

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 9, 2022

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held remotely on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 via Cisco's WebEx Meetings platform, was called to order by the President, Tom Mullahey, at 11:04 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Jeff Baldino, Joseph Bollendorf, Jeremy Braverman, Dr. Patricia Camp, Dennis Carey, Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Heather Crisci, Maria Crowley, Denise Crudup, Jorge Diaz, John Downey, Al Dyer, Daniel Finkle, John Fraraccio, James Gaffney, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Dr. Dave Heisey, Mary Liz Ivins, Steven Jenkins, Dr. Dan Johnson, Raymond Kiem, John Maggio, Jason Miller, Sean Olson, Leon Owen, Russell Petrocelli, Jeff Pierro, Dr. Danny Robertozzi, 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: Paul Anzano of Pringle Quinn Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Joseph Bollendorf, to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The legislature is quiet right now. Mr. Anzano is not anticipating future legislation that impacts NJSIAA. The new legislative/congressional district maps are being drawn, which happens every 10 years based on the U.S. Census population data. The Governor will propose his new budget in March which should include the annual \$50,000 steroid testing funding for NJSIAA.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

Fall 2021 Financial Results – Overall, the fall season reported a total net profit of approximately \$270K, which is an increase over both the budget and the fall 2019 season. Strong revenues are primarily due to increased gate receipts, specifically football and boys/girls soccer, and online ticket sales. This is also the first full school year the association utilized the increased tournament entry fees approved in October 2019 (which was the first increase in 10 years). This increase significantly helped sports like cross country and girls' tennis since tournament entry fees are the only revenues for these sports. There are no gate receipts at these events. During the 2019 season, cross country and girls' tennis had a combined net loss of \$44K. The increased tournament entry fees offset almost the entire net loss.

Football Committee Meeting Recap – The committee met in-person on January 27th. Ms. Maguire thanked Executive Committee representatives on this committee - Jason Corley and Dr. Troxell – as well as our current President, Tom Mullahey, for attending the meeting. While the minutes from the meeting will be posted later in the month, Ms. Maguire shared that the committee unanimously voted to no longer use video replay during both the NJSIAA regular season and post-season. Other material changes to the tournament regulations will be presented at either the May or June meeting for the committee's final approval.

Wrestling Update – The boys team tournament is underway. The public sectional finals take place later in the day (2/9) and the non-public sectional finals are Friday night, 2/11. The finals will be this Sunday at Franklin HS. Ms. Maguire thanked the girls seeding committee who met yesterday and spent the full day

seeding 441 wrestlers between the north and south regions. Regions will be hosted on 2/12 at Franklin HS and Kingsway Regional HS. Ms. Maguire gave a big thank you to both sites, especially Kingsway HS who is stepping in at the last minute to replace Williamstown HS who recently lost their gym due to water issues. Prior to seeding the boys team tournament, NJSIAA did waive the 10-match requirement for qualification since as the cutoff date was approaching, there were still many schools without ten matches, and there was a snowstorm the weekend right before the cut-off. All District and Region sites are set and posted on NJSIAA's website. Ms. Maguire thanked those who helped secure sites, including Executive Committee members Jorge Diaz who reached out to many of his colleagues on the association's behalf, and Kurt Karcich for hosting District 21.

Student Ambassador Meeting – On Sunday, 2/6, Ms. Maguire hosted an in-person meeting with NJSIAA's Student Ambassadors, who are in their second year of the program and their final semester of their senior year. They have learned a lot about how NJSIAA operates and are very comfortable asking questions and providing unfiltered feedback. Given these students are only a few months away from graduation, they bring a unique perspective as they look back at their high school experience.

Sportsmanship Appreciation Week - This week is NJSIAA Sportsmanship Appreciation Week for the winter season. Sean Reilly is doing a great job of highlighting different acts of sportsmanship throughout our membership during the winter season – stories such as a rival high school hosting senior night for their opponents' boys' basketball team as they are without a gym this season, or the village called the Greater Middlesex Conference wrestling coaches association in their efforts to ensure every student-athlete was able to attend the conference tournament and had the chance to compete. Ms. Maguire is excited for the upcoming feature story on one of NJSIAA's current Student Ambassadors who has recently become a cadet baseball official.

Title IX 50th Anniversary Trailblazer Series - Last week's feature was Cathy Rush from Oakcrest HS. Her story is a tremendous one as the coach of Immaculata College in the early 1970s...the Mighty Macs. Immaculata College was an all-girls school in the suburbs of Philadelphia with an enrollment of approximately 400. The Mighty Macs won three consecutive Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (IAAW) national championships (pre-NCAA) – '71-'72 through the '73-'74 season and had six consecutive final four appearances. They often played in front of crowds of more than 10,000 people. Immaculata's story is one where the passage of Title IX had a negative impact on their program and provides a great story for today's student-athletes. Ms. Maguire thanked Sean Olson for helping the association locate contact information for Ms. Rush. As a result, she will be attending our Title IX 50th Anniversary Celebration luncheon next September as a guest speaker.

Program Review

NJSIAA Basketball End of Season Change Request – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Program Review Committee met on Monday to review one proposal from the NJAC, which was endorsed unanimously. NJSIAA's current regulations prohibit regular season basketball games to be played once the NJSIAA state tournament starts. In order to provide additional flexibility to our schools when striving to reschedule cancelled games due to COVID or the weather, this proposal will waive this restriction and allow regular season games to be played after the state tournament begins. This flexibility will also assist leagues and conferences who may need the additional days to reschedule postponed divisional games. Schools will still have to abide by the maximum game limitations that are currently in place. Under next year's new revised seasons, regular season games are allowed if a school isn't participating in the state tournament.

On behalf of the Program Review committee, a motion was made by John Downey and seconded by Jason Miller, to waive the restriction in the regulations that prohibit regular season basketball games to be played once the NJSIAA state tournament starts and allow regular season games to be played after the state tournament begins. Motion carried with one opposition and one abstention.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Transfer Update – Transfers have slowed down. Mr. Popadiuk reminded everyone to 1-review the transfer portal so spring athletes can be cleared, and 2-to upload required affidavits. There have been numerous questions regarding the new season verification feature in the portal. This feature was added to address those who transfer mid-season. It serves as a reminder to administrators that if an athlete transfers in the middle of a season, they are not eligible for post-season play.

Eligibility & Eligibility Appeals Update – The next Eligibility Committee meeting is scheduled for 2/22. All age/credit/semester eligibility waiver requests are due 2/10.

Disqualifications – If there's three or more player/coach disqualifications in a sport, the team is ineligible for the post-season state tournament. There have been multiple altercations in multiple sports, so Mr. Popadiuk asked administrators to be proactive and talk to their students. Practice bench restraint so students do not miss out on being in the state tournament.

Cooperative Sports Committee Meeting – The committee will meet on February 15th to review fall cooperative sports applications.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Ice Hockey and Swimming Update – The swim tournament is underway and ice hockey seeds next week. Besides requiring face masks, facilities are not restricting fans in any way.

SMAC Meeting – The Medical Advisory Committee met on 1/26. First, the six-day practice rule will be clarified. There are many different situations including COVID exclusion and injuries, so the committee will tighten up the wording so it's clearer. A new COVID-19 guidance statement will be distributed. NJSIAA cannot do much but help schools find the information, so the plan is to put additional resources on the website. Second, the committee wants to post Return-to-Play COVID Guidelines which is different than Concussion Return-to-Play Guidelines. Third, it will be recommended that coaches can only take the required CPR course from either the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association. Both offer a blended course. Last, the committee plans to put together concussion procedures with visuals for officials and trainers so there's no misconceptions. This will help alleviate some of the confusion with the new legislation that just passed.

Fall DQ Report – This report has been cut down to one page so now it's a snapshot of fall activity. If anyone needs a more detailed report, that can be available. Just reach out to Mr. Maselli.

Officials Chapter Meetings – Each season, NJSIAA holds meetings for all chapter leaders, where issues from the past year and important reminders are discussed. An emphasis this year will be the association's conflict of interest policy, as well as the disqualification process. Meetings for spring officials will begin in late February / early March.

Al Stumpf

Basketball Update – Tournament Regulations have been posted. The cut-off date is 2/12. All game and records must be updated on www.njschoolsports.com by 11:59 pm when the system shuts down. Any issues must be resolved by no later than 12 noon on 2/13. Seeding will take place on 2/16. The top 16 teams in each section based on power point totals for the best 13 games up to and including the cut-off date will be seeded. A .500 record no longer guarantees qualification in the tournament bracket. All

Group Semifinal sites have been secured, except for the South NP A& B site, but Mr. Stumpf thinks he may have found a host. He's just waiting on approval.

Fencing Update – All six Districts Championships and all qualifiers for the Individual Championship have been determined. The Individual Championships will take place at Morris Knolls HS on 2/13 at 8:00 am. The Sweet 16 Team Championship has been seeded. The play-in round begins for boys and girls on 2/8 at the higher seed. Rounds 1- 3 take place between February 9 and 21 at the higher seed. The Sweet 16 Championship Round will be on 2/23 at Morris Hills HS at 7:00 pm.

Unified Bowling Update – All teams entries have been received. Teams will be assigned to sections based on the total number of teams entered but will be rearranged so teams are local. The Team Championships will take place at Bowlero Lanes in North Brunswick on 2/16 (Date change. was originally scheduled for 2/18).

Unified Basketball Update – Divisional games will be on 2/26 and 2/27 though there have been issues with sites for the Division Rounds to set the Divisions. The opt-in date is 2/18. Most likely, the Group Finals will be played at Hunterdon Central HS on 3/5. Winners will play in their championship game at Rutgers on 3/20, the same day as the Boys and Girls NJSIAA Basketball Tournament of Champions.

NGWS Day – NJSIAA schools nominated 281 student athletes to be recognized. Honorees will be honored on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook between February 21 and 25, 2022. - #NGWSD and #LeadHerForward

Derryk Sellers

Bowling Update – The girls sectionals took place last weekend, and the boys sectionals will be this weekend. The Girls Team Championships will be on 2/14, the Boys Team Championships will be on 2/16, and the Boys/Girls Individual Championships will be on 2/18. All three will take place at Bowlero.

Winter Track Update – The Bennett Center received storm damage, but thankfully will be up and running for the winter track sectionals that begin this weekend, starting on 2/11. Medals will be given out to the first 3 place winners instead of the Top 6 due to supply issues. Spectators are allowed and tickets are being sold on the NJSIAA website.

Finance Committee Update – Tom Mullahey

Approval of Monthly Checks – The January 11, 2022 through February 7, 2022 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Dr. David Heisey made a motion, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the January 11, 2022 through February 7, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Old Business / New Business – Al Dyer asked if there was any pushback from coaches about cancelling the Tournament of Champions after this year. Both Ms. Maguire and Mr. Stumpf have not heard any negative feedback. Mr. Dyer expressed that people from his district, Camden, are upset because their high school is a high-profile program that would have most likely had the opportunity to compete in it, something they haven't been able to do for the past two years.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins at 11:41 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln