NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1161 Route 130, P O Box 487     Robbinsville, NJ  08691

League/Conference Officers Meeting Summary
May 7, 2015

Attendees –
Dan Uszaki (BCSL)
Sharon Hughes (Big North)
Steve Fortis (CAL)
Matt Sheehan (Colonial)
Steve Gazdek (CVC)
Jeff DiCocco (GMC)
Sean Dowling and Rob Haraka (NJAC)
Stan Fryczynski (NJIC)
Tim Walsh, Louis Papa & Brad Bauer (Olympic)
Joe Piro and Steven Jenkins (SEC)
Rusty Todd (Shore)
Al Stumpf & Carl Weigner (Skyland)
Michael McAleer (TCC)
Gus Kalikas (UCC)

L&C OFFICERS’ CONCERNS/ DISCUSSIONS / ISSUES

1. Changing Protocol for a School Requesting to Leave their Conference in Search of Another (Stan Fryczynski)

Stan wanted to discuss the possibility of having language added to the NJSIAA constitution that provides a proper procedure and protocol for a school requesting to leave their conference in search of another.

ie: school wants to withdraw from Conference "A" and go to Conference" B." Conference "B" will not entertain any discussion with this school until properly released from Conference "A." If the school is denied exit from its present conference; and takes it to the appeals committee, there is no way for that school to support itself in explaining a league/conference change because they have not been allowed to appear before the other conference for consideration.

Discussed ensued. Ideas such as conferences working together before coming down to NJSIAA was entertained, as well as schools not requesting to leave one conference before they have another conference that is willing to accept them.
2. Review Out of Season Guidelines Section 6 CL 3 as it Pertains to 7v7 Football (Sean Dowling)

Sean expressed that all schools go to 7 v 7 tournaments in the summer and he’d prefer his students be safe on a school-provided bus rather than his students transporting themselves. He feels this rule is antiquated and too hard to enforce and is being violated by too many schools. Steve discussed the need for integrity among athletic directors to enforce the rules and not turn a blind eye. If a school is in violation of this rule, they can be brought to a Controversies Committee hearing, fined and kept out of the state tournament, but allegations must be brought up by a member schools since NJSIAA’s Constitution prevents the association from investigating schools without a request brought forward from the membership. NJSIAA cannot investigate just because game results are reported in newspapers.

Discussion took place over what’s the real difference between 7 v 7 in football vs. basketball camps and soccer leagues and why is the rule in place. The major difference lies in who funds the activity and liability. A coach can be present, just the school cannot pay for the activity/be the sponsor including paying for entry fees, buses, uniforms and equipment, etc. Furthermore the team cannot represent the school. The team can be all players from the high school and be called Edison Autobody, but not Edison HS. Another note: A third party venue can host/sponsor event, but schools cannot so two schools scrimmaging each other at a school is not allowed by rules, but two schools playing each other at Monmouth University invitational is acceptable as long as the participation is funded by an outside source, and not the school. Sean wanted to know the process to change rule – can it go the Executive Committee approval route or does it have to go the Advisory Committee-Sectional Meetings-Annual Meeting ballot route? It was discouraged to pass this through the Executive Committee because in the meeting that took place yesterday regarding amending the transfer rule, it was overwhelming felt by the Executive Committee to allow the membership to vote on it instead of being fast tracked by the Executive Committee.

Michael McAleer expressed not wanting his school to be involved with sport activities in the summer. Schools need to question if they want the liability of athletes in the summer, which Sean expressed he did. Larry also added that if the rule is changed, eligibility rules will also have to be taken into account. When does a student’s ineligibility end? Usually an ineligible spring student would be eligible in the fall – would it now be summer? Steve Jenkins just asked that if Sean proposes to change the out of season guidelines rule, that he look at the whole summer period, and not just tailor the changes to the 7 v 7 football issue.

