Attendees – 
Dan Uszaki (BCSL)  
Sharon Hughes and Denis Nelson (Big North)  
Dave Albertson and Steve Fortis (CAL)  
Matt Sheehan (Colonial)  
John Costantino, Steve Gazdek & Bud Kowal (CVC)  
Jeff DiCocco and Carl Buffalino (GMC)  
Mike Pierson (HCIAL)  
Rob Haraka and Sean Dowling (NJAC)  
Stan Fryczynski (NJIC)  
Tim Walsh and Lou Papa (OLY)  
Joe Piro, Lorenzo Sozio and Steve Jenkins (SEC)  
Joe Montano and Rusty Todd (Shore)  
Carl Weigner and Al Stumpf (Skyland)  
Michael Clarke and Jamy Thomas (TCC)  
Steve Yesinko and Gus Kalikas (UCC)  

Destination Athlete Presentation (Mary Ellen Folsom)

There will be a complete Athlete Expo on Saturday, January 3rd and 4th. The expo has three goals:

1. Change the conversation of athletics today in a positive light.
2. To reward athletes and present awards. There will be two $5,000 scholarships given to one male and one female for college.
3. Simple fundraising. Schools are asked to pre-sell admission tickets for $10 each. Schools will earn $5 on each sale.

A nomination application was distributed. There is no fee to apply, the application is online and there is no limit on the amount of entries a school can submit.

Coaching in the 21st Century (East Brunswick HS)

Frank Noppenberger, Athletic Director, and Debra Gulick, Director of Staff Development spoke to officers about a very successful program used at their school, East Brunswick HS.

This past summer, administration decided that coaches needed more training and support. First, coaches are not to instantly name captains until after a mandatory captain’s training, a 1.5 hour presentation at night that teaches leadership and gives real situations such as “How do you handle if players come to school high or what to do if players were drinking on the weekend.” Coaches submit a list of 5 potential captain names, but captains are not picked until eight days post meeting to see how the potential captains are applying what they learned from the meeting. There are four requirements to be a captain:

1. Attend the captain leadership meeting.
2. Provide buddy list. Be a mentor to an underclassmen.
3. Roster Poster. Students have to create then hang a poster with the names of all players (not just the Varsity program) somewhere in the school.
4. Make a simple book with quotes/stories. Five questions must be answered, such as “What’s your favorite quote or what does the quote mean?”

Since the burden on coaches has become so great, coaches are paid to attend a two-hour mandatory workshop in August. Potential scenarios are discussed such as kids driving themselves to their own games, kids texting coaches, seniors leaving practice for a while – where were they and how should it be handled, etc. The concept of protection is stressed – protection of the kids, of the district and the coach. Coaches can lose their job in five seconds if they make the wrong decision.

L&C Officers’ Concerns / Discussions / Issues

1. CVC Conference (Bud Kowal)

Method of Selecting Officials for State Tournament Games – Bud shared a trial evaluation system the CVC used this past soccer season, which was very positive. There were close to 800 evaluations. The goal was to reward the officials who received higher evaluations with assignments in county or higher ranked tournaments. As a result, there were no complaints about officials used in county tournaments however, there were complaints about the officials used for the state tournament. Complaints were expressed about officials having problems getting up and down the field, controversial calls, and not getting along with other officials or benches. All three officials used for the Hamilton East state game were ranked low in the CVC evaluation system. It was feared that the state was going to lose the younger officials because the state games are typically given to the more veteran officials. NJSIAA staff expressed interest in seeing the evaluation tool that the CVC created. It started off as a paper and pencil type evaluation but when switched to a google document, it received more responses from coaches. Ratings are done on a 1 – 5 scale. The CVC plans to extend this system to other sports. Steve suggested contacting Vinny Russo about this rating system for wrestling.

