EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 10, 2018

Flag Salute

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Vincent Smith, at 11:06 am.

The following members were present: Ralph Aiello, Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Matthew McFarland, Elaine McGrath, Dominick Miletta, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Michael Pellegrino, Sue Petrone, William Quirk, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Todd VanOrden, Kathy Whalen, and Dr. Brian Zychowski. Also present: Larry L. White, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, Al Stumpf and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Darren Cooper, The Record; Mike McGarry, Press of AC; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ.com. Also present: Judy Tutela of Spire Group, PC.; Dan Healey, Athletic Director at Summit HS; Bill Librera, Asst. Principal & Mike Sandor, Wrestling Coach at Summit HS; Mia Gavan, Athletic Director at Pope John XXIII HS; Joe Lennon, Athletic Director at DePaul Catholic HS.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by William Quirk, to accept the minutes of the September 14, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Out-of-State Competition/All-Star Games – A listing of Bordering State Sanctions and National Federation Sanctions was distributed for informational purposes.

Executive Director Update – Larry L. White

FYE 2018 Financial Audit – Judy Tutela, partner and manager at NJSIAA’s auditing firm, Spire Group, reviewed the June 30, 2018 financial statements, which was reviewed with the Finance Committee earlier in the day. The NJSIAA received an unmodified opinion, which means the Association’s financial statements conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and fairly represent the Association’s financial accounts

For 2017-2018, there was a decrease in net assets of approximately $160K, the largest contributor being increases in legal fees due to the increasing level of hearings and related appeals. Total revenues were flat as compared to the prior year. Ms. Tutela recommends that the NJSIAA begin to identify new revenue streams in order to increase its liquidity reserves to a nine or ten month level. The Association’s current operating reserves are at approximately 5 months, which is slightly down from the prior year. Ms. Tutela commented that the Association does a good job of controlling costs so the increase in reserves will need to come from revenues. Lastly, Ms. Tutela commented that there will be changes going to forward to the
presentation of the financial statements to better illustrate functional activities and liquidity transparency.

A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Rob Haraka, to approve the FYE 2018 financial audit statements. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-28, No-0, Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update – Mr. Anzano was unable to attend but there is nothing new to report.

Sectional Meetings – This year NJSIAA held four sectional meetings instead of five. All were well attended. At the meetings, NJSIAA staff and legislation sponsors reviewed the eight proposals that will be on the 2018 annual meeting ballot. Mr. White reviewed each proposal with the committee.

NFHS Section I Meeting – Mr. White, along with representatives from the seven other Section I states from NJ to Maine, attended the Section 1 meeting in Rhode Island this year. Two major discussions involved the rotation of states hosting each year. NJ is in line to host this meeting in 2022. Also, a lengthy discussion took place over Section I’s representation on the NFHS Board of Directors. Since Dr. Niehoff of CT was serving, it was discussed how to handle replacing her term since she is now the NFHS Executive Director.

Gymnastics – Entries close 10/23. Sectionals are set for 11/3. The team and individual state championships will be 11/8 and 11/10 respectively.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Field Hockey – Cutoff is 10/15 and seeding will be 10/17. The last day to submit the tournament refusal form is 10/10 or schools will be automatically entered in to the tournament. Some brackets may only have 13/14 schools so there’s multiple byes in the first-round games, therefore not as intense competition.

October is Activities Month – October is National High School Activities Month at ww.nfhs.org. For more info – see the following link:


Eligibility, Transfers, Controversies Update – The Eligibility Committee reviewed 29 eligibility waiver requests on October 3, 2018. Of those 29 requests, two cases are hearings that will be heard today by the Eligibility Appeals Committee and Ms. Cole anticipates more on November 14th. The online transfer form is now functioning correctly. There were issues with the system but have since been resolved.

Jack DuBois

Summit HS / Chatham HS Wrestling Co-op Waiver Request – Dan Healey, Athletic Director at Summit HS, along with Asst. Principal Bill Librera & Wrestling Coach, Mike Sandor of Summit HS, presented to the committee. They requested a one-year waiver of the cooperative sports rule so both schools can form a wrestling team together, which is currently prohibited because
both are Group III schools. The middle school is losing participants to outside wrestling clubs
and as a result, the numbers are dwindling at the high school level. Mr. Sandor looked within his
conference but didn’t want to join with an interested party because he didn’t want Chatham to
lose their identity, and the only way that school would agree to combine was if they were the
LEA (which meant Chatham would wear the partnering school’s uniform and all matches would
be at the LEA school). It is expected that this upcoming season, Summit will have 9 returners
(12 total), while Chatham will have four returners (with the expectation of having six more.) Even
with an anticipated number of 22 participants, it still may not fill all 14 weight classes. The
Chatham BOE will not approve the co-op program if Chatham HS has less than 10 wrestlers
participating in the program. Without joining another school, Chatham HS will not have enough
for a varsity program and will only compete JV. Chatham HS’s record last year was 0-22, while
Summit HS went 7-12. Matches will take place at both schools, which is important to both
programs. The two leagues have approved the request. The combined program will not be a
powerhouse and will not disrupt competitive balance. Also, cooperative sports changes are on
the horizon, and this request would be permissible next year, if the legislation passes at the
annual meeting. Both schools are hoping this will help re-establish the wrestling program. The
co-op, which will be called United Summit/Chatham, would compete in the Union County
Conference as the two schools are situated in two different counties/conferences. The original
letter request referenced a two-year waiver request. Mr. Vacca suggested requesting only one
year, which was fine with all parties. Dr. Brotschul noted that the difference between West
Windsor’s similar football request last year was that this request has conference support. Mr.
Haraka also felt that in a month, legislation will be voted on that addresses this exact issue.
Michael Pellegrino suggested that maybe the co-op, if approved, should not be eligible to
compete for a league title (individual competition is acceptable). Mr. Sandor expressed they will
not be a challenging team. Mr. Quirk felt the leagues have already approved the merger.

A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Rob Haraka, to approve a one-year waiver
and allow Summit HS and Chatham HS to co-op together in wrestling for the 2018-2019
season. Motion carried with no oppositions and 3 abstentions.

Football – Football Cards are due electronically on 10/15. This is a hard deadline. The Football
Leagues and Conferences Committee midseason meeting will be 10/18. On 10/28, Selection
Sunday, seeding of the tournament and the scheduling of regional crossover games will take
place.

NJSIAA Sports Awards – A listing of recipients who will receive a NJSIAA sports or service
award at the Hall of Fame program on 12/3/18 was distributed. The recipients were endorsed by
the Awards Committee. A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Robert Grauso, to
approve the 2018 NJSIAA sports award honorees. Motion carried unanimously.

Corporate – Mr. DuBois has a meeting with New Balance next week to discuss sponsoring
cross country, winter and spring track.

Workshops – There is a workshop at Montclair State University on 10/26, sponsored by
Investors Bank, addressing how social media helps and hurts athletes. Mr. DuBois encourages
athletes and parents to attend this free workshop. A panel of experts moderated by Dave
Kaplan and including Rick Wolff, nationally recognized expert in sports parenting, author, coach,
and host of WFAN’s Sunday morning program, ”The Sports Edge,” will lead the program. There
is also a workshop on 10/26 at NJSIAA about keeping athletes safe/preventing danger,
sponsored by Legal One. The two eligibility workshops hosted by NJSIAA in September were
well attended. The format was changed and was well received.
Approval of Cooperative Sports Program – A motion was made Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by William Quirk, to approve the following cooperative sports programs:

A) Ocean Township HS / Shore Regional HS / Monmouth Regional HS – Ice Hockey
B) Howell HS / Matawan Regional HS – Ice Hockey
C) River Dell HS / Westwood HS / Emerson HS – Ice Hockey
D) Summit HS / Chatham HS – Wrestling
E) DePaul Catholic HS / Morris Catholic HS – Skiing
F) DePaul Catholic HS / Morris Catholic HS / Academy of St Elizabeth – Ice Hockey
G) Garfield HS / Hasbrouck Heights HS – Boys Swimming & Girls Swimming

*This co-op was approved earlier in the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Bill Bruno

Cross Country Update – Sectional meets begin on 11/3. Paperwork has been submitted timely and Mr. Bruno is in good shape for the tournament.

Wrestling Update – Tournament Rules & Regulations will be posted by 11/1.

Winter Track Update – Tournament Rules & Regulations are already posted online.

NJSCA Clinics – The NJSCA Golf Coaches Clinic will take place on 10/30, at Galloping Hill Golf Course. On 12/17, the Monmouth University baseball coaching staff will run the NJSCA Baseball Clinic at Diamond Nation.

Al Stumpf

Unified Sports – Mr. Stumpf is pleased that there have been 12 signups so far for NJSIAA competition and championships, an average of one a week.

Boys/Girls Soccer Update – Mr. Stumpf distributed a chart outlining all dates/locations for the upcoming state soccer tournament. The soccer committee agreed to allow 10/27 as an opening date if both schools mutually agree. In the girls tournament, there may be a conflict for the 11/2 second round game if schools are hosting a football game on that same date. If schools inform Mr. Stumpf, permission will be granted to host on 11/3 instead but keep in mind that 11/3 is the raindate. The public semi-final Central/South Jersey game had to moved from 11/13 to 11/14 due to availability with the site. That still allows enough rest/recovery before the next tournament game. Tournament Refusal Forms are due 10/18. Seeding will be 10/23. Also, there was a soccer rule change that officials haven't been enforcing correctly. NJSIAA is aware of the problem and resolving the incorrect rulings whenever possible. Last, NFHS changed the color of home uniforms from white to colored jerseys so schools can show off their school colors at home. Mr. Haraka expressed thinking it made more sense to show school colors at away games so others who don't know the away team school colors can see them.

Girls Volleyball Update – Tournament Refusal Forms are due 10/16. Seeding is 10/23. Play-in games can be played from 10/25 - 10/27 while first round games play on 10/29 or 10/30.
**Tony Maselli**

**Girls Tennis Update** – The team tournament is in “full swing.” 220 athletes competed this past weekend in 120 matches at two different sites. Weather cooperated so all tournament games were played. The team tournament continues to progress.

**Website Update** – As the association saw a drop in Arbiter problems/complaints, website issues increased this past month. There have been over 10,000 hackers a day so the security firewall had to be changed, which affected the functionality of the website. Mr. Maselli is aware of the issues and has been working with the association’s web developer to resolve the problems.

**Co-Ed Swimming** – The association is finalizing its winter classifications so Mr. Maselli is trying to confirm whether certain schools have a co-ed swimming program or a separate boys/girls swim program.

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**Colleen Maguire – Director of Finance Report**

**2018-2019 Membership Status** – Total number of member schools for the 2018-2019 school year is currently at 433. The accounting department has been working diligently to collect POs for past due invoices and Ms. Maguire will seek the help of the Leagues and Conference officers to secure outstanding membership items.

**Senior Summit Luncheon** – This inaugural event was a big success with 120 student-athletes in attendance. Most came with an adult guest, making the total guest count 260 attendees. Ms. Maguire thanked Executive Committee member, Kathy Whalen, for arranging to have the Commissioner of Education kick off the event. Other speakers included Gian Paul Gonzalez, Bob Hurley and Dr. Jarrod Spencer, who were introduced to the crowd by a student-athlete in attendance. The message of the day was how athletes can apply lessons learned in sports to their every-day, real life.

**Text Alerts Remind.com App** – The association will use this app service to notify athletic directors of important deadlines and other emergent messages. So far, 242 member schools have signed up for this service so please spread the word.

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**Finance Committee Update – Vincent Smith**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The September 2018 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Todd VanOrden made a motion, seconded by Beverly Torok, to approve the September 2018 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Program Review – (Bill Bruno)**

**Girls Wrestling – 2nd Reading** – A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Elaine McGrath, to add a girls division to the state tournament in Atlantic City, determined through a regional tournament. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

**Football Early Start of Regular Season Waiver – 1st Reading** – Mr. Mullahey spoke on behalf of the New Jersey Super Football Conference (NJSFSC) and their request for a Week 00 in 2019
for ten of their schools (Seton Hall Prep was not on the original request list so Mr. Mullahey amended the request to include them). The ten schools requesting a waiver are: St. Peter’s Prep, Bergen Catholic, Don Bosco Prep, Paramus Catholic, St. Joseph’s Regional, Pope John XIII, Delbarton, DePaul, Hudson Catholic and Seton Hall Prep. Other states create a schedule starting from Labor Day, while in NJ, opening day is dictated by Thanksgiving and counting backwards from that date. Since next year Thanksgiving is a later date, opening week falls after Labor Day, which is a problem for the ten noted schools since there are several out-of-state matchups scheduled already, as late as weeks 2 and 3 and their 2019 out of state opponents will be entering their league schedules (week 4 or even 5) and are no longer eligible to play the NJ teams. This makes it extremely difficult for NJ teams to replace their lost game(s) without the help of week 00. The 2018 season opened week 0 on Thursday, August 30, the same date that is being requested for the week 00 games in 2019. Week 0 will be prior to Labor Day through 2023. This scheduling anomaly impacts multiple teams in the SFC (not just the highly competitive non-public teams) and could potentially impact other schools across the state. With that said, the highly competitive non-public teams in the SFC have an extremely difficult time scheduling a full 9 games within the state – this waiver request will adequately help them continue to work with the SFC in their creation of a full schedule. The SFC Executive Committee will not approve of any requests, nor allow any teams to attempt to circumvent this waiver in attempt to play week 00 and begin their season earlier than the assigned week 0 date. This waiver is being requesting strictly on the basis to provide teams with a full schedule that no longer have a full schedule within the two-year scheduling cycle.

A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Tony Mitchell, to grant a one-year waiver for the football contest start date to move to Friday, August 30, 2019 under the following conditions:

- This is a one-year request due to an anomaly in the calendar and coinciding scheduling cycle seeking to help teams attain a full schedule within an already rigid two-year scheduling cycle.
- Only those teams that are impacted by the schedule cycle anomaly described above would qualify for this waiver, there will be no other exceptions under this waiver.
- The SFC schools that meet the above criteria and would need the waiver are:
  - St. Peter’s Prep, Bergen Catholic, Don Bosco Prep, Paramus Catholic, St. Joseph’s Regional, Pope John XIII, Delbarton, DePaul, Hudson Catholic and Seton Hall Prep.
- Member schools that qualify for the week 00 waiver will be permitted to being their heat acclimatization and scrimmages 7 days earlier than the official start dates listed in the 2019 regulations.

Motion carried with no oppositions and one abstention (Sarlo).

**Report of Counsel (Steven Goodell, Esq.)**

Mr. Goodell briefed the committee on pending litigation.

First, a coach who was found to have violated the Sportsmanship Rule appealed his suspension to the Superior Court, Law Division. His request for a restraining order was denied and his case was dismissed.
Second, a student who was found to have transferred for athletic advantage appealed his suspension to the Superior Court, Law Division. His request for a restraining order was denied and his case was dismissed.

Third, a coach who was found to have violated the Sportsmanship Rule appealed his suspension to the Commissioner of Education. His case remains pending.

Fourth, the Paterson Eastside coach’s appeal remains pending in the Appellate Division.

Finally, at the last EAC hearing, which lasted until 6 PM, two students were found to have transferred for athletic advantage. As of October 10, 2018, neither student had appealed.

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Old Business / New Business

Old Business – none.

New Business

A. Saddle River Day Request to Waive the 70% in State Competition Rule for Girls Basketball Team for 2018-19 season. A motion was made by Joanne Dzama, seconded by Bill Vacca, to allow a waiver for the 70% in-state competition rule for the Saddle River Day Girls Basketball Program for the 2018-19 Basketball Season Schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Pope John Request to Waive the 70% / 10-State Match Rule in Wrestling for 2018-2019 Season. A motion was made by Todd VanOrden, seconded by Monsignor Kelly, to waive the 70% in-state and 10 in-state matches competition rule for the Pope John XXIII Regional HS Wrestling Program for the 2018-19 Wrestling Season. Mia Gavan, Athletic Director, explained to the committee that with weather and cancellations, last year the team barely made the cutoff and at this current time, the school only has only nine in-state matches so if there’s another bad weather year like last year, Ms. Gavan fears not making the cutoffs again. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Bergen Catholic Request to Waive the 70% / 10-State Match Rule in Wrestling for 2018-2019 Season. A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to waive the 70% in-state and 10 in-state matches competition rule for the Bergen Catholic HS Wrestling Program for the 2018-19 Wrestling Season. Motion carried unanimously.

D. DePaul Catholic Request to Waive the 70% / 10-State Match Rule in Wrestling for 2018-2019 Season. A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to waive the 70% in-state and 10 in-state matches competition rule for the DePaul Catholic HS Wrestling Program for the 2018-19 Wrestling Season. Joe Lennon, Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Tony Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry L. White, Executive Director

LLW: In