

# Central District Athletic Association (CDAA) 1948-1949 (?) to 2005-2006

**NOTE:** Some of the above information has been attained from *Fifty Years of Athletics in Education: A History of the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association*, 1999, Andrews, Gary (published by the SHSAA).

The Central District Athletic Association (originally “Central District Athletic Conference”) was likely formed in the 1948-1949 school year (1947-1948 at the earliest) as a result of the early work done by the province’s Fitness and Recreation Division under the guidance of Dr. J. B. Kirkpatrick and E. W. Stinson. John Farthing was the provincial representative for what was then the CDAC, and was instrumental in guiding the district in its formative years.

The earliest minutes found as of this writing were from the spring of 1954. There is, however, reference to the Humboldt boys curling team winning provincials in 1949 and track athletes attaining medals, which suggests the 1948-1949 school year may have been the first year for what was then the CDAC. This year would also be consistent with the first year of other districts in conjunction with the provincial directive.

Most of the meetings in the formative years were held at the YMCA in Saskatoon.

The CDAC was originally comprised of the following school divisions:

- Davidson SD
- East Saskatoon SD (shortly after becoming Saskatoon East SD)
- Govan SD (later to become Last Mountain SD)
- Humboldt SD (later to become Humboldt Rural SD, Humboldt Catholic, and Humboldt Collegiate)
- Lanigan SD
- Watrous SD (later to become Long Lake SD)

When Humboldt schools split into three governing bodies, they continued to be represented in the CDAA as if a single school division. Long Lake and Last Mountain School Divisions amalgamated into Sask Central School Division in the mid-1990s.

The 1957 spring meeting minutes include the first reference to the change from “Central District Athletic Conference” to “Central District Athletic Association”, although not by means of a motion. It appears the change to CDAA was effective at that point.

Originally, there were three parts to the CDAC: athletics, drama, and oratory. In 1962 it was decided drama and oratory should have separate governing bodies, so the Central District Athletic Association began to take the shape that it would operate under for the next 45 years.

The earliest CDAC-sponsored activities were track and both boys and girls curling. They were likely part of the probable first school year (1948-1949). In the mid-fifties, the meeting minutes have references to basketball, volleyball, soccer, tennis, 6-man tackle football (originally rugby), and flag football. It is not clear what year any of these became CDAA-sponsored activities but there is mention in the meeting minutes of:

- tennis as a sponsored activity in 1953-1954 (and Punnichy being district champions in tennis in 1954-1955)
- soccer as a sponsored activity in 1954-1955
- boys touch rugby, boys basketball, and boys volleyball as sponsored activities in 1954-1955
- 6-man tackle football as a sponsored activity in 1956-1957 (likely started earlier)
- 6-man touch football as a sponsored activity in 1958-1959

In the 1955-1956 minutes, it appears that district championships were declared only for girls curling and track.

In the 1958-1959 minutes, it appears that district champions were going to now be declared in both boys and girls volleyball.

The following people are known or believed to have served as president of the CDAA:

- (unknown) 1948-1949 to 1952-1953
- Howard Birnie (Watrous) 1953-1954 to 1954-1955
- F. Whittle (Semans) 1955-1956
- Frank Royal (Watrous) 1956-1957
- Frank Shields (Lanigan) 1957-1958
- Sig Ottenbreit (Allan) 1958-1959
- Peter Kachur (Humboldt) 1960-1961 to 1961-1962
- (unknown) 1962-1963 to 1971-1972
- R. Noete (Lake Lenore) 1972-1973
- (unknown) 1973-1974
- Jack Seel (Humboldt) 1974-1975
- D. Babey (Hanley) 1975-1976
- Lloyd Howey (Kenaston) 1976-1977
- Grant Staples 1977-1978
- Lowell Lanigan (Strasbourg) 1978-1979 to 1987-1988
- Bob Weber (Young) 1987-1988 to 1991-1992
- Kenn Strass (Watrous) 1992-1993
- Brian Grest (Davidson/Hanley) 1993-1994 to 2005-2006

In the mid 1970s, Lloyd Howey spearheaded a major revision of the Constitution for the CDAA.

***UNDER CONSTRUCTION:*** CDAA teams had great success at the SHSAA provincial level in the 56-or-so years of their existence. A full list of all SHSAA provincial champions can be found at <https://www.shsaa.ca/page/show/811932-results>. A list of all CDAA medalists will hopefully be included here in the future.

***UNDER CONSTRUCTION:*** Very little information has been preserved for the CDAA from 1959-1960 to its dissolution in 2005-2006. If/when more information is attained, more history will be added here.