

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1161 Route 130 North Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 12, 2022

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held remotely on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 via Cisco's WebEx Meetings platform, was called to order by the President, Tom Mullahey, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Jeff Baldino, Joseph Bollendorf, Jeremy Braverman, Dennis Carey, Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Heather Crisci, Maria Crowley, Denise Crudup, Jorge Diaz, John Downey, Al Dyer, Daniel Finkle, Judy Finch-Johnson, John Fraraccio, James Gaffney, Brendan Galligan, Dr. Kennedy Greene, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Dr. Dave Heisey, Mary Liz Ivins, Steven Jenkins, Todd Jorgenson, Kurt Karcich, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, John Maggio, Jason Miller, Sean Olson, Leon Owen, Russell Petrocelli, Jeff Pierro, William Quirk, Dr. David Salvo, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, 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 and Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officers; 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*; Darren Cooper, *The Record*; and Michael McGarry, *Press of AC*. Also in attendance: Michael O'Connell, Esq. of Pringle Quinn Anzano, P.C. and Dave Frazier, NJSIAA Advisory Committee Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins, to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed with one abstention.

Legislative Update (Michael O'Connell) - Mr. O'Connell filled in for Mr. Anzano, who was unable to attend today's meeting. There are no new bills in the legislature. Yesterday was the last day of the 2021 legislative session and today, 3,007 bills from the last session have been reintroduced with a new bill number for the new session. There are some major changes in leadership including a change in the Senate leadership. Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-Union) is set to take over as the new Senate president, since Steve Sweeney was not re-elected in November. State Senator Teresa Ruiz (D-Essex) replaced Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg who retired. Senator Steve Oroho (R-Sussex) will be the Senate minority leader since Tom Kean Jr. did not seek re-election while Assemblyman John DiMaio (R-Warren) will be the Assembly minority leader.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

NFHS Winter Meeting Update – Ms. Maguire was excited to attend her first in-person NFHS meeting as Executive Director. No state is immune from the current COVID-chaos that we are all experiencing nor is any state pausing activities, modifying their seasons, or doing anything different than normal operations. The winter meeting was full of NFHS presentations on new initiatives and roundtable discussions. In one presentation, the NCAA shared that decision making and rules at all levels continue to be challenged in an increasing fashion. Ms. Maguire received positive feedback for New Jersey's NIL policy. Many states want to borrow it to craft their own state policy. A comprehensive NIL policy FAQ is available under Current Resources on NJSIAA's website. The NFHS Foundation approved Ms. Maguire's proposal to purchase 5,000 Wet Bulb Globe Thermometers (WBGT) from Kestrel Instruments to be distributed free to schools across the nation, which is a total investment of \$1.5 million. NJSIAA's SMAC was a leader in this area since New Jersey was an early adopter of heat participation guidelines based on WBGT. Not all states require using WBGTs. Dave Frazier, Chairman of NJSIAA's Advisory Committee, also attended this meeting and shared his feedback about the conferences as well.

Wrestling Update – The Boardwalk Hall box office is now selling tickets for NJSIAA’s individual wrestling tournament. All information for the championship weekend, including hotel room booking information, can be found on the NJSIAA website. Trackwrestling has approximately 800 girls entered in their system – this is back to the levels experienced during the 2019-2020 season. Ms. Maguire expects participation numbers to continue increasing. The association is still looking for host sites for a few Districts and one Region. All other hosts have been confirmed and dates scheduled.

Program Review

Six committee members met yesterday and unanimously endorsed the following two proposals

Winter Season Modifications – One Reading – Voice Vote – As a result of the sharp rise in COVID cases over the past three weeks, schools have experienced an increased level of COVID-related disruption across all sports. There have been several cancelled events due to either positive cases and/or quarantines that result in a school, or an opponent, being unable to field a team. To provide flexibility for schools to reschedule cancelled events, NJSIAA staff proposes the following rule modifications applicable to the current winter season only.

1. Waive the 60% rule for post-season qualification (Rules and Regulations, Program Regulations, Section 18). Cancelled contests may prevent a team from abiding by the requirement that teams play at least 60% of their contests against New Jersey schools, in order to participate in the state tournament. To qualify for a waiver, a school must be able to show that its original schedule, as of the competition start date, had enough NJ-based competition that would have met or exceeded the 60% requirement, had certain events not been cancelled due to COVID. This waiver is only applicable to events cancelled for COVID-related circumstances.
2. Forfeits (Policies and Procedures, p. 39). Any event cancelled due to COVID will be considered a “no contest,” unless a League or Conference determines to award a forfeit. If a forfeit is awarded, and accepted, then the forfeit will count as a game played and a team may not play a different opponent on that same date. Forfeits awarded, and accepted, prior to any cut-off date will be included in data used for qualification and seeding.
3. Basketball weekly game maximum (Rules and Regulations, Specific Sport Regulations, Basketball, Section 7). Basketball teams may play four games in a week, for four separate weeks, for the remainder of the regular season.
4. Wrestling weekly match maximum (Rules and Regulations, Specific Sport Regulations, Wrestling, Section 8). Wrestling teams and individual wrestlers may weigh in for five matches, for four separate weeks, for the remainder of the regular season.

In addition, NJSIAA staff, in consultation with tournament staff and members of the seeding committee, reserve the right to modify the qualification criteria where appropriate as the cut-off date for each sport approaches. Such modifications may include, but are not limited to, a reduction in the number of events required for qualification or used in seeding. Members of the seeding committee may also identify modifications to other criteria used during the seeding process. Modifications, once agreed to by the tournament staff and members of the seeding committee, will be posted to all schools either prior to, or on, the cut-off date. NJSIAA staff also reserve the right to change host sites across all sports due to COVID-restrictions, or COVID-concerns expressed by the host site. This may result in some events originally scheduled at a neutral site being hosted by a participating school. Lastly, the COVID-19 State Tournament Policy, as approved in September 2021, remains in effect for the winter season.

A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Jeff Pierro, to approve the Winter Season Rule Modifications proposed by NJSIAA staff for the 2021-2022 winter season only. Daniel Finkle questioned

whether returning to athletics after the five-day quarantine rule is incorporated into this proposal or it's a local decision. NJSIAA has reached out to the governor's office to find out if students must wear masks on days 6-10 when doing anaerobic exercise at after school high school sporting events. Until an answer is received, schools should assume it's a local decision guided by their local health board. Motion carried with one abstention.

State Individual Tournament COVID-19 Policy – One Reading – Voice Vote – On September 15, 2021, the NJSIAA Executive Committee adopted the “State Tournament COVID-19 Policy” applicable to team-based tournaments during the 2021-2022 school year, which addresses the procedures to be followed if a school is unable to participate in a team-based state tournament due to COVID-19. That policy remains in place, however, there are several individual tournaments that take place during the winter season, and, therefore, a separate COVID-19 policy is required to address the progression of those tournaments, which may be disrupted by COVID-19. Therefore, Ms. Maguire recommended the following policy applicable to individual tournaments, which mirrors the September 2021 State Tournament Team COVID policy:

1. NJSIAA will not delay or modify any state tournament schedule for an individual that cannot participate due to COVID-19 issues.
2. If an individual tournament participant is ruled out from competing in a tournament before the tournament begins, that individual may be replaced. The committees for each sport (i.e. wrestling, swimming, bowling, fencing and winter track & field) will issue further guidance on participant replacement and re-seeding of the tournament to account for this possibility.
3. Once a state tournament officially begins, the tournament will progress as scheduled.
4. If an individual cannot compete on the date and time scheduled, the individual's opponent will advance in the tournament.

A motion was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by Jason Corley, to adopt the proposed State Individual Tournament COVID-19 Policy (detailed above) for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried with one abstention.

Chief Compliance Officer Update Part 1 (Kim DeGraw-Cole)

COVID - Credit Waivers – COVID credit waivers will no longer be granted. Ms. Cole was pleased to announce that 350 COVID credit waivers were granted to students who struggled academically due to pandemic-related learning difficulties. These waivers allowed them to participate in athletics while working on their credit recovery.

Advisory Committee – The Advisory Committee met virtually on 12/8/21 to review one piece of legislation which proposed to formalize girls wrestling and make it an official sport sanctioned by NJSIAA with its own sport specific regulations. 19 people attended. Dave Frazier was elected the President of the Committee, while Jen Fleury was elected the secretary. The proposal was discussed at length and was unanimously approved to be moved forward to the Executive Committee for its approval. The proposal is perfect timing with the national Title IX 50th anniversary. The legislation outlined below mirrors the Boys Wrestling Specific Sport Regulations with minor modifications, including the formal establishment of weight classes for girls.

RULES AND REGULATIONS AMENDMENT

(The following section is proposed to be added to the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations, Specific Sport Regulations.)

