EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
April 1, 2015

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press
The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at the NJSIAA
Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President,
Thomas Coleman, at 11:08 am.

The following members were present: The following members were present: Robert
Abatemarco, Gregory Bailey, John Bulina, Earl Clymer, Paul Crupi, William DePonte, Thomas
DiGanci, Bill Edelman, Dianne Furusawa, Abdul Hassan, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Dr.
James Lavender, Joe Lennon, Michael Matyas, Bill McDermott, Thomas Mullahey, Patrick
Murphy, Rona McNabola, William Quirk, Rod Sharpless, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Thomas
Stark, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, Barbara Wallace, Bruce Watson, Scott Wohlrab, and
Stephen Yesinko. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim Cole, Larry White,
and Jack DuBois, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Steven P. Goodell,
Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Mike McGarry, A.C.
Press; Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Greg Schutta
and Darren Cooper, The Record and Steven Falk, Asbury Park Press. Also present: Paul
Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C; Michael Zapicchi, Principal at West Windsor-Plainsboro
North HS; and Sharon Hughes & Denis Nelson, Executive Director and Past Executive Director
of the Big North Conference.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Earl Clymer, seconded by Abdul Hassan, to accept the minutes of the
February 11, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed with two abstentions.)

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 – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The legislature is currently on a budget break. Pensions will
be the dominant theme in the budget discussions. It is expected that NJSIAA will again receive
$50,000 for steroid testing. Bill A2699/S1857, which establishes measures to deter steroid use
among students and appropriates $45,000 to DOE for NJSIAA testing of student-athletes for
steroids and other performance enhancing substances, passed unanimously in the Assembly.
The Governor pocket vetoed this bill twice in the past. Mr. Anzano plans to meet with the
Governor’s staff. Another bill, involving eyeglasses and safety goggles will be expanded.
Currently it has some immunity provisions but does not capture everyone so it will be expanded
to cover more situations.

Executive Committee Waiver and Voting Process Guidelines – Last year there were several
waiver requests, many made last minute or reconsidered after a vote was taken. NJSIAA felt
there needed to be more guidance on how to handle membership waiver requests. Going
forward, a request should come from an Executive Committee member and there should be
ample time to review and discuss. Waivers should be rare, based on good cause, and for a
limited period of time. Any request for a waiver for a longer period of time should go through the
normal legislative process to make a change. Waivers cannot be used to as a substitute for legislation. Any request for a waiver should be brought by motion of a member of the Executive Committee, not by a school or a conference. If a waiver is going to affect a large number of schools, the Executive Committee will require two readings – the waiver will be introduced at one meeting, and voted on at the next meeting.

**Wrestling Update** – 3,100 attended the Group Finals at the Sun Center despite a major snowfall. Mr. Timko will survey the conferences to see if they are in favor of five groups like this past year or if they want to return to four groups. There was more snow before the districts but each district got their matches in. Regions went well and then more snow fell right before the individual championships but passionate fans still attended. Over 40,000 people attended the four individual sessions. Tom Coleman complimented the event for being so organized, having such great fans, and praise was given to Howie O’Neill, Jack Kinner and their team for running a flawless tournament.

**New Members to Advisory Committee** – A motion was made by Stephen Yesinko, seconded by Todd VanOrden, to approve five new Advisory Committee members (Mike McGhee - AD at Cedar Creek HS, Bud Kowal - AD at Ewing HS, Pat Shea - AD at Sparta HS, Dr. Thomas Smith - Superintendent at Hopewell Valley Regional School District and Bob Williams - AD at Northern Highlands Regional HS). Motion passed unanimously.

**Proposed Legislation** – The following eight pieces of legislation will be considered by the Advisory Committee later in the afternoon:

a. Northern Valley Regional HS is proposing to create four non-public districts and one non-public region in wrestling.

b. The Big North Conference is proposing to start the fall season earlier with two different scenarios: Either all sports begin on Wednesday, 8/10/15 and all games can begin 9/1/15. If this is vetoed, then a second scenario should be considered for football only, so football teams can begin practice on 8/10/15 and open up on 9/1/15.

c. Pascack Valley HS is requesting that schools can begin winter practices/tryouts the Monday – Wednesday before Thanksgiving, followed by a blackout period from Thanksgiving Day to Sunday. Those three practices will not count towards the six needed for a first scrimmage.

d. The Patrick School is proposing that the basketball starting date should be left up to the discretion of the local school districts.

e. The Patrick School is proposing to change the disqualification rule so that a team cannot be banned from state tournament play if all their disqualifications took place in one game.

f. The Patrick School is proposing to expedite the voting process with electronic voting instead of voting only once at the annual meeting in December.

g. The fourth proposal from the Patrick School will recommend eliminating the 70% in-state competition rule.

h. Michael Zapicchi, Chair of the Public/Non-Public Committee, presented two proposals on behalf of the P/NP Committee. First, the committee will recommend amending the Bylaws as follows: There shall be a non-public football conference,
consisting of all non-public member-schools that participate in the sport of football. Non-conference play between public and non-public members shall be at the discretion of each school. Governance structure for the new conference would be determined by the members. The governing body would develop a constitution and bylaws, which would be approved by the NJSIAA Executive Committee. The governing body would determine the divisional alignment of the conference and the football schedule. Cross-over games against public school and out-of-state games may be permissible.

i. The Public/Non-Public Committee is also recommending amending the 30-Day Transfer Rule since there was general agreement that the current rule does not provide sufficient penalty to discourage students from transferring or coaches from recruiting. 52% of states have a one-year sit for transferring and NJ’s 30-day sit is the shortest in the country. Open-enrollment and closed-enrollment schools are defined. Open-enrollment schools are schools that accept students regardless of their place of residence, such as non-public schools, choice schools and public schools that accept tuition-paying students. Closed-enrollment schools are schools that draw students from a delineated geographic area, such as traditional public schools that can only accept students who live in the school district. Vo-tech schools must be defined but this has not yet been addressed.

The recommended changes are outlined below: For any sport in which the transferring student had participated as a varsity athlete, the transferring student would be ineligible for 30 days (or one-half the season, whichever is less) and would be ineligible to participate in the state tournament. For any sport in which the transferring student had participated as a non-varsity athlete, the student would be ineligible for 30 days (or one-half the season, whichever is less) of varsity competition. The transferring student would be eligible to participate at the non-varsity level immediately. If a student transfers from an open-enrollment school to a closed-enrollment school, with or without a bona fide change of residence, the student’s athletic eligibility would be restricted as previously mentioned. If a student transfers from an open-enrollment school to an open-enrollment school, with or without a bona fide change of residence, the student’s athletic eligibility would be restricted as previously mentioned. If the open-enrollment school is a choice school or a public school that accepts tuition-paying students, the restrictions on participation would only apply if the student is a non-resident.

So summarize, the proposed changes eliminate the bona fide change of residence exception for all transfers except transfers from one closed-enrollment district to another (i.e., traditional transfer from one public school to another). The amended rule increases the waiting time from 30 days (or half the season) to 30 days (or half the season) plus exclusion from post-season play. It applies to both varsity and non-varsity student-athletes, but differentiates the application: Varsity student-athletes would be subject to the 30-day and post-season sit while non-varsity student-athletes would be allowed to play immediately at the non-varsity level, and could play varsity after 30 days without the exemption from state tournament play.

The committee also recommended that the transfer form be supplemented with additional information so parents understand what they signing. The new transfer form would explain the basic tenets of the Transfer Rule, explain the rules against transferring for athletic advantage, explain the rules against recruitment,
require certifications from the parents that: 1- They have read and understand the form; 2-The move (if there is a move) is a bona fide change of address and not a short-term move for athletic purposes; 3-The transfer is not for athletic advantage; 4-The transfer is not the result of recruiting; 5-The student is receiving no athletics-related financial benefit at the new school. All forms would require signatures from the school principal and athletic director.

The committee is not done meeting. Future topics that will be addressed: Girls’ sports, other sports, recruitment definitions, examination of forfeit rules, and rules governing the eligibility of student athletes from other countries. Thomas Mullahey asked how will the rule be enforced June – July 1st, if it is approved in June, but not in effect until July 1st. The answer is the current transfer rule criteria will apply to any transfers in June so there will most likely be a lot of transfers in that short period of time. Monsignor Kelly asked if transferring affects county tournament eligibility, which it will not, only state tournament post season. He also asked about the eligibility of students of faculty. This was discussed in the P/NP meeting but needs further discussion to be clarified.

Tournament Updates – Mr. Timko commended all the NJSIAA Assistant Directors for their tireless dedication to run successful winter tournaments.

Results of Polling Schools re: Non-Public Ice Hockey Cooperative Sports Programs – Approximately six months ago, the Executive Committee approved allowing non-public schools of any size to join in to a cooperative sports program in ice hockey with other non-public schools of any size, as is allowed for the public schools. A ballot was sent to the membership to approve or disapprove the rule change. Since less than 50% of the membership voted, the vote of the Executive Committee stands but the final vote was 99-36, supporting the Executive Committee decision.

Licensing Resource Group (LRG) – Not many schools are involved in this program but it’s expanding to a larger number of retailers, such as Walmart, and profits made should not impact booster clubs. If interested, please contact Ms. Maguire and she will help you get enrolled.

Spring Sports Sites/Dates – Most are set with the exception of some state semifinal sites for baseball and softball.

Spring Sports Regulations – All regulations are done and posted on NJSIAA’s website, with the exception of Spring Track.

DAANJ Conference – Kudos were given to Ted D’Alessio for another outstanding DAANJ. There were over 50+ professional development courses offered. It is definitely an important and worthwhile conference for all Athletic Directors to attend.

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Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Swimming – Ms. Cole thanked all schools that hosted meets in the swim tournament. The format was different this year with the addition of Classification C. Men and women competed on different dates and having Group C was well received but some brackets were not filled so hopefully next year there will be greater participation. A swimming and diving championship listing was distributed. At GCIT, three meet records were set! At the next Program Review Committee meeting, the Swim Committee will request that opening dates change so that they are the same as ice hockey.
Women’s Lacrosse– Games have begun, even with snow on the ground.

Website– NJSIAA’s web developer continues to enhance the AD forum. Ms. Cole spoke about the importance of updating School Manager and having each school’s information accurate. Hopefully by end of week, Tournament Refusal Forms will be interactive. No more faxing and scanning the form back!

Don Danser Report
Mr. Danser was not present but he distributed the ShopRite Cup in advance of the meeting.

Cooperative Sports Programs – A motion was made by Earl Clymer, seconded by William Deponte, to approve the following cooperative sports agreements:

A. Colonia HS / JFK Memorial HS (Iselin) – Ice Hockey
B. Whippany Park / Hanover Park – Ice Hockey, Girls Lacrosse
C. Hanover Park / Whippany Park – B/G Golf, B/G Swimming, Boys Lacrosse
D. Keyport HS / Henry Hudson Reg. HS – Football, Girls Soccer, B/G Volleyball, Wrestling
E. Henry Hudson Reg. HS / Keyport HS – B/G Tennis, Boys Cross Country, B/G Indoor Track
F. Pascack Hills / Pascack Valley – Gymnastics
G. Pascack Valley / Pascack Hills – B/G Swimming, Ice Hockey
H. Passaic Valley / Cedar Grove – Ice Hockey
I. Verona / Glen Ridge – Ice Hockey

Motion carried unanimously.

Larry White
NJIC Bowling Waiver for Mary Help of Christians Academy – Mary Help of Christians Academy has an all-girls bowling team but no female teams in their conference to play so each year they request to stay in their conference and compete against their male counterparts. This has been granted in years past, but due to new process, an Executive Committee rep will bring forth the waiver at the next meeting.

Bowling – In one of the best high school bowling matches Mr. White has ever seen, Freehold Township HS and Lyndhurst HS battled strike for strike until the 8th frame where Lyndhurst emerged as the eventual men’s team champion. Brick Twp HS earned the 2015 women’s team state champion title.

Basketball Tournament – The Tournament of Champions games were played on 3/23 at the Sun Bank Arena. The women’s game between Manasquan and St. Rose HS was one of the best games Mr. White has ever seen, with Manasquan beating St. Rose HS 59-55. Roselle Catholic HS captured the men’s team championship, defeating Pope John.

Winter Disqualification Report – There was a major spike in basketball disqualifications (36 more this year than last year) but Mr. White thinks rather than a huge spike, last year was more of an anomaly with only 78 disqualifications. When reviewing disqualifications over the past six years, this year’s numbers were more consistent with previous years, prior to last year’s numbers. No disqualifications were of a racial, religious, gender, ethnic, disability, profanity, sexual orientation nature compared to last year, which had three of these type disqualifications.
Clinics/Workshops – In conjunction with Legal One, there will be another Bullying & Hazing workshop, at Stockton University on 4/24. Registration forms are on our website. The wrestling clinic will take place on 5/8 at Princeton University with the University of Maryland’s head coach as the head clinician. Last, on 5/13, Atlantic Sports Health is co-sponsoring an athletic trainer’s workshop at Morristown Medical Center.

Ice Hockey – 9,300 people attended the finals, which took place on 3/9 at the Prudential Center. Congrats to the following schools for winning the championships: Randolph HS (Public A), Middletown North (Public B) and Christian Brothers Academy (Non-Public). The Christian Brothers/Delbarton game was very exciting as CBA came from behind to beat Delbarton in overtime.

Fencing – Championship results were distributed. Jack thanked the following five schools for hosting districts: Hackettstown HS, Livingston HS, North Hunterdon HS, Fair Lawn HS and Montclair HS. He also thanked North Hunterdon HS for hosting the squad championships, and Morris Hills HS and Montgomery HS for hosting the team and individual championships respectively.

NJSCA Coaches Hall of Fame – 700 attended to watch 33 coaches and one trainer get inducted in to the NJSCA Hall of Fame. It was NJSCA’s biggest crowd yet! 50+ State Coach of the Year and Officials of the Year recipients, recognized by the NFHS, were also honored, as was Fred Hill, retired Head Men’s Baseball Coach at Rutgers University, who received the Distinguished Award, and gave an outstanding speech to the crowd.

NJSCA Senior All-Star Game – Held at Rider University, this was a great showcase of the best seniors in the state playing each other.

Scholar Athlete Program - Forms are out and are available online. The event will take place on 5/17.

Guidelines for 90-Minute Contact Practice – Guidelines were distributed but the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee still needs to review them in May. It is recommended that full contact should be limited during the regular season to ninety minutes per week, with a maximum of thirty minutes per day, with contact on no more than two consecutive days. This is in compliance with the USA Football Association and the NFHS Medical Advisory Committee.

Corporate – Wilson Sporting Goods renewed their contract as NJSIAA’s official ball sponsor.

Wilson Prep Program – Wilson Sporting Goods is launching a new program that will allow anyone associated with schools (parents, boosters, employees, relatives, etc) to purchase Wilson items for 20% off retail price (10% off all balls). This will launch 10/1/15. NJ is the second state to partner with Wilson for this program, behind Illinois.

Safety of Student Athletes Conference at NFL Headquarters – Dr. Jack Kripsak from NJSIAA’s Medical Advisory Committee, and Mr. DuBois attended this conference, which brought the National Athletic Trainers Association, sports medicine physicians, and high school representatives from all 50 states together for this first of a kind collaborative effort, to focus on advancing the safety of student athletes in secondary schools. The conference, held at the NFL Headquarters in NYC, was sponsored by the American Medical Association, the National Athletic Trainer's Association and the Korey Stringer Institute. Mr. DuBois spoke about Janet’s Law and the percentage of athletic trainers that service NJ member schools. NJ is the leading state in the country for the amount of athletic trainers present in schools. 97% of NJ schools have some type training service (91% have a full-time athletic trainer.) Dr. Kripsak spoke about
the new cardiac certification required by doctors to perform physicals. Each state high school association was represented at the conference

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**Finance Update (Colleen Maguire)**

February/March 2015 Checkbook – A motion was made by Rona McNabola, seconded by Barbara Wallace, to approve the February and March checkbook registers. Motion passed unanimously.

Preliminary Winter Sports Financial Results – Numbers from swimming, wrestling and boys/girls basketball are still being calculated. Bowling experienced a net loss of $2,000 but there was no admission charge. Fencing expenses increased so there was no surprise that there was a $6,000 loss for adding a fifth site and not increasing entry fees. In ice hockey there was a $7,000 decrease in gate receipts but this is attributed to bad weather. In winter track, revenue increased by $7,000 due to an increase in participation, therefore more revenue from entry fees.

