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

BASKETBALL COMMITTEE MINTUES
May 8, 2018
9:30AM

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: Dr. Rose Battaglia, Girls T of C Chairperson; Karen Dilmore, Williamstown HS; Dave Boff, Roselle Catholic; John Sterling, Secaucus HS; Harold Little, Sterling HS; John Ahmuty, Roselle Catholic AD; Rob Riley, State Basketball Assignor; Nick Mariniello, Hudson Catholic AD; Art Jackson, State Rules Interpreter. Not present were the following: Vicki Gillen, Patrick Brunner, Bob Grauso, Hackettstown HS AD; Mike Gatley, CAL AD.

2. A motion was made by Karen Dilmore, seconded by Harold Little, to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2017 Basketball Committee minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Rob Riley opened up the discussion. He has been the State Basketball Assignor for the NJSIAA Tournaments for the past six years. From February 26, 2018 through March 18, 2018, 263 assignments were made for the 2018 State Tournament games. A printout was provided to the committee with a breakdown of the assignments. A printout was provided as to the NJSIAA 2018 Basketball Tournament recommendations. The recommendations are as follows: Continue to recruit and develop officials; Continue to recruit female officials; Stress the continued training in 3 person officiating; Add an alternate official to State Final games; Continue to identify up and coming officials; During the preliminary games try to establish more neutral crews. (Officials will travel); Increase game fees in preliminary rounds; Continue to have the NJSIAA Assignor assign ALL second week games (Non-Public Monday); Receive evaluations from AD's and Coaches following the tournament; Review of all fees (who pays what); Speak to Arbiter concerning training messages. A discussion ensued among the committee as to the importance of having neutral officials during the preliminary rounds of the Tournaments. In some cases, officials may officiate more than one game, sometimes two or three if they are the best and most qualified for the position. Officials who have officiated a tournament game at a school that continues on cannot officiate for that same school again in a different round. This past season there was an instance where an official had a child attending the school where the father was officiating a game. This is not allowed and needs to be strictly
enforced. If an official has any affiliation with a school, they need to notify the assignor and he/she will be assigned to a different game, he/she will not lose a game. Nick Marinello suggested grooming a new wave of officials. Rob Riley explained that most officials have full time jobs and most do not want to work J.V. games. The decline in the level of officiating is a national concern. Officials do not want to deal with the parents and coaches. The atmosphere has changed and due to this we have seen a decline in the amount of officials at the high school level and the quality of the officiating. How can we change this? The NFHS recommends reaching out to state colleges and universities to recruit students that are pursuing a career in athletics. For example, instead of writing a paper, the students could officiate ten games for class credit.

A question was asked as to whether or not officials will travel? Most officials will travel, it seems that the northern section of the state is not as flexible as the central and south. In order to get neutral officials to the games, everyone needs to be more lenient. Everyone agreed that the officials for the most part are doing the best job that they can. Rob Riley reiterated that the officiating at the State Tournament level for the past two years has been solid. If anyone comes across a good official reach out to Kim or Al for Rob’s contact information so that he can be notified and make note of it.

A suggestion was made that at the start of every season, officials could visit schools to go over the new rules of the game, explain how they officiate, and what is expected from the players and coaches as to their behavior during and after the game, and the respectful way to talk to an official. A few of the conferences have meetings prior to the start of the season, and agree that it is very informative to everyone. Everyone agreed that the officials, assignors and coaches should meet every year to discuss the rule changes, sportsmanship and their expectations.

A question was asked as to why the percentage of female officials is so low. The reason for this is that finding an official to stay at the high school level is very hard. Within three years most woman move onto the college level or get married and have kids.

4. Larry White attended the NFHS Meeting in March. The 2018-2019 Proposed Basketball Rules Changes are as follows: The basketball should have a deeply-pebbled, granulated surface, with horizontally shaped panels bonded tightly to the rubber carcass. Rationale: The additional words give manufacturers a better sense of what a deeply-pebbled cover should look like. Please note that the Nike Hyper Elite Basketball will no longer be allowed. The Wilson Wave is the official ball of the NJSIAA State Basketball Tournament.

A player shall not be the first to touch the ball after it has been in team control in the frontcourt, if he/she or a teammate last touched or was touched by the ball in the
frontcourt before it went to the backcourt. EXCEPTION: Any player located in the backcourt may recover a ball deflected from the frontcourt by the defense. Rationale: To ensure that a team is not unfairly disadvantaged on a deflected pass.

The NFHS Uniform Rule stays the same. A discussion ensued on a few concerns with the uniform guidelines. It appears in some cases that the officials are more focused on the uniform than officiating the game. Al and Kim explained that it is not the officials’ job to have to address uniform issues. Prior to the player stepping foot onto the court, the coach/athletic director should have checked each of their players to be sure that they are properly dressed. A question came up as to why some states, such as New York and Pennsylvania do not follow the NFHS uniform rule. New Jersey is 100% vested in the NFHS, some states are not, and therefore they do not have to follow the NFHS rules.