2. NJAC (Rob Haraka)

Fee Structure for Lacrosse Officials – With the exception of the League of Leagues, all conferences adopted the recommend officials’ fee scale, but it turns out that the only entity who could set fees is the local Board of Education. Conferences adopted the fee scale but that was not legal. The Men’s Lacrosse Officials Association was very upset, more because there was no discussion or opportunity for them to be involved in the process and negotiate. Steve met with representatives of the Men’s Lacrosse Officials Association and strongly suggested they do not boycott. If they do, they are in violation of the Affiliation Agreement. Larry White can provide a copy of the agreement if anyone needs. Rob had reached out to Tony Dimeo for a sit down but has still not heard back from him. The three-year contract was created based on research – most teacher and administrator contracts are three years. Joe Piro asked when do $2 raises hit a ceiling – the job description hasn’t changed, some of the games have actually shortened and gas prices are not an excuse because right now they are lower than they’ve been. Bud Kowal can help anyone through the process if their officials/assignors boycott because he’s been through this process in the CVC. Steve mentioned that he could invite winter sport official reps to the next Leagues and Conferences meeting. Officers liked the idea of NJSIAA sending something in writing reminding officials of their affiliation agreements and what that means. It was asked why NJSIAA just can’t set the fees. Answer is that the officials would no longer be considered independent contractors of NJSIAA, but rather its employees.

3. Super Essex Conference (Lorenzo Sozio)

SEC Dropping out of Playoffs – Lorenzo questioned why Bishop Ahr and Saint Joseph were able to drop out of the playoffs when teams in his conference were unable to do this the year before without being penalized. Jack
explained that the playoffs had not started yet and there is no penalty if done, prior to seeding. It did not sit right with Lorenzo that both teams backed out for safety issues, but then are now playing in consolation games. A few others expressed not liking schools using “safety” as a reason for withdrawing from the tournament. It waters down the importance of the word. Another problem is coaches generally know who they’ll be playing and analyze the team in advance for game plans so when a team drops out, it’s unfair to the coach who invested his time studying and making game plans based on research. Jack will discuss all this with the football committee, including making the cutoff day three days prior to the seeding. He also explained that Bishop Ahr and Saint Joseph had not planned on playing consolation games. Jack needed teams for the games so he offered it to those schools. He thought he was accommodating member schools.

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STEVEN J. TIMKO REPORT

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – A list of laws currently being discussed in the legislature was distributed. Discussion took place over A3346, which passed this summer. It is not clear whether this law, which allows reemployment by a school district of a TPAF retiree as a coach of athletic activity when compensation is under $10,000, refers to school year or calendar year. Retiree has to pay 10% tax and their pension is affected if they earn over $10,000. Carl Weigner and Al Stumpf contacted the two sponsors about this bill and were given two different answers and then were referred to the Pension Bureau, where again they received two different positions. Bill A2699 is very positive since it appropriates $45,000 to NJSIAA for additional steroid testing, which would allow NJSIAA to test during the season, not just championship teams.

Annual Meeting - Will be held on Monday, December 1 at the Pines Manor at 10:00 am. The Hall of Fame program begins at 11:30 am, following the business meeting.

Ticket Prices – Prices will remain the same as last year.

Medical Advisory Committee – The restriction of 90-minute contact per week in football was discussed and will be mandated. Several things need to be ironed out first, and input will be sought from coaches and the Medical Advisory Committee. NFHS is doing the same thing.

Public/Non-Public Committee – The first meeting took place. It is expected that some type of legislation should develop from this group to help combat the problems related to transfers. Michael Zapicchi, Principal at West Windsor-Plainsboro North HS and Elaine McGrath, current NJSIAA 2nd VP / Athletic Director at South Brunswick are co-chairing the committee.

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LARRY WHITE REPORT

Larry distributed his report. In it, he listed the gymnastics sectional winners, and both the volleyball group finals matchups and the volleyball T of C structure.

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JACK DUBOIS REPORT

Boy’s Soccer – The public and non-public sectional finals take place later in the day.

Corporate – IAABO is now the official basketball training organization for officials. Always had been, but now they signed a corporate agreement to do it. Parisi School just resigned as a corporate sponsor.

