



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ambler · Buckland · Deering · Kiana · Kivalina · Kobuk · Kotzebue · Noatak · Noorvik · Selawik · Shungnak
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NWABSD BOARD OF EDUCATION Student Activities Committee Meeting Agenda

**August 28, 2023
9:00 A.M.**

- I. Alaska Schools Activities Association Update
 - a. TAD Policy Revisions (No Adoption Yet)
 - 1st Violation 1 game suspension (not 5 days)
 - 2nd Violation 2 game suspension (not 45 days)
 - 3rd Violation+ 4 game suspension (not 180 days)
 - 4th Violation N/A (not 365 days)
- II. State Tournament Dates & Locations:
 - a. **DII/DIII Cross Country State Meets @ Palmer HS (Oct 7)**
 - b. 3A State Volleyball Tournament @ Alaska Airlines Arena (Nov 9-11)
 - c. **1A Mixed-Six State Volleyball Tournament @ Palmer HS (Nov 30- Dec 2)**
 - d. DII State Wrestling Tournament @ Alaska Airlines Arena (Dec 15-16)
 - e. 1A State Basketball Tournament @ Alaska Airlines Arena (Mar 13-16)
 - f. 3A State Basketball Tournament @ Alaska Airlines Arena (Mar 20-23)
 - g. *State NYO Meet @ Alaska Airlines Arena (Apr 18-20)*
- III. FY24 Activities Calendar
 - a. Full schedules are posted online.
 - b. <https://www.nwarctic.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=3068859&pageId=3944663>



NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Atautchikun Iñuunialiptigun (Through Our Way of Life Together as One)

OUR DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS ACTIVITIES

PARENTS & STUDENTS POWERSCHOOL

Committee Members: Ellen Coffin, Joanne Harris, Shannon Melton, Lawrence Jones Sr., Tillie Ticket
Student Activities Coordinator: Brett Slaathaug

MISSION: To provide a learning environment that inspires and challenges students and employees to excel.
VISION: To graduate all students with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for a successful future.

IV. State Board of Education: Transgender Proposal (Postponed Vote)

https://education.alaska.gov/state_board/pdf/02-2023%20SBOE%20Resolution%20Preserving%20the%20Opportunity%20for%20Athletes.pdf

[https://apnews.com/article/alaska-board-education-transgender-girls-sports-005fe60ae710a9342ee9ce43f59c2b79#:~:text=JUNEAU%2C%20Alaska%20\(AP\)%20—,time%20to%20consider%20the%20issue.](https://apnews.com/article/alaska-board-education-transgender-girls-sports-005fe60ae710a9342ee9ce43f59c2b79#:~:text=JUNEAU%2C%20Alaska%20(AP)%20—,time%20to%20consider%20the%20issue.)

ASAA Transgender Policy (23-24 Handbook Page 31)

ARTICLE 7 - SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES

Section 1 - Compliance with Title IX

B. Separate Teams, Gender Determination and Contact Sports: Separate teams for each sex are permissible in contact sports or where selection for teams is based on competitive skill. The Association will rely on a gender determination made by the student's member school where the determination is based upon prior written and objective criteria adopted by the school; ASAA will not make separate gender identity determinations. However, once a member school determines a student may participate in an interscholastic activity, which does not match the gender assigned at birth, the determination shall remain in effect for the duration of the student's high school eligibility. A student attending a member school which does not have a prior written objective policy used to determine gender identity may only participate based upon the gender assigned at birth. Contact sports include wrestling, ice hockey, football, basketball, and any other sport "the purpose or major activity of which involves bodily contact."

My Personal Written Testimony to the State Board of Education:

I support the proposed changes to the interscholastic activities regulation which preserves high school female sports and limits participation to only girls who are female at birth. I base my position on the following reasons.

Anatomic Rationale:

In all sports, it can be easily demonstrated that biological males have clear inherent physical advantages over biological females. In general, men are bigger, faster, and stronger than females. This has been accepted throughout the entire modern Olympic era including the rise of high school, collegiate, and professional sports throughout the world. Below I describe how in different sports females would have fared against males if they were put into 1 unisex division. Also, I've included numerous examples of how different sports have made specific modifications for the female division. All of the results that I list below can be found on asaa.org and their adopted platforms for specific sports, e.g. athletic.net for cross country and track & field.

1. **Cross Country:** This sport doesn't have any differences between the boys' & girls' divisions. Each kid runs the same course and distance at each meet. In 2022, the fastest girl from all 3 divisions at state ran a 19:16 5k. This would've taken 15th in DIII, 31st in DII, and 74th in DI boys' divisions. In 2021, the fastest girl from all 3 divisions at state ran a 19:10 5k. This would've taken 16th in DIII, 35th in DII, and 72nd in DI boys' divisions. This is the norm for prior years as well. The only outlier to this is with Allie Ostrander (Kenai) in 2014 who ran a 17:05 which would've tied for 4th in DII boys' and not placed in DI boys' at all.

