

**NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
1161 Route 130 North, P.O. Box 487 Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691**

TO: Wrestling Committee  
FROM: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director  
RE: MINUTES APRIL 26, 2017

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Howie O'Neil, Vinnie Russo, Dan Smith, John Gagliano, Joe Gallagher, Bill Deniz, Darren Torsone, Dave LaGamba, Eileen Bowker, Todd Van Orden.

**VOTING MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Roy Dragon, Mike Dipiano

**I. Steve Timko, Executive Director**

- a. Welcome and introductions
- b. Approval of May 24, 2016 minutes

**Motion to approved May 24, 2016 Minutes**

**Approved unanimously**

- c. Update on District Regions
  - i. Region 1

Brad DiRupo, AD, Bogota advised the Committee that Bergen County Community College would not be available for the 2018 Regions, leaving Region 1 site open for discussion. Brad outlined all the difficulties and expenses that were incurred with having BCCC host the Regions for the past two years. West Milford was invited to host Region 1 for 2018 and accepted the invitation.

**Motion to accept West Milford High School as the Region 1 site for 2018**

**Approved unanimously**

- ii. District Seeding

**Motion to move seeding from Wednesday to Thursday**

**Approved unanimously**

- d. Trackwrestling

Much discussion on the reliability of trackwrestling to do all that they said they can do in a timely fashion. All agreed that trackwrestling is a great site, but concerns about their ability to do what they say when they say was voiced.

Discussion about Larry McMillan's power point program. Apparently this is an old DOS program and the concern is that Larry is the only one who has the program and can run it. Steve Anuszewski stated that trackwrestling could do the power points, but again, the "trust" issue regarding trackwrestling was brought up by committee members and there was hesitation to give this responsibility solely to trackwrestling. Howie O'Neil stated that the NJSIAA should get the program from Larry McMillan so that the NJSIAA has it and then upgrade it to a more modern system. It was decided that for this year trackwrestling and Larry McMillan would run the power points side by side.

The committee was advised that a meeting with trackwrestling and NWCA will be scheduled in the near future to discuss all concerns. Track concerns should be emailed to Jewel Sellers who will handle the agenda for the meeting.

## **II. Roy Dragon, State Rules Interpreter**

### **a. Weight certification and team advancement**

#### **i. Eliminate making flat weight rule after 2 pound growth allowance**

Roy stated eliminating the requirement that wrestlers make scratch weight after the 2 pound growth allowance would eliminate many DQs.

### **Motion to keep rule as is – must make scratch after 2 pound growth allowance**

#### **Approved unanimously**

#### **ii. Granting of 2 pound allowance**

It was stated that there is much confusion as to when allowances should be given because of school closings/schools not in session. The concern was schools rescheduling matches for Monday knowing that they couldn't get in school to practice Sunday in order to use the 2 pound allowance.

The Committee agreed to the following:

Matches that are cancelled and rescheduled to the following Monday will receive a one (1) pound allowance. No allowance will be given on Monday for matches that are on the original schedule. In all instances, any allowances allowed only if wrestler has made scratch weight.

- b. Proposal to run Team Sectionals as an advancement tournament

A proposal by Roy Dragon was presented to the committee to conduct the NJSIAA Team Sectionals as per NFHS Rule 11.1.4, Team Advancement Tournament Note:

**“...they must weigh in at the same weight class each day of the event.”**

Based on NFHS Rule 10.1.1, Individually Bracketed Tournaments:

**“...each state high school association is privileged to conduct those tournament as best suits its needs. This authorization applies to Rule 10 and 11 only.”**

The NJSIAA Team Sectionals competitors had always had flexibility in weight classes based on NFHS Rule 10.1.1

**Motion to keep flexibility in weight class for the NJSIAA Team Sectional Tournament**

**Approved unanimously**

**III. Doug Bower – Seeding Chairman**

- a. Proposal to allow 2 pound allowance on Monday, the start of Team Sectionals

**Motion to allow 2 pound allowance the Monday match only of the sectionals but only if wrestler has made scratch weight**

**Approved unanimously**

**IV. Scott Rosenberg, AD, Kinnelon H.S.**

A proposal was made to allow JV wrestling during week of district and region tournaments. Mr Rosenberg cited a JV tournament that was cancelled because of snow this year. The committee’s opinion was that there was plenty of time during the season to conduct JV tournaments.

**Motion not to allow JV wrestling during districts and regions**

**Approved unanimously**

**V. Neil Rosa, AD, Morrestown H.S.**

- a. Proposal to eliminate District Team Title (see email from Mr. Rosa)  
(This proposal was also submitted by Paul Morina, Principal, Paulsboro H.S.)