3. Changing Spring Season Tournament Dates – Make Season End Week Later (Joe Piro)

Joe recommends moving the spring state tournament finals back a week from June 8th to June 15th because it is difficult to get all games in by the cutoff. Steve Timko explained that June is a difficult time of year because of proms, exams, and non-public schools are usually out of school by June, but Joe surveyed the non-public schools in his conference and they were for the change. They felt it was worth it, especially having the opportunity to play games in 70 degrees vs. 30 degrees. Joe feels one additional week is reasonable and not too much to ask of schools already out of session. Larry mentioned that to make the change, Joe has to think if he wants the rule to
be a philosophical date, such as the Saturday of the 2nd or 3rd full week of June, or a set date in June. He also mentioned next year, with the way the calendar falls, championships will be the second week of June. Discussion also took place on whether or not the season would begin a week a later or the current start of season dates remains.

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STEVEN J. TIMKO REPORT

Polling Conferences re: Wrestling Preference – 4 or 5 Groups – Most conferences responded to Steve’s survey, but if your conference has not, please email your conference’s preference (ex – 10 schools prefer 5 groups; 5 schools prefer 4 groups.) Steve also shared that it appears that the group finals will go back to Toms River in one gym and the day will break down like below:

- Groups 1 & 2 will compete first on four mats
- Groups 3 & 4 will compete next on four mats
- Groups 5, Non-public A & Non-public B will compete next on four mats
- Break
- Groups 1, 2 & 3 Finals
- Groups 4 & 5 Finals

The biggest downside is the first groups will have a long break before competing in finals, but NJSIAA is close to finalizing these plans.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The Senate Education Committee is meeting on this day to consider approving Bill (S2275), which would require NJSIAA to sponsor cheerleading. NJSIAA is opposed to it because it does not believe the membership is asking for this and the sport if under the umbrella of the NJSIAA will have to follow all association rules including out of season guidelines, eligibility, etc.

Advisory Committee/Proposed Legislation for 2015-2016 – Five proposals were approved by the Advisory Committee then the Executive Committee. The following will be discussed at the sectional meetings in the fall, and voted on at the annual meeting in December.

a. Northern Valley Regional HS proposed to create four non-public districts and one non-public region in wrestling. Region presidents are open to any feedback to tweak this proposal.

b. The Big North Conference proposed to start the fall season so all fall sports begin on Wednesday, 8/10 and all games can begin 9/1. If this does not pass, Fall 2015 will be the last year an early opening date will be allowed.

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. Under Old Business/New Business, this passed as a
one-year waiver for November 2015, but if this does not pass at the annual meeting, 2015 will be the last year this early practice will be allowed.

d. The Public/Non-Public Committee recommended creating a non-public football conference.

e. The Public/Non-Public Committee recommended amending the Transfer Rule. Multiple changes are recommended. The Public/Non-Public Committee wanted the Executive Committee to approve it in two readings so it can go in to effect July 1st but the Exec Committee chose to let the membership decide on whether this rule should pass or not and it will be voted on at the annual meeting in December instead.

2015 / 2016 List of Banned Substances – The listing of banned substances has been approved by the Executive Committee and Medical Advisory Committee and is now available on the NJSIAA website, under Medical Topics and on the home page, under Latest Documents.

NFHS Legal Meeting – Steven Goodell, NJSIAA counsel, attended this meeting in Indianapolis.

NFHS Medical Advisory Committee – Steve attended his last NFHS Medical Advisory Committee meeting since his term expires. Important topics discussed were as follows:

1. Pitch Count
2. Helmets for athletes playing 1st and 3rd base in softball
3. Girl’s Lacrosse Helmets
4. The head of NOCSAE was present. If caps or crowns are added to a helmet, that changes the warranty of the helmet and it will no longer be certified.

2015-2016 Resolution Cards and Affidavits – These were mailed to schools.

Nomination of Officers – The following people passed the First Reading of approved officers for the 2015-2016 Executive Committee:

President - Greg Bailey, Football/Basketball Assignor and School Boards Association representative
1st VP – Elaine McGrath, Athletic Director at South Brunswick HS
2nd VP – Chuck Klaus, Principal at Haddonfield Memorial HS

2015-2016 L&C Officers Meeting Dates – These were distributed. First meeting is August 13, 2015.
DON DANSER REPORT

**Outdoor Track** – There will be three new sectional sites this year: Bernards HS, Central Regional HS and Northern Burlington HS. Plainfield HS couldn’t host because they are a group IV school, like Ridge, and two group IV schools cannot host.

**Cooperative Programs** – A multitude of co-op programs were approved at the Exec Committee meeting and distributed. Two co-op applications were questioned.

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Don also announced that after 18 years of service, he will retire in December 2015. © It has been an enjoyable experience and he will miss it.
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LARRY WHITE REPORT

**Baseball & Men’s Volleyball** – Cutoff & seeding & tournament dates were distributed. Some contracts for baseball sites have not been returned but as soon as they are secured, changes will be posted online and notification sent out.

**Flyer** – Larry distributed a flyer from prominent lawyer/official, Alan Goldberger regarding safety issues and topics of legal responsibilities for coaches and schools. He conducts seminars of these kinds on a national scale. Larry asked officers to distribute to schools in each conference.

JACK DUBOIS REPORT

**Clinics** – The wrestling clinic will take place on 5/8 at Princeton University. Walkons will be accepted. The University of Maryland’s head coach planned to be the head clinician but due to a conflict, the head clinician will be Hofstra’s head coach. On 5/13, Atlantic Sports Health is co-sponsoring an athletic trainer’s workshop at Morristown Medical Center.

**Scholar Athlete Program** - 325 scholar athletes will be honored and 1330 are registered to attend this program, which takes place on 5/17 at the Pines Manor in Edison. $161,500 in scholarships (a $12,000 increase from last year) is being awarded through 199 scholarships.

**Ice Hockey** – The ice hockey committee recommended two changes. First, they want the number of public at-large schools allowed in the tournament increased. Presently there are three bids for public schools and two for non-public schools. The committee increased the amount for public schools to 3 bids per division so six in total. The amount for non-public will remain the same at two. These spots do not have to be filled. Second, the committee also recommended that to participate in post-season play, a player must play in 50% of the regular interscholastic season. Several players had not been seen all year, prior to the finals. The Executive Committee supported this proposal and approved this change. Rob Haraka expressed support for this change, but suggested that there be a structure and not an honor system.
**Men’s Lacrosse** – Seeding takes place 5/11. The group finals will take place on 5/27 at Ridge HS and Livingston HS. Rusty Todd asked if it’s true that LAX Power gives points for a 10-goal differential. His school is doing really well but he doesn’t want to run up the score, but his coach explained that they gain more power points for doing this, which makes Rusty very uncomfortable. Sean Dowling did confirm that points are awarded for 10-goal differentials and the current system cannot be changed at this time, but to keep in mind that only a small % of points is given for that feat. Winning % is the biggest factor in earning points and Sean encouraged all Athletic Directors to drive this point home with their coaches so they don’t rack up the scores, in the spirit of sportsmanship and boy’s lacrosse.

Sean also encouraged everyone to double and triple check LAX power to make sure the reports are correct, especially if your school was the away team. Schools should never rely on others because some schools may not be reporting scores. Sharon reiterated this sentiment, since she sees it in volleyball. Not reporting scores has a trickle-down effect on multiple schools.

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**KIM DEGRAW-COLE REPORT**

**Website** – Tournament Refusal Forms are now interactive. They can be modified up until the last day of cutoff. Instructions how to fill out the form online was distributed.

**Softball** – Discussion took place over whether softball is a dying sport. Sharon Hughes polled coaches in her conference and many felt free substitution would encourage more participation. Coaches were in favor of this. Steve Jenkins shared that in his conference there are only 8 freshmen teams (out of 40 schools).

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**COLLEEN MAGUIRE REPORT**

**Receivables Past 90 Days** – There is an outstanding balance of $3,000 between nine schools, one of which is an independent school. The deadline for payment (a PO is suffice) is Monday morning, 5/11, the day of lacrosse seeding. Colleen urged officers to reach out to the unpaid schools in their conference so no one is held out of the tournament due to delinquent payments.

**Participation Numbers** – Colleen will be in touch with schools next week if these numbers are not received. Sean Dowling questioned if the data received is ever analyzed. The answer is yes. Information is sent to the NFHS. In NJ, there are 285,000 scholar athletes, which is the 8th largest in the country. Football was declining nationwide, but now it is leveling off. NJSIAA could look at these numbers received to analyze whether softball is truly declining in NJ.

**2015-2016 Budget** – The Executive Committee will vote on the budget via roll call in June. NJSIAA budgeted $65,000 less than last year.

**Winter 2015 Financial Report Status** – This is 95% done and it appears that NJSIAA earned $50,000 less than projected, but this is due to certain staff members’ hours not allocated in the budget and gate receipts were down because of rough weather conditions this winter.
Spring Ticket Prices – The Department of Education approved NJSIAA’s spring ticket price requests.

New Trophies/Awards Provider – NJSIAA is in the process of signing with Spikes Trophy, a new trophies/awards provider. This will save $50,000. Thanks to Spikes, beginning in the fall, NJSIAA will be able to offer mini replicas of team trophies that individuals/booster clubs can purchase.

PROGRAM REVIEW

Swimming Start Date – 1st Reading - Both the Program Review Committee and the Executive Committee approved the Swim Committee’s recommendation to permanently change the start dates for practice and competition. It was proposed to begin practice every year on November 9th and the regular season on the last Saturday of November (November 28 in 2015). This proposal mirrors the permanent change that was approved for Ice Hockey in 2014. This will go in to effect if it passes second reading at the June 3rd Executive Committee meeting.

Women’s Volleyball Power Points – 1st Reading - Both the Program Review Committee and the Executive Committee approved the Women’s Volleyball Committee recommendation to go back to the RPI method of seeding the tournament and to not use the power point structure that was used this past 2014 season. The men’s committee never adopted the power point system and using power points did not accurately depict the best teams since many schools/teams are locked in to their respective league/conference schedules, which hampers the opportunity to schedule stronger programs, thus accruing greater residual power points. Returning to the RPI system doesn’t change the number of teams eligible for the tournament, just how they get in. This needs to pass second reading at the June 3rd Executive Committee meeting to go in to effect.

REPORT OF COUNSEL – STEVEN P. GOODELL

North Bergen Appeal – North Bergen HS appealed a decision made by NJSIAA and upheld by the Commissioner of Education. They challenged the decision in court, and after 15 months, the verdict was returned in favor of NJSIAA. North Bergen is now filing an appeal with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has the choice whether to hear the case or deny the appeal without a hearing.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Extension of Early Winter Start Date for Additional One Year Period - 2nd Reading & Vote – This was discussed earlier under legislation, but the early winter start date was extended one more year so in 2015, schools can begin practice the Monday before Thanksgiving until Wednesday, take a four-day recess, and resume practices again the Monday after Thanksgiving.
The three practices prior to Thanksgiving do not count towards the six needed for first scrimmage.

**NJIC / Mary Help of Christians Academy Bowling Waiver Request & Vote** – For the past several years, Mary Help of Christian has been in a conference with only male teams to compete against so they asked for a waiver to play against their male counterparts in the conference, which the Executive Committee approved.

**Raritan Bay Catholic 70% In-State Competition Rule Football Waiver Request & Vote** – In order to resurrect its football program since the year before, Raritan Bay Catholic (formerly Cardinal McCarrick HS) played three games and had to drop their program, the Executive Committee approved a waiver to waive the 70% in-state competition rule for one year.

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**Next Meeting** – August 13, 2015