2. **Volleyball:** This sport has different net heights that are used between male & female divisions. The men's is higher because generally men are much taller and can jump higher than females can. ASAA already does this with its current 1A Mixed Six Volleyball division compared to 2A-4A Girls Volleyball.
3. **Wrestling:** Up until 2014/15, girls and boys wrestled together in the same weight classes. It was determined that the number of females joining wrestling weren't being represented well at the state tournaments, from that the creation of female division occurred. Also note that from 2002-2013 there was only 1 girl that placed in the Top 6 in either 123A or 4A unisex divisions. There were 2,040 placing medals awarded in that timespan and only 1 girl earned a placing medal in 2012 & 2013 when the 98lb division was added. (see asaa.org for results).
4. **Basketball:** All women divisions throughout the world, including the WNBA, use a smaller overall size and weight of basketball compared to men divisions. This has been done because it reflects the general norm that males are bigger than females with hand size and physical strength while playing on the same hoop height. With the rise of social media, we watch endless highlights of young boys sometimes just 13 years old dunking in games, but 1997-2020 only 29 dunks have been recorded in the WNBA. (<https://queenballers.club/basketball/wnba-dunks>)
5. **Baseball/Softball:** First, I recognize that fastpitch softball is different from regular baseball. However, the fact remains that biological women play fastpitch softball over baseball because of shorter distances in base paths, shorter distance from pitcher's mound to home, and much shorter fields to increase the chances to hit homeruns. All of this is done because in general males are bigger, stronger, and more powerful than females.
6. **Golf:** There are different tee boxes that are used in golf for different level of players. These are typically labeled red, white, blue, & black in that order of which is closest to the hole to the farthest one away. The red tee boxes became synonymous overtime with the "ladies tee box" because women have hit from them because their general inability to drive the ball as far as men. This is reflected even in the LPGA as the US Women's Open yardage was 6509 while the PGA US Open was 7421. The average course length for the LPGA tournaments is 6200-6400 yards while the PGA is 7200 yards.
7. **Track & Field:** Track & Field is probably the most apparent in the differences between the men and women events. In the field events, women use a smaller size & weight of shot put, discus, & javelins. This again reflects the norm that men are bigger, stronger, and more powerful than females. Even in the hurdles, the women's division uses lower hurdle heights and even the total distance of the race is shorter than the men's division. This is done because typically training for the 110m hurdles is that you want your boys to either do a 3-step or 4-step approach. The women's height was reduced along with the distance down to 100m; so that same form approaches could be done with the girls.
Now in the other standard running and jumping events is that there are no differences in their given events between the boys' & girls' divisions. The table below shows how the girls' current state records would finish in the boys' state divisions for the past 5 years. Note there are a max 16 qualifiers for each of these events and there are plenty of years that not all 16 slots are filled either. One

takeaway should be of quickly the girls' state records would be broke by any state level, biological boy.

		123A Boys					4A Boys				
Event	Girls' State Record	'23	'22	'21	'19	'18	'23	'22	'21	'19	'18
100m	11.8	10 th	3 rd	3 rd	3 rd	4 th	14 th	15 th	T8	16 th	8 th
200m	24.74	15 th	7 th	7 th	14 th	7 th	14 th	16 th	15 th	16 th	14 th
400m	54.87	12 th	6 th	6 th	9 th	11 th	16 th	13 th	14 th	14 th	13 th
800m	2:10.42	14 th	12 th	11 th	13 th	13 th	14 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	15 th
1600m	4:48.31	12 th	10 th	6 th	11 th	12 th	16 th	14 th	7 th	14 th	13 th
3200m	10:09.73	7 th	8 th	9 th	7 th	5 th	5 th	5 th	7 th	8 th	10 th
High Jump	5'9"	1 st	3 rd	1 st	2 nd	5 th	7 th	6 th	4 th	7 th	3 rd
Long Jump	19'05"	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd	3 rd	2 nd	10 th	8 th	6 th	6 th	T7
Triple Jump	38'10.25"	6 th	4 th	5 th	3 rd	7 th	12 th	6 th	6 th	9 th	11 th

I also wanted to include a quick comparison of the best times and jumps from the 2023 HS versus the top 10, 2023 MS boys in Alaska. The MS Boys' column shows what place the best girls' times and jumps would finish. This can be retrieved on athletic.net.