Girls Wrestling

Section 1 Rules National Federation Wrestling Rules, unless modified herein, shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Section 2 Start of Practice Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 6.

Section 3 Start of Regular Schedule Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.

Section 4 End of Season Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 10.

Section 5 Transfers 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.

Section 6 Not applicable

Section 7 Postponed Meets Any postponed meet may be added to the regular scheduling as noted in Section 8 Maximum Meets.

Section 8 Maximum Meets *A wrestler may not participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A wrestler may participate in only one event involving more than four opponents during the week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as one weigh-in.*

NOTE: Make-up matches must fall within the four weigh-in regulations.

CL 1: A weigh in counts only if the wrestler appears on the mat to accept forfeit or to compete.

CL 2: A wrestler may not compete in MORE than a maximum of 30 sub-varsity and/or varsity matches during the regular season (exclusive of the NJSIAA Tournament, Team and Individual).

CL 3: Not applicable

CL 4: Two-day tournaments that are held on a Saturday and a Sunday will be considered as a tournament for the week of the initial day the tournament starts (in this case Saturday). A weigh-in for a two-day tournament starting on Saturday will count for the week the tournament started (in this case Saturday) and will not impact weigh-ins for the following week.

CL 5: Not applicable

Section 9 Weight Certification

Weight Classes: 100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235

Section 10 Weight Classification Each Match – A wrestler's actual weight, minimum certified weight, and weight class at which the wrestler participated must be recorded in the team's scorebook. If there is no scorebook the official will record final score on the Wrestling weigh in sheet(s) and these form(s) will become the official document(s) of the meet.

Section 11 Skin Infection/Contagious Disease Before being permitted to wrestle, any wrestler previously judged not fit to wrestle must present, at weigh in, the original NJSIAA skin lesion form signed by an MD, DO, PA or APN, certifying that an exam took place pertaining to that condition within the last seven (7) days, clearing that contestant for competition.

CL: Before the dual/individual meet begins, the referee shall perform skin checks, or verify skin checks have been performed by a designated, on-site, meet appropriate health professional. NFHS Rule 3-1-4a; 3-1-5a.

Section 12 Equipment Headgear – It is mandatory that all wrestlers wear a protective headgear at all times during practice and while participating in a match.

Section 13 Disqualifications

1. Any player with more than two flagrant disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of an NJSIAA tournament, will be ineligible to compete in said tournament.

A motion was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by John Fraraccio, to endorse adding a girls wrestling section (detailed above) to the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations, Specific Sport Regulations. Motion carried unanimously. This proposal will now be reviewed by the membership at NJSIAA's two sectional meetings. Afterwards, Ms. Maguire, the sponsor of the legislation, can modify the proposal based on feedback received in the sectional meetings. The Executive Committee will then review the final proposal for placement on the annual meeting ballot.

Chief Compliance Officer Update Part 2 (Paul Popadiuk)

Eligibility & Eligibility Appeals Update – 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 meeting scheduled for January 19, 2022 was cancelled since there are no appeals to be reviewed, but there may be a new meeting scheduled for early February pending an issue that is currently being investigated.

Transfer Update – A detailed report was distributed to the committee.

Other Compliance Matters – Mr. Popadiuk and Ms. Cole have been working with various schools on several Corrective Action Plans.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Ice Hockey and Swimming Update – There have been some school COVID-19 disruptions however there have not been many facility shutdowns. Mr. Maselli made minor adjustments to the virtual swim meet policy and there also may be modifications made to allow for tri-conference meets. All but one facility is allowing spectators.

SMAC Meeting – The Medical Advisory Committee will meet on 1/26. If anyone has topics they would like addressed, please send them to Mr. Maselli so he can add to the meeting agenda.

Fall Season Officials Interviews – Resumes have been received for the following positions in all applicable fall sports: State Assignor, Tournament Director, and State Rules Interpreter. Interviews will take place for these positions over the next month.

Fall DQ Report – This was postponed until next month.

Al Stumpf

Basketball Update – The Intent Form must be filed between 2/1 – 2/10, 2022. All sites for the Group Semifinals have been secured except for the Non-Public South A and B game on 3/9, which Mr. Stumpf

is working on. If he cannot find a site, the games will be played at the higher seed. Cut-off date is 2/12. Records update is 12 noon on 2/13. Seeding is 2/16. Regular season ends 2/27 and the tournament begins 2/28.

