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***“The purpose of the SHSAA is to foster educational opportunities for all students through interschool sport.”***

## January 2021 Newsletter

Looking for inspiration to begin the January 2021 newsletter, I turned to past newsletters only to realize once again that the spring and fall of 2020 were unlike any in our Association's history. Past newsletters highlighted the fall championships and dedicated efforts of SHSAA volunteers. Then, the stage would get set for the wonderful opportunities that would be available to student athletes during the winter and spring seasons of play. As we know, there are no fall championships to celebrate and it is unlikely that there will be activity playoffs to look forward to in the near future, but 2020 has provided a reflective look at school sport.

Although there are few similarities between these past nine months and each year that has preceded, there has been one emerging theme from around the province; our students (and may I say, our teacher-coaches) need and value the opportunity to be involved in school sport. Even without championships to pursue, it was evident that participation and opportunity are key to the educational experience of those involved in school sport. There were various levels of involvement around the province and the story was the same – our student athletes and teacher coaches were significantly missing the opportunity to be involved in school sport. In areas where school sport was possible at the local level, organizers were pleased to see the number of students that wanted to be involved. One of the best examples were Soccer rosters that ballooned from the traditional 20 participants to over 60.

The vast majority of our students are simply looking for someone to be on their side and give them the chance to be involved. Although coaching experience is always a respected element of school sport, it is important to realize that one does not have to be a sport expert to be a coach. Coaches, like student athletes, will learn the skills and strategies of the games through success and failure if given the opportunity to become involved. The individual growth that can happen for both student and teacher-coach is significant, and the rewards of the relationship established in the extra-curricular setting that carries over to the classroom setting cannot be emphasized enough.

For those that were able to provide school sport, thank you once again for your unselfish volunteerism. And, for those that were not able to be involved, we missed you very much and can't wait for the opportunity when we will all be working together again to continue the great traditions of school sport.



### **Bids to Host 2021-22**

Bids due April 16, 2021: **Golf, X-Country, 3A Boys Soccer, 5A Girls Soccer, 3A Boys Volleyball, 5A Boys Volleyball**

### **Sport Advisory Groups**

The Executive Council has finalized the 2020-21 Sport Advisory Groups. The groups can be viewed by using the quick links available at [shsaa.ca](http://shsaa.ca) or by [clicking here](#).

### **Concussion Protocol**

The Executive has approved an updated Concussion Protocol that is to be followed during SHSAA sanctioned activities. The updated document is available using quick links at [shsaa.ca](http://shsaa.ca) or by [clicking here](#).

### **Professional Development Opportunities**

There are many PD opportunities available to officials, teachers and coaches. The SHSAA office has compiled a comprehensive databank of these opportunities. You can find all details by using quick links at [shsaa.ca](http://shsaa.ca) or by [clicking here](#).

With all of that, welcome to 2021. The SHSAA office staff and Executive wish you a Happy New Year and the hope that through science and team work we will all overcome the pandemic and come out on the other side of it ready to continue providing educational athletics to the students of Saskatchewan.

District Executive representatives met at the annual Presidents' meeting conducted virtually on December 3. Presidents and Athletic Commissioners will be reporting back to all schools in their respective districts on the discussions that took place. Of significance is the refresh of the SHSAA constitution, bylaws, and policies as these documents need to be approved at the June 2021 Annual General Meeting. The documents will not change the objectives and values of SHSAA, or the manner in which the business of the Association is conducted but will result in an alignment with the current Non-profit Corporations Act and hopefully provide for continued efficiencies within the SHSAA. In addition, the Presidents were provided information on the updated Concussion Protocol, registrations for winter activities, and hosting obligations/opportunities for the next two years of school sport.

District Officials Commissioners and Referee-in-Chiefs met virtually on December 2. District representatives provided a summary of their fall activities with a purpose of compiling a list of best-practices to be implemented for winter and spring activities if they are allowed to occur. Officiating representatives from Sask Volleyball and Saskatchewan Association of Basketball Officials liaised with the District Representatives to continue to build on positive relationships between the organizations and work together to provide continued recruitment, retention, and advancement of officiating in Saskatchewan with a focus on mentorship and online learning. An overview of the [TrueSport "No Ref, No Game"](#) campaign was discussed.

SHSAA was saddened to hear of the passing of Lorne Aston (Merit Award 1977, SHSAA Executive 1970-80). The former Sheldon Williams teacher-coach and RHSAA commissioner had a significant impact on school sport in Saskatchewan. Lorne's legacy continues through student scholarships that are presented annually by RHSAA. Please refer to the [SHSAA Merit Award history document](#) to see a brief account of Lorne's many contributions to SHSAA.



## SHSAA Sponsors & Funders



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### WISC (Women in Sport Conference)

COVID-19 has meant changes to the traditional format of bringing together delegates from around the province for a two-day conference of activity, leadership, and personal growth opportunities. **The conference will now be conducted using a virtual meeting format and will be held on March 4, 2021.** This year's focus will be on career paths. More details, including registration procedures, will be made available in the coming days.

### SHSAA AGM Reminders

SHSAA awards (Merit, Service, Coaching, Officials) will be announced leading up to AGM. If you have someone in mind that you would like to nominate, please contact your district as soon as possible (April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline). You can find awards information by visiting pages 152-155 of the SHSAA Handbook or by [clicking here](#) and viewing page 81 of SHSAA policies.

The following SHSAA Executive positions are up for election at the AGM: President, Section 2, Section 4, Saskatoon, Women's Rep. Please contact the SHSAA office for nomination forms.

### Federal Emergency Support Funds

Thank you to Heritage Canada for the additional funds that have been provided to sporting agencies across the country. As a result, Sask Sport was able to pass along some additional funding to Saskatchewan sport organizations to help offset some of the financial losses caused by COVID-19.

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### CIAAA

Congratulations to Margie Gibson who has joined the Board of Directors for CIAAA as the Saskatchewan representative. Margie has indicated that details of the virtual National Conference will be available early in the New Year. For the latest information from CIAAA please visit [www.ciaaa.ca](http://www.ciaaa.ca) A reminder to activate your membership with CIAAA.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

The Association has developed a package of information to share with potential sponsors outlining the benefits at various levels of sponsorship opportunities that are available. If you are aware of organizations that may be a good partner in providing sponsorship for SHSAA, please contact the SHSAA office.