Workshops – Upcoming clinics: Baseball on 12/11 at Jack Cust Baseball Academy and a workshop in conjunction with Legal One, dealing with hazing, bullying, and athletics on 12/16.
NJSCA Coaches Hall of Fame – Jack distributed nomination forms. He strongly urged schools from the South to nominate people since the majority of nominations tend to come from the North. Forms are due 1/22/15.

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KIM COLE REPORT

Tennis - Results were distributed. Congratulations to Kate Fahey, from Rumson Fair Haven, who won the singles tournament and to the Montgomery first doubles team, who defeated the Montville second doubles team.

Field Hockey – The public state semifinals were played at AL Johnson, Boonton, Robbinsville and Eastern. For the first time ever, the group finals will be played at Bordentown HS. The T of C will be conducted at Rider University on 11/17, 11/19, and 11/21.

Girls Soccer – Four men’s/women’s double headers are scheduled for tonight’s public sectional final games at Eastern, DePaul, PCTI and Holmdel.

Swimming – Classifications have been posted over ten times because the tournament structure changed and coaches may not be aware. Please make sure they realize.

NAGWS – The form to nominate a female student for the annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day is posted on our website. The event will take place Sunday, February 1, 2015 at Seton Hall University. Only two forms had been received as of this meeting.

Website – FYI. On calendar feature, if you click on an event, there is more helpful information pertaining to the event.

DON DANSER REPORT

Cross Country – The tournament has narrowed down from over 6,000 runners at four sites to 2,000 runners. Chips will be utilized again. The first 150 finishers usually finish within a minute of each other. If the chips don’t work, photographic finish will be used to determine winners. NJAC had a complaint about the condition of the course on Garrett Mountain. When the committee meets, sites will be discussed.

Approval of Cooperative Sports Program – The following four co-op programs were approved: Clayton HS and Glassboro HS in wrestling & golf; Mount Olive HS and Hopatcong HS in ice hockey; Hopatcong HS and Mount Olive HS in bowling; and High Point Regional HS and Wallkill Valley Regional HS in indoor track.

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COLLEEN MAGUIRE REPORT

Outstanding Accounts Receivable Balances – 50 schools owe a combined total of $7,000 in outstanding invoices. It will now state in all winter regulations that schools will not be eligible for winter tournaments if they have an outstanding balance greater than 90 days. This was approved by the finance committee.

Outstanding Resolution Cards, Dues, Participation Forms and Affidavits – A listing of schools that still owe fall participation surveys was distributed. Also, Helen sent out a spreadsheet making sure NJSIAA has accurate information related to the breakdown of each conference and its member schools. Colleen asked all officers to double check this list to make sure accurate. This will help her with communication. Good news is no schools were ineligible for the fall tournament for not paying dues!
Program Review

Fifth Fencing District – 2nd Reading – A fifth fencing district was approved. Al Stumpf asked why when five districts were created the five districts were not divided equally. The reason is because some facilities are still too small to accommodate too many fencers, spectators and coaches.

Report of Counsel

Controversies Hearing Decision – Summit HS was found not guilty of allegations related to unsportsmanlike conduct at a football game but to foster better relations between Summit HS and North Plainfield HS, an action plan was recommended including captains meeting between the two teams and the Summit coaches undergoing sensitivity training.

Old Business/New Business

Joe Lennon (DePaul) – Revisit Big North Fall Start of Season Proposal – Joe Lennon was confused why the original Big North proposal, which allowed all schools, in all fall sports, to open early in the fall season was never voted on. Only the TCC early fall start date waiver was voted on. As a result, the Executive Committee reviewed and voted on the original Big North proposal, which passed 23-6-1. There was discussion on what a waiver is vs. a rule. Now all schools can begin fall practice on August 10th, and have the option to open up on September 4th if they choose. Also, fencers are allowed to start practice early, along with basketball, wrestling and indoor track since they were excluded from the proposal that allowed basketball, wrestling and track to begin unofficial practices the Monday before Thanksgiving. 

Al Stumpf asked if NJSIAA directors still planned on attending one conference meeting per year as they had in the past. Steve felt that’s what the monthly officer meetings were for, but would be happy to go to a Skyland Conference meeting if Al wanted him to.

Next meeting - Thursday, January 15, 2015