Spring Ticket Prices – Spring ticket price requests have been sent to the Department of Education, but this year in spring track, NJSIAA requested all sites charge $4 and $2. In the past, the DOE approved charging $5 and $3 at certain sites, but NJSIAA felt it was easier and more consistent to charge all spectators the same fee.

Accounts Receivable Outstanding Balances – 90 Days and Greater Status – Only seven schools are outstanding, with less than $500 debt.

Sports Participation Forms – 90% of schools have turned in their fall and winter participations forms.

RFPs/Contracts – Several RFPs are in the works. The Finance Committee approved a new awards/trophies vendor. Both Boardwalk Hall and Prudential Center have received RFPs to host the wrestling individual championships. RFPs are due 4/24 and a site will be chosen by 5/1. NJSIAA is also in talks for a new broadcasting media rights contract.

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**Report of Counsel – Steven Goodell** –

1. Still waiting for a decision from the Appellate Division in the North Bergen case.

2. The Commissioner affirmed an Eligibility Appeals Committee (EAC) decision that had been appealed.

3. A decision made by the EAC was appealed to the Commissioner. The NJSIAA filed an Answer, but the appeal is moot at this point since it involved an athlete’s winter sport eligibility.

4. A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Paul Crupi, to affirm the decision made by the Protest Committee, which had allowed K.D., a 19-year old athlete, to participate in outdoor track. The student-athlete was held back twice because of a disability. The Protest Committee granted eligibility because there was proof that the athlete was held back for medical reasons. Motion carried.
Old Business/New Business

1. Big North 70% In-State Competition Rule Waiver Request - Three schools (Bergen Catholic, Paramus Catholic and Don Bosco) in the Big North will violate the 70% in-state competition rule this fall because no in-state schools want to play them so they can only go out of state to get games. The waiver is extended to DePaul and St. Joseph’s Montvale because they will face the same dilemma. These five schools would prefer to stay in-state and not seek games outside NJ borders, but it hasn’t worked out that way. A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Todd VanOrden, to waive the 70% in-state competition rule for the sport of football for all five of the Big North non-public schools. This same issue is being addressed by the Public/Non-Public Committee so hopefully a solution is found. If a solution is not agreed to, the conference will brainstorm new ideas to rectify this ongoing problem. Thomas Mullahey asked if all five schools are in the same bracket for the state tournament, which they are not. Bill Edelman shared that unless you are in the Big North Conference, it’s easy to say no, but this solution is really a favorable solution for all schools in the conference (public and non-public.) Joe Lennon called a question. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Extension of Early Winter Start Date for Additional One-Year Period – 1st Reading – After surveying all the Superintendents in Bergen County and receiving a favorable response, Mr. Watson, on behalf of Big North Conference, made a motion, seconded by Thomas Mullahey, to extend the waiver granted this past year, to change the winter season start date for one more year. Specifically he is asking to change the winter season start date for all athletic teams that currently begin their season on the Monday following Thanksgiving weekend (November 30) to the Monday prior to Thanksgiving (November 23 – 25, 2015) with a shutdown period from Thanksgiving Day until the Monday after Thanksgiving. Practices may resume on the Monday after Thanksgiving. The three days prior to Thanksgiving will not be permitted to count as part of the six days needed before scrimmages may occur. The Monday after Thanksgiving will start as Day 1 of the pre-season count. The rationale for this request is to help with winter sports dealing with large number of athletes trying out for teams and the limited gym time afforded to coaches and it will enable coaches to evaluate players prior to the official start date of counting practice instead of cutting into the time, which is already shorter than other seasons. Currently winter has only 18 practices before first game, compared to 28 and 25 in the fall and spring respectively. This is also being submitted to the Advisory Committee as a permanent legislative change but if approved, cannot go in to effect until November 2016 so a waiver is needed for November 2015. Since this waiver affects all schools, it should be discussed with member schools prior to next meeting, where a vote will take place. Please discuss with your constituents.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment by William DePonte, seconded by Paul Crupi. Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In