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# Executive Director's Update

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Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association

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## Provincial Championships

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School Sport is flying by very fast. We are about to conclude the five 'Fall' activities on the SHSAA Calendar. This weekend the fifth activity will begin its provincial championship with the 1A - 4A Girls and 5A Boys and Girls Volleyball Championships. Good luck to all teams that have qualified through the preliminary rounds of playoffs, representing their school and community at provincials. The 1A - 4A Boys will conduct their Regional Championships this weekend as well and these categories will close the Fall activities next weekend when they compete for the provincial championships in four locations across the province.

Thank you to all the schools, provincial chairs and a host of parent, teachers and student volunteers for taking on the challenge of hosting a provincial championship. A big thank you also goes out to all the officials that have given of their time throughout the past two months to allow our student-athletes the opportunity to compete and learn the valuable

*Please see [Provincial Championships](#) on page 2*

## Respect in Sport

*By Sask Sport*

On behalf of the Association and the Executive Council, I want to thank all those involved in school sport, for taking the time and showing leadership in completing the Sask Sport initiative of the 'Respect in Sport' program. To date, we have had a few shy of 3,000 coaches sign up for the course.

With this many individuals affiliated with the SHSAA and expected to take the course as mandated by Sask Sport, there are always going to be a few that have not completed or started the program for reasons only known to them. Thankfully, there are just a few that have not complied. This is unfortunate in an Association that prides itself on leadership and stands for morally sound practices. Sask Sport has implemented the repercussion of not being allowed to coach should this be the stand taken. You can well imagine the time consumed in tracking all of the Association's

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## Association Philosophy

By Kevin Vollet

The purpose of this article is to reaffirm the philosophy of this Association and to encourage our member schools to adhere to the Mission statement by following the Beliefs and Objectives of the Association that have been in existence from our forefathers for the past sixty-five years.

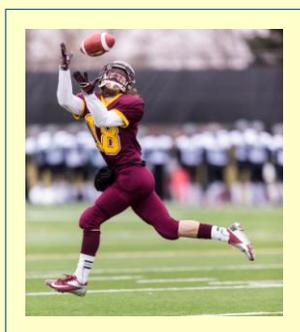
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*“These are goals towards which the Association must strive in order to be the true educational institution for which it was borne.”*

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First, the Association cannot mandate or legislate good sportsmanship or equal playing time for all athletes that play for a particular team. These are goals towards which the Association must strive in order to be the true educational institution for which it was borne. The office staff and Executive Council cannot micro-manage a school's decision on team selection or playing time.

However, that being said, the Association does exist in order that there be a fair and equitable policy that schools follow. The Association is hopeful that schools ensure that participation in school sport is paramount and that schools make a concerted effort to include all those students that express an interest in whichever activity the school offers. This effort can be in the form of an increased practice squad, rotation of players throughout the season or a school's ability to allow the formation of multiple teams in any one activity. Saying this, there are many factors that play into the latter option such as gymnasium time, coach availability, monetary resources available for uniforms, access to various levels of competition for these teams, etc. Participation is and remains a staple in the philosophy of the Association, even though there are specific limits of participants that can partake in any one contest. We continually remind our membership that elitism is not the mandate of the Association and that providing opportunities to as many students as possible should be taken into account given the many factors that schools must face.



*'The Catch' (4A Football @ Regina)*

### *Provincial Championships from page 1*

lessons that school sport provides to these students in order to prepare them for the many challenges that the world will pose. Our students will be prepared for all the obstacles and situations that they will face as they become the future citizens of this country.

Thank you to our Provincial Hosts:

Goodsoil - Grass Golf; Frontier - Sand Golf;

Medstead - Cross Country;

Middle Lake, Lake Lenore, Muenster, Yorkton, Saskatoon and Regina - Soccer;

Ituna, Watrous, Clavet, Indian Head, Moose Jaw and Regina - Football;

Glentworth, Wolseley, Watrous, Assiniboia, Yorkton, Weyburn, Colonsay,

Hepburn, Waldheim, Oxbow - Volleyball

## SHSAA Host Locations

Over the years, there have been locations/communities that have chosen not to host an Association playoff for reasons related to the size of the school's gymnasium.

Individuals that are involved or working in a particular community are not expected to have had input in the construction of their building. Yet these individuals are doing their best to provide opportunities to their student-athletes and finding success in any one particular activity. These dedicated educators should not be held accountable for the construction of their gymnasiums back some 50 years ago. Yet they work with what they have available to the best of their ability and prepare their students as best they can.

When that particular district and possibly the only school in their district in their classification is awarded the right to host an SHSAA playoff, that community and those students should have the opportunity to play in front of their own fans in an SHSAA competition. These students adapt to their surroundings, so too should a visiting team be able to adapt.

The building is out of the control of the people involved, thus the opportunity to host a competition should not be lost.

### *Compliance from page 1*

coaches and seeking assistance from the administrator of these coaches to take the course. I have contacted most if not all schools of those tardy individuals prior to the fall's playoff events. Should you have coaches in your buildings that have not complied, I would ask that a reminder is given to them to complete the course, not because it is just another requirement, but to do so as a sign of leadership to the province.

A few situations have arisen since the start of the school year with respect to the program. Sask Sport made the stipulation that the 'Speak Out' program offered by Sask Hockey was only transferrable to those coaches that took the course from 2006 and later. Any coaches taking the hockey program before this year, would be asked to take the RiS program. A second issue that has arisen is that there are still schools that do not fill in their coach information on the SHSAA ExNet system. This makes an extra step for our office to first attain the coaches name and then check compliance. Tied to this concern, are those schools that do not list their assistant coaches on the E5 form which then jeopardizes the MAP application criteria for the Association. The last issue, and the one most commonly occurring, is that SHSAA coaches are not appearing on our database due to them affiliating with a different sport governing organization. If any coach has been contacted that they are not registered, this is likely the reason. Thank you again for everyone's cooperation.



3A Soccer Provincials

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## Artificial Noisemakers

We have just concluded a great weekend of high school football by conducting provincial championships in six locations. Thank you goes to all those schools that staged these championships. Three of our six locations faced some snow removal operations in order to provide the student-athletes the best possible surface they could given the conditions and time of year. Thank you to those that made this happen.

The Association has a policy banning the use of artificial noise-makers. For those locations that put the word out to inform their fans of this policy - THANK YOU. We know that it is a difficult task to monitor and 'police' the fans in an outdoor activity.

The enforcement of the policy has not been high on the expectation list of the hosts because it is an outdoor activity. It is strictly enforced in an indoor event because of the loudness of the noise-makers in a gymnasium setting. As well, there have been all types of 'instruments' used in the past.

Saying that, a few reports received from this weekend's provincial championships have brought the attention of artificial noise-makers

back into discussion. The Association has not focused on this policy in the past because it was an outdoor activity. However, there did seem to be some occurrences of these noise-makers being used in a way that is unbecoming of the educational philosophy of school sport.

The use of artificial noise-makers at professional football games is tolerated and in fact encouraged. Often, the home team pipes the artificial noise into the stadium to increase the discomfort level for the visiting team, especially the when the offense is attempting to communicate through their cadence.

This tactic however is not becoming of high school football. It is when these artificial noise-makers are used for this purpose that the Association must draw the line. The Association encourages good play by both teams and the visiting team should have every opportunity to call their cadences to their teammates in order to be the best that they can be. Should there be a great catch, a great tackle or a first-down gained, I am not opposed to a collection of voices, hands and possibly some noise-makers. However, when the opposition is attempting to communicate using audibles at the line while going through snap counts, there should be no attempt at disruption of the signal caller. Save this for Rider games.



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