Event	HS Girls' Best (1234A)	MS Boys
100m	12.58	8 th
200m	25.98	5 th
400m	58.55	6 th
800m	2:18.27	5 th
1600m	5:08.54	5 th
3200m	11:10.83	1 st
High Jump	5'3"	3 rd
Long Jump	17'0"	5 th
Triple Jump	36'2"	2 nd

8. **Swim & Dive:** I won't break it down like I did above with T&F, but if a person wanted to see the clear differences between the boys and girls is here is the link to see the results year by year results. You can easily see that the female champions

would be finishing towards the back if not last in the boys' divisions. <http://www.teamunify.com/SubTabGeneric.jsp?team=wzaslsc&stabid=1994>

I do however want to highlight one example out of those results as this should emphatically demonstrate the clear physiological differences between males and females. All Alaskans know who Lydia Jacoby is from Seward. She won the Gold in the 100m breaststroke in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. In 2021, she won the ASAA 100yd breaststroke with a 1:04.50 time that is right in line with her gold winning 100m time of 1:04.95. Comparing her state time with the HS boys in 2021, she would have finished 10th in the boys division. The prior summer, she won the 2020 Women's Olympic Gold Medal thus being the very best female swimmer in the entire world in the 100m breaststroke, but at the same time wouldn't even be a placer in the Alaska HS state boys' division.

Classification Rationale:

ASAA like many states have multiple classifications in each sport. This is done normally by school enrollment size. The reason why school enrollment is used is because it naturally reflects that schools with higher enrollments have a higher pool of students to draw from and therefore a higher number of upperclassmen (junior/seniors) who are generally bigger, stronger, and more powerful than the freshmen/sophomores. That same rationale is why sports divisions are initially divided up first between boys and girls.

Classification Opt Up Policy

ASAA has allowed for schools to opt up into higher classifications. Schools who do such are declaring that their team(s) have the size, strength, speed, and athleticism throughout their team roster with the ability to compete at a higher level without a higher degree of worry that their team will experience more physical injuries in the process. The point is that classification and divisions are divided in sports to create even playing fields for all student-athletes.

8th Grade Opt Up:

ASAA has only allowed 8th grade opt up in schools with enrollments 30 or less or 15 or less per gender to help the school field a team. Why they haven't been allowed in schools with higher enrollments or classifications is in part due to not wanting to displace HS students on the team but generally because 8th graders are typically not physically developed enough to withstand the physical hits that contact sports bring. Why this is pertinent to the discussion is because policies like this are always being set into place to keep the playing field for all student-athletes fair and safe.

Max Age Policy:

ASAA max age policy is 19 by August 1st of that year. Why this policy and those like it in other states is because we all know that people in general continue to get much bigger and stronger in our 20s than in our teens. And the physical gap between those in their 20s versus teenagers is so wide that the increased risk of injuries is too great to

allow for those older than the cutoff point to participate in HS sports. This physiological gap is there as well between males and females as shown from the above data.

Female in Male Sports:

Like with the classification and 8th grade opt up policy, ASAA has always allowed for females to compete in male sports. Females have joined male football, male basketball, and still can compete in seasonal wrestling tournaments typically when their female weight class doesn't have any other females to wrestle against. In any of these or other cases, the female has decided along with their family and school that they are physically capable of going against the males in that given sport or event without a high degree of risk of injury. All of these are case-by-case situations and percentage-wise reflect less than 1% of female students that do this across the state annually.

My Daughter:

I could add more sport specific data, but I believe the above sufficiently demonstrates why biological males should not be allowed to compete in any biological female sport. But before closing out is that I must give my greatest reason for my support of the policy and that my daughter. She is 6 years old and has a twin brother. She is naturally more athletic than her brother in terms of hand-eye & foot coordination, but by age 4 her brother was much bigger, faster, and stronger than she was. She still has better hand-eye & foot coordination than him but the fact that he is bigger, faster, and stronger than her allows him to throw balls faster and farther, run longer, run faster, etc. This is because he's a biological male. He is simply born anatomically and genetically with greater muscle mass, bone density, and other physiological features that make him bigger, faster, and stronger than her. The physical differences already quite apparent, as is the case with any other kindergarten age males & females and they're only 6. The separation will continue year after year just because natural, physiological development. This natural separation occurs long before kids go through puberty. It started right from the womb and manifests itself soon in life, and this is why the policy does need to reflect that male and female sport divisions are determined by their sex at birth.

I want my daughter, who loves sports and competitions, to be able to compete against only biological females to ensure that she gets a fair chance at possibly winning events and maybe be offered one day a sport scholarship to attend college with.

If the policy remains biological males being able to compete in female sports along with the current rising trend of American, biological male teenagers identifying as girls will only erode my daughter's and all other biological females' chances of being successful in sports.

Thank you for your time,

V. Other