SPORT PROPOSALS
(Require majority vote of those voting)

S1 – BASKETBALL MAXIMUM NUMBER CONTESTS

AMEND THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS to read:

3010. MAXIMUM NUMBER CONTESTS

Member schools that are in a classification that does not have a district tournament shall not participate in more than 23 games, exclusive of region and state contests during a season. Member schools that are in a classification that has a district tournament shall not participate in more than 19 games, exclusive of district, regional and state contests during a season. No member school shall permit any of its sub-varsity basketball teams to participate in more than 19 games.

5A member schools that are in a classification that does not have a district tournament shall not participate in more than 23 games, exclusive of regional and state contests during the season. 4A member school that are in a classification that does not have a district tournament shall not participate in more than 19 games, exclusive of regional and state contest during the season. Member schools that are in a classification that has a district tournament shall not participate in more than 19 games, exclusive of district, regional and state contest during a season. No member school shall permit any of its sub-varsity basketball teams to participate in more than 19 games.

Rationale: This affects the 4A classification only. Currently, 4A varsity teams are allowed to participate in 23 games while sub-varsity is only allowed to compete in 19 games. The disparity in games allowed between levels was created when the district tournament was eliminated at the 4A/5A level, allowing all varsity teams in those classifications to play 23 games, whereas previously only those teams that qualified for post-season play earned the opportunity to play more games.

Until recently, basketball was the only sport that allowed more games for varsity athletes than for sub-varsity athletes and it was the only sport that was allowed more than 19 contests per team. The current season allows for an average of more than 2 games per week, whereby eliminating four games will deduce that average insignificantly. Fewer games will allow for more classroom time for student-athletes involved in basketball.

In the current economic times where educational budgets are shrinking and athletic budgets are being cut significantly, it is becoming increasingly difficult to find and schedule as many as 9 non-league games without facing exorbitant costs in terms of entry fees, transportation costs and employee costs (game worker, custodians, officials, etc.) A reduction in the number of matches allowed can save athletic budgets for basketball up to 20% of their current costs.
In the current schedule, at least 32 4A teams will be playing basketball in the same week that spring contests begin. Those athletes competing in 4A post-season basketball may miss up to 20% of their spring sports season. This significant impact can be alleviated by playing 4 fewer games and moving post reason up one or two weeks.

**Pros:**
1. Equalize the number of contests allowed between varsity and sub-varsity teams.
2. Educationally friendly, minimizing the amount of time out of school and minimizing travel time.
3. Budget friendly, minimizing the costs for the season (fewer entry fees, official/worker pay, transportation costs).
4. In line with the majority of other sports.
5. Allows for a shorter season for basketball, minimizing the interference with the start of spring sports.

**Cons:**
1. Fewer games for varsity athletes
2. Disparity between classifications in the number of games allowed.