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**(Neb.)-NSAA board approves changes**

By: Andrew Lacy Posted at: 04/12/2013 05:24 PM

The Nebraska School Activities Association Board of Directors met Friday and approved a number of changes that will take affect over the next two seasons.



Among the decisions affecting teams in the KCSR/KBPY coverage area is a change to the playoff format for Class C1 and C2 football to match Classes A and B. Starting in 2014, all four 11 man classes will play a nine game schedule with 16 teams qualifying for the playoffs.

The board has also added a mercy rule for basketball. Starting next season there will be a running clock when one team leads by at least 40 points in the second half. Had the rule been in effect for the past season it would have been used in at least six Chadron girls games.

Other changes affecting area schools is an increase in the distance for girls state cross country from 4,000 meters to 5,000, matching the boys distance and Class D cross country will now have six districts.

Other changes approved by the board include expanding the volleyball and soccer playoffs for Class B only to add a 16 team substate tournament before the regular eight team state tournament. The board also approved changes to districts for Class A football and Class B baseball.