

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 8, 2021

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Tom Mullahey, at 11:06 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Jeff Baldino, Joseph Bollendorf, Jeremy Braverman, Dennis Carey, Jason Corley, Heather Crisci, Maria Crowley, Denise Crudup, Jorge Diaz, John Downey, Daniel Finkle, Judy Finch-Johnson, John Fraraccio, James Gaffney, Brendan Galligan, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Mary Liz Ivins, Dr. Dan Johnson, Todd Jorgenson, Kurt Karcich, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, John Maggio, Jason Miller, Leon Owen, Russell Petrocelli, Dr. Danny Robertozzi, Dr. David Salvo, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Daniel Sinclair, Beverly Torok, Gregory Troxell, Joseph Ursino, Bill Vacca, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen and Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Chief Compliance Officer; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; Al Stumpf and Derryk Sellers, Assistant Directors; Steven Goodell, Esq. and Scott Miccio, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Brian Deakyne, *NJ Advance Media* and Michael McGarry, *Press of AC*. Also in attendance: Greg Bailey, NJSIAA Football Coordinator.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins, to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) - Mr. Anzano was unable to attend today's meeting but he distributed a report of legislative bills related to high school athletics being considered by the legislature and is available for any questions.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

First, Ms. Maguire introduced new NJSIAA staff member Paul Popadiuk, who will take on the role of Chief Compliance Officer in January 2022. Ms. Cole will stay on to help Mr. Popadiuk transition. Ms. Maguire also thanked NJSIAA staff for a crazy three weeks of chaos wrapping up Fall 2021 tournaments, but seeing the crowds and enthusiasm made it all worth it. Lastly, Ms. Maguire thanked NJSIAA staff members Tony Maselli and Anne Marie Walters for implementing an online ticketing system for all NJSIAA tournaments, which has been a helpful tool for schools. Knowing real time how many people will attend an event helps schedule security needs more accurately and administrators now don't have to worry about large sums of cash onsite.

Football Update – Ms. Maguire thanked Greg Bailey, NJSIAA Football Coordinator, for his efforts in coordinating the 2021 football tournament. Mr. Bailey reported feedback from the experience. Games were well attended, it was good to return to near normal, the cheer/band experience was phenomenal, and the sportsmanship message was being heard loud and clear. Mr. Bailey then thanked MetLife and Rutgers staff for treating the student-athletes with such respect and giving them and their communities such a memorable experience. The Football Committee will meet and review what can be improved, including video replay. In the state tournament there were two controversial game outcomes and video replay did not help the situation. Mr. Bailey plans to discuss this topic further when he attends the NFHS Football Committee meeting. New Jersey is one of the few states who use video replay. There will most likely be changes coming forward to the Executive Committee regarding this practice after the Football Committee convenes. Executive Committee member Dr. Robertozzi commented that the use of instant replay needs to be addressed because his school played in one of those controversial outcome games

and instant replay failed to work so he urged the committee to fix whatever is wrong with the instant replay system.

Wrestling Update – Weight certification is open and TrackWrestling has been updated with the new weight classes. The season officially opens on 12/17. Also, since the NFL changed the normal date of the Superbowl, this affects the wrestling team finals since 1-it's a large-scale event and 2-needs plenty of staff. As a result, the format of the team finals was restructured and now will be a half day event/rather than a full day event and the rest of the tournament shifted slightly. Now Rounds 1 and 2 will be Monday (used to be Monday and Wednesday respectively), Sectional Finals will be on Wednesday (used to be Friday), the Semis will be Friday (used to be on Sunday), and just the finals will be on Sunday. Regions were also reformatted and will now just be two days (on Friday and Saturday) instead of three. Districts have been posted and distributed. NJSIAA is still looking for host sites for the following districts: 8, 21, 22 and 23. The link to reserve a hotel room for AC is on NJSIAA's website. Pre-orders for Boardwalk Hall tickets will probably go on sale next week, but the box office won't open to sell the tickets until January.

Sportsmanship/Officials Recruiting Posters – Each school will be receiving two sportsmanship posters and two officials recruiting posters which are intended to highlight the importance of sportsmanship and the new sportsmanship statement, and to recruit new officials from within our schools. This initiative to re-brand the sportsmanship statement and spread the message to the schools was recommended by NJSIAA's Student Ambassadors. Ms. Maguire thanked NJ Advance Media for designing the posters and their sponsorship to fund the printing of them.

