



Horizon Central Athletic Association (HCAA)

History of the HCAA

The Horizon Central Athletic Association (HCAA) was founded in the fall of 2006 in response to the amalgamation of school divisions in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) was directed by their membership to divide the province into 14 Districts which would correspond directly with the 12 newly-formed rural school divisions (the other two Districts being Saskatoon and Regina). All schools located within the geographical boundaries of each of these 12 newly-formed rural school divisions would belong to that District, regardless of the form of governance of each school. Thus, the boundaries of the HCAA were drawn to follow the geographical boundaries of the Horizon School Division, and initially included 45 schools from Horizon School Division as well as 10 schools not in Horizon School Division. The resultant new District – the HCAA – was comprised of schools from four previous Districts:

- thirty-four schools came from the Central District (CDAA)
- eight schools came from the North East District
- seven schools came from the East Central District
- five schools came from the North Central District
- one school came from the Qu'Appelle Valley District

Four of the five previous Districts would maintain existence; the Central District (CDAA) was dissolved. Most schools from the former CDAA became part of Horizon Central while a handful became part of Central Valley, West Central, and South Central Districts. A link to some CDAA archives can be found on the HCAA home page.

The name "Horizon Central Athletic Association" was the result of the correlation to the boundaries of the Horizon School Division - thus the use of "Horizon" - and the SHSAA's suggestion to have Districts retain some geographical reference to their position on the provincial map - hence the term "Central".

The First Year (2006-2007)

The first HCAA meeting was held at Lanigan Central High School on June 28, 2006. It was at this meeting that the name "HCAA" was finalized, the makeup of an Executive decided, and the first ever Executive chosen. The first HCAA executive was comprised of:

- President – Marvin Renneberg (Muenster)
- Secretary – Bill Ruetz (Foam Lake)
- Treasurer – Garth Anderson (Foam Lake)
- Officials Commissioner – Brian Grest (Lanigan)

The major tasks in the first school year were:

- writing the HCAA Constitution and Bylaws (undertaken largely by Marvin Renneberg)
- creating HCAA Policy (many individuals from a number of schools contributed)
- establishing the modes of funding HCAA activities
- finalizing the format and structure of HCAA championships
- purchasing District track/cross country singlets

2007-2008

The second school year saw a few key changes to the HCAA. The make up of the HCAA executive was expanded with the addition of "quadrant reps", bringing the number of executive members to eight. The newly-elected executive members were:

- NW – Lyle Gartner (Wakaw)
- NE – Darin Faubert (Wadena)
- SW – Bryce Krawetz (Strasbourg)
- SE – Greg Pelletier (Raymore)

The length of the terms of all executive positions was defined, as was the year in which each position comes up for election.

The Horizon School Division hired a fulltime "Administrator of Student Activities" (ASA) and sanctioned the ASA's active role as an "executive officer" of the HCAA, alleviating much of the time pressures placed on the commissioners of District events and especially the District President. As a result of this hiring, the ASA, Brian Grest, stepped down from his voting position on the HCAA executive (officials commissioner), and was replaced by Kent Lessmeister (St. Brieux).

The second year also saw the HCAA website up and running.

2008-2009

Four new executive members took over, all in the role as quadrant reps:

- NW – Trevor Otsig (Middle Lake) replaced Lyle Gartner
- NE – Kellie McClellan (Quill Lake) replaced Darin Faubert
- SW – Jeff Stroeder (Lanigan) replaced Bryce Krawetz
- SE – Richard Rink (Wynyard) replaced Greg Pelletier

Golf saw some major changes, as guidelines were added to policy pertaining to a golfer's prerequisite experience and scoring, and the team scoring system in jr. golf was changed to the same system as used in cross country.

Cross Country saw the addition of a new category ("Wee Pee") which essentially broke the Pee Wee category into two groups.

2009-2010

Two new executive members took over, both in the role as quadrant reps:

NW – Curtis Strueby (Lake Lenore) replaced Trevor Otsig

SW – Rob Kurbis (Holdfast) replaced Jeff Stroeder

7 v 7 soccer became an SHSAA category. This was very beneficial to many of our HCAA programs.

The official net height for HCAA junior girls volleyball was changed from 2.10m to 2.15m.

In track, the HCAA added the Bantam Quadathlon for a one year trial.

2010-2011

Three new executive members took over, all in the role as quadrant reps:

NW – Ryan Bender (Bruno School) replaced Curtis Strueby

SW – Barry Croshaw (Watrous) replaced Rob Kurbis

SE – Travis Flahr (Raymore) replaced Richard Rink

Junior Pre-District golf became a 9-hole event (previously 18).

The “team” category in HCAA Junior Golf was eliminated.

In track, the HCAA 3000m event was changed to a single event, combining the pre-district and district competition.

In track, schools were now allowed to enter three athletes per event (previously two).

In track, the Bantam (HCAA) and Senior (HCAA and SHSAA) Quadathlon became official events. The HCAA was the driving force in getting the Senior Quadathlon recognized as an official SHSAA event.

2011-2012

The year started on very solemn note with one of our executive members, Kent Lessmeister, passing away suddenly in October. Jim Lissinna (Kelvington) graciously stepped in to finish the term as Officials Commissioner.

Barry Croshaw moved from quadrant rep to President, taking over from Marvin Renneberg who had retired from teaching. Three other new executive members took over, all in the role as quadrant reps:

NW – Brent Stewart (Cudworth) replaced Ryan Bender
NE – Cary Franklin (Kelvington) replaced Kellie McLellan
SW – Rob Kurbis (Holdfast) replaced Barry Croshaw

2012-2013

The Kent Lessmeister Memorial Scholarship was created in honor of the recently deceased HCAA executive member Kent Lessmeister

In golf and badminton, grade nines were now permitted to enter HCAA playdowns as both a junior and senior (previously had to choose one or the other).

In golf, the HCAA implemented a “maximum score” rule for each hole to speed up play.

2013-2014

Five new executive members took over:

Treasurer – Travis Flahr (Raymore) replaced Garth Anderson
Officials Commissioner – Tessa Jordan (Wynyard) replaced Jim Lissinna
NW – Gary Pachkowski (St. Brieux) replaced Brent Stewart
NE – Trevor Smith (Rose Valley) replaced Cary Franklin
SE – Terry Leibel (Wynyard) replaced Travis Flahr (moved to Treasurer)

By SHSAA policy, the Respect in Sport course and a concussion course became mandatory for every senior coach, assistant coach, and supervisor. The HCAA followed suit for every junior coach, assistant coach, and supervisor.

The HCAA’s motion to the SHSAA to split 9-man football 2 categories took effect.

The Junior and Junior “B” Volleyball District Championships were permanently moved to a weekday afternoon, with only one team advancing out of each Pre-District (previously two).

Junior Basketball HCAA playdowns adopted a “final 16” bracket draw after schools instead of a Saturday championship tournament. This was a temporary move that became permanent.

Junior District Badminton was moved to two weekday afternoons (instead of one full Saturday). This was a temporary move that became permanent.

A motion was passed to eliminate the relays from the District track meet. They would be reinstated the following year.

2014-2015

Two new executive members took over, both in the role as quadrant reps:

NW – Rex Selby (Bruno) replaced Gary Pachkowski

SE – Richard Rink (Wynyard) replaced Terry Leibel

By SHSAA policy, the Fundamentals of Coaching course became mandatory for every non-teacher coach, assistant coach, and supervisor who would not be working with a teacher-supervisor present at all times. The HCAA followed suit for every junior coach, assistant coach, and supervisor.

In cross country for this school year only, no Pre-District meets were held. All runners advanced to Districts.

A motion was passed to purchase new track/cross country uniforms. Local credit unions were asked to sponsor and donate, and their positive response made the purchase possible.

In track, a motion passed that advanced the top two school teams in the Pee Wee and Bantam 4x100m relays from Pre-Districts to Districts. No other relay teams would advance or be chosen from the Pre-District meets. Instead, for the Midget, Junior, and Senior 4x100m relays and the 4x400m relays, a selection committee would chose the provincial team athletes through the day and they would run an exhibition race at the end of the District meet.

2015-2016

HCAA population fees increased to \$1.25 per eligible grade 7-12 student (up from \$1.00)

HCAA teams fees increased to \$25 per team (up from \$20).

Archery was added as a sanctioned HCAA activity.

A motion was passed to eliminate the “earliest start dates” for junior curling, junior basketball, and junior badminton practices.

2016-2017

One new executive member took over:

Secretary – Kerri Archibald (Humboldt) replaced Bill Ruetz

The HCAA eliminated Sand Golf (both senior and junior) as an activity, a direct result of sand golf being dissolved at the SHSAA level.

The HCAA launched its Twitter page.

The HCAA hosted the SHSAA AGM in Humboldt.

2017-2018

Two new executive members took over, both in the role as quadrant reps:

NW – Blair Wourms (Annaheim) replaced Rex Selby

SE – Jared Smidt (Ituna) replaced Richard Rink

The HCAA now required that all mandatory coaching documentation be submitted to the ASA and kept on file.

The definition of “mixed” curling for HCAA juniors was changed to also allow 3 of one gender and 1 of the other gender.

The new HCAA webpage was launched.

Archery Districts were to have been held in Humboldt in conjunction NASP Provincials, but the Humboldt Broncos bus crash tragedy caused the event to move to Melville.

Those archery teams unable to change plans to Melville were allowed to shoot at home and submit their scores.

Track pre-districts were moved to three sites (previously four).

2018-2019

One new executive member took over:

Secretary – Curtis Strueby (Lake Lenore)

Charging of gate admission was eliminated for all HCAA championship events.

The District Track Championship was held in Humboldt as Saskatoon’s new stadium was not yet spectator-friendly.

2019-2020

Curtis Strueby (Lake Lenore) moved into the position of President, replacing Barry Croshaw. Croshaw would remain on the executive for 2019-2020 as Past President. Ryan Trumbley (St. Brieux) was elected as Secretary, taking Strueby’s previous position.

District Team Fees would now be invoiced by the HCAA, not the SHSAA.

The “Team Championship” was eliminated at HCAA senior golf Districts as a result of the SHSAA no longer doing so at Provincials.

Doubles Curling was added as a fourth category at the HCAA junior and senior level.

For HCAA Junior Curling, a rule allowing two interactions per end was introduced on a trial basis.

HCAA Badminton, Archery, and Track playdowns were all canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020-2021

The HCAA purchased a 3-sided tent for use at cross country and track.

For HCAA Junior Curling, the rule allowing two interactions per end was adopted as permanent.

HCAA Junior Basketball adopted the 24-second shot clock (previously 30) and 8-second back court (previously 8) rules.