Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press
The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday April 11, 2018 at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by President, Chuck Klaus, at 11:10 am.

The following members were present: Heather Andersen, Greg Bailey, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Teri Connor, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullaney, Michael Nitti, Popadiuk, William Quirk, Senator Paul Sarlo, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Todd VanOrden, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, and Scott Wohlrab. Also present: Kim Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, Al Stumpf and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Steven Falk, Asbury Park Press, Darren Cooper, Record; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Mike McGarry, AC Press; and Matt Stanmyre, nj.com. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; Dave Ryden, Athletic Director at Marlboro HS and Denis Nelson, Athletic Director at River Dell Regional HS.

A gold pass was given to new Executive Committee member, Senator Paul Sarlo.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Kevin Carty, Jr., to accept the minutes of the February 14, 2018 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 P. Goodell for Larry L. White

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – There is nothing currently in the legislature that impacts NJSIAA. Mr. Anzano plans to talk to Senator Codey about his steroid testing bill, which proposes that NJSIAA steroid test athletes year-round, not just at championship events. Mr. Anzano has requested to meet with the new Commissioner of Education, but hasn’t heard back yet. There was legislation proposed to ban tackle football for children under the age of 12, but the bill is not gaining any traction. Tony Mitchell asked about a statement his superintendent received, that requires schools to post Rules of Conduct at all sports event venues/facilities. Mr. Anzano explained this resolution was passed last legislative session and it’s a good idea to have the expectations visible for parents to see. It’s a state mission so NJSIAA didn’t plan on clarifying an assembly resolution. Verbiage wasn’t provided but NJSIAA can help any schools craft the language if needed, or they can use the sportsmanship statement that is read before every athletic contest.

Proposed Legislation – The following ten pieces of legislation will be considered by the Advisory Committee later in the afternoon:
1. Change 70% State Competition Rule to 60% (submitted by New Milford HS)

2. Changes to Program Regulations: Section 5 Sports Seasons Dates & Section 6 Start of Practice (submitted by Chris Brown – Park Ridge HS)

3. Changes to Credits – Fall/Winter Second Marking Period Eligibility (submitted by Lorenzo Baratta – Indian Hills HS)

4. Add Special Olympics Representative to Executive Committee (submitted by NJSIAA Staff)

5. Annual Meeting – Changes to Process/Timeline (submitted by NJSIAA Staff)

6. Changes to Cooperative Sports Programs (submitted by NJSIAA Staff on Behalf of the Classifications/Cooperative Sports Committee)

7. Eliminate the 365 No Contact Rule Before Hire (submitted by NJSIAA Staff on Behalf of the Out of Season Coaching Committee)

8. Changes to Summer Recess Restriction (submitted by NJSIAA Staff on Behalf of the Out of Season Coaching Committee)

9. Change Out of Season One Team Meeting Limit (submitted by NJSIAA Staff on Behalf of the Out of Season Coaching Committee)

10. Changes to Contact with Eighth (8th) Grade Students Rules (submitted by NJSIAA Staff on Behalf of the Out of Season Coaching Committee)

Medical Advisory Committee Meeting – A condensed meeting was held via phone conference since it snowed on the original meeting date. Mr. White distributed a handout summarizing topics addressed, which included: 1-Drafting a Mental Health Statement; 2-Having a NJSIAA liaison to the DOE (it was decided that Tony Maselli will continue to be the liaison); 3-Structure of the Medical Advisory Committee; 4-NJSIAA having more workshops for Athletic Trainers and 5-Evaluation of body fat in wrestlers for the 2018-2019 season. Mr. White will be attending the NFHS Medical Advisory meeting the week of April 16th.

DAANJ Conference – NJSIAA presented at the conference. At the session, NJSIAA went over general initiatives including the drone policy, transgender policy, international student eligibility changes, the new football playoff structure, out-of-season coaching rules, changing the definition of a school, and a finance/administration overview.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Girls Basketball – A listing of all sectional, group and TOC champions was distributed. Manasquan HS defeated Franklin HS in the TOC finals.
Softball and Girls Lacrosse – Tournament dates and locations were distributed. Ms. Cole is still trying to secure one last softball semi-finals site, but thinks she has, via a verbal confirmation.

Transfer/Eligibility Update – Transfers have slowed down because it is the beginning of the season but Ms. Cole expects the amount of transfers to increase as the season progresses.

Transgender Update – The Department of Education is developing guidelines for transgender students and utilizing NJSIAA’s adopted transgender policy for guidance.

Jack DuBois

Workshops – The Athletic Trainer Workshop about the accreditation process of becoming a physical therapist, sponsored by Atlantic Health, was rescheduled to 5/16. 60 Athletic Trainers were registered. The Legal One Athletics and School Finance: Avoiding Legal Pitfalls Workshop Dealing with Finances had to be rescheduled to 4/27. Last, the Legal One: Dealing with Difficult Parents and Spectators Workshop will take place on Monday, 4/30.

Ice Hockey – A listing of tournament winners was distributed. This was the first time there were four classifications/four champions since a Public C group was added. This was also the first time a cooperative sports team played for a title in the championships. Congratulations to the following ice hockey champions: Non Public Division-Delbarton; Public A–Hunterdon Central (who defeated cooperative sports team Colonia/JFK (Iselin)/Woodbridge HS); Public B-Northern Highlands and Public C–Summit HS.

Fencing – Championship results were distributed. Mr. DuBois congratulated St. Peter’s Prep and Bergen Tech for winning the boys and girls team fencing championships respectively. The following schools won the boys’ foil, sabre, and epee championships respectively: Shore Regional HS, Pingry School, and Fair Lawn HS while the following schools won the girls’ foil, epee and sabre championships respectively: Ramapo HS, Bergen Tech and Kent Place.

NJSCA Senior All-Star Game – This game, played by 40 of the best senior boys and girls basketball players in NJ, took place at Rider University on 3/17/18. Attendance for this game was the best it’s been in the past five years.

Scholar Athlete Program – Nomination forms have been distributed and are due 4/20. The event will take place on 5/20/18. Mr. DuBois announced that $208,000 will be awarded, among 74 sponsors. Every scholar athlete attending will receive at minimum a $500 scholarship.

Cooperative Sports Programs – A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Joseph Bollendorf, to approve a cooperative sports agreement between Northern Valley Old Tappan HS and Northern Valley Demarest HS in ice hockey. Motion carried with one abstention. A motion was made by Monsignor Michael Kelly, seconded by Beverly Torok, to approve a cooperative sports agreement between Marlboro HS and Holmdel HS in ice hockey. Motion carried with one abstention. A motion was made by Bill Quirk, seconded by Kevin Carty, Jr. to approve a cooperative sports agreement between Clayton HS and Glassboro HS in wrestling and boys golf. Motion carried with one abstention.

Bill Bruno

Wrestling Update – A listing of all group final winners was distributed. 42,000 attended the three-day individual championships in Atlantic City. These numbers are consistent with years
past so attendance is holding steady. The process of realigning the districts is well underway, with the second meeting taking place on 4/17.

**Winter Track Summary** – A listing of all group champions was distributed.

**Spring Track Update** – A listing of sites for all sections, groups and the Meet of Champions was distributed.

**NJSCA Hall of Fame** – The program took place at the Westin Forrestal Village. It was the first time this venue hosted the event. There were 594 in attendance, with 104 honored, including the HOF inductions of Executive Committee member Beverly Torok and John Carty, uncle of Executive Committee, Kevin Carty Jr., who was honored posthumously. Bill Bruno was also inducted in to the Hall of Fame, joining his father who was inducted many years prior.

