

Making the Case for the Value of State Associations

*Que Tucker, Commissioner
North Carolina High School
Athletic Association*

*Erich Martens, Executive Director
Minnesota State High School League*

**San Antonio
June 29, 2022**

State Association Defined

- Governing organization
- Usually not-for-profit
- Organizing body for state championships
- Sets policies and procedures – levels the playing field
- Provide consistent rules across the state
- Provide consistent disciplinary procedures (penalties, fines)



At the Bare Minimum for the Student-Athlete

- Provides opportunities for fair and wholesome participation in education-based athletics
- Provides structure for LEAs to promote self-respect and self-esteem through sports and athletics
- Provides skill-building



. . . but do we want to stop there?

State Association Mini Goals:

- Promote overall development (mind, body, spirit)
- Promote good sportsmanship by all
- Promote citizenship and sense of community
- Provide for development of leadership skills
- Teach core values



Beyond the Student-Athlete

- Increase popularity of all sports
- Introduce new sports
- Increase media coverage
- Provide training for contest officials
 - Embrace national directives
 - Support national vision
 - Provide guidance and support



Mission and Beliefs

- Common Language and Standards for Decision-Making
 - “Provide educational experiences through education-based fine arts and athletic opportunities.”
 - “Provide leadership and support for member schools.”
- Purpose Based Operations



Health and Safety

- Require and Propagate Health Standards
- Requirements for Coaches
- Rely on Sports Medicine Advisory Committees
- Bring Forward New Safety Initiatives



Support Coaches and Administrators

- Leadership and Assistance in Difficult Situations
- Consistent and Frequent Communication
- Coach Education Courses
- New Administrator Training
- Regional Meetings



Added Values

- Camaraderie with peers (student-athletes and adults)
- Insurance coverage
- Annual awards
- Scholarship programs
- Sports industry publications



And now a word from **your**
association experience . . .



What Executive Directors Said

1. Provide education-based experiences in activities and athletics
2. Provide the rules, regulations, and oversight that make these experiences fair and equitable
3. Insure that these experiences are safe and in the proper scope.
4. Serve as an educational resource for our coaches, officials, and administrators.
5. Teach Leadership, Teamwork and Sportsmanship



**AND
THE
SURVEY
SAYS...**