

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 8, 2022

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Tom Mullahey, at 11:07 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Patricia Camp, Dennis Carey, Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Heather Crisci, Denise Crudup, John Downey, Al Dyer, Daniel Finkle, Judy Finch-Johnson, John Fraraccio, Brendan Galligan, Dr. G. Kennedy Greene, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Mary Liz Ivins, Steven Jenkins, Todd Jorgenson, Kurt Karcich, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, 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, Bill Vacca, Kathy Whalen 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* and Darren Cooper, *The Record*. Also in attendance: Paul Anzano of Pringle Quinn Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Joseph Bollendorf, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins, to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of FY 2022-2023 Officers (Voice Vote) – A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to accept the following slate of executive committee officers for 2022-2023: President – Joseph Bollendorf, 1st Vice President – Jason Corley, and 2nd Vice President – Russell Petrocelli. Motion carried unanimously.

2022-2023 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – Next year's committee dates are below. A poll was distributed. Of the 42 committee members that responded, 83% felt virtual meetings and 95% felt in-person meetings were effective. 75% of respondents voted for a combination of virtual and in-person meetings next year.

September 14, 2022 (in-person)
October 19, 2022(in-person)
November 16, 2022 (virtual)
December 7, 2022 (in-person)
January 18, 2023 (virtual)
February 22, 2023 (virtual)
March 29, 2023 (in-person)
May 10, 2023 (in-person)
June 7, 2023 (virtual)

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Mr. Anzano's legislative tracking report was distributed. The legislature is in its final stages of budget negotiations for FY 2022-23. The budget is expected to pass this June, followed by a summer recess. Senator Sarlo is the Chairman of the Budget Committee. No bills affecting NJSIAA are active right now, but Mr. Anzano is monitoring the bill that addresses school start times. It was discussed earlier in the year but is not having momentum right now. Dr. Salvo asked for an update on the proposed homeschool law. Right now, districts decide if a home-schooled student can participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities in the student's resident district. This new rule would mandate school districts allow home-schooled students to participate. All eligibility rules would

still be applicable, so this rule doesn't impact NJSIAA's rules. The bill is out of committee review, but the Senate version of the bill has not moved, and there is no momentum moving it forward. It does not have much Senate support.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

Ms. Maguire congratulated Bill Quirk on his retirement. Mr. Quirk has served as the Athletic Director at the Hun School and been on the Executive Committee since 2011 as the NJ Association of Independent Schools representative. Ms. Maguire expressed gratitude that NJSIAA's member schools compete during the regular season against NJAIS member schools. It's been a great partnership and Mr. Quirk will be missed.

Scholar Athlete Program – On Sunday, May 15th, NJSIAA hosted over 1,100 people at the Pines Manor in Edison. \$175K in scholarships were presented to 350 NJSIAA Scholar-Athletes. Ms. Maguire first thanked Tom Mullahey for his help greeting and taking photos with all the honorees on the stage, then proceeded to thank all those who supported the program. The event ran 1 hour and 38 minutes from start to finish – a record!

FY 2023-2023 Budget Proposal – One Reading – Roll Call Vote – The Finance Committee reviewed and approved the FY '22-'23 budget earlier in the morning. There is a budgeted net profit of \$100K. The association anticipates increased revenues from corporate sponsor activities, officials' registration fees and tournament gate receipts as we continue move to all online, digital ticketing. The anticipated increase will be offset by increased expenses related to tournament specific costs such as officials' fees, tournament staffing costs, facility related fees and trophies/medals. Ms. Maguire also expects additional increased expenses specific to technology, steroid testing funding (pre-COVID testing levels), and a full slate of luncheons and awards programs (pre-COVID levels). A motion to accept the 2022-2023 budget proposal was made by Gregory Troxell, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-37; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Ambassador Program Update –20 student ambassadors are graduating this month so NJSIAA is currently accepting applications for the Student Ambassador program from the Class of 2024 (current sophomores) who will serve a two-year term. The online application has been sent to all athletic directors via NJSIAA's Alert email system and will close Friday, June 24th.

