Flag Salute

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Thomas Coleman, at 11:07 am.

The following members were present: Robert Abatemarco, Gregory Bailey, Earl Clymer, Paul Crupi, William DePonte, Dr. Richard DiBianca, Bill Edelman, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Richard Giglio, Abdul Hassan, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Jack Lally, Dr. James Lavender, Michael Matyas, Bill McDermott, Elaine McGrath, Thomas Mullahey, Rona McNabola, Patrick Murphy, Susan Murphy, Michael Nitti, Frank Pannucci, Jr., William Quirk, Rod Sharpless, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, Barbara Wallace, Scott Wolhrab, and Stephen Yesinko. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Larry White, Jack DuBois and Donald Danser, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Greg Schutta, Record; Matthew Stanmyre, Star-Ledger; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Mike McGarry, AC Press; and Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press. Also present: From Pascack Valley HS were Tom DeMaio, Principal; Al Coleman, boys basketball coach, and Jeff Jasper, girl's basketball coach; Tom Kaechele – Athletic Director at Northern Valley Old Tappan HS, and Mike Scuilla – Athletic Director at Hasbrouck Heights HS.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Rona McNabola, seconded by Bill DePonte, to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2014 Executive Committee meeting. Motion was approved unanimously with three abstentions.

Reorganization Meeting Minutes Approval
A motion was made by Abdul Hassan, seconded by Barbara Wallace, to accept the minutes of the June 4, 2014 Reorganization Meeting. Motion was approved unanimously with four abstentions.

Out-of-State Competition
A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Monsignor Kelly, to accept the listing of National Federation and Bordering State Sanctions that were distributed for informational purposes. Motion carried with one abstention.

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Gold Passes – A gold pass was given to new executive committee members.

Early Basketball Opening Date Waiver Request (Tom DeMaio, Pascack Valley HS) – Principal Tom DeMaio and basketball coaches, Al Coleman and Jeff Jasper, from Pascack Valley HS, requested a one-year trial waiver to allow schools to begin basketball practice the Monday – Wednesday before Thanksgiving for a tryout/cuts period. Practices are still prohibited during the Thanksgiving break (Thursday – Sunday) and practices that take place during the Mon – Wed tryout period do not count towards the six practices needed before the first scrimmage. The first practice that counts towards the first scrimmage begins on the Monday after Thanksgiving. If a school does not make cuts in basketball, they can use the extra days for practice, but those three practices will not count towards the six practices needed to scrimmage. Coaches want additional time to evaluate players and make cuts since some programs have a large number of kids trying out. The sponsors of this proposal felt the official start date of the season still remains the Monday after Thanksgiving, it does not cost more money for facilities to
stay open since schools are in session the M – W before Thanksgiving, and the family holiday break is not affected by this change. Mike Gatley expressed that the proposal has merit, but could be a problem for schools that close early or have a football game on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving. The start date would be optional so schools can still start after the break if they choose or only practice M – T for tryouts and not utilize the Wednesday. Bill Edelman expressed wishing this was proposed to general membership, not the Executive Committee but for this waiver to be in effect this season, that route was not possible. Discussion took place over changing the start date a few years ago and why wrestling and track were not included in this proposal (reason was in those two sports, cuts are not usually made, which is the premise of the proposal.) Concerns were expressed about football players going right in to basketball season and the chance for injuries. Tom DeMaio and Al Coleman responded that football players are not evaluated until after football season and it’s easier to evaluate a small percentage of football players vs. 100 kids trying out at one time. And the football concern is not a relevant issue for women’s basketball. A few Exec members concurred that three levels of teams trying out in one gym can be challenging. Joe Lennon called the question. A motion was made by Joe Lennon, seconded by Howard Krieger, for a one-year pilot waiver to allow three days of men’s and women’s basketball practice/tryouts from Monday – Wednesday before Thanksgiving, followed by a mandatory break from practice Thursday – Sunday, before resuming practices again on the Monday after Thanksgiving, with the understanding that the unofficial practices prior to Thanksgiving break do NOT count towards the six practices needed for first scrimmage. Final Vote: Yes-25; No-10; Abstentions-0. Motion carried.

