

**NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**  
1161 Route 130, P O Box 487 Robbinsville, NJ 08691

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
May 12, 2021

**In compliance with Executive Order 107, the Executive Committee meeting was held remotely via Cisco's WebEx Meetings platform.**

**Roll Call** - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Steve Shohfi, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Greg Bailey, Jeff Baldino, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Derek England, Judy Finch-Johnson, James Gaffney, Brendan Galligan, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Dr. G. Kennedy Greene, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Geoff Haines, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Todd Jorgenson, Kurt Karcich, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Sean Olson, Leon Owen, Christopher Penna, Jeff Pierro, Scott Ridley, Danny Robertozzi, Senator Paul Sarlo, Daniel Sinclair, Frank Torcasio, Beverly Torok, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Dr. Robert Zega, and Dr. Brian Zychowski. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Chief Operating Officer; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Jack DuBois, Al Stumpf and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq. and Scott Miccio, NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Darren Cooper, *NorthJersey.com*; Brian Deakyne, *nj.com* and Mike McGarry, *Press of Atlantic City*. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; and Bill Librera, Principal at Watchung Hills HS

**Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to accept the minutes of the April 14, 2021. Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Chief Operating Officer Update – Colleen Maguire**

**COVID-Compliance Package Part 2 – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote** – A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to approve the COVID-Compliance Package Part 2 proposal, which will allow any student-athlete to transfer back to the school that they were enrolled at and attending on March 16, 2020 without consequence if the “transfer back” occurs on or before September 1, 2021. Any transfer that occurs after September 1, 2021 will be subject to the normal NJSIAA transfer rule and may be subject to the 30-day sit period. This proposal will also extend the credit waiver request process through the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Final Vote: Yes-41; No-0; Abstain-1 (Whalen). Motion carried.

**NJSIAA Calendar Committee Proposal Amended – First Reading – Voice Vote** – This proposal was received positively by the membership, but concerns were expressed about the changes made to ice hockey and basketball therefore the original proposal voted on in April was amended. Changes made to the original proposal are below. Strikethrough text indicate a proposed deletion; underlined text is an addition.

**Change 1 - Overall Guidelines**

The following guidelines have been identified by the Committee to ensure the primary goals are met:

- Provide a consistent regular season range of 49—53 days for all sports in each season.

- Elimination Minimize the need to request early start waivers and other exceptions.

## Change 2 - Winter Sports:

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Thanksgiving Day – Thursday	Nov. 24th	Nov. 23rd	Nov. 28th	Nov. 27th
<u>Practice start – Ice Hockey/Swimming – Monday</u>	<u>Nov. 21st</u>	<u>Nov. 20th</u>	<u>Nov. 25th</u>	<u>Nov. 24th</u>
<u>Practice start – all other sports – Monday *</u>	<u>Nov. 28th</u>	<u>Nov. 27th</u>	<u>Dec. 2nd</u>	<u>Dec. 1st</u>
Regular start – Bowling – Monday	Dec. 5th	Dec. 4th	Dec. 9th	Dec. 8th
<u>Regular start – Ice Hockey/Swimming – Thursday</u>	<u>Dec. 8th</u>	<u>Dec. 7th</u>	<u>Dec. 12th</u>	<u>Dec. 11th</u>
Regular start – all other sports – Thursday	Dec. 15th	Dec. 14th	Dec. 19th	Dec. 18th
Regular season end – Monday	Feb. 6th	Feb. 5th	Feb. 10th	Feb. 9th
Post-season start – Wednesday	Feb. 8th	Feb. 7th	Feb. 12th	Feb. 10th
Post-season end – Sunday	Feb. 26th	Feb. 25th	Mar. 2nd	Mar. 1st
<u>Last Day for Winter Sports – Sunday</u>	<u>Mar. 5th</u>	<u>Mar. 3rd</u>	<u>Mar. 9th</u>	<u>Mar. 8th</u>

Due to the complex nature of NJSIAA tournaments during the winter season, with all but two sports hosting both an individual and a team component, the Committee is revising the proposal to identify the last day for all winter sports competition. NJSIAA staff will separately determine the dates for all tournaments, but no sport will be permitted to go beyond the “last day” listed. The only exception that will be made is for possible facility-related reasons that are beyond NJSIAA’s control.

This calendar provides a consistent 53-day regular season for all winter sports. Because many winter sports have both a team and an individual element, the Committee recognizes the post-season schedule for some sports may have to differ from the dates provided.

All Group Finals should be played on or before the post-season end dates listed to ensure most student-athletes have a necessary break before the start of the spring sports season. Individual-based post-season events may need to be scheduled beyond the dates listed but may not extend beyond one week from the end dates listed.

Sports committees will determine the viability of team-based post-season competition beyond a Group Final (i.e. Tournament of Champions); however, they will not be permitted to reduce the regular season to accommodate post-season play beyond the Group Final and will not be permitted to schedule such events beyond one week from the end dates listed.

Kurt Karcich explained that the original proposal reduced the amount of regular season ice hockey games to 20 games not including post season. This amended proposal increased the amount of regular season games to 22 (same as basketball) due to facility concerns. Teams do not have to play the maximum amount of games and if a team doesn't advance to the state tournament or is knocked out in an early round, they can still play additional games. All winter sports will end 3/5 in 2021-2022, which is in line with other seasons.

The committee heard concerns about playing four games in a week. Schools do not have to play four-games in a week. This is just permitted now if a school wants or needs it.

RJ Kiem, another Calendar Committee member, shared that when talking to others about this proposal the word "equity" must be highlighted. When fielding calls, he stressed that there was a difference in the amount of games played among seasons so we have to be responsible and equal. When you look at the full year as a whole, this is equitable, though some feel this proposal is not fair to them.

Beverly Torok asked why ice hockey, swimming and bowling weren't aligned as in the past? The reason is bowling had a long pre-season but didn't really need it, but bowling will start competition earlier than other sports. Robert Grauso asked where the wrestling limitations were in the proposal. Ms. Maguire answered that individual-based limitations are not included and did not change – wrestlers are limited to four weigh-ins per week and 30 matches each year, there is no team limit in wrestling.

Sean Olson expressed multiple concerns. His first concern is the potential for four games in one week. Second, is the lapse between winter and spring sports. He added that though teams can still play after being knocked out of the state tournament, those games are meaningless, and most athletes do not have a good experience playing them. The season is over once a team is out of the playoffs. Third, students lose their conditioning with a month break. Fourth, in the shore regions such as Wildwood, some schools struggle with spring sports because many kids leave to work at the beach. Mr. Olson understands the need for equity and does not know why the winter season was as long as it was, but maybe there was a reason since we don't know the history. Fifth, by losing four games in basketball, are we taking away opportunities to create milestones such as 1000 points? Ms. Maguire addressed Mr. Olson's concerns. Teams can play 22 games plus county plus state tournament. which is currently one scheduling option that many schools already use. The proposal is striving to end all winter sports seasons on the same weekend while allowing schools the flexibility to schedule as to what works best for them. Also, for the downtime between seasons, many schools have open gyms or weight rooms to engage their kids. There is not a one size solution because we have a diverse membership with many different types of schools with different types of needs Todd Jorgenson expressed that he shares the same concerns and reservations as Mr. Olson.

Senator Sarlo asked how many years the Tournament of Champions has been in existence. Answer is approximately 30 years. Senator Sarlo asked if it was a Board decision to remove the tournament. Ms. Maguire shared that the basketball committee can assess that and propose a change to the Executive Committee. The Calendar Committee did not want to get involved in those type changes.

A motion was made by Dr. Brian Brotschul, seconded by Rob Haraka, to amend the proposal to change the NJSIAA sports calendar as noted above. Final reading / and roll call vote on the amended proposal will take place in June. Motion carried with two oppositions (Olson and Jorgenson).