**Clinics** – The NJSIAA/NJSCA Track & Field / Cross Country Coaches Clinic took place at Monmouth University on 3/23. The Wrestling Clinic will be on 5/4 at Princeton University, featuring five presenters. Forms to attend are online.

**Winter Disqualification Report** – This was distributed.

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**Al Stumpf**

**Basketball Tournament** – The following six schools won the group championships and competed in the Tournament of Champions: Woodbury (Group I), Haddonfield Memorial HS (Group II), Nottingham HS (Group III), Shawnee HS (Group IV), Don Bosco Prep (NP-A) and the Roselle Catholic (NP-B). Roselle Catholic HS defeated Don Bosco Prep in the Tournament of Champions finals.

**Unified Sports Update** – The first Unified basketball championships took place prior to the Tournament of Champions games at the Cure Insurance Center. It started as a Round Robin tournament, with Moorestown HS and Union City HS advancing to the finals. Moorestown HS won championship game.

The Unified Track Championships may have up to 25 schools compete, whereas last year only six schools competed. The sport is growing.

**Golf Update** – All sites except one are set. Mr. Stumpf had to move the girls Tournament of Champions to 5/29 at Golf Royce Brook West since the course he had originally secured is under construction and couldn’t guarantee that they would be ready in time to host. Mr. Stumpf could have scheduled the boys and girls on the same date but decided against it since some girls play on the boys’ teams, therefore wouldn’t have been able to participate in both tournaments.

**Boys Volleyball Update** – Cutoff is 5/10. Seeding will be 5/15.

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**Tony Maselli**

**Baseball and Boys Tennis Update** – Mr. Maselli is busy confirming sites for both tournaments. The baseball finals are moving to Veterans Park in Hamilton and will be a two-day event with three games on Saturday, 6/9 (1pm, 4pm, 7pm) and three games on Sunday, 6/10 (10am, 1pm, 4pm).
Non-Member/Out-of-State Reporting Form / Website Update – The Non-Member/Out-of-State Reporting Form will be online in September. Please contact Mr. Maselli with any website feedback or interesting news you’d like posted.

Tournament Refusal – An email blast was sent to Athletic Directors informing them that schools will be seeded for tournaments if they do not opt out of tournaments via the NJSIAA website.

Finance Update (Colleen Maguire)

ShopRite Cup Report – Winter standings were distributed and are as follows:
Group 1 - Shore Regional HS
Group 2 – Haddonfield Memorial HS
Group 3 – Northern Valley Old Tappan HS
Group 4 – Ridge HS
Non-Public A – Christian Brothers Academy
Non-Public B – Trinity Hall

Wrestling Districts – Approximately $10,000 was paid to six District host sites who incurred losses for hosting NJSIAA’s state wrestling tournament. This expense was not included in the 2017/2018 budget.

Cooperative Sports/Classification Committee Update – The committee, which started solely as a Classifications Committee but quickly combined with the Cooperative Sports Committee, created and submitted a proposal to the Advisory Committee. The proposal is recommending significant changes to the current cooperative sports rules, including allowing all sports and all group sizes to co-op together. The committee will meet again on 4/20 to conquer the next two big areas: 1-The enrollment differential between sport specific classification vs. general classification. It will take creativity and out-of-the-box thinking to decrease the enrollment gap differential. 2- How to keep schools such as choice schools, tuition public schools, vocational and charter schools in the mix with standard public schools. Please contact Ms. Maguire if you have any interest in being part of this committee.

Student Advisory Council – On 4/12, 22 scholar athletes from all over the state will attend the monthly Leagues and Conferences Officers meeting as part of a newly formed Student Advisory Council. There will be icebreaker activities, NJSIAA background information, and a Q & A session to solicit the students’ feedback on topics such as transgender athletes, sportsmanship, the summer recess period, is having co-champions acceptable practice, and are length of seasons reasonable or do students feel they need breaks in between sports seasons, etc. Frank Noppenberger, former East Brunswick HS Athletic Director, will also do a 20-minute leadership/teamwork presentation. This will be the segway to a bigger student advisory council next year.

Finance Committee Update – Chuck Klaus

February/March 2018 Checkbook – A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Greg Bailey, to accept the February and March 2018 check registers, which was approved by the finance committee as well as our monthly approvals according to policy. Motion carried with one abstention (Sarlo).
Program Review

International Student Eligibility Changes – 2nd Reading – A motion was made Tom Mullahey, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to change the rules related to international students. Under this proposal, an international student is only eligible for interscholastic athletic competition if enrolled in a member school under 1-the sponsorship of a program that achieved full, conditional or provision approval from The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), which is an organization that vets and approves agencies that broker international students based on a set of standards to be deemed an accepted program, or 2-that has gone through the CSIET review process and achieved full, conditional or provisional approval. A school or the agency a school uses must be CSIET-approved before international students can be deemed eligible for athletic competition. Also, no member of athletic staff can house international students. These are significant changes from the current rules and apply to both J1 and F1 students. Motion passed second reading unanimously and will go into effect July 1, 2018.

Field Hockey Clock Operator – 1st Reading – A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Rob Haraka, to add an additional timer at $65 per game in the booth beginning with the Public State Semi-Finals and Non-Public Sectional/State Semi-Finals and throughout the tournament. This would be an increased cost to the designated home team of $65 and additional cost of $585 to the NJSIAA (four group final games and five Tournament of Champion games x $65 per game). The rationale is so that there is an Official/Timer on the field to control the sidelines and an Official/Timer in the press box to communicate with the on field official and maintain the accuracy of the timing system. There have been challenges over the years with clock operators not understanding the game, unable to follow the stoppage of play and therefore re-setting the clock periodically to the detriment of the flow of the game. The Field Hockey Rules Committee believes that this will add to the overall tournament atmosphere of conducting a top-notch environment for the players, coaches and fans. The Program Review Committee and the Finance Committee approved the proposal unanimously. Motion passed first reading with one abstention (Sarlo).

Baseball Non-Public Sectional Finals Location – 1st Reading – A motion was made by Monsignor Michael Kelly, seconded by Kevin Carty, Jr. to move the non-public sectional finals to the higher seeded team as determined by the seeding committee. Rationale is that 1-the public schools play at the site of the higher seeded team for the sectional final; 2- the non-public sectional finals are a true sectional final where a “sectional” trophy is awarded and 3- If it is considered a state semifinal round, then no trophy should be awarded (like swimming). Also, public sectional finals are at higher seed - why not non-public? At higher seeded sites, if it rains, the home team will work harder to get the field playable. At neutral, predetermined sites, there are problems with scheduling other school events around those dates, i.e. graduation, awards’ nights, etc. The quality of high school fields are at least as good or maybe better and college fields often are much bigger than high school dimensions, creating competitive disadvantages. The Program Review Committee approved the proposal unanimously. Motion passed first reading with one abstention (Sarlo).

Unified Sports Guidelines – 1st Reading – The Program Review Committee made one edit to the proposed Unified Sports Guidelines that was distributed. They wanted to cross out the reference to “NJSIAA Bylaws” in the Section 9. Cooperative Sports Programs section and instead allow Unified Sports teams to co-op in any sport, and not be restricted by the current cooperative sports guidelines. Coaches can work with athletes only when being run as a NJSIAA or Special Olympics event. A Varsity Unified program takes part in NJSIAA championships events. A JV program doesn’t participate in NJSIAA championships but can participate in the Special Olympics Shriver Cup. Coaches can continue coaching athletes for that, even after a NJSIAA season is over. NJSIAA would like to include these guidelines in the
Rules and Regulations section of the Handbook for guidance and structure, but not have such formal rules, so there’s flexibility to grow the program. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Elaine McGrath, to approve the new Unified Sports Guidelines for placement in to the Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA Handbook. Motion passed with one abstention (Sarlo).

Football United Playoff Proposal – 1st Reading – Mr. Dave Ryden (Athletic Director at Marlboro HS), Denis Nelson (Athletic Director at River Dell Regional HS), and Executive Committee member Kevin Carty, Jr. spoke on behalf of the NJ United Football Playoff proposal. Key changes to NJSIAA’s football playoffs are outlined below:

1. The playoffs are starting one week earlier. See proposed schedule below.

   **Proposed Schedule Based on 2018-2019 School Year**

   **Week 0:** Optional (you do not have to play)
   **Weeks 1-8:** Begins on 9/7. Week 8 is week of 10/26.
   **Week 9:** 11/2 - 1st Round of Public Playoffs
   NJSIAA Assigned Games for Non-Playoff Qualifiers
   1st Round of Non-public Playoffs, with up to the top 6 receiving byes
   **Week 10:** 11/9 – 2nd Round of Public Playoffs Sectional Semifinals
   Optional Additional Game for teams that did not make the playoffs or have been knocked out (For a 10th game the NJISAA will assign an opponent; for an 11th game, the school may seek & schedule their own opponent)
   Non-public Quarter Finals of Playoffs
   **Week 11:** 11/16
   Public Sectional Championships at neutral sites – i.e. MetLife, Rutgers, etc
   Non-public semi-finals
   **Thanksgiving Week 11/22**
   **Week 12** Public “Single A” and “Double A” Bowl Games at neutral sites
   Non-public finals at Neutral Sites (i.e Metlife, etc)

2. There is still an optional zero week.

3. Now an additional game can be played if a school does not advance to the playoffs.

4. Every game counts. Both Power Points and a Power Index will be utilized for seeding (power points are weighted 40%; the Power Index is weighted 60%.) Last December, the membership changed the Bylaws/Rules and Regulations to allow member schools to play a ten football-game schedule so this playoff proposal can be adopted (used to be nine-game maximum).

   Tony Mitchell expressed disagreement with allowing a state champion in non-public football which he believes is unconstitutional and he complained that all non-public schools are not treated equal in the current playoff system. He believes since non-publics are required to play each other but do not receive the incentive points available to public schools, it is unfair. Mr.
Goodell understands both sides of the argument Mr. Mitchell expressed, and if there are inequities, they can be addressed. Last, Mr. Mitchell questioned the non-public representation on the United Football Committee. There were several non-public representatives.

A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Thomas Mullahey, to approve the NJ United Playoff Proposal. Final Vote: Yes-23; No-3; Abstentions-5. Motion carried.

Football United Playoff Proposal Additions – 1st Reading – A motion was made by Thomas Mullahey, seconded by Todd VanOrden, to accept the following additions to the United Football Proposal:

1. All first round playoff games will be the administrative and financial responsibility of the host school. NJISAA will assign game officials.

2. All public schools sectional final round games will be played at the site of the higher seeded team. NJSIAA will assign game officials and assume all administrative and financial responsibilities.

3. The three non-public group championship games and ten public Bowl Games will be played at MetLife Stadium. Play dates will November 23, 24, 30 and December 1, 2018.

4. A pilot seeding committee will be established with the purpose of seeding the non-public Group 4 and 3 classifications. This committee will be chaired by Executive Committee member, Greg Bailey.

Motion carried unanimously with two abstentions.

Football Heat Acclimatization Start Date – Monday August 6th for 2018 Season – 1st Reading - Per recommendation from the Football Committee, a motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by Kevin Carty, to change the heat acclimatization start date from Wednesday August 8, 2018 to Monday August 6, 2018 with board approval. Motion carried with two abstentions.

Report of Counsel – Steven P. Goodell, Esq. - The appeal of Mr. Griles from Paterson Eastside HS is proceeding in the Appellate Division.

Old Business/New Business – none.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment by Judy Finch Johnson, seconded by Greg Bailey. Meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

LW: In