Cooperative Sports Programs – The Cooperative Sports Committee met on November 12, 2021, to review seven new program applications for spring sports. All were approved unanimously. A motion was made by Jorge Diaz, seconded by Sheve Shofhi to approve the seven spring cooperative sports programs approved by the Cooperative Sports Committee on 11/12/21. Motion carried unanimously.

1. St. John Vianney – Ranney School – Boys Lacrosse (Shore Conference)
2. Hamilton North – Hamilton West – Boys Lacrosse (Colonial Valley Conference)
3. Lyndhurst – North Arlington – Boys Lacrosse (NJIC)
4. Ridgefield Memorial – Palisades Park – Baseball (NJIC)
5. Saddle Brook – Bogota – Baseball (NJIC)
6. West Windsor Plainsboro North – West Windsor Plainsboro South – Softball (Colonial Valley Conference)
7. Clayton – Pitman – Golf (Tri County Conference)

Tournament of Champions Proposal – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote – A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Brendan Galligan, to eliminate the Tournament of Champions for G Tennis, B/G Basketball, B Tennis, G Volleyball, B Lacrosse, Field Hockey, G Lacrosse, B/G Bowling, and Softball after the 2021 – 2022 school year. Discussion took place. John Fraraccio shared some comments from Executive Committee member Steve Jenkins who could not be present for today's meeting but is strongly in favor of the proposal. Assemblyman Wimberly commented that some coaches, specifically lacrosse, softball and basketball coaches, expressed concern that the proposal was not brought to their attention. Ms. Maguire explained that the boys lacrosse committee met at NJSIAA in early October and that Derryk Sellers updated the committee that the status of the TOC was going to be decided at upcoming Executive Committee meetings. Ms. Maguire also explained the history and background to the proposal – that feedback was solicited at the at the October Leagues and Conferences meeting and that the proposal was based on the overwhelming feedback at this meeting. Mr. Stumpf reached out to NJSBCA leadership, who then polled their 200 members. Results were 2-1 in favor of eliminating the Tournament of Champions. The sentiment is that it's better to have an extra week for the majority instead of an extra week for a small group. Also, this proposal allows teams to stretch out their game schedule. Mr. Bob Grauso, President of the NJSBCA, did not receive any negative feedback from basketball coaches. In Ms. Cole's Field Hockey Committee meetings, this has been a vote each year. This year only three members voted in favor of having the TOC because their schools' goal is to make it each year.

All others were ok with eliminating it. Ms. Cole hasn't heard much feedback from her Girls Lacrosse coaches and committee, but a finite number does want to keep it.

A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-33; No-4; Abstain-2. Motion passed second and final reading with four oppositions and two abstentions.

Program Review

Co-Ed Swimming Classifications – One Reading – Voice Vote - On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Steven Jenkins, seconded by Jason Miller, for all schools declaring co-ed swim programs to no longer have their enrollment doubled, but instead be classified by their boys swimming classification. In addition, all programs declaring co-ed programs must have the approval of their league or conference. This requirement will take effect for the 2022 – 2023 season.

It has been an ongoing practice for swimming teams that declare they are going to compete as a co-ed team to have their school's enrollment doubled for classification purposes. For reference, approximately 15% of the boys swim programs are co-ed. This practice was put in place years ago to try to entice schools to separate into separate boys and girls programs. This current practice is not required by the NJSIAA constitution, its bylaws or swimming tournament regulations. Considering the current athletic environment, budget restrictions and lack of pool time, NJSIAA staff believes this practice has outlived its necessity. There have also been unintended consequences due to the current practice. For example, when smaller non-public schools host a co-ed team and their enrollments are doubled, the smaller school is pushed into a higher classification where they often struggle from a competitive balance perspective. Inversely, a larger enrollment school may be pushed down to a lower classification, which can negatively impact the smaller schools in those groups. NJSIAA staff solicited feedback from the leagues and conferences, who overwhelmingly responded that the doubling of co-ed swim team enrollments is no longer achieving its intended purpose. One conference expressed concern that if the enrollments for co-ed programs are no longer doubled, then some schools may take advantage of the change, however NJSIAA feels that requiring league or conference approval will help address this concern. Motion carried with one abstention.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Kim DeGraw-Cole)

Advisory Committee – The Advisory Committee, comprised of 21 county and non-public representatives, will meet virtually later in the day to review one piece of legislation to formalize girls wrestling and make it an official sport sanctioned by NJSIAA. If approved, this piece of legislation will be presented to the Executive Committee in January, be reviewed at two sectional meetings by the membership, and then final proposal will be reviewed by the Executive Committee for placement on the ballot at the annual meeting on May 2, 2022. The annual meeting will most likely be virtual this year.

Eligibility & Eligibility Appeals Committees – The next Eligibility Committee meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2022. The Committee has reviewed 57 Eligibility Waiver Requests total to date. 45 were declared eligible while 11 were declared ineligible. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will meet on December 15, 2021, to review two appeals. Ms. Cole has been busy with COVID-19 Credit Waivers for winter sports. So far, there's been 108 from 55 different schools. There will be no COVID-19 Credit Waivers granted for spring sports as per the COVID-19 Compliance Package-Part 2 passed by the NJSIAA Executive Committee. Ms. Cole did remind schools that for a COVID Waiver request to be considered, schools must submit an academic plan showing improvement in their students' grades. There has only been 17 IEP Credit Waivers and one 8th grade waiver granted for high school participation due to age.

Status Report on Transfers – Transfers have been very active. Details distributed to the committee are below:

- Two new status entries were added to designate that the transfer date for post season championship eligibility. This will be a challenge in the winter season with the various competition start dates, so it is incumbent upon the athletic administrator to monitor the actual transfer date for post season eligibility with or without varsity participation at the former school.
- Immediate Eligibility: Post Season Participation Verification Required
- Ineligibility Period Applies: Post Season Participation Verification Required
- Home Campus Transfers: June/July to December 1, 2021
 - Transfers: over 2175 in the system
 - Pending Former School Response: 338
 - Under Review or Affidavit Issues: 9
 - Immediately Eligible with No Varsity Participation at the former school: 1046
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence with Varsity Participation: 283
 - Immediately Eligible: 78 including International Students (29)
 - Ineligibility Period Applies with Varsity Participation and No Bona Fide Change of Address: 269
 - Immediate Eligibility: Post Season Verification Required: 81
 - Ineligibility Period Applies: Post Season Verification Required: 6
 - Hearing Pending: 0
 - Denied: 3 including 1 International Student
 - Remaining other status
- Total Transfers Varsity and Non-Varsity (June 15-Dec. 1 Reports)
 - Transfers from Public to Non-Public: 493
 - Transfers from Public to Public: 1285
 - Transfers from Non-Public to Non-Public: 243
 - Transfers from Non-Public to Public: 40
- Sport breakdown (June 15 to Dec. 1 Reports)-Varsity at the Former School
 - Boys Basketball: 93
 - Immediate Eligibility-4
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-46 (Affidavit)
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-34 (Transfer Sit)
 - Other-9
 - Girls Basketball: 48
 - Immediate Eligibility-7
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-22
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-13
 - Other-6
 - Wrestling: 45
 - Immediate Eligibility-1
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-15
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-29
 - Ice Hockey: 21
 - Immediate Eligibility-2
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-3
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-15
 - Other-1
 - Indoor Track & Field: Boys 12
 - Immediate Eligibility-2
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-6
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-4
 - Indoor Track & Field: Girls 10
 - Immediate Eligibility-3
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-3
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-4

- Swimming: Boys 15
 - Immediate Eligibility-2
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-4
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-9
- Swimming: Girls 10
 - Immediately Eligible Bona Fide Change of Residence-3
 - Ineligibility Period Applies-7
- NEW: A Student who transfers after the NJSIAA Competition Start Date for each sport, 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 athletic administrator in each school is responsible to monitor. Please Note this applies to students with or without previous varsity participation.
- Winter Sports Transfer Date (on or before)
 - Bowling: November 20, 2021
 - Ice Hockey: November 26, 2021
 - Swimming: December 1, 2021
 - Basketball, Fencing, Indoor T & F, Wrestling: December 17, 2021
 - Skiing: January 3, 2022

Field Hockey Update – Congratulations to the following 2021-2022 Field Hockey Group Champions: Shore Regional HS (Group 1), West Essex HS (Group 2), North Hunterdon HS (Group 3), Eastern HS (Group 4) and Oak Knoll School (Non-Public). Ms. Cole reported that there was rain, lightning, hail but commended the players and especially the Bordentown Regional HS athletic staff for getting the games in, which were exciting. Kean University was the host site for the Tournament of Champions Final game and once again did a great job. The tournament ran smoothly which is a credit to all our schools and the tournament staff of Janet Schillig, Tournament Director, Linda Alimi, Maureen Dzwil and our State Rules Interpreter Charlotte Heenan. The teams were seeded in this order for the TOC: #1 Eastern HS, #2 North Hunterdon HS, #3 Oak Knoll School, #4 West Essex HS and #5 Shore Regional HS. The Tournament of Champions final ended on a goal with no time remaining on the clock. Ryleigh Heck, Eastern High School, scored her 125th goal on a penalty corner to defeat Oak Knoll, 4-3. With this goal, Ryleigh Heck broke the NFHS Single Season Field Hockey Scoring Record. This was a competitive game from start to finish and both teams were tremendous throughout.