Cooperative Sports Program Approvals – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Cooperative Sports Committee met on April 28, 2021 to review ten new program applications for fall and winter sports. The committee unanimously approved all ten applications and if approved, the programs will be in place for a four-year period starting with the 2021-2022 school year. All programs have been endorsed by participating leagues and conferences and approved by the schools' board of education.

1. Al Johnson – Jonathan Dayton – Ice Hockey (NJIIHL)
2. Brick Township – Brick Memorial – Ice Hockey (Shore Conference)
3. Hoboken – Weehawken – Ice Hockey (HCIAL)
4. So. Brunswick – No. Brunswick – Ice Hockey (GMC)
5. Becton – Wood-Ridge – Wrestling (NJIC)
6. Cliffside Park – Ridgefield Memorial – Wrestling (NJIC)
7. Highland Regional – Triton Regional – Wrestling (TCC)
8. Cliffside Park – Ridgefield Memorial – Football (NJIC and Super Football Conference)
9. McNair Academic – Ferris – B/G Fencing (HCIAL)
10. Mount Saint Dominic – DePaul Catholic – G swimming (Super Essex Conference and Big North)

A motion was made by Derek England, seconded by Joanne Dzama, to approve the ten cooperative sports programs approved by the Cooperative Sports Committee on April 28, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Post-Season Transfers Eligibility Proposal – First Reading – Voice Vote – There has been an increasing trend in transfers. NJSIAA staff wants to minimize transfers during the season, which can be disruptive to our member schools' teams, therefore it is proposed to prohibit participation in the NJSIAA post-season for any transfer that occurs after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date. Those student-athletes that earned a position on the team, and the competitive balance that is in place at the start of the season for all schools, will be protected. Currently, the NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4K(2) rule prohibits any student who transfers after a certain date in the season from being eligible to participate in the NJSIAA post-season. This date is calculated as the half-way point of the season and is updated each year in the tournament regulations for every sport prior to the start of the season. Given each season's staggered start dates, the date differs by sport. To ensure fairness, and in an effort to make deadlines more uniform across all sports and seasons, NJSIAA staff recommends amending the Bylaws to prohibit participation in post-season play for any transfer that occurs after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date in any particular sport begins. The recommended changes are outlined below (underline text is an addition; strikethrough is a deletion)

### **Bylaws, Article V [Eligibility of Athletes], Section 4K(2) [Transfers]**

#### **2. Transfers:**

c. A student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport ~~during the second half of a sports season~~, regardless of whether the transfer was the result of a bona fide change of residence, shall be ineligible to participate in any post-season championship competition at the new school. ~~The Executive Director of the NJSIAA will annually publish the dates that will define the halfway point of each sports season.~~ For football, the Week 1 Competition Start Date will be used.

A motion was made by Kevin Carty, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to prohibit participation in the NJSIAA post-season for any transfer that occurs after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date. Motion passed first reading with one abstention (Whalen). Second reading will take place in June.

COVID-Compliance Package Part 3 – First Reading – Voice Vote – NJSIAA staff recommends two additional temporary proposals related to the transfer rule in consideration of those families that have been impacted by the pandemic. The first proposed rule is to relax certain transfer rules due to eviction. During the 2021-2022 school year, many student-athletes may be displaced due to eviction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In New Jersey, pursuant to Executive Orders 106 and 231, there is a moratorium on evictions which remains in effect until 60 days after the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency comes to an end. It is expected that during the 2021-2022 school year the moratorium on evictions will be lifted, and a number of our student-athletes may be impacted. Under NJSIAA Bylaws, students that transfer without a bona fide change of residence are required to sit for 30 days. Also, students that transfer after a certain date are ineligible for postseason play. For the 2021-2022 school year, for students that must transfer due to eviction, it is proposed that these rules be waived and the temporary bylaw amendment, Article V, Section 4(K) additional provision below be approved for the 2021-2022 school year only.

TEMPORARY BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ARTICLE V, SECTION 4(K)  
FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR ONLY  
(Additional Provision)

If a student-athlete must transfer during the 2021-2022 school year due to eviction as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, that student-athlete shall not be subject to the 30-day sit period under the Transfer Rule and may still be permitted to participate in post-season play regardless of the date of transfer, if the principal at the new school sends an explanatory letter to the NJSIAA, and provides the requisite documentation sufficient to prove that the transfer was made due to eviction. The determination on the student-athlete's eligibility shall be made administratively by NJSIAA staff and any appeal therefrom shall be to the Eligibility Appeals Committee. The rules governing transfer for athletic advantage remain in place.

Second, NJSIAA staff recognizes that the financial impact of the pandemic will continue to require families to relocate through the summer of 2021. In some instances, it may be difficult or impossible for families to plan to relocate within a specific timeframe, and therefore, NJSIAA staff believes that the date by which student-athletes must transfer in order to be immediately eligible to participate in the Fall season should be relaxed so the temporary bylaw amendment, Article V, Section 4(K)(1) below be approved for the 2021-2022 school year only.

TEMPORARY BYLAW AMENDMENT  
ARTICLE V, SECTION 4(K)(1)  
FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR ONLY

(Additions to the Bylaws are shown underlined; deletions are struck through)

K. Transfers –

A bona fide change of residence takes place when:

c. The change of residence must have occurred on or before the following dates: September 1 ~~August 4~~ to be immediately eligible to participate during the Fall sports season; November 1, to be immediately eligible to participate in the Winter sports season; and March 1, to be immediately eligible to participate in the Spring sports season; and

A motion was made by Assemblyman Wimberly, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins, to approve two temporary bylaw amendments to Article V, Section 4(K) and Article V, Section 4(K)(1) which would relax the transfer rule as it pertains to evictions and allow athletes to be immediately eligible for falls sports if they change residence before September 1<sup>st</sup>, for the 2021-2022 school year only. Motion passed first reading unanimously. Second reading / roll call vote will take place in June.

Program Review - Basketball Recruiting Period Guidelines – One Reading – Voice Vote - Recommended guidelines for the NCAA Men’s and Women’s Basketball Evaluation Period (during the fall months of September, October, and November – prior to the start of the NJSIAA basketball season) was distributed, which will allow high school coaches to be more involved in the recruiting process of NJ high school student-athletes in the sport of basketball. While the 2021 – 2022 men’s and women’s basketball recruiting schedule has not yet been released, it is anticipated the evaluation period will start Wednesday, September 8, 2021. For NJSIAA member schools, these guidelines will remain in place until the NCAA November Dead Period begins, which is anticipated to be Monday, November 8, 2021. NJSIAA will annually confirm the evaluation period dates that these guidelines will be applicable to upon release of the NCAA fiscal year recruiting calendar. It is recommended to add the following guidelines for all member schools to adhere to, and shall be added to the “NJSIAA Guidelines Policies and Procedures”:

1. NJSIAA-member high schools may host no more than two basketball-specific evaluation sessions per week at the request of an authorized NCAA athletic department staff member. No evaluation session may occur without an authorized staff member in attendance. Any evaluation session without an authorized staff member in attendance is a direct violation of these guidelines.
2. These basketball-specific evaluation sessions may only occur on the premises of the member high school; they may not take place at a third-party facility.
3. High school coaches shall be permitted to be in attendance and administer these evaluation sessions in a manner requested by the authorized staff member.
4. The workouts to be observed by the authorized staff member may include:
  - a. Strength training
  - b. Agility, speed, and endurance training
  - c. Drills to highlight specific position skills (see details below)
  - d. Small-sided, competitive games such as 3v3
  - e. No more than 15 minutes can be used for 4v4 or 5v5 scrimmaging
5. Drills to highlight specific skills, include shooting drills, ball handling drills, lay-up drills, rebounding drills and low-post drills.
6. The workouts SHALL NOT resemble any form of organized practice. Therefore, no diagramed plays may be executed, and no defensive shell drills or simulation of offensive plays are permitted.
7. Each onsite visit/workout may not exceed one hour in length.

A high school coach that violates any part of these guidelines will receive an automatic four-game suspension, such suspension to be served during the first four regular season games during the immediate next season.

Robert Grauso explained that this is specifically so the scholastic coach can be involved in the recruiting process instead of the AAU coach. The recruiter/college coach can visit the player's school and evaluate the athlete with the coach present, which in the past was not permitted because it violated the Out of Season Coaching guidelines. The high school coach becomes the facilitator of what the college coach wants to see. Mr. Grauso had reached out to the Rutgers University compliance officer for input to put these guidelines together. This is not a practice. Judy Finch Johnson asked why these guidelines are only for basketball, why not other sports such as football? Ms. Maguire explained that other sports do not typically evaluate students in-person at a school. Usually there's big recruiting tournaments that athletes attend to for evaluation.

A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to adopt the recommended guidelines for the NCAA basketball evaluation period to allow high school coaches to be present when an authorized NCAA athletic department staff member is onsite to evaluate the playing ability of a prospective student-athlete. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Review - Football Regulations Update – One Reading – Voice Vote - The following changes have been proposed to the Football Tournament Regulations for the 2021 season:

1. Non-Public schools will be classified into two Groups – Non-Public A and Non-Public B. There will be 17 schools in each Group classification.
2. Schools will be permitted to schedule Week 0 games no earlier than Friday, August 27, 2021; however, the official start of practice/heat acclimatization start will remain Monday, August 9, 2021. The first scrimmage date will be Monday, August 16, 2021.
3. The starting strength index for the 2021 season will be the average of a school's strength index for the 2019 and 2020 season. If a school did not compete during the 2020 season, then the starting 2020 strength index will be used.

A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by Robert Grauso to approve the recommended changes (bullets 1-3 above) to the Football Tournament Regulations for the 2021 season. Motion carried unanimously.

DEI Advisory Committee Update – NJSIAA Executive Committee member/Long Branch HS Athletic Director, Jason Corley, will serve as Chairman of this newly formed committee. Other members of the committee include:

- Michael Nitti, Superintendent, Ewing Public Schools
- Judy Finch-Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Elizabeth HS
- RJ Kiem, Principal, Paramus HS
- Liz Aranjó, District Supervisor – Athletics, Newark Public School System
- Mark Phillips, AD, Camden HS
- Tarig Holman, Coach, JFK Iselin Memorial HS and NJ Minority Coaches Association member

Officials Appreciation Week – May 17th – May 23rd - Spring Officials Appreciation week will take place from May 17<sup>th</sup> – May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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**Legislative Update - Paul Anzano** - Mr. Anzano's tracking report of current legislative bills was distributed. The legislature is finishing their review of the Governor's budget and will soon begin the negotiations, but there is not a lot of controversy in this year's proposed budget.

Two concussion protocol bills are being considered but they do not impact our current protocols NJSIAA is already in compliance if the proposal becomes a law. Mr. Anzano and the association continue to interact often with the Governor's office regarding COVID-19 and closures. Maureen Bilda asked about the bill in the pipeline regarding K-8 students being retained. She expressed concerns about their age eligibility and playing high school sports. Mr. Anzano and Ms. Maguire did discuss this bill earlier in the week, but Mr. Anzano does not think the bill has momentum to become law, but it will be monitored. There is no Senate counterpart bill yet, so it will most likely not become law before 6/30, if at all.

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### **Assistant Director Reports**

#### **Kim DeGraw-Cole**

**Annual Meeting Legislation – Final Proposals Approval – One Reading – Voice Vote** – The association hosted two sectional meetings virtually on April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 29<sup>th</sup> via Cisco Webex. There were approximately 200 participants that attended. The final ballot to be voted on at the 2021 NJSIAA Annual Meeting was emailed to the Executive Committee for approval. A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Jason Corley, to move the ballot for vote by the membership at the annual meeting on June 7, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**Eligibility Committee & Eligibility Appeals Committee Updates** –The Eligibility Committee met on 5/11, reviewed nine cases and denied several requests. The Eligibility Appeals Committee met on 4/14 for an emergent case, convened on 4/28 for two cases, and will meet again on 6/2. Below are next year's anticipated meeting dates. The committees will continue to meet virtually as this format has worked well.

Proposed Eligibility Committee Meeting Dates: 2021-2022

- August 18, 2021
- September 28, 2021
- December 1, 2021
- February 22, 2022
- April 12, 2022
- May 10, 2022

Proposed Eligibility Appeals Committee Dates: 2021-2022

- September 22, 2021
- October 27, 2021
- December 15, 2021
- January 19, 2022
- March 23, 2022
- May 4, 2022
- June 1, 2022

**Status Report on Eligibility and Transfers** – There were 2,162 transfers in the system. Of the 2,162 transfers, 287 are pending former school response; 166 were immediately eligible due to



a true bona fide change of residence, and 1,074 were immediately eligible because they didn't play varsity at their former school. For 115, the ineligibility period applies and 421 were immediately eligible because they were COVID-19 compliance transfers. Of this 421, 75 were Non-Public to Non-Public transfers, 78 were Non-Public to Public transfers, 110 were Public to Public transfers and 125 were Public to Non-Public transfers, 12 are out of state / unknown determination of school status and 21 are due to school closings: 34 had affidavit issues pending and 5 other requests are under review because more information is needed. Below is transfer trend data:

#### Total Transfers (Varsity and non-Varsity)

- Transfers from Public to Non-Public: 410
- Transfers from Public to Public: 1101
- Transfers from Non-Public to Non-Public: 211
- Transfers from Non-Public to Public: 500

#### Wrestling Season 3 Update –

Ms. Cole thanked the following people for making this year's tournament happen: Greg Troxell, Superintendent and Tom Fisher, Athletic Director, and the Phillipsburg staff for hosting both the girls and boys state wrestling championships; Howie O'Neil, NJSIAA Wrestling Tournament Director and Jack Kinner, Assistant Director, and their able staff, who did a tremendous job conducting the tournament.; Ken Rossi, Scott Pressman, Bryan Stoll, the Region Presidents along with the Committees that worked tirelessly to select and seed this year's wrestlers. This was no easy task and was a tremendous accomplishment; and nj.com, Chris Faytok and company for the free live streaming of all the events. Lastly, she thanked Mark Grilo, Linda Ionta, Jesse Spencer, and Mike Beirao, along with their staffs for hosting the boys' regions on April 17th and April 18th.

For regions, the weight classes were split into four sessions over the course of the two days. A total of 224 wrestlers per site had the opportunity to compete for a Region Title. Total overall: 896 wrestlers. The Seeding Committee for the State Tournament met on April 20th at NJSIAA. Wrestlers were seeded 1-20. The top 16 were placed in the championship bracket. Throughout the week, a few wrestlers were replaced due to injury with the opportunity for the #17 or beyond wrestler to compete. The Boys Individual State Championships were held at Phillipsburg High School on April 24th and April 25th, crowning 14 state champions. The original format was altered, and 7 weight classes were conducted on each day, which provided a much better tournament for all the participants. Each school was permitted 2 adult coaches to attend. The event was live streamed on nj.com and two adult parent/guardians per wrestler were permitted entrance to the state event. After each weight class concluded, the wrestlers were presented with their earned medal (top 8 place winners), along with a photo opportunity for all in attendance. Ms. Maguire presented each champion with a bracket of their path to victory, donated by the History of Wrestling. It took a village to make this tournament happen and there were plenty of people who thought it would not work.

Girls Lacrosse Update – All sites are set. The Group Finals will be played at Montgomery High School and Middletown South High School on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The tournament of champions quarterfinals and semifinals will be played at the higher seed. The tournament of champions final game will be played at Mt. Olive High School in a girl/boy double header at 4 and 6:30 pm.

Softball Update – The group finals and Tournament of Champions games will be played at Ivy Hill Park. Ms. Cole is very appreciative there will be a full spring season.

**Bill Bruno**

*(Reported given by Ms. Cole in Mr. Bruno's absence)*

Spring Track – Spring Track is off and running. There have been a lot of outstanding performances early in the season. All sites have been confirmed and all sites, dates, times, and order of events are posted on our website under spring sports.

Gymnastics Update – The NJSIAA gymnastics senior showcase took place on 4/23 and 4/24 at Brick Memorial HS. The committee is already meeting to prepare for next season.

NJSCA HOF – Nomination forms are due 6/30.

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**Jack DuBois**

Scholar Athlete Awards Update – NJSIAA will host a virtual presentation. 375 nominations have been received, which is the largest in history. Last event, there were 335 scholar-athletes honored. This event couldn't take place without NJSIAA's sponsors. A monetary award will be given to scholar athletes this year. The amount is still to be determined.

Boys Lacrosse Update – Seeding will take place at NJSIAA's office on 5/26. The first two public rounds on June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> will take place at the higher seed. Mr. DuBois secured a third site for the Group State Championships, which will be held at either Hopewell Valley HS, Shore Regional HS and A.L. Johnson HS on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. The TOC finals will take place at Mt. Olive HS.

Senior Baseball All-Star Game – The team selection meeting will take place on 5/20. The game will be played on 6/15 at Diamond Nation preceded by the NJSBCA Hall of Fame presentation.

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**Al Stumpf**

Volleyball Update – Due to COVID-19 shutdowns, Mr. Stumpf modified the qualification standard for entry into the tournament this year. Normally the standard is a minimum of 12 matches played and a .500 record. In reviewing the records from around the state it was evident that most of the teams would not meet the minimum number of matches to qualify so it was decided, because these teams lost their season last year to relax the qualifying standard for the maximum number of teams to compete. All teams that wish to enter the tournament will be seeded.

Golf Update – The Boys and Girls Golf Sectionals took place on 5/10 and 5/11. Stanton Ridge is a difficult course and the event was played under less than ideal wet conditions. The Wardlaw-Hartridge girls team shot a 299, which is an average of 74.4 per golfer over 18 holes. Their freshmen golfer - Sarah Shao - shot an impressive 67 in less-than-ideal weather conditions. The Girls TOC will be Tuesday, 5/18 at the North Jersey County Club in Wayne, NJ. The three lowest scoring teams from each section plus the top 50 girl golfers in NJ will compete. The Boys TOC. will be Wednesday, 5/19 at Hawk Pointe Golf Course in Washington, NJ. The two lowest scoring teams for each group and section along with the five lowest scoring individuals from each group and section will compete.

NJBCA/NJSIAA June Summer Basketball Showcase Event - The NJ Basketball Coaches Association along with the NJSIAA will be hosting this event sanctioned by the NFHS/NCAA to showcase underclass student athletes for college recruiting. This is an effort by the NCAA and the NFHS to put the recruiting of high school basketball athletes back into the hands of their high school coaches instead of the AAU coaches and programs. The event will be at Kean University on June 18, 19 and 20. Invitations will be sent to NJ teams – there will be a limit of 48 teams this year. If the event cannot get 48 NJ teams, teams from Pennsylvania will be invited. Teams from New York would have been invited but the state is not allowing interstate competition at this time. The NJBCA will send out invitations to Division 1, 2 and 3 coaches to attend. Team entry fee is \$250 per team. Executive Committee Member, Bob Grauso heads the NJBCA, and he explained that the new legislation for basketball recruiting approved earlier in the meeting goes hand in hand with the event. Schools will be allowed to use school-issued equipment, uniforms, and transportation if they so choose.

