League/Conference Officers Meeting Summary
April 2, 2015

L&C OFFICERS’ CONCERNS/ DISCUSSIONS / ISSUES

Approval Process for Transfer Rule that is being Fast-tracked for Approval to Implement by July 1 (Jamy Thomas & Mike McAleer) – The sentiment of the Public/Non-Public Committee (which is the group proposing to amend the transfer rule) is that if approved, the sooner implementation prevents a larger number of transfers from taking place. Mr. Timko encouraged everyone to speak to their Executive Committee representative if they feel strongly against the proposal so their voice is heard. By rule, there are two ways to change any rule: 1- Proposal submitted to Advisory Committee and approved > then approved by Executive Committee > then placed on annual meeting ballot OR 2- Executive Committee votes and six months later the membership is polled. The membership can veto an Executive Committee vote if more than 50% of the membership votes. If less than 50% of the membership votes, then the vote of the Executive Committee stands. The amended transfer rule proposal will need 2/3 approval of the Exec Committee and will require two readings to pass. The issue of vocational schools has not yet been addressed but will be discussed in the next Public/Non-Public meeting. The committee will continue to meet. Another topic that has been discussed (but with no solution yet) is choice schools that have filled all their seats – are they still considered open?

Cardiac Module for Physicians (Jamy Thomas & Mike McAleer) – Are doctors required to take this module yearly or is it a one and done type course? Answer is one-time certification. It was also reiterated that any doctor performing physicals need to have taken the cardiac module, even doctors in neighboring states like Delaware, NY and Pennsylvania. Word has definitely spread to the medical community and doctors performing physicals should be aware by now of this new requirement. NJSIAA has not heard about any problems but any questions should be directed to Christine Dewitt-Parker of the Department of Education since this is a DOE rule, not NJSIAA’s. Tony Maselli, AD at Montgomery HS, is also a good contact since he was on the...
committee. Bud Kowal spoke about his experience so far. He was surprised how many
certificates his nurse has already collected. Ewing has an internal tracking spreadsheet of all
certificates received and a file with copies of all certificates. Lou Raba wanted to know if a
doctor has not submitted his certification, is his player ok to play? Steve Timko is under the
impression that if a player receives a physical from a doctor who has not yet taken the cardiac
module, the athlete is NOT eligible play but not sure when this rule officially takes place so these
type questions should be directed to Christine Dewitt-Parker at the DOE.

VT Athletic Directors Conference (Sean Dowling) – Sean attended and spoke at Vermont’s
Directors Conference. He found it interesting that ADs in Vermont face many of the same issues
as ADs in New Jersey, but interestingly the least amount of travel for some schools in Vermont
to an away game is 2.5 hours, compared to 45 minutes away here in NJ. Joe Piro also
commended Sean for his published article in NIAAA’s magazine, about forming student
leadership teams. Kudos to Sean!

Baseball Scheduling (Steve Fortis) – It was asked if any conferences schedule back-to-back
series, one home game/one away vs. the same team like they do in college? GMC does and Jerry
Smith from St. Joe’s is a good contact for more information.

Cooperative Sports Enrollment for League Placement (John DiColo) – Do conferences
combine enrollment of two schools for league placement? This is a hot topic in the Colonial
Conference. The NJIC uses combined enrollment numbers in football and just made a co-op
division in wrestling, since there were seven co-op teams. Discussion took place. Co-ops should
really be just to help schools if they don’t have enough numbers for a program. Once a program
grows, the co-op should be dissolved.

Review of 4/1/15 Executive Committee Meeting Mtg – NJSIAA staff summarized what took
place at the 4/1 Executive meeting. Mr. Timko also distributed a NY Yankees Group Ticket
fundraising brochure.

STEVEN TIMKO REPORT

A. Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Mr. Anzano spoke about a bill that passed 4-5 years
ago, which put the responsibility of athletes wearing safety goggles on the parents, not
schools/coaches/officials, etc. There was an official in the fall that held up a game because an
athlete wore regular glasses but that’s not the official’s role. The law will be fine tuned to
clarify that no one is liable if an athlete gets hurt by not wearing safety goggles.

B. Executive Committee Waiver and Voting Process Guidelines – Rules for submitting a
waiver were clarified by NJSIAA’s attorney, Steven Goodell. Waivers should be rare, based
on good cause, and for a limited period of time. Any request for a waiver for a longer period
of time should be handled as regular legislation. Waivers cannot be used to as a substitute for
legislation. Any request for a waiver should be brought by motion of a member of the
Executive Committee, not by a school or a conference. If a waiver is going to affect a large
number of schools, the Executive Committee will require two readings – the waiver will be
introduced at one meeting, then voted upon at the next. There are two waivers that are discussed later in agenda and were brought forward because the first one will miss legislation for this upcoming year but was submitted to the Advisory Committee so it can be a permanent change. It will be for just one year and not requested again. The second waiver is for five schools.

C. **Wrestling Update** – Steve asked that officers survey their membership to see if they prefer five or four groups. He would like this input before the Wrestling Committee meeting. Polling results can be emailed back to Steve (stimko@njsiaa.org). 3,100 people attended the Group Finals at the Sun Bank Arena, despite the big snow storm the night before. It also snowed before districts and then it snowed again, right before individual tournament in Atlantic City. That didn’t affect attendance. Just shy of 41,000 people attended the four sessions. Howie O’Neill and Jack Kinner did an outstanding job running the tournament.

D. **New Members to Advisory Committee** – The following people were approved at the Executive Committee meeting to serve on the NJSIAA Advisory Committee: Mike McGhee (AD at Cedar Creek HS), Bud Kowal (AD at Ewing HS), Pat Shea (AD at Sparta HS), Dr. Thomas Smith (Superintendent at Hopewell Valley Regional School District) and Bob Williams (AD at Northern Highlands Regional HS).

E. **Proposed Legislation** – Five sponsors proposed the following eight pieces of legislation:

- a. Northern Valley Regional HS proposed to create four non-public districts and one non-public region in wrestling. This was approved 15-0 and will move forward to the Exec Committee in May. Michael McAleer brought up how this was vetoed by the Commissioner years ago. Mr. Timko advised this could happen again.

- b. The Big North Conference proposed to start the fall season earlier with two different scenarios: Either all sports begin on Wednesday, 8/10 and all games can begin 9/1. If this is vetoed, then a second scenario should be considered which is football only begins on 8/10 and opening day for football will be 9/1. This was approved 10-5 and will move forward to the Exec Committee in May.

- c. Pascack Valley HS requested that schools can begin winter practices/tryouts the Monday – Wednesday before Thanksgiving, followed by a blackout period from Thanksgiving Day to Sunday. Those three practices will not count towards the six needed for a first scrimmage. This passed 13-2, and will move forward to the Exec Committee.

- d. The Patrick School proposed that the basketball starting date should be left up to the discretion of the schools. This died for lack of a second motion.

- e. The Patrick School proposed to change the disqualification rule so that teams cannot be banned from state tournament play if all their disqualifications took place in one game. This was defeated 7-8 and will not advance to the Executive Committee in May.
f. The Patrick School then withdrew their next two proposals. The first was to expedite the voting process with electronic voting instead of the annual meeting once a year in December. The other proposal recommended eliminating the 70% in-state competition rule. Bud Kowal expressed wishing the electronic voting proposal had not been pulled because he felt it had merit. Discussion took place over voting multiple times throughout the year vs. one time at the annual meeting.

g. The Public/Non-Public Committee recommended creating a non-public football conference. This passed 14-0-1 and will move forward to the Exec Committee.

h. The Public/Non-Public Committee recommended amending the Transfer Rule. Multiple changes are recommended. This passed 13-2 and will move forward to the Exec Committee.

F. Winter Tournament Updates – Steve congratulated all the Assistant Directors on a successful and difficult winter season. It was a long winter with many snow changes but the directors worked through it, and the result was great tournaments.

G. Results of Polling Schools re: Non-Public Ice Hockey Cooperative Sports Programs – A ballot was sent to the membership to approve or disapprove a change approved by the Executive Committee involving non-public schools of any size having the ability to join in to a cooperative sports program in ice hockey only with other non-public schools of any size, as is allowed for the public schools. Less than 50% of the membership voted, so the vote of the Executive Committee stands but of those who voted, the final vote was 99-36, supporting the Executive Committee decision. If the transfer rule changes are approved by the Executive Committee, then schools will be polled like this again six months later.

H. Licensing Resource Group – Some schools are involved in this program but most not, for fear it will impact their booster clubs but it shouldn’t. It’s free money so Steve encourages more schools to take advantage of this program. If interested, contact Colleen or Steve to help your school get started.

I. Spring Sports Sites/Dates – Most are set with the exception of some state semifinal sites for baseball and softball.

J. Spring Sports Regulations – All regulations are done and posted on NJSIAA’s website, with the exception of Spring Track.

K. DAANJ Conference – Kudos were given to Ted D’Alessio for another outstanding DAANJ Conference and to Joe Piro and Al Stumpf for receiving the Sectional Awards of Merit. Steve is still working with the DOE to try to get them to pay for attendance at this important conference.
KIM COLE REPORT

Swimming – Kim thanked Michael McAleer for hosting along with the other swim host sites. The tournament went well and adding a classification C added more teams but one bracket had only had three teams so Kim hopes more competitive schools will enter next year. The individual championships saw the best attendance to date, most likely because more kids qualified this year. A championship listing was distributed. On the horizon: the swim committee will ask for the opening dates to change, so that they are the same as ice hockey.

Spring Tournaments – Kim asked everyone to carefully check classifications when they are posted. Since schools are not updating their School Managers, there have been many revisions. Jack reiterated the importance of keeping up with School Manager. Once the season starts, classifications are firm, so the data schools are responsible for inputting in to School Manager is crucial to making sure classifications are correct. If one or two schools are incorrect, there is a domino effect.

Website – In the very near future, tournament refusal forms will be interactive!

DON DANSER REPORT

Don was not present but he distributed the Winter ShopRite Cup standings and shared that all spring track sites are secured. Nine cooperative sports agreements were also approved. Also, Al Stumpf added that if schools have a pole vault pit, they must make sure they have the new collar.

LARRY WHITE REPORT

Larry distributed his written report. He also brought attention to two important topics:

Baseball/Softball Game Day Weather Changes – Weather conditions are the only acceptable reason for changing the start time on Game Day. All changes must be made by 10:30 am. If the athletic directors from both schools agree that due to the anticipated weather conditions a time change is warranted, the home school must contact the umpires assigned to determine if they are available. The umpires assigned to the game will stay with the game if at all possible. In addition, the home school must contact the Sectional Rep/NJSIAA Assignor of the potential time change, along with the NJSIAA Assistant Director in charge of that sport, and media. If replacement umpires are needed, the Sectional Rep/NJSIAA assignor will make every effort to accommodate the request. It is the responsibility of the home school to keep all parties informed.

Help with Baseball/Softball Assignors – NJSIAA will assign officials for all rounds of the state tournament. Assignments are already being organized so as umpires commit to games, they are asked to commit to the game and stay with that game until its completion which could change dates due to rainouts. Please explain to your league/conference/chapter assignors that state tournament games take precedence over regular season/non-high school games and NJSIAA does not want to see officials punished for taking and staying with NJSIAA state tournament games if they have to give back some local assigned games because of weather-related postponements/cancellations of state tournament games.
**Basketball State Sectional Sites in 2016** – Larry was unable to secure all college sites to host, so the tournament sectional sites will again be at high schools, and county tournaments will not be affected. Larry will continue to look in to having colleges host for the 2017 tournament.

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**JACK DUBOIS REPORT**

**Clinics/Workshops** – In conjunction with Legal One, there will be another Bullying & Hazing workshop, at Stockton University on 4/24. Registration forms are on our website. The wrestling clinic will take place on 5/8 at Princeton University with the University of Maryland’s head coach as the head clinician. Last, on 5/13, Atlantic Sports Health is co-sponsoring an athletic trainer’s workshop at Morristown Medical Center.

**Ice Hockey** – Congrats to the following schools for winning the ice hockey championships: Randolph HS (Public A), Middletown North (Public B) and Christian Brothers Academy (Non-Public). The ice hockey committee met and will recommend that athletes are required to participate in 50% of games to participate in post-season play (just like in swimming) because many club players played in the semi-finals and finals. If a player misses more than 50% of games due to an injury though, this is excused with a doctor’s note.

**Fencing** – Championship results were distributed. Jack thanked the following five schools for hosting districts: Hackettstown HS, Livingston HS, North Hunterdon HS, Fair Lawn HS and Montclair HS. He also thanked North Hunterdon HS for hosting the squad championships, and Morris Hills HS and Montgomery HS for hosting the team and individual championships respectively.

**NJSCA Coaches Hall of Fame** – Jack thanked Carl Weigner for his work for the NJSCA. 699 were in attendance. The hope is that there will be more nominations from the South next year since the furthest south that coaches were honored were from Moorestown HS and Northern Burlington HS.

**Scholar Athlete Program** - Forms are out and are available online. The event will take place on 5/17. If a conference previously donated a scholarship, a letter will be sent asking if they would be willing to donate again.

**Wilson Prep Program** – Wilson, NJSIAA’s official ball sponsor, is launching a new program that will allow anyone associated with schools (parents, boosters, employees, relatives, etc) to purchase Wilson items for 20% off retail price (10% off all balls). This will launch 9/1. NJ is the second state to partner with Wilson for this program, behind Illinois. Wilson will forward an invite letter to all schools so it’s important School Manager data is updated.

**Guidelines for 90-Minute Contact Practice** – Guidelines were distributed. Full contact should be limited during the regular season to ninety minutes per week, with a maximum of thirty minutes per day, with contact on no more than two consecutive days. The reduction in the amount of time dedicated to full-contact drills decreases the number of exposures per week.
There are five levels of contact, ranging from 0 Intensity where players run a drill unopened without contact to Intensity Level 4, called Live Action, where the drill is run in game-like conditions and is the only time that players are taken to the ground. Thud, Intensity Level 3, means a drill is run at assigned speed to competitive speed through the moment of contact; no pre-determined “winner.” Contact remains above the waist, players stay on their feet, and a quick whistle ends the drill. Thud (Level 3) and Live Action (Level 4) would be included in the weekly contact restrictions. These guidelines have been endorsed by the NFHS.

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**COLLEEN MAGUIRE REPORT**

**Spring Ticket Prices** – Spring ticket price requests have been sent to the Department of Education, but this year in spring track, NJSIAA requested all sites charge $4 and $2. In the past, the DOE approved charging $5 and $3 at certain sites, but NJSIAA felt it was easier and more consistent to charge all spectators the same fee.

**Receivables Past 90 Days** – Colleen thanked all officers for their assistance in debt collection. Only seven schools are outstanding, with less than $500 debt.

**Sports Participation Forms** – 90% of schools have turned in their fall and winter participations forms.

**Budget** – RFPs have been sent out to new trophy vendors and to both Boardwalk Hall and Prudential Center to host the wrestling individual championships. NJSIAA is also in talks for a new broadcasting media rights contract.

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**Next Meeting** – May 7, 2015