The NJSIAA Field Hockey Sports Committee met on December 2, 2021. The biggest change for the 2022 season will be the Overtime Procedure in Tournament play if the score is still tied after two ten-minute sudden death overtimes of 7 v. 7, the One-on-One will replace the Penalty Stroke, to break the tie.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Tournament Personnel Postings – Fall Sports – The online application to become NJSIAA’s next Tournament Director, State Assignor or State Rules Interpreter for any of our fall sports was sent to officials and Athletic Directors. Terms will be for three years. Completed applications go directly to Mr. Maselli.

Winter Sports Regulations – Mr. Maselli is doing a complete overhaul of NJSIAA’s awards and tournament regulations. The regulations contain many inaccuracies, so Mr. Maselli is working to clean them up and pare them down to a simpler form, which can be quickly reviewed. The regulations are being posted as they are completed.

Officials Conflict of Interest Forms – There was one Officials Conflict of Interest this year, so Mr. Maselli sent out a reminder to schools and officials about NJSIAA’s policy. An official must be ten years out from their affiliation to a school to officiate that school or it’s considered a conflict of interest. If there’s a conflict of interest, there is a form to be filled out to prevent this for NJSIAA’s state tournaments. Mr.

Shohfi asked if this policy is only applicable to Varsity contests. Mr. Maselli explained NJSIAA only oversees the policy for state tournament games, but that officials are taught regardless of level, for integrity of the game, they should pull themselves out from an assignment if there's a conflict of interest.

Quick Date Charts – Once Mr. Maselli completes all the tournament regulations, he will work on updating the winter quick charts. Mr. Abdelaziz asked if an alert can be sent every time something is posted because that is helpful to Athletic Directors.

Al Stumpf

Cross Country Update – The Sectional Meets went well. Due to weather, Mr. Stumpf was only able to get in 13 of the 16 races in the Group Meets so the last three were postponed to the following Tuesday. The Meet of Champions was completed on Saturday, November 20. Union Catholic won the boys championship and Cherokee HS won the girls championship. Marco Langon from Bridgewater HS was the individual boy's champion, while Angelina Perez from Lakeland Regional HS was the individual girl's champion. Angelina Perez also set a NJ girl's record at Holmdel during the Group Meets – 17:07. Mr. Stumpf distributed tournament results from the Sectionals, Group Meets and Meet of Champions. A total of 3,422 runners participated in sectionals (North 1-921; North 2- 863; Central-777; South- 861), 1575 runners competed in the Group Meets, and 192 boys and 179 girls qualified for the Meet of Champions. These numbers are down 16% from past years but quite a few schools participated at the conference level, not the state level. There were bussing issues (not enough kids for cost of bus). Mr. Stumpf believes these numbers are temporary and will go up again.

Girls Volleyball Update – The new tournament set up increased the teams competing by 20%. All Sectional and Group Championship awards have been handed out. Mr. Stumpf thanked Franklin HS and their staff for hosting the TOC Semifinals and Finals. They did a great job and Mr. Stumpf received many positive comments about the site.

North I Sectional Champions:
Group 1 – Bogota
Group 2 – NV Old Tappan
Group 3 – Roxbury
Group 4 – Ridgewood

North II Sectional Champions:
Group 1- Verona
Group 2- West Morris
Group 3- North Hunterdon
Group 4- Ridge

Central Sectional Champions:
Group 1 -Dayton
Group 2 – Mendham
Group 3 – Colts Neck
Group 4 – E. Brunswick

South Sectional Champions:
Group 1- Del Val
Group 2- Barnegat
Group 3- TR East
Group 4- Williamstown

The 2021 Group Champions were as follows: Group 1 – Bogota; Group 2- Mendham; Group 3 – N. Hunterdon; Group 4-Williamstown; NPA – Paul VI; NPB – Newark Academy. In the TOC, #1 seed Williamstown and #2 seed North Hunterdon had byes in first round while Paul VI (3) defeated Newark Academy (6) and Mendham (4) defeated Bogota (5). In the semi-finals, Paul VI advanced v. North Hunterdon and Williamstown advanced v Mendham. In the finals, Williamstown defeated Paul VI – in 2 sets – 26-24 and 26-24. Williamstown was undefeated in 2021. It should be noted that Paul VI was down early in both sets and came back to force overtime.

Basketball Update – Practice started last Monday for Boys & Girls Basketball and Unified Basketball. First scrimmage is Dec. 6 after six days of practice and one day of rest. First game is Dec. 17. Any student transferring after Dec. 17 is not eligible to play in the state tournament. Mr. Stumpf is hopeful to run a normal state tournament this year and is working on securing neutral sites.

Unified Bowling Update – Practices began November 8th and first matches began November 20th. Championship dates will mirror their school's boys team tournament dates.

Derryk Sellers

Soccer Update – Mr. Sellers shared the winners of the NJSIAA boy and girl soccer tournaments. Results are below.

	<u>Girls Soccer Champions:</u>	<u>Boys Soccer Champions</u>
Group 1 -	Shore Regional HS	Waldwick HS
Group 2 -	Holmdel HS	Delran HS
Group 3 -	Wayne Valley HS	Summit HS
Group 4 -	Westfield HS	Kearny HS
NP A -	Immaculate Heart Academy	Seton Hall Prep HS
NP B -	DePaul Catholic HS	Gill St Bernards School

Gymnastics Update – Mr. Sellers was excited to give his first championship trophy as Assistant Director to East Brunswick HS, who won the team championships.

Bowling Update – Opening day is 11/20. Any student transferring after that date is not eligible for post-season participation.

Winter Track Update – Schools cannot arrive at the state relay championships taking place at the Bennett Center before 3:30 pm. They will not even be allowed in the parking lot until after that time. All those entering the bubble will have to wear masks.

Finance Committee Update – Tom Mullahey

Approval of Monthly Checks – The November 9, 2021 through December 6, 2021 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Mohammed Abdelaziz made a motion, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the November 9, 2021 through December 6, 2021 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steve Goodell) – The day after the last Executive Committee, Ms. Maguire received word that Union HS may have a COVID situation. They were the #1 seed in their football section and were scheduled to play Paterson Eastside HS that Friday (11/12) in the second round of NJSIAA's football state tournament. The next morning, the day of the game, Ms. Maguire received an email from Union HS that they are withdrawing from the game. Due to the NJSIAA State Tournament COVID-19 Policy adopted by the NJSIAA Executive Committee in September, the game then had to be cancelled and Paterson Eastside would advance to the next round to play Clifton HS. On Saturday, 11/13, Ms. Maguire received an email asking if there can be reconsideration to cancelling the game. On Sunday 11/14, the Superintendent sent a formal request asking to re-schedule the game. On Monday 11/15, the Superintendent filed a petition with the Commissioner of Education demanding Union HS be reinstated into the tournament. On 11/16, Mr. Goodell and Mr. Miccio responded that NJSIAA will not re-instate Union HS because it would have been unfair to the other teams (Eastside HS and Clifton HS) affected by that decision and that NJSIAA's policy to address these type situations should be followed. Paterson Eastside also filed papers because they didn't feel it was fair if they were forced to play Union HS in the middle of the week. Everyone was relying on the decision made on 11/12. The Acting Commissioner of Education issued a decision on 11/18 that supported NJSIAA's decision to not allow

Union HS to re-enter into the state football tournament because 1-The NJSIAA adopted a policy in September 2021 addressing COVID-19 situations during state tournaments, which was distributed to schools on 9/15/21 and 2-Union did not present a case that NJSIAA applied the policy arbitrarily or in an unreasonable manner. NJSIAA did not ban Union from playing – they pulled themselves out of the tournament.

The policy was put in place for these exact type situations. COVID-19 is with us now. It is a good reminder to schools that a decision should be made after robust conversations with local health officials. A decision cannot be retracted once made. Ms. Maguire added that these type situations are very difficult, and she thanked Mr. Goodell and Mr. Miccio for working all weekend to prepare a response to Union’s pending appeal. The association must treat everyone equally and not give special treatment to some but preventing kids from playing is always difficult.

Old Business / New Business – none

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by John Downey at 12:20 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln