

SAT – June 6, August 29

ACT – June 13, September 5

NFHS/HazingPrevention.Org Essay Contest

The NFHS is partnering with HazingPrevention.Org (HPO) again to draw attention to high school hazing prevention. Every school year, about 1.5 million students are victims of hazing. This year was no exception. The NFHS partners with HPO because it understands the needs of our students and provide low to no-cost resources to protect our most valuable asset – high school students. We are asking your assistance in sharing information about the High School Essay Contest with your member schools. It is easy and simple to participate. Students must write a 500- to 600-word original essay, adhering to the theme “Be Brave. Change the Game,” to win cash prizes and recognition. Entries must be submitted by April 30. If you have any questions, please contact Elliot Hopkins (ehopkins@nfhs.org).

Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three essays in the following amounts:

- 1st place – \$500
- 2nd place – \$250
- 3rd place – \$150

In addition, one essay from each of the eight NFHS sections will be selected to receive honorable mention for that section. Each honorable mention will receive \$50. To enter, please visit the contest website at the following link:

hazingprevention.org/home/awardsandgrants/high-school-essaycontest/.

Upcoming National Conferences Dates and Locations

Summer Meeting

- 2020 Summer Meeting -- Alternative format under consideration at this time.
- June 28-July 2, 2021 – Orlando, Florida (Orlando World Center Marriott Resort)
- June 28-July 2, 2022 – San Antonio, Texas (Grand Hyatt San Antonio)
- June 28-July 2, 2023 – Seattle, Washington (Hyatt Regency Seattle)
- June 28-July 2, 2024 – Boston, Massachusetts (Boston Marriott Copley Place)
- June 28-July 2, 2025 – Chicago, Illinois (Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile)
- 2026 – West (TBD)

National Athletic Directors Conference

- December 11-15, 2020 – Tampa, Florida (Tampa Convention Center)
- December 10-14, 2021 – Denver, Colorado (Colorado Convention Center)
- December 9-13, 2022 – Nashville, Tennessee (Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center)
- December 15-19, 2023 – Orlando, Florida (Orlando World Center Marriott Resort)
- December 13-17, 2024 – Austin, Texas (TBD)
- 2025 – West (TBD)
- 2026 – Central (TBD)

Winter Meeting

- January 3-6, 2021 – Bonita Springs, Florida (Hyatt Regency Coconut Point)
- 2022 – San Diego, California (TBD)
- 2023 – East (TBD)



National Federation of State High School Associations

PO Box 690, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
317-972-6900 • www.nfhs.org

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff".

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff

