

**NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1161 Route 130 North Robbinsville New Jersey 08691**

**BASKETBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 11, 2011**

- 1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by NJSIAA Staff and Tournament Director Larry White. Everyone introduced themselves. Present were the following: Lou DeGeorge, State Basketball Assignor; Kathy Matthews, Union Catholic; Joe D'Allessandro, Somerville HS; Mike Kearney, Monsignor Donovan; Reggie Murray, Trenton HS.**
- 2. Correspondences – One correspondence came in from Phil Smart, AD at Eastern High School, which contained a Proposal to Change the Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament. We held off on this item with the idea that Phil might be late in arriving and we wanted to see if he would be there to discuss his idea(s).**
- 3. Discussion Items**
 - A. Higher seeded teams host games all the way to the Public Sectional Finals and the Non-Public Semifinals. This was the second year of this and the committee felt that it is common place now and shall stay that way.**
 - B. There were no real officiating issues as it pertains to the state tournament. Ideally, three person crews for all levels would be great but financially it will not happen next year.**
 - C. Pre-sale venues – The liaison shared with the committee that this year NJSIAA got the ticket packets for the pre-sale venues out to the #1 and #2 seeded teams in those brackets that would play at a pre-sale site and in the packet was a note to pass the packet on if the #1 or #2 seeded teams got beat. This worked very well as all teams that got to that pre-sale game had tickets for purchase by their students and fans.**
 - D. Pre-Game Handshake – This year it was mandatory that a pre-game handshake be done for all rounds of the state tournament. The committee remarked that it was a good idea in light of past incidents but it was a hit and miss thing. Regular season most teams still did a post-game handshake and that habit is hard to break. Some times during the state tournament teams did a pre-game handshake and a post-game handshake out of respect and habit. The committee also talked about the pre-game change of not allowing the teams to “circle the gym” when they come out of the locker rooms. This was a good rule but not enforced consistently; same as with going to the foul line in front of the team’s bench for the post player introductions. Lastly, the committee was reminded that the opening day of practice this year is the Monday after Thanksgiving.**

4. **Tournament Regulations – The liaison handed out to the committee the 2011-2012 Basketball Dates changes and all other changes that will be made on the 2012 Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament Regulations.**
5. **Officials – The committee was given copies of the Assignors reports for the 2011 tournament.**

- A. **Lou DeGeorge’s report – a compilation of all of the assignments that he made broken down by associations, minority officials assigned, female officials assigned, all by percentage of each category for the entire basketball officials’ population.**
- B. **His recommendations – NJSIAA will look into the best way to set up “relationships” for the Ads in order so they can see their game officials for state tournament games. We will continue to recruit females and minorities and suggest that coaches talk to their players about officiating when they are done playing. His other recommendations were in house items.**

6. Good of the Order

- A. **Poland Springs Arena/Monmouth MAC site for T of C rounds – Liaison informed the committee members of the talks that NJSIAA has had with the staff at Monmouth about moving the T of C quarters and semis to Monmouth as a way to showcase our girls’ teams and their talents. This is no way a knock on PSA but generally we are at Rutgers for the boys’ semifinals and the girls deserve a college venue also. This is all predicated on the financial prospectus from Monmouth and the final numbers from Poland Springs Arena. In conjunction with this, female officials would have a “regular” dressing facility at Monmouth U that they do not have at PSA.**
- B. **Joe D’Alessandro addressed an issue in Somerset County as it pertains to the County tournament and Rutgers Prep. The liaison explained that Rutgers Prep is a Federated Member and explained what that meant. Basically, they do not follow all of our rules and they cannot compete in our state tournaments. It appears that they compete in the County tournament but are perceived to have an advantage because 1) they can practice all year round, 2) recruit top level players, and 3) may re-classify students after each semester. Ultimately, the committee felt that this is a County Tournament issue and that NJSIAA member schools that compete in this county tournament should/could stipulate the conditions that must be followed in order to compete in the county tournament.**
- C. **It was at this time that the committee addressed the proposal to change the state tournament per Phil Smart’s correspondence. In a nutshell, the committee unanimously rejected the proposal for the following reasons: 1) With a cutoff date of the Wednesday prior to the end of the season, there would be no time to scout team(s) according**

to the seeding and brackets, 2) there would be no time to schedule “showcase games/harder teams” to get a read on how well your team is playing. Likewise, playing harder teams after the cutoff does not hurt a team for seeding purposes. There would be no time to do this under this proposal, 3) the committee raised the issue of getting tickets, expense reports out to the schools in a timely manner, which this proposal does not allow, 4) they all raised the issue as to who was going to do all of this in such a short time frame. When the liaison explained that the proposal had Athletic Directors doing this, the committee did not feel that there would be enough Ads to do this with all of the other winter sports and other responsibilities taking place at this same time. Needless to say the state tournament assignor had major reservations about the proposal as it relates to the assigning piece and the time it takes to do all of that. Although with the Arbiter time is not the issue as it was in the past, the biggest part of the assigning is making sure the brackets, the times, the places are all correct before assignments are made and these are the things that nearly always get changed. This proposal leaves hardly any time for “correction time” before the games would start.

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 PM.