Program Review

Ms. Maguire thanked the seven members of the Program Review committee that met virtually on June 6th. The committee reviewed and endorsed the following three proposals.

Boys Wrestling Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Wrestling Committee met on 4/27 and made the following recommendations to both the non-public wrestling classifications and the wrestling transfer sit eligibility date. Ms. Maguire thanked Kurt Karcich and Mohammed Abdelaziz for attending the meeting on behalf of the Executive Committee

1. Non-Public Classifications - There are 28 non-public school teams which host varsity boys wrestling. The current classifications include two groups (A and B) and two sections per group (north and south) – a total of four sections with seven teams in each section. Based on the total number of teams, it is recommended to change the non-public classifications to eliminate the sections and have two statewide groups (A and B). This model is consistent with football, which has a similar number of non-public school teams, and will allow for fuller tournament brackets. This past season, one section only had 4 teams enter the state tournament. This proposal was unanimously approved by the wrestling committee.

2. **Transfer Sit Eligibility Date** - There has been growing concerns with the transfer sit eligibility date in the sport of wrestling. Wrestling is unique in that the sport does not have a team maximum number of matches, there is only a 30-match limit for each individual wrestler. Therefore, for any student-athlete subject to the transfer sit, they become eligible after they sat for half of the team's scheduled matches at the start of the season or day 31, whichever is sooner. There has been an increasing trend by schools to manipulate their schedule by adding matches after the season start date to avoid them being included in the transfer sit calculation. Therefore, the wrestling committee recommended that the transfer sit be 30 days for all student-athletes subject to the transfer sit – this will ensure a consistent period for every student-athlete. Lastly, for convenience and consistency, the committee recommends that the transfer sit eligibility date and 2lb growth allowance be the 31st day after the NJSIAA start of competition date. For the 2022 – 2023 season, this date will be Saturday, January 14, 2023. The 2lb growth allowance date had previously been fixed on January 15th of each season – there will be minimal impact to this date.

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Jeremy Braverman, to approve the recommendations made by the Wrestling Committee and 1- change the non-public classifications to two statewide groups A and B (eliminate the north/south subsections) and 2- make the eligibility transfer sit be 30 days for all student athletes (no longer a choice between 30 days or half the team's maximum number of matches). Motion carried with one abstention.

Boys and Girls Tennis Non-Public Classifications – One Reading – Voice Vote – Currently, there are 48 non-public girls' tennis teams and 28 non-public boys' tennis teams that are classified into 2 groups and 2 sections per group, for a total of 4 sections. Participation in the state tournament has been declining over the past several seasons for both genders which has led to uneven participation for sectional tournaments, with less rounds played as compared to the public school's tournament. For instance, during the current school year, the girls' tournament averaged 8 teams per section while the boys' tournament averaged 6 teams per section. Last year there was only 3 teams in one section. For comparison, the public-school tournament for each gender seeds 16 teams per section. NJSIAA staff recommends that the tennis classifications for non-public schools be changed to one group with 2 sections – North and South. This model will allow for a more consistent sectional tournament, with more teams seeded and more rounds played. This model will also provide more competitive balance to the tournament while minimizing travel in the early rounds. Lastly, unlike other sports where enrollment size may be a factor in determining strength of program, this is not a factor for tennis, as the smaller non-public schools have been very successful in both the state tournament and Tournament of Champions in prior years.

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Todd Jorgenson, seconded by Jeremy Braverman, to change the tennis non-public classifications to one group with two sections – North and South. Motion carried with one abstention.

Basketball June Scholastic Event Waiver – One Reading – Voice Vote – The NJSIAA, in conjunction with the New Jersey Basketball Coaches Association, will be conducting a scholastic basketball recruiting event pursuant to the NFHS/NCAA summer event guidelines called "NJ LIVE." The event will take place at Montgomery High School on June 17, 18 and 19, 2022. This event will be conducted prior to the start of the NJSIAA summer period, which is June 20, 2022. In similar fashion, PIAA will be conducting their own scholastic basketball recruiting event the weekends of June 17, 18, and 19, 2022 and June 24, 25 and 26, 2022 in Philadelphia, PA. NJSIAA member schools have been approved to participate in this event.

NJSIAA staff requests an early start waiver of the summer period start date to allow high school coaches to coach their teams at this event. Only schools registered and participating in these events will be eligible for the waiver. In addition, NJSIAA staff requested that coaches be permitted to meet with their teams during the week of June 13, 2022, to ready their teams for the event. A maximum of two total hours of contact will be permitted from June 13 – June 16 and such contact may include practices. A list of the NJSIAA member schools that will be participating in either the NJ LIVE Event or PIAA Event was

distributed to the committee. Only schools registered and participating in either the NJ LIVE Event or the PIAA Event are eligible for the early start waiver.

A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Jason Miller, to allow an early start waiver of the summer period start date and allow high school coaches registered for the NJ Live or PA scholastic basketball recruiting event in June to 1-coach their teams at the event and 2-be permitted to meet with their teams during the week of June 13, 2022, to ready their teams for this event (A maximum of two total hours of contact will be permitted from June 13 – June 16 and such contact may include practices.) Motion carried with one abstention.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Cooperative Sports Program Emergent Approval – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Cooperative Sports Committee met on June 1, 2022, to review one emergent co-op application for this fall football season. The application was made due to the unforeseen closing of Mater Dei High School, which was in a football co-op with The Ranney School. The committee unanimously approved a new football cooperative sports program between St. John Vianney HS and The Ranney School. The coop was endorsed by the Shore Conference. The program will be in place for a two-year period starting with the 2022-2023 school year as St. John Vianney will fulfill the two remaining years of the Mater Dei-Ranney football co-op. A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Russell Petrocelli, to approve a two-year football cooperative sports program between The Ranney School and St. John Vianney HS starting with the 2022-2023 school year. Motion carried with one abstention.

Bylaws Updates – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote – Mr. Popadiuk, along with Mr. Goodell and Mr. Miccio, reviewed the current Bylaws and updated several areas that were out of date, not worded correctly within the spirit of the rule, or needed clarification. The recommended changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws and Interpretive Guidelines were distributed last meeting for review and detailed in the May 11, 2022 minutes. Mr. Popadiuk added one additional recommendation to the edits distributed in May, under Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.G (2) (Enrollment) CL8 Vo-Tech/Academy/Public Sending District. Mr. Popadiuk recommends that students impacted by the below clarification be grandfathered in, but going forward, all new students will be subject to the revised rule.

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.

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 (detailed in the May 11, 2022 minutes). This includes grandfathering in students affected by the additional Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.G (2) (Enrollment), CL8 - Vo-Tech/Academy/Public Sending District additional clarification. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-35; No-0; Abstain-1. Motion carried with one abstention.

Rules and Regulations Updates – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote – 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 (detailed in the May 11, 2022 minutes). A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-36; No-0; Abstain-1. Motion carried with one abstention.

Transgender FAQ Update – No changes have been made to NJSIAA’s transgender policy, but the following questions and answers were added to the FAQs.

Q – How does a transgender student establish their identity?

A – The student must declare their gender identity. There is no medical test or official document required to establish one’s gender identity. The first point of contact for determining the student’s eligibility shall be with the member school. Disputes regarding gender identity assignment for the purposes of athletic registration will be resolved solely at the member school level. The NJSIAA will not hear any appeal of a member school’s determination of a student’s gender identity.

Q – What is a nonbinary student?

A – NJSIAA defines a “nonbinary student” as a student who doesn’t identify as a male or female.

Q – A student is currently expressing themselves as nonbinary and would like to participate in athletics. How do we determine on which sports team they might participate?

