The National Federation consists of the fifty individual state high school athletic and/or activities associations and the association of the District of Columbia. Also affiliate, are ten interscholastic organizations from the Canadian Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland- Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Saskatchewan as well as the Canadian School Sports Federation and the associations of the Republic of the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam, and St. Thomas. These associations have united to secure the benefits of cooperative action which eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and which increase efficiency through the pooling and coordinating of ideas of all who are engaged in the administration of high school athletic and activities programs.

ORIGIN AND GROWTH

The national organization had its beginning at a meeting at Chicago on May 14, 1920. L.W. Smith, secretary of the Illinois High School Athletic Association, issued invitations to neighboring states and state association representatives came from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss problems which had resulted from high school contests which were organized by colleges and universities or by other clubs or promoters. In many cases, little attention was paid to the eligibility rules of the high school associations or to other school group regulations and chaotic conditions had developed. At this first meeting it was decided that the welfare of the high schools required a more active part in the control of such athletic activities be exercised by the high schools through the state associations, and this control necessitated the formation of a national organization. A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted and the group decided on a name "Midwest Federation of State High School Athletic Associations."

In 1921, four states, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Wisconsin, continued their interest and became charter members through formal ratification of the Constitution. Largely due to their efforts the national organization grew during the early years.

In 1922, the Chicago annual meeting was attended by representatives from 11 states, and the name of the National Federation of State High School Athletic Associations was adopted. A number of college and university representatives who attended the meeting expressed sympathy for an interest in the efforts to introduce a high degree of order in the regulation of interscholastic contests. Since that time, the National Federation has had a healthy growth to its present nationwide membership. By 1940, a national office with a full-time executive staff became necessary and such office was established in September of that year.

The Wyoming High School Activities Association has been a member of the National Federation since February 24, 1936. The legislative body is the National Council made up of one representative from each state member association. Each representative must be a state association executive officer or member of the state board of control. The executive body is the Board of Directors of at least eight members from the eight territorial sections as outlined in the Constitution. Their election is by the National Council at its summer meeting.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The purpose of the National Federation of State High School Associations is to coordinate the efforts of its member state associations toward the ultimate objectives of interscholastic activities. It shall provide a means for state high school associations to cooperate in order to enhance and protect their interscholastic programs. In order to accomplish this, the National Federation is guided by a philosophy consistent with the accepted purposes of secondary education. Member state associations’ programs must be administered in accordance with the following basic beliefs:

Interscholastic activities shall be an integral part of the total secondary school educational program which has as its purpose to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum, which will develop learning outcomes in the area of knowledge, skills, and emotional patterns and will contribute to the development of better citizens. Emphasis shall be upon teaching "through" activities in addition to teaching the "skills" of activities. Inter-school activities shall be primarily for the benefit of the high school students who participate directly and vicariously in them. The interscholastica activity program shall exist mainly for the value which it has for students and not for the benefit of the sponsoring institutions. The activities and contests involved shall be psychologically sound by being tailored to the physical, mental, and emotional maturity levels of the youth participating in them.

Any district and/or state athletic meet competition to determine a so-called champion shall provide opportunities for schools to demonstrate and to evaluate the best taught in their programs with the best taught in other schools and in other areas of the state. Participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege to be granted to those students who meet the minimum standards of eligibility adopted cooperatively by the schools through their state associations, and those additional standards established by each school for its own students. The state high school associations and the National Federation shall be concerned with the development of those standards, policies, and regulations essential to assist their member schools in the implementation of their philosophy of interscholastic activities. Non-school activities sponsored primarily for the benefit of the participants in accordance with a philosophy compatible with the school philosophy of interschools may have values for youth. When they do not interfere with the academic and interscholastic programs and do not result in exploitation of youth, they shall be considered as a worthwhile supplement to inter-school activities.

The National Federation headquarters building is located at 1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive, P.O. Box 690, Indianapolis, IN 46206; Phone: 317-972-6900. The Executive Director is Robert Kanaby.

The National Federation is the major rules writing body for interscholastic sports in the United States. Playing rules for junior high and high school competition as written, published, and printed by the National Federation have been adopted by the WHSAA in all sports except golf, tennis, and skiing.

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

Originally founded in the 1920s to regulate athletic competition, the WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION has become much more than a regulatory agency. The WHSAA has survival on the premise of providing service to all member schools while promoting, coordinating, and controlling interscholastatic activities in Wyoming. The purpose of the WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION is to ensure that interscholastic activities in Wyoming are administered in a manner that is safe and fair to all. The Association is matched in every state and Canadian province by their own particular associations, all belonging to the National Federation of State High School Associations, which provide a means for State High School Associations to coordinate, to enhance, and to protect their interscholastic programs.

The WHSAA is a private nonprofit association that is funded by membership dues and the gate receipts from the various culminating events in each activity. Membership is voluntary.

MISSION AND PHILOSOPHY

The mission of the WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, both as a service and regulatory organization, is to coordinate the efforts of the member schools toward the ultimate objectives of interscholastic activities. Unification through the WHSAA provides the means for member schools to cooperate in protecting and enhancing their interscholastic activities to more effectively serve students.

The WHSAA recognizes that the academic program must have top priority in the educational process. While promoting the importance of the activities program, the Association recognizes that activities should not overshadow the emphasis placed on classroom work, but that the two should go hand-in-hand.
MEMBERSHIP

Any public or private high school accredited by the Wyoming State Department of Education or which meets requirements designated by the WHSAA Board of Directors may become member schools of the WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, which is guided by a Board of Directors and managed by a commissioner. Elected by the vote of member schools for a three year term, the Board members represent each classification and each of four geographic administrative regions. In addition, two members elected by the Wyoming School Boards Association and a staff person from the Wyoming State Department of Education are voting members. Rules pertaining to academic standards, transfer, awards, season limitations, as well as other policies which govern WHSAA activities, are adopted by the Board of Directors, and are part of the By-Laws. Amendments to the Constitution are voted on by each member school.

SCOPE

The WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION believes that interscholastic activities programs are essential to the education of youth, and therefore, are an integral part of the school curriculum. By promoting activities, the WHSAA establishes its belief that Wyoming youth gain immeasurable values from these programs and reaffirms its conviction that excellence in education can be achieved through activities. The values of high school activities and their impact upon the lives of Americans are immeasurable. The experiences and lifelong lessons provided by participation have earned interscholastic activities an integral role in the educational process. Not only do interscholastic activities benefit and directly influence participants, but they also instill pride and unifying spirit among students, fans, schools, and communities throughout the nation.

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The inherent values of activity programs are both realistic and vivid. Participation provides the opportunity to build strong minds and bodies, fosters a cooperative spirit and sportsmanship, creates poise and confidence and teaches discipline and the self-satisfaction of accomplishing goals.

VALUES

The WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION develops philosophies and policies to carry out the services of the Association. The Association protects the integrity of programs and their place in the education spectrum. Acting as the representative for high school activities, the WHSAA also works with other education-related agencies to ensure the place of co-curricular activities in the education spectrum.

WHSSAA CULMINATING EVENT PHILOSOPHY

Culminating Event is defined as any and all district, regional, and state tournaments.

#1 PRIORITIES FOR STUDENTS:
The state tournament should feature:
• quality participants and teams from each regional.
• a positive learning experience for all involved.
• the opportunity to play against teams of similar ability and similar enrollment.
• the opportunity to play against teams of similar ability and similar enrollment.
• the opportunity to play before a large, enthusiastic crowd.
• a safe, orderly environment.
• a carefully planned tournament format including qualifying procedures and tournaments as well as the State Finals.
• good sportsmanship on behalf of participants and spectators.
• what best suits the student/athletes for that gender, sport, and classification.
• the opportunity to play on/in quality facilities that enhance performance.

#2 PRIORITIES FOR SCHOOLS:
Schools should experience:
• a minimal loss of student-teacher contact time.
• competition against teams of similar ability and similar enrollment.
• an opportunity to showcase their best participants.

#3 PRIORITIES FOR PARENTS:
Parents should model examples of good sportsmanship at all times and have the opportunity for the following:
• motel rooms and dining establishments close to the tournament site.
• events scheduled to not conflict with the traditional workweek as much as possible.
• opportunity for seating in tournament.

#4 PRIORITIES FOR OTHERS:
Communities should have:
• the opportunity to host regional tournaments, based on appropriate criteria.
• the opportunity to make proposals for state culminating events through an objective proposal process.

Administrative WHSAA districts should have:
• the opportunity to set times of games as allowed within the WHSAA tournament formats.

The Wyoming High School Activities Association should have:
• the opportunity to increase the percentage of funding of the WHSAA office based on gate receipts and associated revenues realized from state events.