

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**May 11, 2022**

**Roll Call** - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, May 11, 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, Jeff Baldino, Joseph Bollendorf, Jeremy Braverman, Dennis Carey, Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Maria Crowley, Jorge Diaz, John Downey, Al Dyer, Daniel Finkle, Judy Finch-Johnson, John Fraraccio, Dr. G. 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, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Beverly Torok, Gregory Troxell, Joseph Ursino, Paul Vizzuso, and Kathy Whalen. 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.; Andrew Seibel, Principal at Moorestown HS.

A moment of silence was held for Executive Committee James Gaffney, who passed away last month.

**Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed with two abstentions.

**Annual Meeting Results** – Girls Wrestling is officially a sponsored NJSIAA sport. The annual meeting ballot proposal was detailed in the April 6, 2022 Executive Committee minutes. 269 ballots were cast; 262 voted in favor of the proposal; 7 abstained.

**Executive Committee Legislation Polling Update** – Every year principals are polled whether they support or reject decisions passed by the Executive Committee. Last month, principals were polled on the following four pieces of passed legislation passed by the Executive Committee over the last year:

1. Ballot #1 – Modifies the NJSIAA Sports Calendar to equalize all seasons. Passed on June 9, 2021.
2. Ballot #2 – Amends the Post-Season Eligibility Date for Transfer Students. Passed on June 9, 2021.
3. Ballot #3 – Adds an additional clarification to the Wrestling Rules and Regulations to account for certain elite invitational wrestling events. Passed on June 9, 2021.
4. Ballot #4 – Modifies the Boys Wrestling Weight Classes under Wrestling Rules and Regulations. Passed on September 15, 2021.

Results of the polling: 95% of the membership supported the proposals passed.

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**Legislative Update (Paul Anzano)** – Mr. Anzano’s legislative tracking report was distributed. The legislature is now off their budget break and committee meetings have resumed. There are no

controversies with the proposed spending plan. Legislators are aware that the proposal to move school start times by an hour is more complicated with significant impacts. Mr. Shofhi asked if there is discussion about a provision for zero period so kids can come in to school before the official start time. There has been discussion about students coming to school at 6:30am or earlier for sports practices and non-classroom activities (theatre, band), but Mr. Anzano will look further into that inquiry.

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### **Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire**

**Special Olympics NJ – Unified Sports Presentation** – NJSIAA entered into agreement with Special Olympics in 2016 to offer unified competitions. Executive Committee member / Senior Director of Programming for Special Olympics, Jeff Baldino, along with Drew Seibel, Principal at Moorestown HS, presented to the committee about the benefits of Unified Sports. It's a unique opportunity to engage more students. Whether it's for larger schools with roster cuts, or student-athletes looking to scale back as they progress through high school, this is great opportunity for participation without the commitment of practices every day.

Mr. Baldino shared that Special Olympics serves 20,000 individuals in every county, through 300 local programs, all with volunteer coaches. That's 24 sports and 265 events. Special Olympics then expanded to partner with NJSIAA to 1-offer state championship opportunities in bowling, basketball and track, and 2-to bring individuals together with and without disabilities. Moorestown HS has been a leader in Unified Sports and is an exemplary example of the power of this program. Moorestown embraced the program at first, because it initially came with funding and resources from Special Olympics, but since its inception in year one where the school only had 10-15 participants, the program has grown with over 80 students registered (the biggest sports program in their district) and three levels of teams (Varsity, JV, Beginner). Even though only 5 kids can be on the court at a time, everyone gets in somehow and there's no animosity about playing time. Moorestown Unified basketball team won the Unified Basketball championship at Rutgers and represented Team NJ at the Special Olympics summer games in 2019. One of the best and most impactful aspects of the program has been the interactions with other teams and the friendships that have developed.

Al Stumpf, NJSIAA Director in charge of Unified Sports, is currently making plans for the Unified Track championships, which will be like all other NJSIAA championship meets. In the past, this meet was integrated with NJSIAA's sectional meets, but it was a long day so now Mr. Stumpf is organizing Unified Track to have its own day on 6/2 at Franklin HS. 25 schools will compete over two hours. Mount Olive HS has a tournament the week before the championships at Franklin HS for twelve Unified teams to compete. Mr. Stumpf encouraged all schools to get involved in this great program. At his former school, Voorhees HS, the school would host Unified plays and dances. Mr. Stumpf also shared the joy the athletes (and fans) experience when they earn medals, as was seen by the crowd at the Unified Basketball championships at Rutgers this year.

**NJSIAA Strategic Planning Committee** – With the endorsement of the Finance Committee last month, NJSIAA has engaged HYA & Associates as consultants to assist with its strategic planning process. The Association's current strategic plan is old and outdated so engaging consultants will bring an increased level of transparency and credibility to the plan. A final plan will be presented to the Executive Committee during the second half of the 2022 – 2023 school year. Strategic Planning Committee members will include Executive Committee members, Judy Finch Johnson (Elizabeth Public School District), Russell Petrocelli (DePaul Catholic), Dr. Kimberly Gruccio (Egg Harbor Township), and Leon Owen (Willingboro), along with Dr. Brian Brotschul (Delran Schools), Jen Fleury (Villa Walsh Academy) and Bill Librera (Watchung Hills HS). The committee hosts its first meeting on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Sportsmanship Appreciation Week** – Spring sportsmanship appreciation week is underway. The featured stories so far have been an unusual girl’s golf matchup during spring break and the evolution of a Bergen County softball tradition. Please encourage your coaches and captains to honor their officials and their opponents during these appreciation weeks...we all cannot do enough to highlight good sportsmanship.

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**Program Review**

The Program Review Committee met virtually on 5/9 and unanimously endorsed the following four proposals.

**NJSIAA Football Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote** – The Football Leagues and Conferences Advisory Committee made the following recommendations which was supported by Football Committee. Ms. Maguire thanked Jason Corley and Gregory Troxell for attending these committee meetings on behalf of the Executive Committee.

1. A new scheduling framework was proposed to ensure consistent schedules across all five football leagues and conferences. This framework is as follows:
  - i. Maximum games to be played is 14 games – August 26<sup>th</sup> through December 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. Public schools:
    - a. Non-Thanksgiving teams – 9 games (week 0-8)
    - b. Thanksgiving teams – 8 games (week 0-8), plus Thanksgiving game
  - iii. Public schools will play a maximum of 5 games after the cut-off date, excluding Thanksgiving
  - iv. Non-Public schools:
    - a. Non-Thanksgiving teams – 10 games (weeks 0-9)
    - b. Thanksgiving teams – 9 games (weeks 0-9), plus Thanksgiving game
  - v. Non-public schools will play a maximum of 4 games after the cut-off date, excluding Thanksgiving
  - vi. Season end date – Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> \*  
 \*Only games played after this date are NJSIAA State Finals

As a result, the following change will be made to Specific Sport Regulations, Football, Section 8 – Maximum Games: A member school may play no more than ten (10) fourteen (14) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Program Regulations, Section 7 Practices/Scrimmages/Games/Meets) starting with Week 0 through Week 14 (the conclusion of the NJSIAA tournament).

2. Schools may receive multiplier values for two opponents – the two highest games will be used. The approved list of multiplier schools in each category can be found below.

<b>Category A (6 teams)</b>	<b>Category B (5 teams)</b>	<b>Category C (4 teams)</b>
Win = 48 pts; Loss = 32 pts	Win = 42 pts; Loss = 28 pts	Win = 36 pts; Loss = 24 pts
Bergen Catholic	Delbarton	Holy Spirit
DePaul	Donovan Catholic	Pope John
Don Bosco Prep	Red Bank Catholic	Paramus Catholic
Seton Hall Prep	St. Joseph (Hammonton)	St. John Vianney
St. Joseph (Montvale)	St. Augustine	
St. Peter’s Prep		

3. New to 2022, a minimum of two wins will be necessary to be eligible for the championship playoffs.

4. To address concerns of schools seeking to mutually drop games scheduled during the season to better position their UPR, the following language will be included:

“Once a school starts its regular season competition, then all scheduled games are expected to be played. No scheduled game can be "mutually dropped" by both teams. Games must either be played, or a forfeit be declared. If there are extenuating circumstances that would prevent two schools from playing a scheduled game, then the League or Conference must submit a written summary of the circumstances that necessitated the need to mutually drop a scheduled game.”

5. Video replay will no longer be utilized in the post-season. References to the video replay process will be removed from the Tournament Regulations.

6. A 7th official will be added to the state tournament championship games.

A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Todd Jorgenson, to accept the proposed recommendations (outlined above) made by The Football Leagues and Conferences Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**Football Summer Recess Period Guidelines – One Reading – Voice Vote** – The Football Sports Committee, who met on January 27, 2022, requested guidelines be posted as to what is and is not permissible during the summer recess period specific to the sport of football. Committee members expressed concern that there has been growing inconsistency among NJSIAA member schools. These are not new rules. Some of the rules are located in the Program Regulations while others can be found in the football handbook. These guidelines just gather and organize them all together in one place.

A motion was made by Steven Jenkins, seconded by Jason Corley, to approve the following guidelines for member schools to adhere to during the NJSIAA summer recess period, which for the 2022 – 2023 school year will run from Monday, June 20, 2022, through Tuesday, August 9, 2022. These guidelines will be in place in each subsequent year as well.

1. Participation in interscholastic competition is prohibited. Interscholastic competition is defined as any activity or event organized or supported by a member school. School districts, or school-related groups, such as a Booster club, may not sponsor or support interscholastic competition during camps, clinics, recreation programs, or tournaments.
2. School districts, or school-related groups, may sponsor or support participation in camps, clinics, recreation programs, or tournaments, if there is no interscholastic competition among participants.
3. No full or thud contact is permissible during the summer recess period. Full contact is defined as contact in which players are being tackled to the ground. Thud contact is defined as contact in which players are not being tackled to the ground.
4. Schools may host or participate in 7v7 competition with school district approval.
5. The use of any player protective equipment is subject to school district approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Basketball Maximum Number of Games Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote** – Since the 22-game maximum was established before the elimination of the Tournament of Champions after the 2021 – 2022 school year, the New Jersey Basketball Coaches Association submitted a proposal to increase the maximum number of games to be played from 22 to 24 during the regular

season in the sport of basketball. With the elimination of the Tournament of Champions, the basketball season has one additional week of regular season play before the state tournament begins so the basketball committee feels that the addition of 2 games is reasonable with the additional regular season week and will allow teams additional scheduling flexibility. The proposal was reviewed and unanimously endorsed by the NJSIAA Basketball Committee at its meeting on April 13, 2022.

A motion was made by Jason Miller, seconded by John Downey, to amend the current basketball regulation from “22 game regular season maximum plus a county/conference-based tournament plus the State Tournament.” to “24 regular season games maximum plus a county/conference-based tournament plus the State Tournament” After a brief discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**Power Points – One Reading – Voice Vote** – There has been an increasing trend in the number of games played against out of state or non-member opponents across all sports. At the same time, it is becoming more difficult to adequately verify the enrollments and records for those out of state and non-member opponents – two key components used in the power point calculation. There’s a lot of guessing and manual work for staff to assign power points for these type opponents, which though done with much careful consideration, may not always be accurate. As a result, NJSIAA staff recommends that games played against out of state or non-member opponents not be recognized for power point purposes/not be assigned power points, but still count towards a team’s maximum number of contests. This proposal will still allow teams the flexibility to schedule games against out of state or non-member opponents, but not including them in a team’s power point calculation ensures that the power points are more consistent across all teams. Teams will qualify for, and be seeded in, an NJSIAA state tournament based solely on their performance against NJSIAA member schools. NJSIAA staff feels that this is important due to the increasing difficulty in verifying the enrollments and records for out of state or non-member opponents and will create a pure system.

A motion was made by John Downey, seconded by Steven Jenkins, to discontinue assigning power points for out of state or non-member opponents though those games will count towards a team’s maximum number of contests. Concerns were expressed. Todd Jorgenson asked if the proposal can go into effect after the 2022-23 school year since fall and winter schedules have already been set up. Another committee member questioned if this would deter schools from scheduling out of state competition trips for students, which would keep the kids from meaningful travel experiences. Jeremy Braverman questioned if this will impact schools close to NJ or PA state lines that typically play their neighbors. Mr. Maselli does not think this change will impact scheduling since 60% of games must be played against NJ competition anyway – teams would probably have scheduled the out of state games anyway. Joe Ursino asked about zero week in football and playing PA schools. Ms. Maguire explained the football statistician has vetted the proposal and has no concerns with this rule change, no team will be at risk for not qualifying for the state tournament as a result of this change. Motion carried unanimously.

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### **Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)**

**Cooperative Sports Program Approval – One Reading – Voice Vote** – The Cooperative Sports Committee met on May 9, 2022, to review 13 new program applications, all supported by their conferences. All 13 applications were approved. A motion was made by Jorge Diaz, seconded by Joseph Bollendorf to approve the following 13 cooperative sports programs:

1. Bayonne-Belleville-McNair: Ice Hockey Tri-op (NJIIHL endorsed)
2. Clifton-Passaic Valley-Cedar Grove: Ice Hockey Tri-op (BNC & SEC endorsed)
3. Morris Hills-Morris Knolls: Girls Wrestling (NJAC endorsed)
4. Jackson Memorial-Jackson Liberty: Gymnastics (Shore Conference endorsed)

5. Wardlaw-Hartridge-St. Thomas Aquinas: Boys Swimming (GMC endorsed)
6. Morris Catholic-Pope John XXIII: Boys & Girls Fencing (NJAC endorsed)
7. Sparta-Jefferson Twp: Boys & Girls Swimming (NJAC endorsed)
8. Bogota-Hasbrouck Heights: Girls Basketball (NJIC endorsed)
9. Wallkill Valley-High Point: Boys & Girls Indoor Track (NJAC endorsed)
10. Glassboro-Pitman: Field Hockey (Tri-County endorsed)
11. Tenafly-Cresskill-Leonia: Ice Hockey Tri-op (NJIC & BNC endorsed)
12. Lakeland-Hawthorne-Waldwick: Ice Hockey Tri-op (NJIC endorsed, BNC pending)
13. South River-East Brunswick Tech: Boys & Girls Bowling (GMC endorsed)

Motion carried unanimously.

**Bylaws Updates – First Reading – Voice Vote** – Mr. Popadiuk, along with Mr. Goodell and Mr. Miccio, reviewed the current Bylaws to make sure all the information is accurate and consistent. There were several areas that were out of date, or not worded correctly within the spirit of the rule or areas that needed to be amended or needed clarification. In consultation with NJSIAA staff and counsel, the NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer recommends the following changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws and Interpretive Guidelines. [Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.]

### **1. Bylaws. Article V. Section 4. C (Age)**

An athlete becomes ineligible for high school athletics if he/she attains the age of nineteen prior to September 1. However, any athlete attaining age nineteen (19) on or after September 1 shall be eligible for the ensuing school year. A birth certificate, issued at the time of birth, is the normal proof of age; in the absence of this, other proofs may be used. The records used will be baptismal records or the earliest school records.

*~~CL 1: Junior High/9th Grade regulations provide that a student becomes ineligible for 9th grade athletics if they reach age sixteen (16) prior to September 1 of that school year. However, said students may participate above the 9th grade athletic level based upon a waiver as set forth in CL 4 noted below.~~*

***Rationale:*** *This clarification to the Age Rule essentially says that 16-year-olds may not play on freshman teams. It refers to an unknown set of regulations – the “Junior High/9th grade regulations.” These regulations appear to no longer exist. In general, the NJSIAA does not regulate below the varsity level, and this clarification causes confusion and is unnecessary.*

### **2. Bylaws. Article V. Section 4.G (2) (Enrollment)**

CL8 Vo-Tech/Academy/Public Sending District - When a student enrolls in an academy program through a vo-tech school (School A) which is housed at another district's high school (School B) which is different from the student's home sending district's high school (School C), he/she is eligible for interscholastic athletics where he or she is carried on the Official Register from School A or School B. If a student is carried on both School A and School B's registers, the student may choose the school at which he/she wishes to participate in all sports on a full school- year basis. The student is not eligible for interscholastic sports at his/her home sending district (School C) regardless of what sports are offered at School A and School B.

***Rationale:*** *With the rise of academy programs that now involve 3 schools (sending district, Vo- Tech and the Academy school at which the student is housed) there is a need to clarify student enrollment and athletic eligibility. Historically, the student could*

*play at the Vo-tech or home sending school when shared. In this situation, considering that the student is not taking classes at the home sending school, and is sharing time between the Vo-Tech and Academy schools, the home sending district is not an option for the student's athletic participation. No students will have the opportunity to select participation from three schools.*

### **3. Bylaws. Article V. Section 4.K (1) (Transfers)**

*CL 2: In cases where a student resides with one parent and elects to change residence for transfer to another secondary school where the other parent resides, said student will be deemed to have fulfilled subsection (a) of Article V, Section 4.K(1)(a), which is that "the parent/guardian moves with the student from one public high school district to another public high school district." In other words, this is considered a parental change of residence provided the parents do not reside in the same public high school district. However, subsequent retransfers to the school previously attended may be considered a transfer for athletic advantage, which may result in a loss of eligibility.*