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### **Tony Maselli**

HomeTown Ticketing Update – For the first time ever, the association will sell tickets to attend NJSIAA events via an online system. The details are still being worked out, but the plan is to kick off online ticket sales at a few spring sectionals. Eventually, this process will be utilized for all NJSIAA sporting events, just not right away. It will be a gradual transition.

HSAD Network Update – The HSAD Network, the replacement for the old forum, is now up and running.

Baseball / Boys Tennis Update – For both sports, there has been relatively good weather and not many disruptions. Tournament dates are posted on the NJSIAA website and everything is going great.

Officials' Affiliated Agreement Update – One Reading – Voice Vote – The three-year agreements between each individual official association and the NJSIAA expire this year. The new agreements have been revamped and been through attorney review and vetted through the Finance Committee. Minor edits to the agreements previously in place have been proposed. The following changes to the registration fee structure have been proposed:

1. The “cadet” registration level has been removed, as it caused confusion and administrative issues.
2. Registration fees have been frozen, and will remain the same, over the next three years, and the fees for multiple sport officials have been reduced.
3. Inequities regarding the fee structure have been addressed. Volleyball officials will now register separately for the girls (fall) and boys (spring) seasons. Previously, cross country, winter track and spring track officials only registered once for the three seasons; under the proposed agreement, officials for these sports will register twice – once for cross country, and once for track & field, which will cover both the winter and spring seasons.

Tony Mitchell asked if a volleyball official has to pay the registration fee twice, once for each season. The answer is yes. If you are both a football and lacrosse official, you are required to register twice so there's inequity there, because a volleyball official can officiate two seasons in one year. Same holds true for a cross country official who was registering once to officiate three seasons. Now a cross country/track official must register twice – once for cross country and once for winter and spring track. Since there is not a lot of work for winter track, it did not seem

fair to charge a full season registration fee, so it was paired with spring track. Some are unhappy with the new system. Tennis officials will only be charged to register once because there are no officials for tennis during regular season. They are only used for officiating tournaments so again, it didn't seem fair to charge them twice when there's not a lot of work. Also, the fee for a second registration is at a reduced rate; it is not the full fee.

A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Greg Bailey, to approve the proposed changes made to the three-year affiliated agreements between NJSIAA and officials associations. Motion carried with one abstention (Gruccio).

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### **Finance Committee Update – Steve Shohfi**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The checkbook from April 13, 2021 through May 10, 2021 was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Mary Liz Ivins made a motion, seconded by Denis Williams, to approve the April 13, 2021 through May 10, 2021 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Report of Counsel (Steven Goodell, Esq.)** – Mr. Goodell, Mr. Miccio and Ms. Maguire attended the NFHS Legal Meeting and Summit last month. Half of the attendees were in-person, while the other half attended virtually. States shared their COVID-19 war stories. New Jersey fared better than most and benefited from its strong working relationship with the Governor.

As reported last month, the lawsuit filed against the NJSIAA and its agents by wrestling official Alan Maloney was voluntarily dismissed with prejudice by the plaintiff. Last week, the lawsuit filed against Buena High School by Alan Maloney was dismissed with prejudice by the Court. Unless there is an appeal, this should bring an end to this issue.

The Patrick school has filed an appeal with the Commissioner of Education, challenging the decisions of the Controversies and Executive Committee that the school did not comply with NJSIAA bylaws. This appeal follows the school's unsuccessful application to the Superior Court in Union County for a restraining order. Both sides have submitted their briefs and now await the Commissioner's decision.

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**Old Business/New Business** – Jewel Sellers is retiring on 6/30 to be with her grandchildren. She will be sorely missed.

Second, Ms. Maguire will send a survey gauging the committee's interest in having a hybrid of virtual and in-person meetings next year.

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**Adjournment** – A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to adjourn the meeting at 12:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire  
Chief Operating Officer

CEM: In