**Ice Hockey Cooperative Sports Waiver for Old Tappan HS / Hasbrouck Heights HS and Demarest HS** – Tom Kaechele, Athletic Director at Northern Valley Old Tappan HS and Mike Scuilla, Athletic Director at Hasbrouck Heights HS requested a one-year waiver to enter into a three-team co-op agreement together with Demarest HS in ice hockey. Both the NJIC and Big North approved the three-school program. Demarest HS only has four players, and Hasbrouck Heights only two. Since Old Tappan and Hasbrouck Heights are entering the second year of a two-year contract, they could not partner with their sister school, Demarest. A motion was made by Monsignor Kelly, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to allow a one-year waiver for Northern Valley Old Tappan HS, Northern Valley Demarest HS and Hasbrouck Heights HS to co-op together in ice hockey. Final Vote: Yes-33; No-0; Abstention-1. Motion carried.

**Sectional Meetings and Legislation** – The first meeting will be the Central meeting on September 17th at NJSIAA. All five will be completed by September 26th.

**Steroid Protocols / Drug Free Sports Contract / Steroid Final Report** – A contract between Drug Free Sports and NJSIAA was signed over the summer and distributed. Of the 495 students tested last year from 78 schools and 11 sports, there were three positive tests. Testing per sport is outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th># of Students Tested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Field Hockey</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Soccer</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Soccer</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor Track and Field</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Basketball</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Basketball</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Ice Hockey</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls Lacrosse</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys Lacrosse</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A major problem NJSIAA is encountering is athletes taking supplements. Athletes are purchasing supplements that may contain illegal substances without the athlete’s knowledge since all ingredients are
not always on the label. To combat the problem, NJSIAA has set up a hotline with DrugFree Sports. If an athlete/parent/coach has a question about what an athlete is taking, they can email Drug Free Sports to ask their questions. Wrestling was hit hard in previous years so other sports were tested this year.

**Fall Championship Sites** – These are all set.

**NFHS Summer Meeting** – This was attended in Boston by Steven Timko, Larry White, Jack DuBois and Kim Cole. NJ is represented well nationally as Larry White was on the national baseball committee and is currently on the national official’s committee, Kim Cole is on the national field hockey and soccer committees, Jack DuBois is on the national football committee and Steve Timko serves on the national medical advisory committee.

**League/Conference Officers Meetings** – One meeting has already taken place in August. Officers will always meet the day after Executive Committee meetings to be debriefed about what took place.

**Executive Committee – Committee Appointments** – All committee members have been assigned to sub-committees. Please check the list to see which subcommittees you have been assigned.

**Fall Tournament Regulations Online** – All fall regulations were posted online before the first fall practice began on August 11th, with the exception of volleyball, which is now posted.

**Cooperative Sports Uniform** – A cooperative sports team can only have one school’s name on their jersey, not both, and it must be the LEA host school.

**Public/Non-Public Committee** – Mr. Timko is reconvening this important committee, which will be chaired by Michael Zapicchi, Principal of West Windsor-Plainsboro North HS/former NJSIAA President and Elaine McGrath, current NJSIAA second vice-president. Mr. Zapicchi co-chaired the committee in 2007-2008. 20 people, representing principals, superintendents, athletic directors from all regions of the state, will be invited to serve. The committee will be asked to address the following topics: 1- Transfers, 2- Recruitment, 3-Bonafide Change of Residence, 4-Summer Clarification, 5-Out-of-Season Guidelines and 6- Choice Schools. The committee will look for solutions, create a report by February, and if legislation is needed to correct things, it will be proposed to the Advisory Committee in April. William DePonte suggested a member from the Eligibility Appeals should serve on this new committee.

**Update on Janet’s Law/AED** – Thanks to Jack DuBois, NJSIAA was fortunate enough to have a sponsor donate four AEDs for use in NJSIAA’s state tournaments. Just like the schools, NJSIAA needs to have Emergency Action Plans in place for state tournaments.

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**Reports of the Assistant Directors**

**Kim DeGraw-Cole**

**Website** – If you click on individual events in the calendar, you will find key information and documents pertinent to the event. All relevant specific sports information is found on each individual sports pages. It is imperative that School Manager is updated because classifications are based on the current information in School Manager. As of this date, only 270 Athletic Directors have logged in for the first time, which means that approximately 150 schools will not receive important notifications and information from NJSIAA.

**Field Hockey** – Cutoff date is 10/21. Seeding takes place 10/23. Tournament begins 10/27. Sectional Finals will be 11/7 & 11/8. State semi-finals games are at AL Johnson, Boonton, Robbinsville and Eastern on 11/12. The group finals will be at Bordentown HS (new site!) on 11/15. The entire T of C will be played at Rider University on 11/17, 11/19 and 11/21.
Girls Soccer – Cutoff date is 10/25. Seeding takes place on 10/29 and the tournament will begin with the non-public sectional finals on 11/13 and the public sectional finals on 11/14. The public state semifinals will be 11/18 and the non-public and public state finals at Kean University will take place on 11/16 and 11/22 respectively.

Girls Tennis – Cutoff date is 9/24 with seeding on 9/29. Matches take place from 10/2 – 10/22. The team tournament will be as follows: Sectional Finals on 10/14, State Group Championships on 10/16, and the Tournament of Champions on 10/19, 10/21 and 10/22. Cutoff for the singles and doubles tournament is 9/22 with matches on 10/5, 10/11 – 10/13, and 10/18 at Veterans Park and Mercer County Park.

Swimming – Look at Latest News for swim classifications.

Njschoolsports.com – Please encourage your coaches to enter rosters in to this site. It’s crucial for creating sports programs.

Non-Member/Out-of-State-Opponent Tournament Reporting Form – This form is critical for power point seeding in field hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball and softball and is due today 9/10.

Tournament Refusal Forms – The hope is that these forms, which are needed in field hockey, men’s and women’s soccer, women’s team tennis and women’s volleyball, will be virtual forms within the next few weeks.

Don Danser

Cross Country – The site for North II, Warinanco Park, is under construction, therefore unavailable. Instead, the North II sectionals will take place at Graystone Park, also known as Morris County Central Park.

Programs – Viewable/downloadable programs are always posted on the home page during the tournament, then moved to individual sports pages. NJSIAA will continue to only post them, not print them.

School Manager/Directory – As Kim Cole already stated, it’s imperative that schools update their school information. Disqualifications are now submitted electronically, so once submitted, a notification email is generated to the principal. If the principal information is not updated, they will not receive notice of the school’s disqualification though officials will still call schools.

Classifications – All fall classifications are done and posted on individual sport pages on the website. Swimming and indoor track are also done and posted. Reminder – if a sport is not listed in school manager, it is not included in classifications. There’s another imperative reason info needs to be current and updated.

ShopRite Cup 2013-2014 – Mr. Danser congratulated the following 2013-2014 winners:
Group I – Metuchen HS
Group II – Haddonfield Memorial HS
Group III– Northern Highlands HS
Group IV – Columbia HS
Group A – Delbarton School
Group B – Villa Walsh Academy

Cooperative Sports Programs – A motion was made by Rod Sharpless, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to approve a cooperative sports agreement between Glassboro HS and Clayton HS in ice hockey. Motion carried unanimously.
Larry White

**Girls Volleyball** – William Paterson can no longer host the group finals because they are hosting the NJAC basketball tournament on the same date. Instead, South Brunswick HS will host with one caveat - if it rains Friday night, South Brunswick HS will have to reschedule their Friday night football game to Saturday, therefore the volleyball group finals will be postponed to Sunday.

**Gymnastics** – All sectional sites remain the same at Ridgewood, Bishop Ahr, Hillsborough, Manalapan and Seneca. Both the team and individual finals are set for Montgomery HS on 11/13 and 11/15 respectively.

**Officials’ Rules Meetings** – The four regional rules interpretation meetings for football, soccer and women’s volleyball took place at Williamstown HS, Brick Memorial HS, Bridgewater-Raritan HS and PCTI. These sites also offered to host the winter and spring meetings, for which Mr. White was very grateful.

**DQ Report** – Player disqualifications were down 94 last year, from 417 to 323. Coach disqualifications were up by two, from 34 to 36. Mr. White attributes the huge decrease to the sportsmanship paragraph being read prior to every contest and announced over the PA system is a direct cause. Of the 323 player disqualifications, only six were reported due to the verbal use of the six categories that were added last year (race, ethnicity, disability, gender, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation).

**Eligibility/Foreign Exchange** – This is Mr. White’s second year overseeing this process. All applications to date have appeared legitimate.

**DYFS** – Mr. White shared that DYFS is no longer called DYFS, as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws. It is now the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P). A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Paul Crupi, to change the acronym in the Constitution and Bylaws from DYFS to DCP&P. Motion carried unanimously.

Jack DuBois

**Football** – Mr. DuBois was happy to report that since the Giants and Jets are playing away, MetLife was able to offer their facility for 10 championship games. 5 games will be played at Kean, 4 at Rutgers, and 5 at Rowan. No games will be played at TCNJ, the cost became prohibitive. Intent cards have been sent and are due 10/22. There is a change on the cards. Consolation games can no longer be played on Friday nights since the number of officials available is limited so there is a consolation game section for schools to pick whether they would rather play Thursday night or any time on Saturday.

**Coaches Education Update** – This program is flourishing. Revenue from these programs fund scholarships at the annual scholar athlete program in May. Also, a 6th unit, a specific NJ rules component, has been added to the Coaches of Fundamentals course required for disqualified coaches. The course is free.

**Clinic Updates** – The volleyball clinic at Livingston HS took place on 8/25. Upcoming clinics include the bowling clinic, two eligibility workshops and a trainer workshop.

**ShopRite Cup Presentations** – The first presentation took place at Northern Highlands, a first-time winner. The next one is at executive committee member, Chuck Klaus’s school, Haddonfield Memorial HS. This will be Haddonfield’s eleventh consecutive award. Other winners include Metuchen HS for the fourth time, first-time winner Columbia, last year’s winner Villa Walsh and Delbarton School.

**Corporate** – Three-year contracts were signed between NJSIAA and the following partners: SportsCare Inc., IAABO Group, AllSports Officials, Cliff Kean and LifeSavers Inc, the company that donated 4 AED units to NJSIAA. The new officials’ uniforms are optional this year and next but will be mandatory in three
years. The following contracts are in negotiations: Gallagher/Bollinger, Parisi, LAX Ball Sports and Wendy’s.

Finance Report – Colleen Maquiere, Director of Finance

Approval of Monthly Checks – Joe Lennon made a motion, seconded by Barbara Wallace, to approve the June 1 through September 1st check registers, which were approved by the finance committee as well as our biweekly approvals according to policy. Motion carried unanimously.

2014-2015 Annual Dues Status – 71% of schools have paid their 2014-2015 school year annual dues.

Resolution Cards / Affidavits Status – 70% of board Membership Resolution Cards have been received, but only 25% of principal affidavits and 20% of coach’s affidavits have been turned in. Discussion took place over appropriate consequences for not sending in signed resolution cards and affidavits because this has been a perpetual problem where NJSIAA has been too lenient. It was recommended that if dues or paperwork are outstanding as of October 1, a notification will be sent to the school principal stating that if their school does not turn in the required paperwork/dues by a certain deadline, their school will not be eligible for NJSIAA state tournaments beginning in the fall (with the exception of tennis that seeds prior to the deadlines.) The Executive Director asked the Executive Committee whether it would support binding deadlines and preventing schools that had not paid or submitted their affidavits from participating in state tournaments. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to support this procedure.

FYE 2013-2014 Audit Report – NJSIAA’s audit firm has completed the field work and is currently finalizing their report. A net income of $200,000 is expected compared to $30,000 from last year, but that is due to not printing programs anymore. Posting programs online instead of printing them has saved the association a one-time savings of $185,000.

Fall Ticket Price Submission – This is in process now and no increases are being requested.

Program Review

Five Wrestling Groups – 1st Reading – A motion was made by Stephen Yesinko, seconded by William DePonte, to change the format of the wrestling group finals from four groups to five groups, still with six schools per group. This was a request from the Wrestling Committee. Steve Timko polled the schools for their preference and 2:1 were in favor of going to five groups. Increasing the amount of groups increases the number of schools eligible to participate from 24 to 30 and keeps the matches still competitive. The group finals would take place at Sun Bank Arena since Pine Belt can’t accommodate additional mats. All matches will be on 2/15. There is a $1,150 increase in cost but will be subsidized by being at Sun Bank Arena. Final Vote: Yes-26, No-6, Abstentions-0. Motion passed first reading.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell)

1. North Bergen Appeal - NJSIAA is still waiting on the Appellate Division to make a decision. Though this case was heard in January, it is not abnormal to wait this long for a decision.

2. EAC cases – There are many cases being heard by the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

3. Pending Bills – There are three bills to keep an eye on in the NJ legislature.
   a. A3312 – allows kids who attend choice schools to play sports at their home schools. There is no action on this yet because NJSIAA and the Department of Education are trying to work this out together before legislation is enacted.
b. A3373 – Requires NJSIAA to sponsor cheerleading. NJSIAA’s position is that this should be a membership-driven decision, rather than a legislation-driven decision. A survey/questionnaire will be sent to gauge interest.

c. A3443 – Requires background checks on all officials. NJSIAA spoke with the sponsor of the bill and explained all NJSIAA requirements for officials.

Old Business / New Business – William DePonte, on behalf of the Special Olympics, presented a plaque to Steve Timko and NJSIAA for obtaining Wilson’s ball sponsorship for the Special Olympics. He also thanked Bill McDermott from Wilson for their generosity and sponsorship in supplying all the balls used for the games.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Bill DePonte, seconded by Rona McNabola at 12:45 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In