

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 9, 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, June 9, 2021, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Steve Shohfi, at 11:01 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Greg Bailey, Jeff Baldino, Tom Berrios, 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, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Leon Owen, Christopher Penna, William Quirk, Danny Robertozzi, Senator Paul Sarlo, Frank Torcasio, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, 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: Brian Deakyne, *nj.com* and Mike McGarry, *Press of Atlantic City*. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2021. Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Shohfi read a statement from Bill Bruno, who announced his retirement after 45 years as an educator and administrator. Steve Shohfi shared some personal sentiments. The committee gave a round of applause for Mr. Bruno and his storied career.

Approval of FY 2021-2022 Officers – Voice Vote - A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Dr. Brian Brotschul, to accept the following slate of executive committee officers for 2021-2022: President – Tom Mullahey, 1st Vice President – Joseph Bollendorf, and 2nd Vice President – Jason Corley. Motion carried unanimously.

2021-2022 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – Next year's committee dates are below. 70% of the committee voted in favor of a hybrid schedule next year so there will be five in-person and four virtual meetings.

September 15, 2021 (in-person)
October 13, 2021(in-person)
November 10, 2021 (virtual)
December 8, 2021 (in-person)
January 12, 2022 (virtual)
February 9, 2022 (virtual)
April 6, 2022 (in-person)
May 11, 2022 (in-person)
June 8, 2022 (virtual)

Chief Operating Officer Update – Colleen Maguire

FY 2021-2022 Budget Proposal – One Reading – Roll Call Vote – The finance committee met and reviewed the 2021-2022 budget. A summary memo was distributed. The 2021-2022 budget assumes that next year will have normal seasons and normal championship tournaments. The projected budget net profit is primarily due to a decrease in salary and related benefits related to staff attrition, combined with an increase in budgeted tournament entry fees. In June 2019 the association approved to increase tournament entry fees for the 2020-2021 school year, but of course this past year the association did not see the benefit of the increase. The most significant increase to tournament entry fees will be for those sports without gate receipts (cross country, tennis, bowling, and golf). A motion to accept the 2021-2022 budget proposal was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Kurt Karcich. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-35; No-0; Abstain-1 (Whalen).

Ms. Maguire then announced that on behalf of the Finance Committee – attendance at all NJSIAA championship events hosted the weekend of June 18th will be free of charge. NJSIAA has been able to weather the COVID-financial storm, primarily due to stringent oversight of expenses, and would like to end the school year with this give-back to student-athletes and their families and fans.

Lastly, Ms. Maguire thanked the following members of the Finance Committee for their continued support and feedback during a fairly difficult year to navigate – Steve Shohfi, Mary Liz Ivins, Greg Bailey, Jim Gaffney, Rob Haraka, Kurt Karcich, RJ Kiem, Paul Vizzuso, and Denis Williams. She then continued to thank Mr. Haraka, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Bailey for their service over the past six years – their presence will be missed next year on the committee.

NJSIAA Calendar Committee Proposal Amended – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote – No changes were made to the amended Calendar Committee proposal presented last month. A motion was made by Dr. Brian Brotschul, seconded by Rob Haraka to approve the amended NJSIAA Calendar Committee proposal as presented last month. Greg Bailey spoke in favor of the proposal. He appreciated the input from the Student Advisory Counsel which he felt was important and loves that they now have a voice in high school athletics. Mr. Bailey also thanked the Calendar Committee – their input was invaluable, and he trusts their vetting process. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-36; No-2; Abstain-1 (Whalen).

Post-Season Transfers Eligibility Proposal – Second Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by Tom Mullahey, to change the NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4K(2) (which prohibits participation in the NJSIAA post-season for any transfer that occurs after the half-way point of the regular season) and change it to prohibit participation in the NJSIAA post-season for any transfer that occurs after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date in each sport. Motion passed first reading with two abstentions (Wimberly and Whalen).

COVID-Compliance Package Part 3 – Second Reading – Voice Vote – 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 1-relax the transfer rule as it pertains to evictions and 2-allow athletes to be immediately eligible for fall sports if they change residence before September 1st, for the 2021-2022 school year only. Details of this proposal were outlined in last month's minutes. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Program Review – June Scholastic Event Waiver Request – One Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Rob Haraka, to allow for an early start waiver

of the summer period start date for high school coaches to coach their teams at the NJSIAA/New Jersey Basketball Coaches Association scholastic basketball recruiting showcase pursuant to the NFHS/NCAA summer event guidelines called "NJ LIVE." The event will take place at Kean University on June 18, 19 and 20, 2021. This event will be conducted prior to the start of the NJSIAA summer period, which is June 21, 2021. Only schools registered and participating in these events will be eligible for the waiver. In addition, NJSIAA staff requests that coaches be permitted to meet with their teams during the week of June 14, 2021, to prepare their teams for this event. A maximum of two total hours of contact will be permitted from June 14 – June 17, 2021 and such contact may include practices. In similar fashion, PIAA will be conducting their own scholastic basketball recruiting showcase events the weekends of June 18, 19, and 20, 2021 and June 25, 26 and 27, 2021 in Philadelphia, PA. NJSIAA member schools have been approved to participate in this event. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Review – Field Hockey Classifications – One Reading – Voice Vote - In response to the Classification Committee Report, the NJSIAA Field Hockey Committee met on December 22, 2020 and May 18, 2021 to discuss and recommend the following classifications for the sport of field hockey for the 2021 field hockey season. This framework will bring field hockey in line with other sports, such as boys and girls lacrosse, which have a similar number of participating public-school teams. There will be approximately 24 teams in each of the eight sections and groups for public schools. Under the previous classification alignment, each section and group consisted of only 12-13 public school teams, with all teams eligible for the tournament. The public school classification will eliminate the need for a state semi-final round.

The proposed classifications are as follows:

Group 1 North, Group 1 South
Group 2 North, Group 2 South
Group 3 North, Group 3 South
Group 4 North, Group 4 South

For the 2021 season, the Committee proposes that there remain two Non-Public Sections – North and South. This will be reviewed at the end of the 2021 season.

A motion was made by Derek England, seconded by Jason Corley, to approve the field hockey classification changes recommended by the NJSIAA Field Hockey Committee for the 2021 field hockey season. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Review – Wrestling Rules and Regulations Clarification – One Reading – Voice Vote
The NJSIAA Wrestling Committee recommended an additional clarification to the Wrestling Rules and Regulations, Section 8, Maximum Meets to account for certain elite invitational wrestling events that take place during the wrestling season. The goal of the clarification is to explain what events an individual, and an entire team, may participate in while these events are being held, and what the restrictions are. This will provide wrestlers the opportunity to compete in events that suit their skill level – elite wrestlers may compete in nationally recognized tournaments while teammates will be able to compete in local events on the same day in tournaments without individual or team penalty.

A motion was made by Mo Abdelaziz, seconded by Robert Grauso, to add the following clarification to the Wrestling Rules and Regulations, Section 8, Maximum Meets to account for certain elite invitational wrestling events that take place during the wrestling season:

CL 5: For those events that qualify as “Elite Events,” to be determined on a yearly basis, the restrictions applicable to this Section 8 shall not apply, with the exception of the requirement that a wrestler may only participate in up to four weigh-ins per week. Additionally, only one wrestler per weight class, per team shall be permitted to participate on the same day. For example, if a 285-pound wrestler on Team A wrestles at an Elite Event, Team A will not be permitted to enter another 285-pound wrestler in any other event on the same day.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the following Elite Events shall qualify for this rule clarification. The events that qualify as Elite Events shall be reviewed annually.

- Beast of the East, University of Delaware, December 18-19, 2021
- Sam Cali Tournament, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Date TBD
- Escape the Rock, Council Rock High School, Pennsylvania, January 15-16, 2022

This clarification allows wrestlers on the same team to compete in two different tournaments on the same day which allows for maximum participation, while matching wrestlers to tournaments more suited to their abilities and not putting some wrestlers in tournaments way above their ability level. Motion carried unanimously.

NJSIAA Staffing Update – Ms. Maguire shared her sadness about Mr. Bruno’s retirement. The association will post the application for Mr. Bruno’s replacement this week. Mr. Stumpf has stepped up and taken care of spring track in the best interest of NJ’s student-athletes. As Ms. Maguire moves into the Executive Director role on 7/1/21, Kim Cole will become the association’s new Chief Compliance Officer and Tony Maselli will serve as the new Chief Operating Officer. Ms. Maguire then thanked Jack DuBois for his 25 years of service as both a former Executive Committee member and NJSIAA Assistant Director. Ms. Maguire has hired Greg Bailey to be the new Football Sports Coordinator. Mr. Bailey will serve as the Project Manager for football for the 2021-2022 football season. Though Ms. Maguire will be the director in charge of the sport, Mr. Bailey will assist with the day-to-day operation of running it. The plan is to utilize this structure for other sports as well. Ms. Maguire then thanked the Personnel Committee for navigating this new structure and being a great resource.

Legislative Update - Paul Anzano - Jack Ciattarelli won New Jersey’s Republican primary for governor and will now face incumbent Governor Murphy in November’s election. Currently the legislature is wrapping up their budget discussions, which the association has no issues with.

Last meeting, a bill that that permits parents/guardians to request grade retention for student during 2021-2022 school year due to learning loss this past year was discussed. This bill passed the Assembly on 6/3. The Senate counterpart (S3872) was introduced. The association has rules in place that can manage the age eligibility issues that may arise if this bill passes, which most likely it will.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Annual Meeting Update – The association conducted its second virtual annual meeting this year on 6/7. All went smoothly. The meeting was run by Colleen Maguire, Steven Goodell, and Dave Frazier, Chairman of the Advisory Committee. Referendum Proposal No. 1: Football Group Championship Proposal was voted on. Ballots are due today, 6/9, but can be sent via regular

mail as long as envelopes are postmarked with today's date. Most ballots received have been in favor of the proposal. Final results will be posted and shared with the membership.

Eligibility Committee & Eligibility Appeals Committee Updates –The Eligibility Committee will meet on 8/18/21 – this is usually very busy meeting. The EAC Committee has been very busy including a 1:30 pm hearing after this meeting. Ms. Cole cannot thank them enough. It's a labor intensive, time consuming, gut wrenching committee to serve on. Ms. Cole thanked departing EAC members: Derek England, Timothy McElhinney, Tony Mitchell, and Maureen Bilda.

Status Report on Eligibility and Transfers – There are 2,140 transfers in the system; 293 are pending former school response. Ms. Cole encouraged member schools to complete all outstanding transfers in the portal as soon as possible because the NJSIAA Transfer Portal will change over to the 2021-22 school year for all new transfers on June 16, 2021.

Girls Lacrosse Update – Weather has been a challenge, but Athletic Directors and schools have been great at getting the games played. 158 teams were seeded in the tournament, and it is now down to the sectional semi-finals. Ms. Cole hopes to have the group finals at Montgomery High School and Middletown South High School.

Softball Update – 288 teams were seeded. In softball, teams can play on consecutive days which has been helpful. The group finals will be played on June 17 – 19, 2021, weather permitting, and the TOC games will be on June 20th. The association has been flexible with games to allow for participation in school end of year activities.

Jack DuBois

Senior Baseball All-Star Game – The senior all-star game will be played on 6/15 at Diamond Nation. Rosters were distributed. The following four coaches will be inducted in to the NJSBCA Hall of Fame prior to the games: Dennis Arnold (Pompton Lakes HS), Denis Barth (Gloucester Catholic HS), Marty Kenny (Christian Brothers Academy) and David Minsavage (Hanover Park HS). Bob Brewster of Westfield HS was given the 2021 NJSBCA/Joseph B. Hartmann Baseball Man of the Year award.

NJSIAA / Kearny Bank Scholarship – Out of 51 applicants, Kearny Bank selected Jason Trapp from Central Regional HS as the 2021 recipient of their \$2,500 scholarship.

Boys Lacrosse Update – Weather has been challenging. The group state championship game matchups are as follows:

Group 1 - Mountain Lakes v Manasquan
Group 2 - Summit v Rumson
Group 3 - Chatham v Ocean City
Group 4 - Hunterdon Central v Southern Regional
Non-Pub A - Delbarton v Don Bosco
Non-Pub B - Montclair Kimberly v Pingry

The six winners will move on the TOC quarterfinals.

Mr. DuBois thanked past and present administrations and Executive Committees for the past 25 years. It's been a joy serving the student athletes of New Jersey. Mr. Shohfi thanked Mr. Dubois and commented that his respect and legacy will continue on.

Al Stumpf

Golf Update – Both tournaments were great. The Boys Tournament TOC and Group Championships were held at Hawk Pointe Golf Club in Washington Twp. Group winners were as follows:

- Group 1 – Glen Rock
- Group 2 – Wall
- Group 3 – Chatham
- Group 4 – Westfield
- NP A – CBA
- NPB – Newark Academy

The 2021 Boys TOC Champion was Westfield HS with a team score of 284. The 2021 TOC Individual Boys Champion was Colin Summers of Westfield, who shot a 63, which may be the lowest score ever in the Boys TOC. Seven players finished below par.

The Girls Team Tournament was played at North Jersey Country Club. Wardlaw Hartridge was the champion with a team score of 318, followed by Bridgewater–Raritan HS (348) and Immaculate Heart Academy (350). The Girls 2021 Individual Champion was Katherine Lu of West Windsor Plainsboro North, who shot a 73.

Boys Volleyball Update – The tournament is in progress and is currently at the sectional championships level, which will be played Wednesday, June 9 at the higher seed. The State Semi-finals will be June 11.

- Central Champion (1) will play North 2 Champion (4)
- South Champion (2) will play North 1 Champion (3)
- State-Finals will be June 14 hosted by South Brunswick HS at 5 PM
- Highest remaining seed will be the home team

Spring Track Update – There was a torrential downpour at the Long Branch HS sectional meet so some of the field events had to take place the next day. Then at Ridge HS, there was a power outage so a two-day meet had to be completed in one day, but Mr. Stumpf complimented Athletic Director Rich Shello for getting it done. Now all sectional meets have been completed. The top six places in each event advanced to the Group Championships, which will take place Friday, June 11 at 2:30 pm and Saturday June 12 at 10:00 am. Groups 1 and 3 will compete at Pennsauken HS; Groups 2 and 4 at Franklin HS; and NP A and B will be at Neptune HS. The Meet of Champions will be on June 19 at South Plainfield HS.

Tony Maselli

Baseball Update – The tournament is moving along. The group finals will be played at Veterans Park in Hamilton, NJ on Wednesday, June 16th and Saturday, June 19th. Mr. Maselli encouraged people to attend. There will be some great baseball games.

Boys Tennis Update – The Team Tournament of Champions semi-final games will be played later in the day, followed by the finals tomorrow (6/10). 250 individuals will compete in the

singles/doubles tournament this weekend. Mr. Maselli hopes the weather holds out. It's been great seeing the students out on the court competing.

Finance Committee Update – Steve Shohfi

Approval of Monthly Checks – The checkbook from May 11, 2021 through June 7, 2021 was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Raymond Kiem made a motion, seconded by James Gaffney, to approve the May 11, 2021 through June 7, 2021 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven Goodell, Esq.) – A new lawsuit was filed by a former NJSIAA wrestling interpreter. The Patrick School matter is pending a decision by the Commissioner of Education.

Old Business/New Business – Ms. Maguire took a moment to highlight what the Executive Committee had achieved since the COVID-19 pandemic hit (see bullets below). Ms. Maguire is proud of the work done by the committee, which allowed for student-athletes to be emotionally engaged and physically active during a very difficult school year.

- Approved measures to relax our transfer rule and credit requirements during the entire school year to ensure as many student-athletes as possible had the opportunity to participate in extracurricular athletics
- Continued to review and approved sports specific COVID-modifications as necessary
- Approved plans to pivot to virtual Annual Meetings – two meetings were successfully hosted in order to keep the Association's business moving forward and to keep the annual legislative cycle on track
- Supported the Cooperative Sports Committee's efforts to provide emergent cooperative program approvals to help member schools keep programs going this past school year
- Permitted participation in two strenuous sports during the period of overlap as we transitioned from Season 3 to Season 4
- Extended the measures that relaxed the transfer rule and credit requirements going into the start of the 2021-2022 school year in an effort to continue to keep as many student-athletes as possible engaged in extracurricular athletics
- Approved guidelines and programs that will allow high school basketball coaches to be much more involved with the recruiting of their student-athletes – these measures are keeping with the spirit of the Rice report from the Commission on College Basketball
- Approved a process that allows Principals to seek immediate eligibility during the upcoming school year for transfers that are the direct result of eviction
- The year culminated with the approval of a Calendar proposal that will bring long-needed consistency and equity to all sports and all seasons – while the calendar will continue to be

assessed to ensure we are meeting the needs of our student-athletes and member schools this is a step in the right direction

Ms. Maguire thanked NJSIAA staff, counsel, and NJSIAA Executive Officers for their tireless efforts over the past 15 months, volunteering their time and spending countless hours attending many meetings. Steve Shohfi should be commended for his tremendous leadership – his oversight, understanding and feedback was very appreciated.

Mr. Shohfi then recognized all outgoing Executive Committee members and thanked NJSIAA staff, NJSIAA task forces, school administrators and officials. He looks back at this year with pride – everyone went the extra step.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Jason Corley, to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Chief Operating Officer

CEM: In