***Rationale:*** *As currently written, this clarification seems to indicate that a parent-to-parent move renders a student immediately eligible, which is not the intention. Rather, such a move satisfies the "change of address" requirement, but the other requirements (affidavit, date of transfer and residency not associated with school) must also be fulfilled in order for the student to be immediately eligible.*

### **4. Bylaws. Article V. Section 4.K (2)(a) (Transfers)**

a. A student-athlete transferring from one secondary school to another, without a bona fide change of residence by that student's parent or guardian, shall be ineligible to participate for a period of thirty (30) calendar days or one half of the maximum number of games allowed in the sport by NJSIAA rules (the ineligibility period) from the beginning of the regular schedule, whichever is less, in any sport in which the student has previously participated at the varsity level. If a student transfers after the Competition Start Date, the ineligibility period begins with the student's first day of class and may extend into the next season. If the transfer was not considered a bona fide change of address solely due to the fact that the transfer occurred after the immediately eligible date (Article V, Section 4.K (1)(c), the ineligibility period will not extend into the next season.

b. To prevent possible recruitment or transfer for athletic advantage, a Transfer Form must be executed by the two involved schools and filed with the NJSIAA before any interscholastic participation.

c. 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. For football, the Week 1 Competition Start Date will be used.

d. Any student who is subject to the 30-day period of ineligibility set forth in subsection (2)(a) may nevertheless participate in interscholastic scrimmages. It is local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice or compete in interscholastic scrimmages.

*CL 1: Since the minimal thirty (30) days or one half the maximum number of games allowed in a sport by NJSIAA rules ineligibility period (whichever is less) is intended to serve as a deterrent for students transferring from one school to another without a bona fide parental/guardian change of residence and is recognized as one of the most lenient*

penalties in the United States, appeals will not be heard, regardless of reason. For sports which have a maximum participation limitation, the NJSIAA maximum (half the maximum) will be used to determine the sit out period. For sports that do not have a maximum number of contests allowed by rule, the sit out period will be 30 days from the beginning of the regular varsity season (or 1<sup>st</sup> day of class if transfer occurs after the Competition Start Date) or half of the games/meets/matches/events scheduled at the beginning of that school's sport season. Only games played may be counted.

**Rationale:** These additions further clarify the start date of a student subject to the transfer sit. It explains that if a student transfers in after the competition start date, the student's ineligibility period starts with the first day of class and may extend into the next season. It also clarifies that if a student moved legitimately, but after the dates of Aug. 1, Nov. 1 or March 1, the student's sit will end at the end of the season and not extend into next season.

## **5. Bylaws. Article XIII (Hearing Procedure)**

Section 1, CL 2: The Eligibility Committee shall only rule on waiver requests submitted by member schools. All initial eligibility waiver requests must be filed by member schools on behalf of the student athlete.

\* \* \*

Section 9: Except as provided in Section 4 herein, no initial waiver request or proceeding dealing with a specific school(s), staff or student(s) shall be conducted by any committee of the Association unless the Principal of the involved school(s) or his or her authorized representative is in attendance. A school shall be bound by any statements made by such representatives at committee proceedings. Requests for waiver an appeal of an NJSIAA regulation ruling by any party other than the school will be heard and interpreted as not having the support of the school when the Principal or his or her authorized representative is not present.

**Rationale:** These amendments clarify the current practice of only permitting member schools to submit eligibility waiver requests. Parents and students do not have the right to submit a waiver on their own, but they may appeal determinations of the Eligibility Committee.

## **6. Interpretive Guidelines for Student-Athlete Eligibility. Most Commonly Applied Eligibility Rules (Transfers)**

If the Principal and Athletic Director of the student's former school do not complete refuse to sign a Transfer Form in a timely manner, then the Chief Compliance Officer shall rule on the student's eligibility based on available evidence and documentation. If necessary, a hearing shall be held at the next scheduled meeting of the Eligibility Appeals Committee and an oral decision reached on that date, which shall thereafter be expressed more fully in writing by either the Committee within ten days. Until the Chief Compliance Officer has made a ruling, or the hearing is concluded, the transferring student shall be ineligible.

**Rationale:** This more accurately describes our practice. When prior schools don't fill out the transfer form, we clear the athlete (after a period of time).

## **7. Interpretive Guidelines for Student-Athlete Eligibility. Filing a Request for an Eligibility Waiver**



### **Filing a Request for an Eligibility Waiver**

All appeals from initial decisions of the Eligibility Committee, as well as initial waiver decisions when the Eligibility Committee cannot consider an eligibility request in a timely fashion, shall be determined by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. The Principal or assigned representative must be present to provide information for the appeal before the Eligibility Appeals Committee when the appeal is requested by the school. In addition, all parties are entitled to be represented by Counsel. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will rule on eligibility requests in emergent circumstances provided the Principal requests a case to be considered and so states in writing.

It is strongly recommended that the student-athlete attend such hearings.

Requests for ~~waiver~~ an appeal of an NJSIAA regulation ruling by any party other than the school will be heard and interpreted as not having the support of the school when the Principal or his/her authorized representative is not present.

~~The Eligibility Appeals Committee will make initial eligibility decisions in the interim between Eligibility Committee meetings and in all unsigned Transfer cases.~~

***Rationale:*** *These changes coincide with the previous changes made above. The last sentence should be removed as it is redundant.*

A motion was made by Daniel Finkle, seconded by Jeremy Braverman to approve the changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws and Interpretive Guidelines recommended by Mr. Popadiuk and NJSIAA counsel. Motion passed first reading with one abstention.

**Rules and Regulations Updates – First Reading – Voice Vote** – Mr. Popadiuk, along with Mr. Goodell and Mr. Miccio, also reviewed the current Rules and Regulations for accuracy and consistency. The following changes were recommended. [Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.]

#### **(1) NJSIAA Rules and Regulations. Section 2 (Out-of-Season Period). CL 2**

- a. Coaches/Student-Athletes: Coaches may not instruct their Student-Athletes during the out-of- season period, including Open-Gym Programs. For seniors, all rules apply through the last date of the NJSIAA Spring Championships, except for those seniors who have exhausted their eligibility and will not compete interscholastically in any future season/sport. When the same sport for Boys and Girls is conducted in different sports seasons, a Student-Athlete in that sport may not serve as manager of the team of the opposite sex and will be considered a violation of the out-of-season rule. Coaches may not exchange supervisory and/or coaching duties in their sport to circumvent the out-of-season rule.
- b. Coaches Meetings: Coaches may hold non-instructional meetings for the purpose of distributing try-out schedules, medical forms, parent permission slips, etc. to returning lettermen and prospective team candidates. Strategy or techniques may not be discussed and neither may any physical activity take place.
- c. Coaches may instruct and coach their sons and daughters during the out-of-season period.

***Rationale:*** *This is current practice but not stated anywhere.*

## **(2) NJSIAA Rules and Regulations. Section 14 (Video Taping and Filming)**

Electronic Communication equipment, including but not limited to computer, film television and video tape is permissible according to the NFHS rules for the sport in question. Videotaping of scrimmages is a local option. No video or audio recording may be used to review or challenge the decision of a sports official. unless it is an approved game following the Football Video Replay protocol. The NJSIAA may use video and audio recordings to identify and determine violations of its sportsmanship policy and to ensure that disqualifications are correctly identified.

***Rationale:** This addition clarifies that NJSIAA may use video to review sportsmanship issues and DQ issues. The sportsmanship policy is critical to the NJSIAA's mission, and it is important that it is accurately enforced. Lastly, the NJSIAA no longer uses video replay in the sport of football so this statement is no longer applicable.*

Discussion took place regarding this rule change. Mr. Maselli explained that NJSIAA will not overturn decisions made by officials, but this clarification gives NJSIAA the opportunity to go back to an official association with proof of an error to encourage them to get the disqualification right. NJSIAA cannot rescind a disqualification submitted by an official. Mr. Goodell explained that in the past, NJSIAA would never look at video and would never second guess an official report. This change gives NJSIAA the ability to review a situation and push back on an official association if it is believed that an error was made.

## **(3) NJSIAA Rules and Regulations. Sports Specific Regulations. Note 4 (Disqualification)**

i. Any player that leaves the bench area during an altercation, whether to intervene or participate, shall be disqualified, and will be subject to the disqualification penalty (automatically disqualified from the next two contests, with the exception of football which will carry a one game disqualification). Only coaches can leave the bench with the purpose of restraining players and stopping the altercation.

***Rationale:** This addition to the disqualification rule sends a clear message that NJSIAA and member schools have zero tolerance for leaving the bench during melees. Leaving the bench violations appear in some NFHS sports-specific rulebooks, but not all.*

A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins, to approve the changes to the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations recommended by Mr. Popadiuk and NJSIAA counsel. Motion passed first reading with two oppositions and one abstention.

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### **Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)**

**Girls Lacrosse Update** – All tournament sites have been secured for girls lacrosse. It is getting increasingly more difficult to find neutral host sites, so more tournament events are taking place at the higher seed. Mr. Maselli wanted to hold the state finals at TCNJ but they are still on COVID lockdown so instead, he secured Hunterdon Central HS and Warren Hills HS for the state finals and Mount Olive HS for the TOC finals. Tournament seeding will take place next week.

**Boys Tennis Update** – Weather has been great, so most season matches have been played. The tournament will seed next week.

**Baseball Update** – This tournament is one week behind all other spring tournaments.

**NJSIAA SMAC Meeting Update** – The committee met. There are no COVID-19 concerns, and they believe it's time to proceed as normal since COVID-19 will be around like the flu. There are no concerns with the variants. The committee was in favor of the safety guidelines approved. The earlier school start time legislation was discussed. SMAC Committee member, Dr. Mandelbaum, was a member of the committee that wrote the policy being considered by the legislature.

**Online Ticketing – Spring Championships** – The switch to online ticket sales for NJSIAA tournament events was rolled out slowly this year. In the fall, the association sold online tickets for its championship events only. In winter, online ticket sales were expanded to prior rounds, and sold for fencing, ice hockey, winter track, wrestling, swimming, diving and b/g basketball. The plan for the spring is to use online ticket sales for all sports beginning with sectional finals where ticket sales can be controlled/makes sense. It can be used for the baseball finals because there's only one entrance/exit to the park, but it can't be used at schools hosting that don't have an entrance gate because people can arrive from all different angles. This program has been a tremendous success. NJSIAA knows instantly how many tickets were bought and how much revenue was received. This new system will be used next year for all sports where it makes sense.

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### **Al Stumpf**

**Spring Track Update** – Mr. Stumpf was grateful to Buena HS for stepping up and hosting the Group 1/4 Southern sectionals. That was the last spring track site Mr. Stumpf needed to secure for the tournament. The MileSplit portal is open from 5/1 – 5/28. Originally it was only going to be open for one week. Mr. Stumpf encourages coaches to enter six people for each individual event and eight people for each relay, so on event day there's a pool of people to pick from. Only names entered in advance can compete on event day.

**Golf Update** – Mr. Stumpf reported that golf course conditions for the sectional championships on Monday were in great condition, despite the rain. Mr. Stumpf made it to 7 of the 11 sectional events that took place on 5/9. Wind played a factor, so scores were higher than the normal. The girls state championships will be played at Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater on 5/16 while the boys State Championships will be on 5/17 at Hawk Point Golf Club.

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### **Derryk Sellers**

**Boys Lacrosse Update** – Mr. Sellers expressed gratitude for Mr. Corley for his help and time in trying to secure Monmouth University for tournament games. Seeding will take place on Monday, 5/16.

**Softball Update** – Cutoff is 5/12. Seeding will take place on 5/13.

**NJSCA Update** – Mr. Sellers is working to revamp the association and increase coach involvement. There will be a new logo and changes are coming along.

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### **Finance Committee Update – Tom Mullahey**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The April 5, 2022 through May 9, 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. Dave Heisey, to approve the April 5, 2022 through May 9, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

**Report of Counsel (Steve Goodell)** – Mr. Goodell attended the NFHS Legal Summit along with Ms. Maguire and Mr. Dave Frazier on 4/20 and 4/21. It was an informative meeting and though the topics addressed are all situations New Jersey has dealt with in the past, it's helpful to hear how other states handle the issues. Controversies with NFHS hair rules is sweeping the nation, but this was something NJSIAA dealt with several years ago, involving a wrestler at Buena HS.

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**Old Business / New Business** – Mr. Mullahey and Ms. Maguire recognized outgoing Executive Committee members: Daniel Sinclair, Dr. G. Kennedy Greene, Bill Vacca, Beverly Torok and Mary Liz Ivins.

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**Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made by Joseph Bollendorf, seconded by Al Dyer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire  
Executive Director

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