Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press

The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday May 1, 2019 at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by President, Vincent Smith, at 11:05 am.

The following members were present: Ralph Aiello, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Teri Connor, Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Dr. William George, Edward Grande, Robert Haraka, Jack Hurley, Mary Liz Irvins, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Elaine McGrath, Dominick Mileta, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullaney, Michael Nitti, Leon Owen, Michael Pellegrino, William Quirk, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Daniel Sinclair, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Todd VanOrden, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, Scott Wohlrab and Dr. Brian Zychowski. Also present: Larry White, Executive Director; Kim Cole, Jack DuBois, Al Stumpf, Bill Bruno and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; Steven Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Mike McGarry, AC Press; Steven Falk, Asbury Park Press; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer, Mike Pavlichko, WCTC and Darren Cooper, The Record. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; and Dan Vivino, Athletic Director at Westwood HS.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to accept the minutes of the April 3, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed with one abstention (Chuck Klaus).

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

Executive Director Update – Larry L. White

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – There is nothing new to report. The legislature is on budget break, currently reviewing department budgets.

NFHS Legal Meeting / NFHS Basketball Rules Committee Meeting – Mr. White and Mr. Goodell attended and presented at the NFHS Legal Meeting in Indianapolis from 4/16 – 4/18. Major topics of discussion included recruiting, retaining and managing officials, First Amendment and pre-game prayers, international students, medical marijuana and codes of conduct. Mr. Goodell did a great presentation about legalized gambling, in which he outlined the history of sports betting, from 1992 when Congress prohibited sports betting (PASPA) to last year when the Supreme Court invalidated PASPA and New Jersey permitted sports betting. Although the law
prohibits betting on any event that takes place in New Jersey, the concern is that it will still find its way to the high school and collegiate levels.

Mr. White returned a week later to Indianapolis for the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee. The committee passed 10 new rules ranging from defining what a headband is versus what hair control devices are (not the same) to allowing assistant coach(es) to enter the court in situation where a fight may break out/has broken out, as long they do not neglect their primary duty which is to make sure no one from the bench enters onto the court. The most important rule that did not pass was the 35 second shot clock. From the survey questions that are sent out to all state associations, the coaches overwhelmingly want it (as do officials), but the state administrations are equally overwhelmingly against it because of the cost to train a special shot clock operator and additional payment to them to run the clock each game.

Nomination of Officers – 1st Reading – On behalf of the nominating committee, Chuck Klaus recommended the below slate of officers. A motion was then made by Bill Quirk, seconded by Bill Vacca, to accept the following slate of officers for next year’s 2019-2020 Executive Committee:

   President - Mary Liz Ivins, President, Notre Dame HS
   1st VP – Steve Shohfi, School Board Member, Point Pleasant Beach School District
   2nd VP – Tom Mullahey, Athletic Director, Clifton HS

Motion passed first reading unanimously.

2019-2020 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – 1st Reading – Proposed meeting dates for next year were distributed. A motion was made by Bill Quirk, seconded by Monsignor Kelly, to approve the meeting dates for 2019-2020. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Assistant Directors Reports

Jack DuBois

Workshops – The first Fundamentals of Coaching workshop for the 2019-2020 year is scheduled for 8/1/19. Two eligibility workshops will be held on 8/14 and 9/26. If there’s not enough people registered for 8/14, everyone will take the course on 9/26. The DAANJ / NJSIAA new AD workshop will take place on 8/20.

Scholar Athlete Program – 368 scholar athletes will be honored and receive at minimum a $500 scholarship at this year’s event at the Pines Manor in Edison. $200,000 in scholarships will be awarded and over 1,400 people are scheduled to attend. This is the first year Kearny Bank is offering a $2,500 strength scholarship award to be given at the 5/19 event. There was an application process and after reviewing 34 nominations, Joseph Fernandez of Fair Lawn HS was chosen to receive the award.

Boys Lacrosse Update – Seeding will be on 5/13. This is the first time the tournament will be seeded without LAX Power. Instead, the committee will seed similar to how the ice hockey committee does it. There is a representative from each conference on the committee and they
will use points from njschoolsports.com as the back-up. Mr. DuBois is not expecting it to be too difficult.

**Football Contact Limitations and Contact Log** – The new football contact limitations and contact log that was approved last month was included in today’s packet. Mr. DuBois again thanked Kevin Carty and the NJFCA for their work on this initiative.

**Football / Opponents Strength Index (OSI) (Dan Vivino) – 1st Reading – Executive Committee**

member/NJFCA president Kevin Carty and Westwood HS Athletic Director, Dan Vivino, spoke to the committee about the recommendation proposed by the United Committee. A motion was made by Kevin Carty, seconded by Jason Corley, to approve the summary of changes to the football regulations. This includes the following four recommendations to the championship playoff qualifications/seedings for the 2019 football season.

1- Replace Born Power Index with an Opponent’s Strength Index (OSI)...60% of a team’s UPR
2- Strength Index rating that moves weekly based on the outcome of each game
3 - Changes to those non-public schools’ that are categorized as a Non-Public Multiplier school
4 - All sections will seeded via a “snake-seeding” methodology

The United Committee made up of the NJSIAA Football Rules Committee, the NJSIAA Leagues and Conferences Football Committee, and the NJFCA all vetted the proposal. The Executive Committee of the NJFCA met before and after the United Committee. Many coaches support this proposal. The three main concerns of the Bourne Power Index used last football season was 1-its lack of transparency, 2-its overreliance on historical data and 3-the reliance on marginal victory (and rewarding a school for running up a score). This new plan addresses those three concerns. Mr. Vivino then explained that the Bourne Power Index would be replaced with the OSI (Opponents Strength Index). The Bourne Power Index rewarded schools and increased their rating if a school had a high point spread. That factor is eliminated with the OSI. The strength index will be updated weekly.

In the non-public structure, three teams were moved up and one school was eliminated from the multiplier.

Last year, northing numbers determined the brackets but there were unbalanced brackets and some brackets may have had some of the best teams in state. The goal is competitive balance, so geography will be sacrificed. After next season, there will be one year under each system and there will be a vote to see which system is preferred. Mr. Mitchell expressed concern that it was only one year under the last system so that’s not a lot of time to analyze its effectiveness and it’s now the second year of a cycle. Mr. Vivino explained the spread factor of the old system had to go. That was dictated to the committee and for the lack of transparency and proprietary reasons, the option of using the Bourne Power Index was no longer an option.

Mr. Mitchell was upset that schools that scheduled Camden Catholic HS (CCHS) next season would now not receive a multiplier. He felt the schools may not have chosen to play that school if they knew they weren’t receiving a multiplier. Mr. Vivino respectfully disagreed because that school is automatically assigned games in that conference, and the conference representative at the meeting was ok with changing the multiplier. Mr. Mitchell explained that he was talking about public schools that scheduled CCHS to receive the multiplier. Mr. Vivino shared that Mr. Mitchell’s league leadership did not express this concern and the only opposition on record to any of the new proposal was regarding snake seeding. Mr. Mitchell also expressed opposition to snake seeding. He doesn’t like the idea of Paulsboro winning the central region or Madison HS winning a south bracket in lacrosse. It protects certain schools from having to face each
other. Mr. Vivino shared that the goal is to have the best teams advancing in the tournament. Mr. Maselli understands that but expressed feeling it should stay by section. Mr. Vivino explained that the room was 50/50 on this concept. So one year it was done by section, this year will be done by snaking. After both years are complete, the membership can choose which direction they want the tournament to proceed.

Michael Pellegrino asked why change the structure considering it worked last year. Mr. Vivino explained only because of the spread issue. And Mr. Goodell added that the transparency was also an issue. People didn’t know or understand the algorithm. Without those two flaws, everyone agreed it worked well and seeding was accurate which led to excellent matchups. Mr. Vivino reiterated that those issues were non-negotiable and had to be changed. The committee was split on the best format going forward but felt the North 1, Group 2 bracket had four of the best teams. Survey results drove all decisions.

Mr. Pellegrino expressed dislike that each sport has a different structure. He would prefer a standard across all sports. Ms. Maguire explained it is one of the goals of the Classification Committee. Mr. Vivino added that what makes football tougher is that only 50% of schools make the playoffs whereas in other sports, 80% qualify, so that makes football more challenging. Mr. Pellegrino questioned if it really matters who plays who in the regular season and just let all teams make the playoffs. Mr. Vivino shared that concept was tried or discussed a few years back, and it was crushed. Ms. Maguire added that a survey was sent to student athletes including the question “Should playoffs be earned or a right to play?” 90% of athletes felt playing should be earned. Mr. Pellegrino then added if that’s the case, it should be consistent across all sports. Ms. Maguire added that 75% of schools have basketball, so that type sport warrants a 16-team bracket. Ms. Maguire also commended Mr. Vivino for working tirelessly on this issue and building communication and relationships with all leagues and conferences leadership.

Final Vote: Yes-35; No-2; Abstain-1. Motion passed first reading.

Kim Cole

Girls Lacrosse and Softball – Important tournament dates for both sports was distributed.

Ms. Cole also shared that the Basketball Rules Committee met on 4/16 and minutes from that meeting will be posted today.

Eligibility and Transfers – The Eligibility Committee will meet 5/8. Tomorrow, 5/2, is the deadline to get all eligibility forms in for consideration by the committee. Transfers have been active, but not as busy as the first half of the year.

Amendment to Bona Fide Change of Residence – 1st Reading – An Ad-Hoc Committee was formed to look at the definition of “bona fide change of address.” The committee, made up of members from the Compliance Committee, EAC, and NJSIAA, met on 4/3. It was agreed that there needs to be clarity and substance to what is required, including having an affidavit that is consistent. The committee created a student-athlete residency affidavit, which would be an additional form process along with the transfer form. Following are the proposed clarifications:

The amendments would read as follows:
K. Transfers – After his/her initial enrollment in a secondary school, as provided for in Article V, Section 4.G (2) of the Bylaws, a student-athlete is subject to the following transfer rules:

1. A student-athlete who transfers from one secondary school to another because of a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents or guardians, or through assignment by the Board of Education, becomes eligible to represent his/her new school immediately upon entrance unless recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage is alleged and provided all other eligibility regulations are satisfied.

Both the former and new school must complete a transfer form affirmatively stating that the transfer is a bona fide change of residence and that there was no athletic recruitment or a transfer for athletic advantage.

A bona fide change of residence takes place when:

- a. The parent/guardian moves with the student from one public high school district to another public high school district;
- b. The parent/guardian completes an affidavit or certification with proof of the new residence;
- c. The change of residence must have occurred on or before the following dates: July 1, to be immediately eligible to participate during the Fall sports season; October 1, to be immediately eligible to participate in the Winter sports season; and February 1, to be immediately eligible to participate in the Spring sports season; and
- d. The new residence may not be associated with, leased, or provided by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.

The form of the affidavit or certification shall be approved annually by the Executive Committee. The affidavit or certification must be filed with the new school and be available to the NJSIAA upon request. Any school official with actual knowledge that the affidavit or certification is false may be subject to punishment as set forth in Article X.

The affidavit or certification must be accompanied by proof of the new residence. Such proof must include a New Jersey driver’s license or non-driver’s identification showing change of address, and at least two of the following: (i) mortgage or lease documents; (ii) utility bills; (iii) passport; (iv) voter registration; (v) bank statement; or (vi) homeowner’s insurance or renter’s insurance.

The term “guardian” refers to that person who has control over the person and property of a child as established by the order of a court of competent jurisdiction. A student who becomes emancipated shall be deemed not to have made a bona fide change of residence.

These changes do not change the rule, they just clean it up. The July 1st deadline is not ample time for this fall, so that will be waived for this upcoming fall 2019. A motion was made by Maureen Bilda, seconded by Bill Vacca, to approve the proposed amendments to the Bona Fide
Change of Residence rule. Discussion took place. Rob Haraka commented that he thought all those documents are already required when transferring. It is not for private schools, but this amendment puts all schools on the same level playing field. Mr. Haraka also asked how this addresses penalties if people cheat. How does this rule curtail the transfer issues? Mr. Goodell explained that everyone uses the bona fide residence exception to avoid sitting 30 days, but the association doesn’t say how to prove it or limit when it can be done. Sometimes schools don’t show proof, they just give their word over phone. Non-publics schools currently have no obligation. This cleaning up of the room now 1-has time frames which is a huge change. A student can’t be eligible if it’s a spur of the moment change at end of season. 2-Requires a sworn statement/affidavit so signing it subjects people to penalty of perjury and 3-This makes non-public and public schools on same page. Also, this new document requires proof of a new address on the driver license. Having just a sticker of the new address is not considered acceptable. Now if schools have knowledge of fraudulent information, they can now be held responsible.

Mr. Haraka asked if the paperwork can be submitted electronically. Ms. Cole answered that there can be the ability to upload the sworn affidavit. Mr. Haraka then asked if his student transfers to a non-public school, will he have access to seeing the form filled out by the recipient school? Mr. Goodell replied that the paperwork being available to all schools has not been discussed. Mr. Haraka then asked if the affidavit accompanies the transfer form. Answer – they are two separate forms. Ms. Cole added that if you look at the rule, an affidavit was always part of the rule, but the form wasn’t created by NJSIAA.

Dr. Zychowski expressed ACLU concerns about having “must include a NJ Driver’s License.” He doesn’t believe you can mandate that since you are excluding a person who does not have a license. Schools can’t use this rule when registering students. Mr. Bollendorf commented that students do not have a right to athletics, but they do have right to education. Mr. Goodell explained that it is not about the right to participate in athletics. Mr. Wohlrab commented that if a parent cannot show their license due to immigration, that excludes students and is not morally correct. Mr. Schaeffer expressed issues with the transfer rule in general and those families that are more financially stable can afford to get rent quickly and show a lease for $900 vs families that are in poorer districts. Mr. Shofhi commented that this amendment just gives more teeth to the rules already in place and provides a way to prove to NJSIAA that a true move took place. Mr. Wohlrab still doesn't understand why schools cannot mandate the driver license requirement, but NJSIAA can. It discriminates against a group of students and says that sports are more important than education. The ACLU will be all over this. Mr. Nitti asked if there are exceptions because in urban districts, kids are moved many times due to bad home situations and documentation will not be able to be provided. Mr. Goodell replied that homelessness and DCC placement situations are considered an automatic bona fide change of residence. A court order is used as proof and in homeless situations, the association relies on the word of the school district.

Mr. Haraka asked when this amendment would take effect. Ms. Cole answered 20 days after it is approved in the June Executive Committee meeting. It would go in to effect for the next school year, but the date of July 1, 2019 will not apply to Fall 2019 athletes, however all other stipulations will apply. Bill Vacca asked if the Commissioner’s office reviewed this. Kathryn Whalen answered that the Commissioner did not look at the substance of the proposal. Mr. Goodell added that there’s no indication if he’s in favor of it. Mr. Aiello requested that there be a better description of the non-driver license ID. It needs to be clarified.

Final Vote: Yes-27; No-9, Abstain-1. Motion passed first reading.
Bill Bruno

Outdoor Track – The tournament is in great shape.

NJSCA Clinics – There is one clinic left for this school year. The wrestling clinic will be on 5/3 at Princeton University. There will be new girls wrestling coaches in attendance.

Cross Country Dates/Sites – All dates and sites are set. The Rules and Regulations will be posted by 6/15.

Al Stumpf

Unified Sports Update – The program is up and running. On 5/10, Hopewell Valley HS is running a training session for coaches, Athletic Directors and officials.

Golf Update – Cutoff is 5/3. All courses are secured. The boys North 1 and 2, Group 1, will play at Newton Country Club with a 10am tee off.

Boys Volleyball Update – Cutoff is 5/9, tournament refusal is due 5/10 and seeding will be 5/13.

Summer Basketball Showcase – Mr. Stumpf met with coaches from throughout the state, and it was agreed that due to the late notice, there is not enough time to host a quality showcase so there will not be one this year. The planning process will begin this August for next year’s June showcase. This year, kids can go to the showcase in Philadelphia or there’s another one in NY state. Mr. Stumpf is waiting on that information.

Tony Maselli

Boys Tennis Update – The tournament begins next week. Forms have been pouring in. Seeding will take place on 5/6.

Baseball Update – Cutoff is 5/11. Seeding is 5/16. All sites are set.

Tournament Refusal – The date to submit tournament refusal for tennis has passed. Once the cutoff passes, schools no longer have the option on the website to withdraw from the tournament and will have to contact Mr. Maselli directly.

Website Update – Mr. Maselli is currently reviewing a 50-page document, making sure the new website will be user-friendly for all levels. It’s getting close. Mr. Maselli hopes to role out the new site soon.

Out-of-State Reporting – In baseball and softball, if schools don’t update records for the schools they’ve played out of state, it will affect their power points when seeding time comes. There is a lot of outstanding data as of right now.
Compliance Update – The compliance visits are wrapping up. Next month, Mr. Zapicchi will distribute his 2018-2019 summary Compliance Report. If you’ve been visited by a Compliance Monitor this year, please email Mr. Zapicchi with any feedback. Next year is the final year of the first cycle. The program will then be re-evaluated, and Mr. Zapicchi will seek input from the membership.