5. Tom Kaechele, Athletic Director –
   - Make state cutoff date later – not 3 weeks before the playoffs begin.
     A discussion ensued as to this topic. Some teams have not played 16 games prior to the cutoff date. If the date was changed it would extend the time that teams could get all their games in. In order to implement this date change a proposal would need to be submitted.
   - State Sectional Finals – 7pm Start Time. (Recommend)
     After a short discussion the committee agreed to keep the times as the previous year. A question came up as to neutral sites for all sectional games. It was suggested that any school in the state tournament must allow their gym to be used as a neutral site. The NJSIAA cannot force a school to host tournament games. Small steps could be taken in the future to reach out to schools that accommodate larger crowds to see if they would be interested in hosting.
   - Keep local officials through the State Sectional Finals-familiarity with style of officiating, teams and coaches. Already discussed earlier in the meeting. See minutes above.

6. Kris Grundy – Coach – Keep each group on same game cycle that it starts with throughout the tournament.
   The rotation of the groups and the boys/girls basketball tournament was discussed and the date changes. No change in the forthcoming year.

   A discussion ensued on the pros and cons of allowing a shot clock. The cost factor would be an issue, this would be an added expense to the school districts. Some agreed that a shot clock makes for a better game and prepares the athletes to play college ball. This year this subject was not brought up at the NFHS Meeting, a study was done which showed that the average time between shots in boys’ basketball games goes up every 16 seconds. The NFHS feels that it is not an option, they want to
give everyone a fair chance to win. Several conferences utilize the “Mercy Rule”. Kim will bring this topic up at the next League & Conference meeting to gauge any interest.

   A proposal to enhance basketball’s tournament of champions was provided in the packet. After reviewing the proposal the committee agreed that no change would be made.

9. Discussion Items
   A. Positives/Negatives of the Tournament
      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 despite the weather conditions. A question was brought up as to the positives and negatives of a 3-man 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-man 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.
   B. Possible Group and TOC Site Changes
      Several alternatives were discussed. The Group Finals will most likely be held at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena. Sites for the State Semi-Finals will be explored. Franklin High School is a possibility over Rutgers University. This year the cost factor of having the games at Rutgers University was not beneficial financially. Monmouth University and the new facility in North Jersey at the New Jersey Institute of Technology are also an option. The Tournament of Champions may move back to Toms River instead of the Cure Insurance Arena in Trenton, New Jersey. The Assistant Directors will explore viable options.

10. 2018-2019 Tournament Regulations were included in the handouts. Next season’s basketball dates are as follows: Practice will start on Monday, November 26, 2018 and the start of the season will be on Friday, December 14, 2018.

   Tournament Date Changes:
   - Cutoff – Saturday, February 2, 2019
   - Start of Tournament – Monday, February 25, 2019
   - NP Sectional Finals – March 5, 6 or 7
   - NP State Finals – March 9 (SAT DATE)
   - Public Sectional Finals – March 4, 5
   - Public State Semi Finals – March 10
   - TOC Boys Quarters – March 13
   - TOC Girls Quarters – March 12
   - TOC Boys Semi – March 15
   - TOC Girls Semi – March 14
o TOC Final – March 17

11. Rotating basis for home teams for state semis and finals for 2019
   o State Semis - Public
     • North I and Central will be home teams
     • North II and South visiting teams
   o Non-Public Sectional Finals
     • Higher seeded team home
   o State Group Finals – Public
     • North I or North II Home
     • Central or South visiting
   o Non-Public Group Finals
     • North A or North B home
     • South A or South B visiting

12. Kim and Al asked the committee for any additional topics from the floor. A question came up as to getting back Thanksgiving weekend for practice. Basketball is the only winter sport that only has 18 days of practice prior to the start of the season. A suggestion was made to start on November 15th with a black out period during the Thanksgiving weekend. In order to make this change a proposal would need to be submitted to Executive Director for review by the Advisory Committee and if approved by the Executive Committee meeting would go to a vote at the annual meeting in December.

Officials rating cards for officials to rate and give to assignors. A discussion ensued on what would be the best way to do this, a suggestion was made as to an evaluation on Arbiter where the official could be rated after each game.

The pre-game handshake was mentioned. The NJSIAA recommends the handshake either before or after the game. It is really up to the Conference to make that decision. Most agreed that a post-game handshake teaches kids sportsmanship, however, there are instances where this is not the case. The positives outweigh the negatives.

Reducing the 70% rule was brought up for discussion. According to our attorney, Steve Goodell, a conference cannot make the submission, each school has to submit and prove to the Executive Committee that they were unable to secure a 70% schedule. A member school has proposed Legislation which will be voted on at the annual meeting in December to change this rule to 60% in state opponents at the cutoff.
During the summer recess please note that if your school district is running a summer camp, it cannot be sponsored by the school. This rule applies to the Fall and Spring Leagues as well. Coaches cannot be involved in any of the camps or leagues.

Please note that a Classification Review Committee is in place currently reviewing the classification of all sports. Classifications are on a 2 year cycle.

Just an FYI the Cooperative Sports Program may be expanding if the proposed legislation passes in December.

13. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM