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

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
April 16, 2019 

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30AM by NJSIAA Staff and Tournament Directors,  
Kim Cole, Girls Basketball Tournament Director and Al Stumpf, Boys Basketball  
Tournament Director. Everyone introduced themselves.  
Present were the following: Coaches: Vicki Gillen, Toms River North, Jennifer  
Derevjanik, Bound Brook, John Sterling, Secaucus HS; Harold Little, Sterling HS.  
Assignors: Rob Riley, State Basketball Assignor, Jack Baum, Greg Bailey and Jeff  
Cohen, Regional Assignors.  
Executive Committee Representative: Bob Grauso, Hackettstown HS.  
Athletic Directors: Mary Klinger, Rutgers Prep, Pat Murphy, Gloucester Catholic.  

2. A motion was made by Harold Little, seconded by Jeff Cohen, to accept the minutes of  
the May 8, 2018 Basketball Committee minutes. Motion carried unanimously.  

3. Correspondence Discussion:  
   Tom Kaechele, Athletic Director, Northern Valley Old Tappan  
   ○ Keep local officials through the State Sectional Finals-familiarity with style of  
     officiating, teams and coaches. Discussion of a specific girls’ basketball game  
     at NV Old Tappan and the issue with “neutral” officials who may not know the  
     coach or style of play. There was much discussion regarding officials and the  
     committee expressed a desire to continue the practice of assigning neutral  
     officials during state tournament play, whenever possible. The committee  
     expressed the belief that it is up to the coach and players to adapt and that is  
     part of the learning experience of high school sports.  
   ○ Playoff Structure and cutoff dates discussed.  

   Skyland Conference, Mary Klinger & Jason Miller  
   ○ After significant discussion, Motion by Mary Klinger and second by Pat  
     Murphy, to alter dates for the 2021 Basketball Tournament: the cutoff will be  
     the 3rd Friday in February and the power points will be calculated based on 18  
     games. Motion carried unanimously. The 2019-2020 Basketball Tournament  
     dates and structure will as scheduled. (Corresponding Dates)  

   Adam Brusotti, Freehold Twp. HS  
   ○ Group Champions receiving a complimentary T-shirt, no action by the  
     committee.
Derryk Sellers, Lindenwold HS
- Public Sectional Championships at one location. The committee discussed the possibility; pros and cons. Many schools appreciate and work for the home sectional final game and want to maintain home court advantage. Some concerns include the ability to host the games which limit attendance due to the capacity of the home school gym. Any move to one site for the sectional finals may require a change in the format and dates for the tournament. Saturday would work best and presently that is not how the dates line up. No action was taken at this time but the committee will continue to explore options.

Dave Ryden, Marlboro HS
- Recommending the flipping of seeds if the higher seeded team was beaten by the team directly below them. The committee’s discussion centered on several factors and after much consideration, no action was taken. The 2019-2020 basketball tournament will be seeded based on power points and the .500 record. No change.

Dave Boff, Roselle Catholic
- Registered concern over the venue for the Non-Public basketball championship games and the perceived advantage for the south teams. The committee discussed possible alternatives and indicated a desire to explore alternative options in the future. No Action.

4. Discussion Items
   A. Positives/Negatives of the Tournament
   Moving to the Regional Assignors protocol was a huge success in the smooth operation of assignments, balance of neutral officials and the communication process. There were very few issues, and this system will only get better. Jack Baum, Greg Bailey, Jeff Cohen and Rob Riley did a superb job. Some questions as to assignments were registered and will be reviewed and addressed for the future. There were no complaints from the committee, they felt as though the season went very well. The tournaments had great venues and crowds, and overall it was a huge success. A question was brought up as to the positives and negatives of a 3-person crew that are not familiar with working together. Cost is an issue with 3 officials during the regular season game, however, it gives officials the opportunity to work in a 3-person crew and become accustomed to one another. Someone suggested keeping the same 3-man crew so that when it comes to the State Tournament game the crew is familiar with one another. The committee reinforced the need to maintain the 3-person crew assignments at all levels of play in the state basketball
tournament. Hopefully, more schools will use 3-person crews throughout the regular season, especially in high profile games.

B. Group and TOC Site Changes
All the girls state semi-final sites hosted double headers. This year the Central vs. South, Group 2 & 4 were held at Central Regional HS. PCTI hosted the Non-Public North girls’ sectional final games. Franklin High School hosted the Non-Public North championship games and this move was well received. The Non-Public group finals at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena went well, with tremendous crowds. The Boys Public group finals were held at Rutgers University. The Girls Public group finals were held at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena. The Tournament of Champions, unified, girls final and boys' final was held at Rutgers University and was a huge success. The Assistant Directors will continue to explore viable options for sites for location and to enhance fan attendance.

C. Mercy Rule Discussion: The integrity of the coach is really at question in games of disparity of talent and ability. Conferences/Division scheduling sometimes creates the inequity of competition. There are conferences that have instituted a mercy rule. The committee expressed the view that a mercy rule would not solve the problem but sometimes creates a negative environment as well. The integrity of the coach is really at the heart of the matter and is difficult to regulate. School Administrators are encouraged to be proactive prior to the game event.

D. Early start to the beginning of the basketball season. There is some interest in returning to a Nov. 15th start date or the return of Thanksgiving weekend as practice days as the winter has a very short preseason. There was considerable discussion and the committee members were encouraged that if schools are serious about a change, the best route would be legislation. The new legislative dates would provide a much quicker implementation if supported.

E. Discussion of an Out-of-Season designated time frame for coach-player contact. The committee members were encouraged to share these concepts or ideas with Tony Maselli, who chairs the committee currently reviewing the same.

F. Classifications were discussed and the inequities of competition. The possibility of 5 public groups was discussed, schools with tuition students and public schools with magnet schools and the potential to form “sport schools” should be classified with a qualifying standard as opposed to strict enrollment, as per co-op programs. This will be shared with the Classification committee, oversight Colleen Maguire.

G. Officials Fees: Motion by Rob Riley, second by Greg Bailey to raise the preliminary round fees to $75 in 2020 and $80 in 2021. Motion carried.
5. 2019-2020 Tournament Regulations were included in the handouts. Next season’s basketball dates are as follows:
   Practice/Tryout:  Monday, November 25, 2019
   Official Practice Date:  December 2, 2019
   Start of the Season:  Friday, December 20, 2019

   Tournament Date Changes:
   o  Cutoff:  Saturday, February 8, 2020
   o  Start of Tournament:  Monday, March 2, 2020
   o  NP Sectional Finals:  March 10, 11
   o  NP State Finals:  March 14 (SAT DATE)
   o  Public Sectional Finals:  March 9, 10
   o  Public State Semi Finals:  March 11, 12
   o  Public State Finals:  March 15
   o  TOC Boys Quarters:  March 17
   o  TOC Girls Quarters:  March 18
   o  TOC Boys Semi-finals:  March 19
   o  TOC Girls Semi-finals:  March 20
   o  TOC Finals: March 22 (Unified, Girls & Boys)

6. Rotating basis for home teams for state semis and finals for 2020
   o  State Semis - Public
      •  North II and South-Home
      •  North I and Central-Away
   o  Non-Public Sectional Finals
      •  Higher seeded team Home
   o  State Group Finals – Public
      •  Central or South Home
      •  North I or North II Away
   o  Non-Public Group Finals
      •  South A or South B Home
      •  North A or North B Away

7. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM
   Motion by John Sterling, second by Mary Klinger to adjourn.

8. Post Season Assignors Meeting to follow.