



SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

2025 OFFICIAL AMENDMENT BALLOT

The deadline for the return of this ballot is **May 31, 2025**. In order to pass, a proposal must receive a 60% favorable vote. Please refer to the accompanying document for the text of the amendment and the rationale that was given at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

To ADD Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D (Scholastic/Academic Rule) of the SDHSAA By-Laws. (Current subsection D becomes subsection E) and Amend Chapter I, Part IV, Section 3 of the SDHSAA By-Laws

☒ Yes

☐ No

Brookings School District
Name of Member School

5/12/25
Date

Signature (Superintendent or Principal)

Signature (School Board President)

Unless there are TWO signatures, this ballot will be unacceptable and declared void.

BALLOTS DUE: May 31, 2025

**SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
AMENDMENT #2**

ADD Chapter 1, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D and Amend Chapter I, Part IV Section 3 of the SDHSAA By-Laws as follows:

Chapter I, Part IV, Section I, Subsection D addition:

- D. Four Semester/Six Trimester Middle School Participation Rule.** Middle school students shall be eligible for four consecutive semesters OR six consecutive trimesters of high school interscholastic competition while enrolled in grades 7-8. The four semesters/six trimesters begin when the student enrolls as a 7th grader or is a student enrolled in alternative instruction as set forth in SDCL 13-27-3, must be consecutive, and are not dependent upon actual participation in high school level interscholastic competition (the four semesters/six trimesters start at enrollment/recognition as a 7th grader, not upon participation in high school competition).

SECTION 3. SEVENTH AND EIGHTH GRADE CONTESTANTS. Member schools may use seventh and eighth grade students on high school teams for high school contests provided they meet scholastic standards fully equivalent to those required for students in grades 9-12 by the Association. 7th and 8th grade alternative instruction students satisfy SDHSAA scholastic standards via compliance with SDCL 13-27-3 and submission of transcripts per SDCL 13-36-7. **NOTE-** Semester/trimester limitations on middle school students are found in Chapter I, Part IV, Section 1, Subsection D of the SDHSAA By-Laws.

Rationale: The addition of Section D uses the same standards that we use for high school participation in the eight semester/twelve trimester rule and applies them to middle school. Students get four semesters/six trimesters of participation in high school athletics while in grades 7 and 8, beginning with the fall of their 7th grade year, followed by eight semesters/twelve trimesters of eligibility in high school athletics while in grades 9-12, beginning with the fall of their freshman year. This prevents potential “redshirting” of 8th grade students prior to them entering the 9th grade.

The language in Section 3 was an omission from the past and notes that 7th and 8th grade alternative instruction participants satisfy scholastic standards the same way 9-12th grade alternative instruction students satisfy scholastic standards, via compliance with SDCL.