A – Because of the existence of male/female gender divisions on most teams, this creates a need for a nonbinary student to determine which gendered team they feel more closely aligns with their gender identity. Alternatively, they may select the gendered team on which they feel most comfortable participating. Factors that the nonbinary athlete may take into consideration include established camaraderie with fellow athletes, personal safety, and/or privacy concerns. The school will help to determine, through counseling and discussions with the student, the student’s status regarding gender identity. The NJSIAA does not rule on determining the gender identity of the student; that is between the member school and the student. Once a nonbinary student makes a determination to participate in a sport different from the student’s birth sex, the student will be eligible to participate in sports offered for the selected gender, following the same rules as a transgender student. Any waiver requests would be appealed to the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

These additions make it clear that gender identity assignment must be determined at the school level and addresses the growing non-binary student population in athletics.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Girls Lacrosse Update – Group champions have been crowned. The TOC semifinals have been moved to 6/9.

Boys Tennis Update – The tournament is in the TOC rounds and group champions have been crowned. The singles/doubles tournament begins over the upcoming weekend.

Baseball Update – The tournament is currently heading into the sectional final round. The state finals take place on 6/15 and 6/18.

NFHS Baseball Rules Committee Update – Mr. Maselli traveled to Indianapolis to attend the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee meeting. As big as our country is, it’s interesting that nationwide, everyone experiences similar problems. There are many technological updates coming to the sport of baseball, but it’ll begin in the MLB, then trickle down to the NCAA before reaching the high school level. This includes updates such as sensors in gloves and bats, communication tools from coaches to their 9 field players, etc. There is an increase in bad sportsmanship nationally. Mr. Maselli plans to put procedures in place to combat this growing issue. It is on the coaches, not officials, to control the sportsmanship demonstrated by athletes.

Al Stumpf

Spring Track Update – Mr. Stumpf thanked Tom Mullahey and Clifton HS for hosting a sectional championship. Sectional results were distributed. The group championships take place this weekend at Franklin HS, Pennsauken HS and Middletown North HS.

Unified Sports Update – Later in the day, Mr. Stumpf is attending the state's first Unified Track State Championships at Franklin HS. 13 schools were registered for this event, but due to rain, the event was postponed to 6/8. As a result, some schools couldn't make the new date, so ten schools will compete later this afternoon.

Derryk Sellers

Boys Volleyball Update – The state semifinals took place on 6/7/22, while the state finals will be on 6/9, both at South Brunswick HS.

Boys Lacrosse Update – The state finals for boys lacrosse will be played at Hopewell Valley HS, Shore Regional HS, and Bridgewater Raritan HS.

Softball Update – The TOC semifinals will take place later in the day and the finals will be 6/10 at Ivy Hill Park.

Finance Committee Update – Tom Mullahey

Approval of Monthly Checks – The May 10, 2022 through June 6, 2022 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Raymond Kiem made a motion, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the May 10, 2022 through June 6, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steve Goodell) – Mr. Goodell had nothing new to report, but he did want to commend his colleague Scott Miccio, for all his work this past year for the Cooperatives Sports Appeal Committee and the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

Old Business / New Business – Ms. Maguire closed the meeting with thanking all members of the Executive Committee for their commitment and support over the past school year and highlighted the significant actions that were taken by the Committee. Ms. Maguire also thanked and congratulated the members of the NJSIAA staff, the association's attorneys, and staff at Success Communications for a successful school year. Ms. Maguire specifically thanked Tom Mullahey, President, for his leadership, friendship and support over the past school year.

Mr. Mullahey thanked the Executive Committee. Working with everyone was a great experience and he expressed appreciation for all the tremendous work and effort that takes place in Robbinsville. He acknowledged and thanked the presidents of past years such as Mary Liz Ivins and Steve Shohfi, who paved the way. Lastly, Mr. Mullahey wished the best for incoming president. Joseph Bollendorf.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Joseph Bollendorf, to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: In