**Motion to eliminate District Team Tournament**

**Motion not approved unanimously**

- b. Proposal to eliminate wrestling to 3<sup>rd</sup> in districts (See email from Mr. Rosa)

**Motion to eliminate wrestling to 3<sup>rd</sup> in districts**

**Motion not approved - unanimously**

**VI. Paul Morina, Principal, Paulsboro H.S.**

- a. Proposal to allow each school to enter three additional wrestlers in districts (see email from Mr. Morina for argument)

**Motion made to allow three additional wrestlers into districts**

**Motion not approved - unanimously**

**VII. Ron Mazzola, Multi-Tasker**

- a. Format of regulations  
The regulation format will change for ease of reading

**VIII. Eileen Bowker, Athletic Trainer**

- a. and b. Blood Time and Concussed Wrestlers

An overview of blood time and official's suspicion of concussed athletes was presented by Eileen. Eileen stated that when an official stops match because of suspected concussion and he states that he thinks athlete is concussed the athlete is automatically removed from competition. If an athletic trainer or doctor is present it would be more beneficial for that individual to diagnose a possible concussion, thus giving the athlete the opportunity to continue to compete if not concussed.

- c. Women's Wrestling

Eileen gave a presentation on the growing popularity of women's wrestling and feels that New Jersey should move towards prompting women's wrestling in high schools, citing an interest by middle school aged girls. There are several organizations, one being Wrestle Like a Girl, that might help with training and funding.

Eileen will head a committee to gather more information and present findings to the committee at a future date.

**IX. Vinnie Russo, Assignor**

- a. Start times for sectionals, districts and regions

Vinnie expressed his concerns regarding changing times for the Sectionals. Times are set for 7:00 start and if teams want to change times the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations outline the procedure that must be followed

*NOTE: Time changes must be mutually agreed upon and approved by the NJSIAA. Once approved the following procedure must be followed:*

- a. Competing schools must contact assigned officials to verify availability*
- b. Notify assignor – Vinnie Russo*
- c. Notify potential opponents, i.e., all teams in group and section*
- d. Notify media and njschoolsports.com [gdorfman@dorfmedia.com](mailto:gdorfman@dorfmedia.com)*

The rule will be amended to remove “Notify assignor – Vinnie Russo”

For districts and regions the times are set at the discretion of the Site Manager.

**X. Darren Torsone, AD, Cranford**

- a. Out of Bounds

A proposal to move out of bounds lines to keep in line with NCAA ruling

**NFHS Rule 5.15.1** Inbounds clearly outlines the inbound and out of bounds markings. No change can be made by the rules committee unless NFHS changes its rule.

**XI. Dan Smith, President NJWCA**

- a. **Motion to move state seeding to Tuesday to allow committees to preseed weight classes and move the seeding meetings along more efficiently and quickly**

**Approved unanimously**

- b. States – start earlier

It was stated that Friday's session without any breaks is a very long day for coaches, officials, workers and wrestlers. The possibility of two sessions on Friday was discussed, having first session start at 12:30 – 4:00 then a 2 hour break and then begin again at approximately 6:30 – 8:30. Steve Timko advised the committee there would be a substantial cost to starting earlier. It was suggested by the committee to charge for the two sessions on Friday and Steve advised the committee that that might cause a huge problem for NJSIAA with Assemblyman Burzichelli who has capped ticket prices. Steve asked Howie O'Neil to take a look at the costs and report back to the committee.

- c. 2 wins against same opponent vs. 2 wins vs. multiple guys with same advancement. The regulations will be amended to read as follows to avoid discussing and arguing about this issue in the future.

A note will be added to the regulations as follows:

**Note: Wins vs. multiple opponents with criteria is better than beating the same opponent twice**

- d. Restrictions for sectional week - not allow 5 dual meets during sectionals

**Motion to take no action to amend NJSIAA Constitution and Bylaws Program Regulation Wrestling Section 8 which states:**

**Section 8 Maximum Meets A team may not schedule nor may a wrestler participate in more than four weigh-ins per week**

**Approved unanimously**

- e. Districts and Regions realignment

Coaches requested earliest notification of any realignment for scheduling purposes. The committee was advised that any changes in the realignment will not occur for another year, but when and if changes do occur the schools will be notified as soon as possible.

f. Regions: Order for advancement – Adjustments need to be made to the individual district points for finishing 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> in the Regions. They were both included in the same step until this year. Steve Anuszewski will make adjustments.

g. Regions: Change what is considered ranked team in pre-season rankings

**Motion to move 25.0 to 27.0**

**Approved unanimously**

h. To be added to regulations: **Athletes and coaches must be seated on the team bench/chairs or behind the bench/chairs during opponent's warm-up. No athletes or coaches are permitted to stand on edge of mats.**

**XII. Email from June Cioffi, Athletic Director – Kingsway – dated April 28, 2017**

a. The wrestling coach from Kingsway submitted a proposal via email to apply the district wildcard criteria when seeding regions as well as districts.

**A motion was circulated to the rules committee via email to apply the district wildcard criteria when seeding regions as well as districts**

**Motion not approved – 10 – 1**