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Finance Update (Colleen Maguire)

Winter Season Financial Update – The winter season report is 90-95% final. The overall increase in net profit for boys and girls basketball was primarily due to the increases in gate receipts at both Rutgers and Pine Belt Arena. Ticket prices at Rutgers were increased from $8/$2 to $12/$3, and the TOC finals were moved to RU in 2019. Also, the TOC luncheon was not held this past year which saved approximately $8K in expenses.

In winter track, overall revenues were down due to the decrease in winter track entries and gate receipts, a January weather-related state of emergency moved the relays from Sat/Sun to Tues/Wed so many schools had conflicts. Also, there was a decrease in Non-Public entries for the Group meet. The decrease in revenues led to the overall decrease in net profit.

In wrestling, overall revenues were consistent, there was a decrease in Atlantic City attendance of 8% which was offset by new revenues (gate receipts/entry fees) related to the girls wrestling individual tournament. The decrease in net profit was primarily due to an overall increase in expenses of $28K...$22K related to girls wrestling.

2018-2019 Budget – A copy of the proposed budget will be emailed to all Executive Committee members in advance of the June meeting. Ms. Maguire is available for any questions.

Student Ambassador Presentation by Jillian Ryan (South Brunswick HS & Jordan Sarnoff (Fort Lee HS) – An op-ed piece, written by the NJSIAA student ambassadors, was published on nj.com and shared on the NJSIAA website. Student Ambassadors Jillian Ryan and Jordan Sarnoff came to speak to the committee about their experience being part of the ambassador program.

The committee gave students a voice and discussed important topics facing student athletes today. 75% of students who filled out a survey created by the committee feel athletes should have one day off, 50% of the population feel there should be limits placed on the number of hours student-athletes participate on a daily basis/during the week, and 65% want a summer black-out period. Waldwick HS instituted a two-week mandatory black-out period, as a direct result of the student ambassador and student council discussions. Jordan Sarnoff challenges every school to do the same.

Ms. Ryan and Mr. Sarnoff spoke of the positive experience of the March Student Council meeting at Rutgers. There, they appreciated the Rutgers presentation of keys to success and using social media, the Unified Sports presentation, and the transfer rule discussion facilitated by Ms. Cole and Mr. Stumpf. Just like administrators across the state, the students had a range of opinions about transfers and now have a better understanding what a daunting issue transfers are in NJ for administrators and the Executive Committee. In 2019-2020, the students hope for more guidance with dietary recommendations for peak performance and injury prevention.
To end, both Ms. Ryan and Mr. Sarnoff, thanked Colleen Maguire, Frank Noppenberger and Stan Fryzynski for their leadership and for giving students a voice. It's been a valuable experience for all students in the program. The students feel they had a say and their voice can make a difference.

Finance Committee Update (Vincent Smith)

April 2019 Checkbook – A motion was made by Beverly Torok, seconded by James Gaffney, to accept the April 2019 check register, which was approved by the finance committee as well as our monthly approvals according to policy. Motion carried unanimously.


Old Business / New Business – Waiver Request for Early Start of Winter 2019 for Wrestling, Basketball & Winter Track – A motion was made by Jack Hurley, seconded by Leon Owen, to move the 2019-2020 opening date for wrestling, basketball and winter track from Friday, December 20, 2019 to Thursday, December 19, 2019.

Rationale: Due to the late winter start date calendar next school year, opening night of the season is Friday (12/20) and is traditionally used as a basketball date for schools with one gym. Compiled by the late Thanksgiving holiday and a further compressed December holiday schedule, the one-day allowance may be beneficial to all three sports programs for scheduling of practice facilities and contests. Mr. Haraka asked if it’s the same issue every year, to which Mr. Hurley replied that this upcoming year is unique because of the late date of Thanksgiving. In the past, schools had one extra week before the holiday break. Mr. Haraka then asked why not include fencing. Mr. DuBois agreed fencing should be included, so Mr. Hurley amended the original motion to also include fencing, which was then seconded by Mr. Owen. The amended motion passed first reading unanimously.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment by Tim McElhinney, seconded by Maureen Bilda. Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White
Executive Director

SJT:In