EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 9, 2016

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Elaine McGrath, at 10:59 am.

The following members were present: Greg Bailey, Dr. Brian Brotschul, John Bulina, Kevin Carty, Jr., Maureen Dzwill, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Jack Hurley, Richard Kaz, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Howard Krieger, Dr. James Lavender, Bill McDermott, Tony Mitchell, Michael Nitti, Dr. James Sarruda, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, John Stanczak, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, and Denis Williams. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Larry White, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, and Al Stumpf, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; and Michael W. Herbert, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Darren Cooper, Record; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; Jack McGovern, Athletic Director at Bergen Catholic HS; Joe Lennon, Athletic Director at DePaul Catholic; Danny Brown, Athletic Director at Saddle River Day School; and Jeff Horohonich, Athletic Director at Immaculate Conception Lodi.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Tony Mitchell, to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2016 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 – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Not much has changed from Election Day. There is speculation that Governor Christie will become part of the Trump administration and if he does, Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno would step in the governor role for the remainder of the term.

Wrestling Update – All schools, district sites, and region sites have been notified of the new realignment and new host sites. Colleen Maguire has secured great hotel room rates and room blocks with Caesars, Ballys, and the Claridge for Thursday – Sunday. Hotel rooms will sell out quickly so it is encouraged to book now, especially because 4th place finishers now qualify for AC, so that’s 112 additional wrestlers that will be participating in the individual tournament.

Steve Goodell Update – Steve has been moved to Magee Rehab in Philadelphia.
**Assistant Director Reports**

**Jack DuBois**

**Football** – Brackets are posted on nj.com. One bracket had to be reseeded because the Superintendent of Wayne Hills HS informed NJSIAA that they may have played an ineligible player during the season. After a meeting on 11/8, it was determined that the student athlete in question did transfer without a bonafide change of address, therefore was ineligible. As a result, the school had to forfeit their last eight football games, does not qualify for the state tournament, and their bracket was reseeded.

**Soccer Update** – The boys public sectional finals and non-public sectional finals will be played on 11/10. The non-public sectional finals will be held at the following neutral sites: PCTI; Kearny HS, Eastern HS and Holmdel HS. Public sectional finals are played at the higher seed. The public state boys and girls semi-final sites will be played at Indian Hills HS, Livingston HS, Ridge HS, Somerville HS, Hopewell Valley HS, Toms River North HS, St. Augustine Prep and Haddonfield HS.

**Corporate Update** – NJSIAA has received verbal agreement from the US Marines to be the official military partner of the NJSIAA. Guardian Innovation has signed a contract to sponsor both boys and girls lacrosse and to be the official lacrosse ball sponsor.

**NJSIAA Workshops** – There is a Legal One Workshop on 12/13 dealing with student health issues. On 1/11/17, Legal One will present another workshop addressing athletics, school finances and ways to avoid legal pitfalls.

**Policy Committee** – The committee is working diligently on modifications to the current cooperative sports program rules and will provide a report after the new year.

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**Kim DeGraw-Cole**

**Tennis** – A listing of team tournament champions was distributed. Andrea Cerdan of Paramus Catholic HS defeated Stephanie Schrage of Millburn HS in the singles tennis tournament. The first doubles team from Millburn HS defeated the Montgomery HS second doubles team. The team tournament concluded on 10/20 at Mercer County Park, with 20 teams in competition for a group championship and ultimately a T of C title. Winner of the TOC was Millburn HS.

**Field Hockey** – Due to anticipated bad weather, Ms. Cole was rescheduling the scheduled state semi-final games from today (11/9) to tomorrow (11/10). Non-public sectional finals were played on 11/8 at the higher seed. Sites for the public state semifinals are: AL Johnson HS, Boonton HS, Hightstown HS and Egg Harbor Twp HS. Group finals will be held at Bordentown HS on 11/12. The Tournament of Champions will be conducted at WWP North on 11/14 and 11/16. TOC finals will be held at Kean University on 11/18.

**Swimming** – Practice for the season began on 11/7 and the season opens up on 11/26.

**NAGWS** – This event will take place on Sunday, 1/29/17 at Seton Hall University. The $45 luncheon ticket also includes tickets to the Seton Hall v Butler women’s basketball game.
Bill Bruno

Cross Country – Mr. Bruno distributed a list of the top five teams from each section of the sectional meets. 4,200 runners competed at the four sectional sites, while 1,992 competed at the group meets at Holmdel Park. The Meet of Champions takes place on 11/19. A schedule of events for 11/19 was distributed.

Winter Track – Dates for all relays, sectionals, group meets and the Meet of Champion at the Bubble in Toms River were distributed. For the first time, the Meet of Champions will be broken up in to two days. Boys will compete on 2/25 and girls will compete on 2/26. There are too many people to host both groups in one day.

Spring Track – RFPs have been received from five schools to host one of two vacant sectional sites. The group meets will take place at Northern Burlington HS and Egg Harbor HS. Three schools are being considered to host the Meet of Champions. A decision will be made by next meeting.

NJSCA Clinics – There are three upcoming clinics. Mr. Bruno is just working on securing a date for the track clinic at the Bennett Center. Nomination forms for the NJSCA Hall of Fame are due 1/20/17.

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Al Stumpf

Soccer – The non-public sectional finals are scheduled for 11/10 at the following four neutral sites – Kearny HS (North B), PCTI (North A), Eastern HS (South A) and Holmdel HS (South B). The public schools play their sectional finals at the higher seed on 11/11 and the state semifinals on 11/15. Finals for the non-public and public schools are 11/13 and 11/19 respectively, both at Kean University.

Unified Sports – The first Unified Sports Soccer Showcase took place at Kean University between Montgomery HS and Moorestown HS. These two teams were selected at the Shriver Cup Championships. Rules and Regulations for both Unified Bowling and Unified Basketball was sent out and NJSIAA’s Participation Form was modified to track the amount of Unified Sports participants.

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Larry White

Gymnastics – Sectional results (the five sectional winners and the next five teams with the highest scores) were distributed. These ten teams will compete at the team finals on 11/10 at Montgomery HS. The individual finals will also take place at Montgomery HS, on 11/12 at 11am.

Volleyball – The sectional semifinals were played on 11/8. The group sectional final pairings were distributed, and will take place on 11/10 at the highest remaining seeds in the upper and lower parts of the bracket. Twenty total teams are left in the tournament. The seeding committee did a great job. The schedule for the Group Finals at William Paterson University on 11/12 was distributed. The Tournament of Champions out bracket match, semifinals and finals will also take place at William Paterson University, beginning on 11/19.
Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire

2016-2017 Membership Status – Total number of member schools for 2016-2017 is 436, which is two more than last year. Great Oaks Charter School and Trinity Christian School did not renew membership, but four new schools joined the association (Al Ghazaly Jr./Sr. HS, Peoples Prep Charter School, STEMCivics Charter School and Eagle Academy Newark.

Outstanding Accounts Receivable Balances – Less than $5,000 is due to NJSIAA in receivables past 90 days, all amounts are under PO.

Finance Committee Update – Elaine McGrath

Approval of October 2016 Checkbook – The October 2016 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. A motion to accept the October 2016 check register was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Richard Kaz. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Review

Baseball – Three Umpires Starting at Sectional Semifinals Level – 1st Reading – A motion was made by Vincent Smith, seconded by Rob Haraka, to use three umpires for the public sectional semifinals and non-public sectional semifinal baseball games instead of two. Presently, all rounds from the sectional finals and up utilize three-men umpire crews. NJSIAA pays for the state final assigned umpires. In this proposal, the home team would pay for the three umpires assigned, which would add an additional $80 dollars for the home team, making it a total of $240.00 for the game. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Wrestling – Timely Submission of Results – 1st Reading – A motion was made by John Bulina, seconded by Maureen Dzwill, to implement a two-step penalty system for schools that do not timely report the results of their wrestling matches to NJschoolsports.com. Timely results are necessary to ensure the calculation of both team and individual power points are accurate. All results are required to be entered within 48 hours of the event time. The first time a school fails to comply with the reporting requirement, a warning will be given. All future instances will be subject to a $150 fine, which is consistent with NJSIAA practice in other sports regarding late entries and late reporting of results. All money collected from these type fines will fund a scholarship at the NJSIAA Scholar Athlete luncheon. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Constitution Changes – 1st Reading – Mr. Zapicchi met weekly with NJSIAA’s Assistant Directors all summer to review the Constitution. After thorough review, there are four type changes being proposed: 1-formatting (fonts, etc.), 2-statutes revision, 3-updating the Constitution with legislation that was already passed, but never incorporated and 4-changes to reflect current practices. A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Beverly Torok, to accept the proposed changes to NJSIAA’s Constitution and Handbook. Tony Mitchell expressed that is a lot of changes in one motion to approve so he requested for the second reading, the information be cut up in to several sections and approved in parts instead of all as one. Mr. Zapicchi is flexible. Changes are just cleaning up old language, not changes in practice (that haven’t already been approved). For an example of a proposed change - baseball now utilizes sport specific classification instead of the general classification so this should be reflected in the Constitution. It was never changed. Committee members can review the changes before the
next meeting/second reading and send Mr. Zapicchi any questions. He will share all concerns/questions at the January meeting. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Swimming Reporting Swim Times Penalties – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by Robert Grauso, to implement a three-tiered penalty system to any school who does not enter results and first place times at njschoolsports.com. First offense: notification by NJSIAA to school; second offense: $150 fine; third offense removal from the team tournament. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Annual Meeting Legislation – Final Proposals

Three proposals will be in front of the general membership on 12/5/16. A copy of the final proposals was distributed. A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Greg Bailey, to approve the final proposals as written to be placed on the ballot at the 2016 annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of Counsel – Michael W. Herbert, Esq.

Delbarton School Appeal to the Commissioner – The Department of Education has requested supplemental information from NJSIAA before they can make a decision regarding Delbarton School’s appeal to the 6/1/16 Executive Committee decision, which upheld the Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee decision that Delbarton School is a member of the North Jersey Super Football Conference (NJSFC) and is bound to play the scheduled provided by the NJSFC. Mr. Herbert will be responding to the request.

Old Business – none.

New Business - Waivers of the 70% Rule – John Stanczak made a motion, seconded by Monsignor Michael Kelly, for the Executive Committee to hear and consider four separate waiver requests. They are outlined below:

Waivers of 70% Rule in Wrestling for DePaul Catholic and Bergen Catholic HS - Jack McGovern, AD at Bergen Catholic HS (BC), and Joe Lennon, AD at DePaul Catholic (DP), spoke about the difficulty they are facing when scheduling wrestling matches. After months of trying to schedule in-state matches, both schools fear they won’t fill the required 70% in-state/10 in-state matches rules. If one school drops a match against their school or there is bad weather, therefore a rescheduled match, both schools will not be compliant with the rule. (BC cannot quantify their current percentage of in-state matches but DP is at 73% therefore cannot risk any cancellations of any nature.) Both schools will compete against each other and they have reached out to non-member schools. A motion was made by John Stanczak, seconded by Monsignor Michael Kelly, to waive both the in-state 70% rule and the 10 in-state match rule for Bergen Catholic HS and DePaul Catholic HS for the 2016-2017 wrestling season. Motion carried unanimously.

Waivers of 70% Rule in Basketball for Saddle River Day School and Immaculate Conception Lodi HS - A motion was made by Jack Hurley, seconded by John Stanczak, to waive the 70% in state competition rule for both the Saddle River Day (SRD) girls basketball program and the Immaculate Conception Lodi HS girls varsity team for the 2016-17 basketball season. Danny Brown, Athletic Director at Saddle River Day School, made a presentation outlining the reasons
for his request. SRD were the NJIC Patriot undefeated league champions in 2013/14 and 2014/15 seasons. NJIC granted a partial independent schedule to SRD and allowed them to play each Patriot division team only once so the NJIC supports this waiver for SRD. In this year's schedule, there are five undetermined games (8 are confirmed against NJ schools.) If by some chance, SRD is able to find 13 games in NJ, and one of those game has to be cancelled/rescheduled for weather or any other reason, SRD it out of compliance and out of the state tournament. The games have been very lopsided in the Patriot division and scheduling with other in-state schools has been a nightmare. Mr. Brown submitted sample rejection letters and responses to his game requests, which included schools with very few losses last year and schools that won games by twenty points or more. Mr. Brown also put up several messages on the NJSIAA forum requesting games. Though there were hundreds of views, no one responded. SRD is located in close proximity to NY so can easily schedule games there if given permission.

Jeff Horohonich, Athletic Director at Immaculate Conception Lodi (ICL), spoke on behalf of his school. ICL is totally independent with no league games because the disparity is too great. To complete a full schedule, ICL travels 45 minutes – one hour for games, though they are located close to NY. Last year, the schedule had ICL at 72% in-state by cutoff, but ICL didn’t play enough in state by cutoff due to weather, so county games had to be moved. NJIC supports the waiver. Some executive committee members expressed concern about granting waivers and opening doors for others. Mr White asked what would it look like if the schools were full-time conference members and the answer is very lopsided games. ICL reached out to the Big North about joining but were turned down because no one wants to travel the distance. Mr. Horohonich has received 77 rejections to his request for games from local powerhouse schools. Mr. Edelman expressed that traveling out of state is an attractive tool for some schools and is a national issue. Mr. Brown expressed that though he had three Division 1 college athletes, they were noticed by their AAU travel exposure, not from being part of the SRD school team. Mr. Horohonich also expressed that if his school played in a NY tournament, he would request to play any of the NJ schools also participating and that if his school plays a small school from NY, that does not have much bearing on the power points. Mr. Zapicchi shared that some states allow the best programs in the state to waive the participation rule because they recognize the problem. Final Vote – motion carried with two oppositions.

Bill Edelman Retirement – Today will be Mr. Edelman’s last meeting as he is retiring this December. He has been an outstanding administrator, member of the Executive Committee, Eligibility Appeals Committee, the Public/Non-Public Committee and DAANJ President. Best wishes to Mr. Edelman on his next chapter.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made by Judy Finch Johnson, seconded by Dr. James Sarruda at 11:57 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

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