Fencing Update – All entry forms will be electronically filed this season – no paper forms will be accepted. Forms, located on the Fencing page of NJSIAA’s website, are due on January 14th. This new electronic system has been running smooth.

Following is the schedule for Districts:

January 23, 2022 - District 1 & 2 at Passaic County Technical Institute
January 30, 2022 - District 3 & 4 at North Hunterdon High School
February 6, 2022 - District 5 & 6 at Montgomery High School

Districts 1, 3 and 5 are at 8:00 AM
Districts 2, 4 and 6 are at 1:00 PM

January 30, 2022- Independent Individuals Qualifier at North Hunterdon HS (Girls report at 9:30 am; Boys report at 12:30 pm)

The schedule for the Sweet - 16 Team Championships is as follows:

Girls – February 8, 9, 15 and 21- at higher seed
Boys – February 8, 10, 16 and 21 – at higher seed
Championship at Morris Knolls – February 23, 2022 at 7 PM

The State Individual Championship will be at Morris Knolls HS at 8:00am on February 13, 2022.

Unified Bowling Update – Entries are due 2/4. The schedule for the Unified Bowling Sectional Qualifiers is as follows:

- o North 1 B – February 10, 2022 at Lodi Lanes
- o North II – February 11, 2022 at Jersey Lanes
- o North 1 A- February 12, 2022 at Bowler City
- o Central- February 12, 2022 at Bowlero – North Brunswick
- o South – February 12, 2022 at 30 Strikes

Unified Basketball Update – Sites are being secured. Mr. Stumpf has been working with Emily Springle of Special Olympics to plan the tournament. Entries are due 2/18.

NGWS Day – In the past this award was given out at a luncheon held at Seton Hall University. Since last year they couldn’t host a traditional luncheon, they made the awards program a virtual event. This year, instead of watching a pre-recorded video of honoree names being called, it’ll be a social media campaign over a two-week period highlighting winners each day. Each school is permitted one nominee and nominations are due 1/15.

Derryk Sellers

Bowling Update – Classifications will be posted shortly. The Boys South Sectional will be at 30 Strikes in Stratford NJ and will only be one session.

Winter Track Update – Relays begin today. No spectators are allowed at the Bennett Center. Due to COVID, NJSIAA is allowing schools to adjust their line ups until 12 noon the day before their event.

Finance Committee Update – Tom Mullahey

Approval of Monthly Checks – The December 7, 2021 through January 10, 2022 checkbook 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 Mohammed Abdelaziz, to approve the December 7, 2021 through January 10, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steve Goodell) – No report this month.

Old Business / New Business – There were two items discussed under New Business.

1. **NJSIAA Officials Handbook – Conflict of Interest Clarification.** Mohammed Abdelaziz made a motion, seconded by Steven Jenkins, to add the following clarification “Works or volunteers as a coach or committee member with a recreation program in the same sport in the same municipality” to the NJSIAA Officials Handbook, under the “Conflict of Interest” section. Currently officials who work or volunteer as coaches or committee members with a recreation program are permitted to officiate games in the same sport within the same municipality though this could be perceived as a Conflict of Interest so adding this clarification to the list of Conflict of Interest examples will help officials know that they should recuse themselves if in this situation. Motion carried with one abstention.

2. **Roselle Catholic Boys Basketball Waiver Request.** Roselle Catholic High School requested a waiver from the NJSIAA’s newly adopted rules and regulation amendment which states that no member school may engage in athletic competition, scrimmage and/or practice with an out-of-state school which is not a member in good standing of its respective state high school athletic association or has not been approved by the respective association as an affiliate. This new rule was approved at the November 2021 NJSIAA Executive Committee meeting but the Roselle Catholic boys basketball team had already committed to play a game against Hillcrest Prep from Gilbert, Arizona back in August of 2021, prior to the proposal being set forth. While not associated with the Arizona State Association or an affiliate member of the association, there are no 5th year students on the Hillcrest Prep boys basketball team, and all student-athletes must adhere to the academic requirements set forth by the Sequoia Choice School in Arizona, the governing school for the Hillcrest Prep program. The school is approved by the NCAA, and the students must meet the GPA and credit requirements, similar to those set forth by the NJSIAA. A motion was made Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Dave Heisey, to grant Roselle Catholic’s boys basketball team a one-time waiver to play Hillcrest Prep in the 2022 basketball season at Roselle Catholic High School. The school has expressed that they intend to comply with the newly adopted rule going forward. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins at 11:46 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln