In compliance with Executive Order 107, the Executive Committee meeting was held remotely via Cisco’s WebEx Meetings platform. The meeting agenda was modified to address only critical updates and necessary measures to be voted on by the Committee.

Roll Call / Introduction of Press
The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, was called to order by the President, Mary Liz Ivins, at 11:00 am.

The following members identified themselves as being present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Heather Andersen, Tom Berrios, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Oscar Guerrero, Robert Haraka, Kurt Karcich, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Bill McDermott, Timothy McElhinney, Dominick Miletta, Tony Mitchell, Tom Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Leon Owen, Michael Pellegrino, Christopher Penna, William Quirk, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Frank Torcasio, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Dr. Robert Zega and Dr. Brian Zychowski. Also present: Larry White, Executive Director; Kim Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, Tony Maselli, and Al Stumpf, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; Steven Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C., and Scott Miccio, Parker McCay P.A.


Approval of February and April 2020 Minutes
A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Tom Mullahey to approve the February 12, 2020 minutes. Another motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to approve the April 1, 2020 minutes. Both motions carried unanimously.

Legislative Update – Paul Anzano
Mr. Anzano explained the Bridge Year legislation that is being proposed in the legislature, which would be required for public school sports, optional for private schools. Prior to senior year, students must notify their school that they will opt for a Bridge Year. It is expected that not a lot of students will participate in this option, maybe just middle of the road athletes who think that another year will benefit them. High academic achievers won’t utilize this program.

Some details to be noted:
- Athlete would be able to play SPRING sports
- The Dept of Ed. can choose to extend this to freshmen as well.
- Must adhere to rules and regs of school for extra curriculars.
- Not guaranteed a spot on the team
- NJSIAA would have to grant a one-time waiver for the student for the eight-semester requirement.
- Age limits – no changes. Must turn 19 after September 1
- Had conversations with NCAA. Other schools are considering it.
- This will create a collaborate effort with community colleges beyond this two-year pilot program.
- If Dept. of Educ. wanted to extend this, it would have to come back to legislature, but for sports, it only impacts sophomores and juniors

Questions from the committee:

Q: Would insurance cover students?
A: Currently the sponsors are working through the insurance provision and are comfortable that a school’s insurance will cover the athletes.

Q: A request was made to have White Paper be sent to Executive Committee.
A: Senator Sarlo said he would.

Q: Mr. Bollendorf expressed significant concerns. Was there any conversation or concern about the negative impact on younger kids that are pushed out of their opportunity?
A: Senator Sarlo discussed this with the Superintendents Association. Certain parents will take advantage of this for athletic purposes, but they don’t think the number will be high. Students have to achieve 24 college credits and have a 2.5 GPA just to play that sport. There probably won’t be 4-5 kids on any given team that do this. They may be taking a starting position of an athlete who wouldn’t be starting anyway to just fill out a roster. You can’t legislate competition. Don’t believe there will be wholesale groups of kids returning.

Q: Why even do the bill if it won’t have an impact?
A: Districts are concerned about another budget cut. The great concern is the counter intuitiveness of allowing more students in. We will need more staff and resources as it is in the fall. As we talk about resources and kids coming back for a fifth year, this will be another strain on the resources.

Q: Will this legislation cover fall sports if fall athletics don’t take place?
A: That would have to be addressed later.

Senator Sarlo understands the budgetary issues. He thinks revenues will be down and that schools will need more funds, which is a much larger discussion, but this shouldn’t have a great impact.

Q: How will CCs and high schools communicate?
A: Schools already have a relationship with CCs. It’s already happening today.

Mr. Kiem expressed that from a principal perspective, everyone’s focus is on class of 2020. It sounds good, but in general, we are trying to shift focus to the future. We want to make up for the loss and help people move forward because we don’t know what next year will look like. Wary about creating a make-up plan, as opposed to a let’s help you go forward plan. Senator Sarlo expressed understanding that seniors have lost a lot socially and emotionally. Many students considering a gap year that had already chosen a four-year college. More will be rolled out about K-8,
Emergency Powers Update – Steve Goodell

Last month the Executive Committee adopted a resolution that gave emergency powers authorization to NJSIAA's Executive Director, his staff, in consultation with officers to make decisions that cannot wait. Most importantly, it was agreed to put off the annual meeting (which should have been earlier this week) since delegates can’t meet in person and it would have been too cumbersome at this time to meet virtually. The decision was made to postpone the annual meeting until fall to see what happens with the social distancing guidelines by then. The goal is to hold the meeting in person when it is safe, and if that's not possible, the association will try to do it on a virtual platform.

Eligibility rules and how they may have to be amended to adapt to this new world is an ongoing conversation. Staff will discuss this topic with Leagues and Conferences and report back.

PPE Requirements/Status – Larry White

Mr. White received guidelines from the NFHS Medical Advisory Committee regarding athletic participation. Five points were recommended and are as follows:

1. Follow your state laws.
2. The NFHS SMAC recommends a one-year extension of PPEs if it expires before or during the 2020 year.
3. This extension is a deviation, not a norm.
4. Students who are new to high school athletics need a PPE. Students who already have a physical are accommodated whole year.
5. Allow schools to accept PPEs from out-of-state transfer students.

The NJSIAA MAC will meet on 5/27 via a Webex platform. This committee will most likely propose a 3-month grace period for those student athletes that have an existing PPE. Rising Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors in 2020-2021 would benefit from this proposal. Incoming freshman and “first-time student athlete participants” would have to get a “traditional” physical, in-person, before participation.

Questions were asked if coaching CPR/AED certification will also be extended. Mr. DuBois sent a memo to Leagues and Conference officers are will discuss in tomorrow's officers’ meeting. The Red Cross extended certification 120 days if a certification expires March 1 - June 30, 2020 but there is a process to extend. Mr. Shohfi then asked if the Coaches Fundamentals requirement will also be extended. Mr. DuBois shared that the August course will most likely be rescheduled, but this will also be discussed in tomorrow’s Leagues and Conferences Officers meeting.

Finance Committee Update – Colleen Maguire

The committee met virtually earlier this morning. Ms. Maguire was happy to report that NJSIAA successfully participated in the Payroll Protection program and received two and a half months of funding in the amount of $225K on 5/1, which was the lifeline needed to weather this storm. Reserve levels have remained static. NJSIAA’s accounting department is still working on securing payments from the winter season. Loyal sponsors are sticking with the association. There's cash inflow, in addition to commitments over the next four to six weeks from ShopRite, Northwest Designs, and broadcast rights income.
This am, the Finance Committee:

1- approved a new auditing firm since the current firm provides the association's IT services and they are not permitted to provide both.
2- entered into a three-year contract with an apparel provider after reviewing RFPs submitted.
3- approved a five-year broadcast rights partner.

Program Review

All 7 proposals below were reviewed and endorsed by the Program review Committee on 5/4)

1. Changes to bona fide transfer date (Second Reading – Roll Call Vote)
A motion was made by Mohammed Abdelaziz, seconded by Bill Vacca, to change the following bona fide transfer deadlines in Bylaws Article V, Section 4(K): Fall date from July 1 to August 1, winter date from October 1 to November 1 and spring date from February 1 to March 1. The proposed changes move the change of residence date one month closer to the start of each season's practice dates and will allow more students to participate. The wording "Note: To provide ample notice to schools and families, the July 1 deadline for a bona fide change of residence set forth in paragraph c. above shall not be applicable in 2019. All other requirements will take effect 20 days after approval, unless determined otherwise by the Commissioner of Education" was also removed from the section since it no longer applies. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: 38-yes, 0-no and 1-abstain. Motion approved on second reading.

2. Out of season participation changes (Second Reading – Roll Call Vote)
A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to approve the following five amendments to the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations Student Athlete Guidelines, as recommended by the Out of Season Committee (OSC). The OSC solicited input from a number of athletic directors concerning coaches’ contact with student-athletes, strength and conditioning, open gym programs, faculty games, eighth grade contact and summer restrictions

The five sections of the NJSIAA Program Regulations to be amended are (changes below):

1. Section 3: Intramurals
   i) Remove all of clause 1 (“CL 1: Weight-lifting or other conditioning programs during the out-of-season period are permissible when not limited to Student-Athletes.”)

   ii) Make CL 2 in to CL 1 (Coaches may supervise or serve as directors, including officiating of intramurals, recreational, club, camp, or open-gym programs when the school district’s Student-Athletes are not involved in their specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period.)

   iii) Add below new section

   "Section 10 Sports Specific Strength & Conditioning Guidelines [NEW SECTION] Out-of-season sports specific strength and conditioning sessions conducted by school district approved coaches of that sport are permitted as long as the following apply:

   1. The coach has completed the online NFHS Strength & Conditioning Course, unless already certified."
2. The strength and conditioning sessions are purely designed to improve athletes in the field of strength and conditioning.

3. No sports specific equipment permitted during these sessions.

4. No sports specific drills permitted during these sessions.

5. No sports specific walkthroughs or game planning permitted during these sessions.

6. The strength and conditioning sessions cannot be mandatory.

CL 1: The school’s athletic policy regarding strength and conditioning (weight room) management will supersede the above guidelines except if the strength and conditioning sessions are sports specific with a member of the coaching staff.”

2. Section 4 - Open Gym Programs

i) Remove the following text:
“Student/Athletes are permitted to take part in this type of recreational program, but a coach of a specific sport activity in that Open-Gym Program is not permitted to be involved. Coaches may supervise open-gym Programs only when their student-athletes are not involved in that specific phase of the program during the out-of-season period. Open-Gym Programs involving a single sport in which only Student-Athletes are involved are interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rules.

CL: An “open-gym” program is one in which a variety of recreational type activities are offered, i.e., badminton, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, and the like. Coaches at any level may not be present when their specific sport activity is a part of the Open-Gym Program. Single sports programs in which Student-Athletes are involved are interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rule if those sports are not on a rotation basis with at least two or more other sports activities during a calendar week using that facility. Responsibility for monitoring Open-Gym Programs should be with the Athletic Director and Principal of the school.

All specific sport activities have to be recreational in nature; therefore, practice routines, such as, softball/baseball pitching, catching and batting, football place-kicking, golfing/putting, and similar routines are always interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the out-of-season rule.”

ii) Add the following text to replace current Section 4.

“All open gym programs, including sports specific open gyms, are permitted as long as no members of the coaching staff are present.

Interscholastic competition of any kind is not permitted during open gyms. Coaches may supervise open gym programs during the out-of-season period only when their student-athletes are not involved.
CL 1: The soccer coach may supervise a “basketball open gym” during the soccer out-of-season period, as long as there are no members of the soccer coach’s team participating.

CL 2: Coaches may not exchange supervisory and/or coaching duties in their sport to circumvent the out-of-season rule.

3. Section 7 – Faculty Games

i) Remove all text with a strike through in the below sentence (so sentence will now read Student-Athletes of a particular sport may engage in faculty or similar games in that same sport.)

Student-Athletes of a particular sport may not engage in faculty or similar games in that same sport. except for those seniors who have exhausted their eligibility in that same sport.

4. Section 9 – Eight Grade Contact

i) Add underlined text to the section.

High school coaches are permitted to have contact with student-athletes in grades eight and below as it pertains to camps, clinics and the like, as long as such contact does not involve high school students as it pertains to NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4(I). All camps, clinics and the like must be open to all. In no way may these activities be held by invitation only when they are involving high school coaches except for the summer period.

High school coaches are permitted to coach teams that involve student-athletes in grades eight and below as long as such coaching does not involve high school students as it pertains to NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4(I).

Student-athletes in grades eight and below are not permitted to take part in activities that involve high school student-athletes as it pertains to NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4(I), until they have graduated from the eighth grade.

Publicity by a school or anyone employed by the school regarding incoming students shall not focus on or promote athletics.

Eighth grade students that graduate before the summer period start date are not permitted to have contact with high school teams until the summer period start date.

Eighth grade students that graduate after the summer period open date are permitted to have contact with high school teams the day after their graduation from eighth grade.

5. Section 11 – Summer Recess

i) Remove the following text:
“Practice – That period from the last NJSIAA scheduled championship to September 1st, all restrictions are rescinded for practice for all sports. Schools may issue any and all equipment for practice use during the summer recess and the local school district may determine to what extent the school, the coaches, and the students are to be involved in the “summer recess” program.

Games/Scrimmages – Interscholastic competition is not permitted outside of the dates provided for in Program Regulations, Sections 7, 8 and 10; therefore, a school may not sponsor a team/individual, pay entry fees, provide transportation, or in any way have a team/individual represent their school outside of the seasonal datelines for that sport in competition against other schools. School equipment may be provided. A coach/team or -Student-Athlete may not be sponsored or supported by a school or school-related group (example: Booster Club) when team-interscholastic or individual competition takes place as part of the activity in camps, clinics, recreation programs, independent play, or tournaments.

Scrimmages consistent with the Early Season Opening or Regular Season Opening provisions are permitted.

Non-School Teams:
A member of a high school’s coaching staff may not be involved in any way with a non-school team on which there are team members who participated on the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity team of the coach’s high school team(s) in that sport until the start of the summer session day after the date of the latest scheduled date for NJSIAA Championships in the Spring Sports Season.”

ii) Add the following text to replace current Section 4.

The summer period begins the Monday after the last scheduled Spring NJSIAA event. The summer period beginning date will not change because of postponements to the last NJSIAA spring events. The last day of the summer period is August 31.

There are no NJSIAA-imposed restrictions during the summer period, with the exception that interscholastic competition/scrimmages are not permitted during the summer period. Scrimmages consistent with the early season opening or regular season opening provisions are permitted.

CL 1: School Districts are not permitted to conduct interscholastic competition during the summer period. Schools Districts are permitted to host competition during the summer period, if the competition is organized and sponsored by a third party not connected to the school district.

CL 2: Football 7 on 7’s is not considered interscholastic competition. Schools are urged to be mindful of their liability when hosting students from other districts during the summer period.

CL 3: Non-School Teams: A member of a high school’s coaching staff may not be involved in any way with a non-school team on which there are student athletes who participated on the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level of the coach’s high school team(s) in that sport until the start of the summer period.
A roll call vote was taken, the results were 39-yes, 0-no and 1-abstain. Motion approved on second reading.

3. Classification Legislation – Bylaw Change - First Reading

This proposal was slated to be voted on at the Annual Business meeting. Once the decision was made to postpone the Annual Business meeting to next fall, Ms. Maguire solicited feedback from the Executive Committee Officers, NJSIAA staff and attorneys. It was agreed that this proposal should be presented to the Executive Committee following its normal approval process. The majority of this proposal is to clean up the language in the Bylaws to represent the current classification process. The current language in the Bylaws addresses the traditional, general classification model (4 public groups, 4 sections per group and 2 non-public groups, 2 sections per group). As each sport evolved to a sports-specific classification model over the past 8 years or so, the Bylaws have not been updated to reflect the differing types of classification models used by each sport.

The two primary changes that are included in this proposal are:

1. To reflect all non-public classifications on a gender specific enrollment basis, and
2. To include all low enrollment schools (i.e. less than 150) in the total population used to equally divide between the number of groups, these low enrollment schools are currently excluded.

Both of these changes are recommendations from the Classification review committee that met for approximately two years to assess the current classifications and make recommendations to bring parity to the classification models used by each sport but to also to provide better competitive balance based on enrollment ranges within each group and section.

The hope is to make these changes now, as we are entering a new two-year classification cycle next year. It is preferred not to wait until the next classification cycle or update the classifications mid-cycle.

No questions were asked. A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to accept the classification bylaws changes as outlined above. Motion carried first reading unanimously.

4. International Student Eligibility Clarification Bylaw Change – First Reading

A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to add the following clarification to the NJSIAA Interpretive Guidelines for Student-Athlete Eligibility Amendment

CL If a member school applies to become a CSIET approved agency, international students who do not come to the United States through such an agency are not eligible for interscholastic competition until the member school has full, conditional or provisional approval from CSIET. Documentation of CSIET approval must be provided before students are deemed eligible for competition.
When this new process began, schools seeking approval were grandfathered in because the process to become CSIET certified takes 6 – 8 months. If NJSIAA continues to grandfather schools in, it dilutes the process.

No questions were asked. Motion carried first reading unanimously.

5. Member of Varsity Team Clarification – First Reading

A motion was made by Mohammed Abdelaziz, seconded by Rob Haraka, to add a clarification to the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations, “Specific Sport Regulations,” Note 3, that all teams for all NJSIAA member schools are bound by NJSIAA rules. No member school may have any team that operates outside of NJSIAA’s jurisdiction.

This is being proposed because some schools want to have teams that don’t have to adhere to NJSIAA rules so that they could play on a circuit. This is seen mostly for basketball and soccer.

No questions were asked. Motion carried first reading unanimously.

6. Girls Volleyball Tournament Regulation Changes – One Reading Only – Roll Call Vote

This proposal was tabled earlier in the year because it was determined it wasn’t fully developed and ready to be voted on.

Based on the recommendations from the NJSIAA Classification Committee to standardize all of the NJSIAA Championships, the NJSIAA Girls Volleyball Committee is proposing the following changes be made to the Girls Volleyball Championship beginning with the 2020 season:

**SECTIONS**

   North I, North 2, Central, South, Non-Public A and Non-Public B.

1. Public – North I, North 2, Central and South would be divided into Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Group 4- each Group would have between 15 – 17 schools determined by the Northing Number of the school.

2. Non-Public – Schools would be divided into NP A and NP B Sections based upon the student population of the school. Geography would not be taken into consideration for these sections. This was determined by a poll of the NP schools which sponsor girls volleyball.

**TOURNAMENT BRACKET**

1. Public - The bracket would be a 12-team bracket that could be expanded in the future to a 16-team bracket as the number of schools offering girls volleyball continues to expand. Girls volleyball is the fastest growing NJSIAA sport.

2. Non-Public – The bracket would be a 16 team bracket. If there is continued growth in the number of programs in the NP Schools, the Sectional set up could be expanded.

**SEEDING**
1. Current Seeding System - The current system that is used to seed the tournament is not fully transparent – it is a combination of winning percentage, RPI and the Committee seeds (subjective based on seeding committee coaches’ observations and comments). Also, tournament entry is currently based on playing at least 12 games prior to the cut off. All teams .500 or better and SOME teams under .500 may be seeded only to complete a bracket.

2. SEEDING PROCEDURE- Proposed Method

   a. **Power Point System** – To qualify for the Tournament, teams must have the following:
      i. Played a minimum of 12 matches.
      ii. Sixty percent (60%) of your games must be played against in-state schools at time of cut-off.
      iii. Teams with .500 records at the cut-off date no longer automatically qualify—Qualification is based on Power Points as noted below.

   b. **Power Ranking Procedure**
      i. The qualifying schools in each group in each section for the Public Schools, and in each group for the Non-Public Schools will be seeded according to the power rankings based on the calculations of the Power Point System.
      ii. The twelve (12) highest Power Point ranked schools will participate in the playoffs in each Public Group in each Section. In the Non Public Group the sixteen (16) highest Power Point ranked schools will participate in the playoffs for each section.
      iii. Tie-Breaker Procedure (in the following order):
           1. Head-to-head
           2. Record against Common Opponents
           3. Winning Percentage
           4. Coin Toss

   c. **Power Point Calculation Procedure:**
      i. **Quality Points** - Each school will receive the following “Quality Points” for the 10 Highest Power Point games up to the cut-off date:
         1. Win = 6 points
         2. Loss = 0 points
      ii. **Group Points** - Each school will receive “Group Points” from a team they defeated or tied from the 10 highest power pointed games:
         1. Group IV = 4 points
         2. Group III = 3 points
         3. Group II = 2 points
         4. Group I = 1 point
         5. Non-Public Schools = what its group equivalency is to the public schools based on its student population. For example if the group equivalency based on student population is Group II the Group Points = 2.
         6. Note: Once the “Volleyball Group Classification” is determined, there will be no adjustments to this classification when playing teams (public or non-public) from other sections. When playing teams from out of
state, the group size will be determined based on the enrollment range of the winning team’s section.

iii. **Residual Points** - Each team will receive “Residual Points” from one of the categories below based on the result of the game.

1. Each school will receive “Residual Points” for each team they defeated. For each win the school’s opponent has from its top 10 Power Point games up until the cut-off date, the school will receive the following:
   a. Win = 3 points
   b. Loss = 0 points

2. Each school will receive “Residual Points” for each team it loses to. For each win a school’s opponent has, when the opponent has defeated the school, the school will receive the following:
   a. 2-0 Set loss = 1 point
   b. 2-1 Set loss = 1.5 points (quality loss)

**TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE PROPOSAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cut-off Date</td>
<td>October 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seeding</td>
<td>October 23</td>
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| Round 1                      | October 29 – Groups 1 & 2
|                              | October 30 – Groups 3 & 4 |
| Round 2                      | November 2 – Groups 1, 2 & NP A
|                              | November 4 – Groups 3, 4 & NP B |
| Round 3                      | November 5 – Groups 1, 2 & NP A
|                              | November 6 – Groups 3, 4 & NP B |
| Sectional Finals (at higher seed) | November 10        |
| (N1, N2, C, S, NP A & NP B)   |                    |
| State Semi-Finals*           | November 12        |
| State Finals                 | November 14        |
| TOC Out Bracket Games**      | November 19        |
| TOC Semis***                 | November 21        |
| TOC Championship***          | November 22        |

*Teams in State Semi-Finals will be reseeded based on Power Points.

** The TOC teams will be seeded based on Power Points. The Third Seed will play the Sixth Seed and the Fourth Seed will play the Fifth Seed to see who advances to the TOC Semis.

*** The locations of the TOC games are TBD

1. This set up will increase the number of member schools that qualify for the state tournament from about 50% to about 74%.
2. If growth in volleyball continues, the Public brackets can be expanded from the current 12
team bracket to a 16 team bracket. The Non-Public brackets can be expanded to a NP A and
NP B in the North and South.

3. This set up for the Public Schools is based on geography and Northing Numbers. It will
drastically reduce the travel times and distances for the teams involved in the tournament. The
Non-Public Schools have voted to have their sections determined by the school’s population
regardless of geography.

4. This set up will give more teams a chance at winning a Sectional title.

5. This set up will help align girls volleyball with our other NJSIAA tournaments.

6. The Power Point ranking system that will be used to seed the tournament will be more
transparent and understandable. Coaches will be able to track where their team is ranked in
their section throughout the season.

7. Using this Power Point ranking system will enable coaches to see and correct any errors in
the reporting of records during the season, instead of after the seedings come out.

A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Bob Grauso, to change the structure of the
volleyball championship tournament as outlined above. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote:
39-yes, 0-no and 1-abstain. Motion approved and will go in to effect this Fall.

7. Wrestling District Re-alignment Tournament Regulations – One Reading Only – Roll
Call Vote)

In the previous two wrestling realignment cycles, 2016-18 and 2018-20, the region and district
wrestling realignment focused on balancing the top powers based on team power point
averages, separating the top 32 power teams, separating the non-publics and using northing
numbers. In the previous cycle, modifications were made to placement of the top 32 power
teams by the team power point averages utilized for region and district placement. It is
recommended to use the methodology below for the 2020-2022 cycle. Athletic directors and the
region presidents provided concepts, ideas and recommendations. It was evident that
competitive balance was still the primary focus, along with a request to bring back the traditional
district teams prior to the 2016 realignment, if possible. All proposals were reviewed and after a
thorough analysis, along with numerous Webex meetings of the realignment participants, a
consensus was reached. The NJSIAA is committed to providing a realignment that provides the
wrestler an opportunity to participate in a balanced, competitive environment and return some
sense of community to the district alignment.

The provisions that are new for 2020-2022 are in bold.

Methodology: Steps in the realignment process:

1. Every two years take the number of schools offering a wrestling program and divide by 8
(# of Regions).
2. Establish the regional teams using northing numbers as a framework, listing publics and non-publics.

3. Use the 75% (Team power points - past two years average) - 25% (Top 16, only wrestlers returning from the 2019-20 tournament are included) as our ranking metric.

4. Find the top 32 teams as per the ranking metric. The top 32 teams include both the public and non-public schools. All regions must have a range of top 32 ranked teams that is within the target of four ranked teams per region. (Each region must have no more than 5 ranked teams and no less than 3 ranked teams). By reacting to the change in powers over the 2 years, schools may be moved to achieve a more regional balance, if necessary. When movement is necessary, northing number will be used.

5. Place either 3 or 4 non-publics in each region - make sure the power non-publics are separated, no more than 2 in each region.

6. Place approximately 34-36 publics in each region based on northing number. Top 32 powers are placed first. The number will be based on a final count of all the schools with wrestling teams including the NJSIAA approved cooperative wrestling programs.

7. Equalize the District by “Snaking” the teams using the metric above (1-4 then 5 thru 8 back etc.) Highest to Lowest.

8. We will make every effort to leave the top 3 lines in place as the districts are reviewed in order to move teams within the district framework (the snaking process by pure numbers). We are committed to maintaining a competitive balance with the range being applied at the Region level for the top 32, and we are striving to return to a District framework that will take into consideration tradition, rivalry and geography. The integrity of balance of competition must be maintained and will not be compromised.

9. NJSIAA will need to take into consideration district and region host sites. RFP’s will be required for the Region Sites. District Sites will be reviewed based on previous hosting, location, and teams within the district.

A motion was made by Michael Pellegrino, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to realign wrestling districts for the 2020-2022 cycle as outlined above. No questions were asked. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: 38-yes, 0-no and 1-abstain. Motion approved and will go in to affect this Fall.

Questions and Concerns

Monsignor Kelly asked about the NFHS training certification program requirement that coaches need to pass. First, does it have to be through the NFHS, or can it be an equivalent program? And second, is it a one-time certification course or does it need to be done annually?

Mr. Maselli addressed the questions. It is a one-time course, and Mr. Maselli can have that language added. As for taking the course through a non-NFHS training program, Mr. Maselli had concerns. First, the fee will be lower than the $50 advertised now. Second, since this is
dealing with safety, any additional course would have to be vetted through NJSIAA. The association can’t allow a trainer to use a course that is not accredited but there are national accreditation entities that may qualify as a substitute for the NFHS course.

Adjournment

Ms. Ivins adjourned the meeting at 12:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White
Executive Director