

## **POINTS TO PONDER:**

The following points have been designed to address perceived challenges to the proposal.

### **1. ELIGIBILITY:**

Please note that the age categories would be different from those used in track and cross-country. This is because the midget category in those sports falls primarily upon Grade 9's and only those few Grade 10's who happen to have 'late' birthdays. While those sports seem to be designed for a '4-year' involvement at provincials, most Grade 10's would fall into the Junior category.

Depending on individual District philosophies, this badminton proposal could create a '4-year' involvement if Districts hold their Junior Championships prior to their Senior Championships. However, the proposed age categories for badminton would allow for a '3-year' high school involvement without 'poaching' Grade 9's from existing junior programs. In this proposal, most high school-aged student athletes would get to have one season in each of the three categories. (Keep in mind that the small % of 'late birthday' students would not get a midget year; rather, one season at junior and two seasons at senior.)

### **2. TIME AWAY FROM THE BUILDING / TRAVEL / HOTELS:**

In the current model, schools need to travel greater distances to Regionals and Provincials some years, but not so much in other years. That's why we vote on bids to host. In the years that require more travel, there may be Friday travel and Friday hotel rooms involved. That would still be the case.

In order to triple the number of matches, but avoid single day Regional & Provincial Championships that create the need for Saturday hotel rooms as well, the obvious move would be to adjust the draw to 1.5 days.

In considering the obvious concerns that our LEADS partners might have about missed class time for both coaches and athletes, the sample draws involving Friday play all have the Coaches' Meeting/Opening Ceremonies between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. with court play occurring between 6:00 and 8:30 Friday night.

This creates a scenario where only some schools would need the full day to travel. Others might require only the afternoon (½ day subs/coverage), while others will not miss any school. It also alleviates Host Schools having to deal with visiting athletes in the building during the school day on Friday. School can carry on, uninterrupted.

Some Regional championships might require earlier start times, and coach/athlete instruction sessions at BOTH venues in order to avoid travel between venues after the opening instructions (see samples).

### 3. HOSTING BIDS:

The obvious comparison would be with curling, where sometimes the Provincial Championships are split two or three directions into two or three separate hosting facilities or communities. This would obviously put a strain on coaches as they can't be in multiple communities or places at once.

This is where the trade-off occurs. Would you rather be able to coach all of your athletes/teams in one site or would you rather more athletes/teams from your school get to compete at the Provincial Championship level (and you find someone else to help coach that weekend)?

Ideally, some would prefer to have one site with 8-12 courts. Coaches might have to travel between gyms, but at least it's all in one community.

However, everyone with enough courts and seating should be able to have a fair shot to host, so we've looked at many different hosting scenarios, and have designed possibilities to try to keep all potential hosts involved without anyone losing an opportunity to bid.

Just as before, the minimum # of courts needed would be 4-6 courts **to host any single category**. That category would be played on the Saturday only. It would involve the existing draw, with an Open Gym at 9:00. The Coaches Meeting, followed by an Opening Ceremony, get the first matches on the floor for 10:00a.m.

**Bidding to host multiple categories** would require two venues with 8-12 courts combined between them. Two such venues could handle the entire three-category Provincial (or Regional) Championship.

We've created a number of sample draws so that people could 'see' the logistics of hosting all three categories; either within the same big school, or within the same small city; or between two close neighbouring schools (like in volleyball).

Basically, if all categories were to be hosted between two venues, the draw would have to be changed to 1.5 days to accommodate an 8-court or 9-court facility. Host sites with either 10 or 12 courts could host the Provincial Championship in a single day, although we did 1.5 day events for those facilities as well just in case people wanted to see them.

Where travel would be necessary between venues, time has been factored in to the sample draws at 20-30 minutes.

#### **4. INCREASED COSTS TO PROGRAMS:**

As for the basics of travel, teams will still have one trip there and one trip back. Perhaps more if you need to shuttle kids across town/city or in between two close towns hosting.

The draws still should allow for only one night of hotels where necessary. These costs already existed, but you might require another room or two.

However, with triple the athletes and triple the matches will come triple the travel and hotels in some years. While much of this will be spread out and possibly 'absorbed' throughout individual schools in rural situations, it would stand to reason that the Districts comprised of cities-only (Saskatoon, Regina), as well as the major cities found within Districts will most likely incur the larger share of the cost increases.

On the other hand, in the current system, only 8 athletes from the entire city of Saskatoon (or Regina) get to go to a Provincial Championship each year.

Again, this is where the trade-off occurs. Is it worth the costs to expose triple the number of athletes to Regional and Provincial Championships?

#### **5. INCREASED COSTS TO THE ASSOCIATION:**

Costs to the association should be minimal:

Medals...48 more...Sponsored?

Shuttles ...Sponsored?

Current officials cost is for 1 venue; 1-day at \$60/day

2 venues;1-day would require \$60 more

3 venues;1-day would require \$120 more

2 venues – 2 day would require \$180 more

SHSAA Executive Representation at each venue – PRICELESS ☺

#### **BUT THE TRADE-OFF:**

**INCREASED EXPOSURE = INCREASED ENTOURAGE = INCREASED GATE!!!!**

**PROCEEDS COULD BE SHARED BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE HOST SCHOOLS.**

## 6. MOVING BACKWARDS THROUGH REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Regional Playoffs mimic the Provincial Playoffs, with anywhere from one to three host venues. This would require some communication within the Series (Section Reps). Regional Championships would remain as Single-Day events; however, **hosts to bid for multiple age categories would require a minimum of 8 courts split between two venues.**

With geography being more of a guarantee, could the Regional Championship start at 9:00 where needed (8-9 courts) in order to accommodate a single-day event and avoid the need for Saturday hotels (or Friday hotels for everyone by avoiding moving to 1.5 day events)? Teams who were already travelling the night before Regionals and utilizing hotels were already doing that, so no change.

Do the Districts involved in each Region (Series A,B,C, &D) have host sites available to accommodate? Not having been in every gym in the province, please consider some of the possibilities that may exist:

### Region A

SW	Swift Current
SC	MJ Peacock, MJ Riverview, MJ Vanier
WC	Biggar?, Outlook?
Regina	YES!

### Region B

SE	Estevan, Weyburn, Oxbow/Carnduff
QV	Balgonie/White City
HC	Humboldt/Bruno/Muenster, Middle Lake/Lake Lenore
EC	Melville Comp/St. Henry's, Yorkton Regional, Yorkton Sacred Heart

### Region C

NE	Nipawin/Carrot River, Melfort, Tisdale/Star City, Creighton/Flin Flon
NC	PACI, PA Carlton, PA St. Mary's
Saskatoon	YES!

### Region D

CV	Martensville, Warman, Dalmeny, Langham, Osler K-9/VCA
BW	NB JP II, NBCHS, Unity/Wilkie
NW	Paradise Hill, Lloyd Comp, Meadow Lake Carpenter/Jonas Samson

## **7. PRESSURE ON 'BIG-VENUE' HOSTS WITHIN SERIES A,B,C,D:**

If the same centres with large venues seem to be used most years due to the 'ease of operation', the drain of hosting could become taxing.

Why couldn't another School/District from within the Region agree to commission the Regional Championship at those same large venues, thereby taking pressure off of the same people from 'always' hosting?

This is current practice already in some Districts. Badminton events are quite simple to run, and would not require many people (as compared to the required bodies necessary if another group were needed to take over for a track meet, for instance).

## **8. MOVING BACKWARDS THROUGH DISTRICT & LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

We don't want to mandate what individual Districts and Leagues might do in order to determine their two reps per category into Regional playoffs.

However, we have looked at the impact in our particular District:

We have 5 leagues. Currently, each league feeds two entries/category.

If this resolution passes, we would change it to one entry/age class/category from each league.

This would create one pool of 5 for each category/age group.

We could either just play the pool without playoffs (150 matches) or play the pool with the 1<sup>st</sup> place team advancing while the 2<sup>nd</sup> vs 3<sup>rd</sup> play for the second seed in each category (165 matches). Either way, we could do it as a single-day event in any of the large-venue hosts that currently host our District Championship each year. Sometimes, we rotate who comes in to run the event there.

## **9. EFFECT ON THE EXHIBITION SEASON:**

The proposal is not trying to triple the workload across the entire season. The intent is not to make schools host three tournaments instead of the one they currently host. Nor is it for them to host the three formal age categories. School tournaments could still remain the same size by hosting 'open categories' and inviting the same number of teams as they had been doing during the exhibition season.

If the sport does see a surge in athletes, there may exist opportunities to change how we host our exhibition tournaments. Many strong programs often have multiple teams travelling on the same day to different tournaments already. Perhaps those programs 'in-the-loop' may decide to host certain age-group events, so that between those schools that host, all categories get covered.

There are many future possibilities, including the fact that some of the schools who never host might find the 'gumption' to do so as the need arises 😊.