

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 6, 2022

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Tom Mullahey, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Joseph Bollendorf, Dennis Carey, Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Maria Crowley, John Downey, Al Dyer, Judy Finch-Johnson, John Fraraccio, Brendan Galligan, 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, Dr. Danny Robertozzi, Dr. David Salvo, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Beverly Torok, Gregory Troxell, Joseph Ursino, Bill Vacca, Paul Vizzuso, and Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance 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 John Fraraccio, seconded by Bill Vacca, to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The legislature is working on reviewing the state budget so there's no current voting sessions. Mr. Anzano is monitoring the bill that proposes an 8:30am high school start time. Steve Jenkins asked if there is any discussion about adding police officers to Bill A786. Mr. Anzano replied that it is a reintroduced bill and is not seeing movement.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

Ms. Maguire happily reported that the association completed their first true winter championship season since 2019 so it felt good to get back to fun activities. She also thanked the press for their coverage of New Jersey's student-athletes and congratulated reporter, Brian Deakyne, who just got married. Last, Ms. Maguire introduced new staff member – Dena Maggio, daughter of Executive Committee member, John Maggio, who is taking over the position held by Jenny Yelle. Ms. Maggio played lacrosse at Rowan University and is a great addition to NJSIAA's staff.

Annual Meeting Legislation – Final Approval – One Reading – Voice Vote – One proposal, previously approved by the Executive Committee, was reviewed at NJSIAA's two sectional meetings (first meeting was at the DAANJ Workshop and the other was a virtual meeting held by NJSIAA on 3/29). After the two sectional meetings, no changes were proposed by the membership, so Ms. Maguire submitted the below final ballot for final Executive Committee approval. A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Steven Jenkins, to add the below new section titled Girls Wrestling 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 Postponed Meets Any postponed meet may be added to the regular scheduling as noted in Section 8 Maximum Meets.

Section 7 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: 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.

Section 8 Weight Certification

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

Section 9 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 10 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 11 Equipment Headgear – It is mandatory that all wrestlers wear a protective headgear at all times during practice and while participating in a match.

Section 12 Disqualifications – 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.

Motion carried unanimously so this proposal will now be voted on at the virtual annual meeting on 5/2 by the membership.

Winter Season Recap – Ms. Maguire thanked Tony Maselli, Al Stumpf, Derryk Sellers, and all winter tournament directors, for their hard work and a successful winter season. It's the longest season of the three and involves over 100 championship events as compared to 60 in the fall. Ms. Maguire distributed a championship summary to the committee. Ms. Maguire also thanked NJSIAA staff for repurposing 10,000 medals. Usually, the association orders its medals in May, but in April 2020 all factories closed down and then the cargo ship stuck in Suez Canal in 2021 halted production for four months. Creative staff members suggested spray painting the 10,000 medals we had in-house because they were never given out last year and affixing new labels to all the medal boxes.

NJSIAA Hall of Fame Recap – On Sunday, March 29th, NJSIAA inducted 18 individuals into its Hall of Fame and honored three service award winners, 1 NFCA awardee, and 2 Award of Honor recipients. The event took place at the Westin Forrestal Village in Princeton, which saw close to 200 attendees. The program was distributed so committee members can read about the impressive inductees and honorees. Ms. Maguire thanked Sean Reilly for his prolific write-ups about all the honorees, Mr. Mullahey for presenting the plaques and medals to the Hall of Fame inductees, Ms. Ivins for attending and delivering a wonderful invocation, and committee members Steve Shohfi and Senator Sarlo for attending and supporting the event and its honorees. Former NJSIAA President and Award of Honor recipient, Rich Kane, was Master of Ceremonies. One of the highlights was the 7 student ambassadors who introduced each HOF inductee including Senator Sarlo's son, Michael. Ms. Maguire was privileged to introduce Carl Rickershauser and Ed Colona as our Award of Honor recipients. Both men have spent the past two decades serving NJSIAA cross country and track & field student-athletes, one as the State Rules Interpreter / State Assignor and the other as the Tournament Director. These two men play a significant role in coordinating over 35 events that impact close to 75,000 student-athletes.

Spring Classifications – Final classifications have been posted to NJSIAA's website under each sport.

29th Annual Scholar-Athlete Luncheon – This event will be back in person and will take place on Sunday, May 15th, at the Pines Manor. The association has received 371 nominations from member schools, with approximately \$185K in scholarships to be funded. Ms. Maguire asked the committee to reach out to local associations / affiliations to solicit scholarship donations on NJSIAA's behalf.

NFHS School Honor Roll – Coaching Credential Program – The NFHS offers great educational resources including a phenomenal program for coaching credentials. The coaching program offers three levels of recognition. NJSIAA has three member schools with Level 1 status (Irvington/North Arlington/Haddonfield) and one member school with Level 3 status (Northern Burlington – which is one of 8 high schools nationwide to receive this status.). Under NFHS Learn, a large majority of the resources are free. The courses offered are applicable for all stakeholders – administrators, coaches, student-athletes, and parents including a “Captains Course” which goes over the importance of the role of captain, a “Teaching and Modeling Behavior” course which is a primary resource used in our corrective action plans, and “Positive Parenting within School Programs” which is a great resource to assist with any issues in your stands.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Cooperative Sports Program Approval – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Cooperative Sports Committee met on February 15, 2022, to review five new program applications for fall sports. The

committee unanimously denied applications for Emerson - Park Ridge Football and Sayreville – South Amboy Football and approved the applications listed below.

1. Mother Seton – Timothy Christian – Girls Soccer (GMC)
2. Brick Memorial – Brick Township – Gymnastics (Shore Conference)
3. Ranney School – Mater Dei Prep – Field Hockey (Shore Conference)

Emerson-Park Ridge appealed the decision of the committee, but their appeal was denied. They do not plan to appeal to the Executive Committee. South Amboy HS will look for a new school to co-op with.

Additionally, the committee approved an emergent co-op request for this 2022 spring season only between Academy of St. Elizabeth and Villa Walsh in softball. Both programs would have not been able to field a team otherwise.

A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Joseph Bollendorf to approve the following 3 cooperative sports programs: Mother Seton/Timothy Christian in Girls Soccer, Brick Memorial/Brick Township in Gymnastics; and Ranney School/Mater Dei Prep in Field Hockey for a four-year period starting with the 2022-2023 school year, and a softball cooperative sports program between Academy of St. Elizabeth and Villa Walsh for the Spring 2022 season only. Motion carried unanimously.

Cooperative Sports Committee Meeting – May 9th – The committee will meet on 5/9 to review winter cooperative sports requests. The meeting was originally scheduled for 4/15 but Mr. Popadiuk extended the application until 4/22.

Eligibility Update – The next Eligibility Committee meeting is scheduled for 4/12. Mr. Popadiuk reminded administrators that all initial eligibility waiver requests must come from member schools, but appeals can be made by parents. Seniors who were ineligible can be deemed eligible in the 3rd marking period if they are on track to graduate. The Eligibility Appeals Committee met on 3/23 and will meet again on 5/4.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Drug Free Sport Banned Substances List and Testing Protocols– 2022/2023 – One Reading – Voice Vote – The 2022/2023 Banned Substances List and Testing Protocols were vetted through NJSIAA’s drug testing company, Drug Free Sports and Dr. J. Christopher Mendler, Chief Medical Officer from NJSIAA’s Medical Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to approve the recommended 2022/2023 Drug Free Sports Banned Substances List and Testing Protocols. Motion carried unanimously.

Six-day Practice Rule Clarification – One Reading – Voice Vote – At the start of each sports season, each athlete must practice with their team six times for safety reasons but there’s always questions related to this rule, so the following clarifications are recommended to be added to NJSIAA’s handbook.

A student shall not be permitted to participate in a scrimmage or a game (interschool) in any strenuous sport until they have completed six (6) days of practice in that sport and one day of rest. Practices are counted on a 24-hour basis not the number of sessions.

For all strenuous sports (which excludes bowling and golf), the “first scrimmage” date must include one day of rest within the first 7 days from the first practice (6 days on and 1 day off rule). The six (6) days of practice and one (1) day of rest do not have to be consecutive but must adhere to the seven (7) day time frame. This requirement applies to all three seasons.

CL1: Any workouts prior to the first official day of practice for a particular sport cannot be counted to fulfill this requirement.

CL2: The six (6) day practice rule begins on the first official day of practice for each sport excluding bowling and golf.

CL3: The six (6) day practice rule will be waived for Student-Athletes who are members of a team participating in an NJSIAA competition after the start of the next season provided the athlete becomes a practicing member within three (3) practice days.

CL4: Any lapses consisting of four (4) or more days, a restart of the six (6) day rule must occur.

CL5: If a student was eligible to participate in a team practice after three (3) consecutive days off but missed the fourth day because of a situation beyond the student's control (i.e., the school closed for a holiday, Sunday, weather, etc.) a restart is not needed if the student practices the next available day.

Clarifications 4 and 5 stemmed from COVID situations. The rule was adjusted to help students during quarantine. Also, these clarifications help if a player's two seasons overlap, if an athlete was injured, or it's a Sunday/weather-related school cancellation due to no fault of the athlete. A motion was made by Dr. David Salvo, seconded by Russell Petrocelli, to approve the new Six-day Practice Rule Clarifications. Motion carried unanimously.

Spring Tournament Regulations – The majority of spring sport regulations will be posted today.

Girls Lacrosse / Boys Tennis / Baseball Updates – The seasons are underway with no issues. Mr. Maselli is still looking for a Girls Lacrosse finals site since Kean can no longer host. He is hoping for TCNJ or Monmouth University or one site vs having championship weekend at multiple schools. Jason Corley shared that he has a connection at Monmouth University so he may be able to help Mr. Maselli secure that site.

Al Stumpf

First, Mr. Stumpf thanked all the schools that stepped up to host basketball tournament games at their facility.

Spring Track Update – The Meet of Champions will take place at Franklin HS. Mr. Stumpf is still looking for a Group 1/4 Southern sectional school site.

Golf Update – All courses are set. The boys State Championships will be played at Hawk Point Golf Club, while the girls TOC was moved to Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater.

Unified Update – The Unified basketball championship game was played at Rutgers, where Moorestown HS defeated Hunterdon Central HS in the A championship, while 1st year program Florence HS won the B championship. The Unified spring track championships will take place at Franklin HS on June 2nd.

Derryk Sellers

Winter Track Update – Mr. Sellers reiterated Ms. Maguire's sentiments about seeing Carl Rickershauser and Ed Colona be honored at the banquet. Mr. Sellers is happy to be learning the sport from two of the most knowledgeable track people in New Jersey.

Boys Lacrosse Update – Mr. Sellers will follow up with Mr. Corley about his connections to Monmouth University as a possible championship host site.

Softball Update – Mr. Sellers is looking for a softball tournament director to run the state tournament.

Boys Volleyball Update – The State Semifinals and State Finals games will take place at South Brunswick HS.

Finance Committee Update – Tom Mullahey

Approval of Monthly Checks – The February 8, 2022 through April 4, 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 Dr. David Heisey, to approve the February 8, 2022 through April 4, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steve Goodell) – There was no litigation this past winter. Mr. Miccio and Mr. Goodell have been busy working with Mr. Popadiuk on Eligibility Appeals Hearings and Cooperative Sports Program Appeals. At the DAANJ Conference in March, Mr. Miccio did a presentation about NIL and Mr. Goodell presented a legal update. In April, Mr. Goodell will attend the NFHS Legal Summit along with Ms. Maguire and Mr. Dave Frazier, and representatives from each of the 50 states.

Old Business / New Business – none.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Joseph Bollendorf, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz at 11:39 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

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