

# NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 14, 2022

**Roll Call** - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Joseph Bollendorf, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Jeff Baldino, Michael Baldwin, Sr., Dr. Carol Birnbohm, Jeremy Braverman, Dr. Patricia Camp, Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Maria Crowley, Danielle Dayton, Jorge Diaz, Al Dyer, Daniel Finkle, Judy Finch-Johnson, Barry Fitzgerald, John Fraraccio, Dr. David Heisey, Steven Jenkins, Todd Jorgenson, Kurt Karcich, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Thad Lepcio, Brendan McGovern, Thomas Mullahey, Sean Olson, Leon Owen, Russell Petrocelli, Dr. Danny Robertozzi, Dr. Michael Rossi, Dave Ryden, Dr. David Salvo, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Gregory Troxell, Joseph Ursino, Paul Vizzuso, Tammy Wagner and Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; Al Stumpf and Derryk Sellers, Assistant Directors; Steven P. Goodell, Esq. and Scott Miccio, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Brian Deakyne, *NJ Advance Media* and Mike McGarry, *Press of Atlantic City*.

**Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Jason Corley, to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2022 Executive Committee meeting and the minutes of the June 8, 2022 Reorganization meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

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**Legislative Update (Paul Anzano)** - A listing of bills related to high school athletics being considered by the legislature was distributed. It is quiet in Trenton right now since the legislature is on summer recess, but they return to session tomorrow. There are currently no bills of concern to NJSIAA right now, but Mr. Anzano is monitoring the increased ticket pricing bill introduced by Senator Sarlo. Mr. Anzano also expects spectator conduct in youth sports to be an upcoming discussion among legislators.

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

First, Ms. Maguire gave condolences to Dr. Camp and Rahway HS for the recent passing of one of their football players. She then thanked Executive Committee member, Todd Jorgenson, who is retiring in December, but this past summer, along with his football coach, helped keep a student alive by administering CPR until an ambulance showed up. In NJ, coaches are required to take CPR training, and this story reinforces why. Mr. Jorgenson's football coach had just taken the required training right before this incident took place. This is what makes high schools sports different – prioritizing the health and safety of our student-athletes.

**Title IX 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon – September 18<sup>th</sup>** – NJSIAA will host a luncheon on Sunday, 9/18 to culminate its celebration of Title IX's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Dana O'Neil, Senior Writer at The Athletic, will serve as the moderator, while the following four people will be panelists: Val Ackerman – Commissioner of The Big East, Bonnie Bernstein - National Sports Journalist, Joetta Clark Diggs - 4-time Olympic track & field athlete, and Cathy Rush – HOF basketball coach from Immaculata College. 120 students, and many coaches and Athletic Directors plan to attend. It has been a fun year celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Title IX. Ms. Maguire thanked NJSIAA staff member Dena Maggio for her book compiling the Trailblazer series that was posted weekly on NJSIAA's website, featuring NJ's best female athletes. One book was sent to each school.

**NFHS Rules Changes – (Hair adornments, religious items, jewelry)** – The NFHS proactively looked at their rules in effort to bring consistency to all sports so unless it was a safety element, the NFHS made many changes to all rules surrounding hair adornments, religious items, and jewelry. A summary memo was sent to all schools and officials on 8/31 to make sure everyone understands the updated rules since there were a lot of changes in a short period of time.

**Steroid/Banned Substance Testing** – In 2020-2021, there was no drug testing. In 2021-2022, the association returned to limited testing which included 224 tests across 5 sports and one positive test (that was appealed then upheld). The consequence for that athlete was a one-year sit from the date of the positive test. There is a growing concern with negligent use of supplements since many supplements have ingredients that are listed in our banned substance classes. To combat this, NJSIAA has increased its funding to expand testing during '22-'23 and will test every sport. Posters were created by Success Communications with a Drug Free Sports hotline contact information that students can call to see if the ingredients in their supplements are considered banned substances by NJSIAA rules. Posters were mailed to all schools for use in locker rooms and weight rooms.

**Sports Committee Realignments** – In April 2021, the Executive Committee approved a realignment plan defining the role and composition of sports committees since there was no consistency among individual committees. Ms. Maguire appreciates the efforts made by NJSIAA Directors in their outreach to solicit new members to these committees and the feedback from DEI Advisory Committee which includes Executive Committee members Jason Corley, RJ Kiem, and Judy Finch Johnson. The association is striving to ensure sports committees are reflective of both the type of schools and types of student-athletes that participate in that sport.

**NJSIAA Student Ambassador Sportsmanship Statement Update – One Reading** – On Sunday, 8/28, Ms. Maguire held a meeting with 19 new student ambassadors. It was a great meeting with consistent feedback. The kids are sharp, competitive and want to be engaged. During a sportsmanship conversation, it was expressed that the officials should be included in the statement read prior to each contest so the following sentence was added to the Sportsmanship Statement – “All participants must respect the game, respect the officials, and respect their opponents.” A motion was made by Dr. David Salvo, seconded by Gregory Troxell, to approve the updated Sportsmanship Statement which would read as follows: “The NJSIAA requires officials to enforce all rules regarding unsportsmanlike conduct by coaches and players. There will be no tolerance for any negative behavior, such as taunting, trash talking and verbal, written, or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or religion. Such behavior will result in being ejected from this event. All participants must respect the game, respect the officials, and respect their opponents.” Motion passed unanimously.

**NJSIAA Staff Responsibilities** – Ms. Maguire distributed a listing of all staff and their 2022-2023 responsibilities. There were slight changes made in efforts to create a balanced workload for all.

**New Staff Newsletter** – The first installment, which was a seasonal overview of NJSIAA updates, initiatives, and important dates, was sent via email. Ms. Maguire thanked President Joe Bollendorf for his welcoming remarks.

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### **Program Review**

15 members of the Program Review committee met on Monday, 9/12. Five proposals were considered. Four were endorsed unanimously and one was tabled until next month so feedback provided by the committee can be incorporated.

**Gymnastics Tournament Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote** – NJSIAA Staff, in consultation with the Gymnastics Committee, proposed the following two changes to the 2022-2023 Gymnastics Tournament Regulations:

1. Previously, the State Team Gymnastics Tournament has involved a total of five sectional tournaments, followed by a State Team Championship. Due to availability of host sites and the number of statewide gymnastics teams, NJSIAA Staff and the Gymnastics Committee propose reducing the number of sectional tournaments to four – North I, North II, Central, and South. The qualification requirements and the total number of teams qualifying for the sectional tournaments are not changing under this proposal. The top team in each of the four sections, and the remaining four teams with the highest scores from the sectional results, for a total of eight teams, will advance to the State Team Championship.
2. Previously, the top five finishers from each section in each event (vault, bars, beam and floor), and the all-around competition, advanced to the Individual State Championships. As part of the proposal to reduce the number of team sectional tournaments to four, NJSIAA Staff and the Gymnastics Committee propose to increase the number of individual event and all-around qualifiers to the top six from each section. Therefore, the number of individuals participating in each Individual State Championship event would be 24.

A motion was made by Joseph Ursino, seconded by Jeremy Braverman, to reduce the number of sectional tournaments to four (North 1, North 2, Central and South) and increase the number of individual event and all-around qualifiers to the top six from each section, therefore, the number of individuals participating in each Individual State Championship event would be 24 in gymnastics. Rationale is it is difficult to find host sites and the sport has become stagnant/is not growing. Usually, about 70 schools per year who participate. Motion carried unanimously.

**Cross Country Tournament Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote** – NJSIAA hosts a Cross Country Meet of Champions (MOC) that is a hybrid event for both teams and individuals – the same race is used to recognize and award the top 20 individual finishers and the top six teams. While NJSIAA has moved away from events that award the top team in the state (i.e., Tournament of Champions), it wishes to keep the hybrid nature of this event in place given the ease of awarding top finishers in both categories from the same event. Currently, the first and second place team in each Group meet qualify for the MOC, in addition to the next eight teams with the fastest total times of their top five runners across all Groups (wildcards). The top 10 individuals in each Group meet qualify for the MOC, in addition to the next 10 individuals with the fastest time across all Groups (wildcards).

NJSIAA staff, in consultation with Cross Country tournament staff, have been reviewing the qualification criteria for both categories and recommends certain modifications to the criteria. These recommendations are based on a detailed review of the MOC race results over the past three complete seasons. The recommendations will ensure that no student-athlete misses out on qualifying for the MOC because they are competing in a more competitive section or in a section with larger participation and will ensure that the state's fastest runners are participating in the MOC.

Therefore it is proposed that the first-place team in each Group meet will qualify for the MOC, in addition to the next eight teams with the fastest total times of their top five runners across all Groups (wildcards). Under this proposal, the second-place team in each Group will no longer automatically qualify for the MOC. The top 10 individuals in each Group meet qualify for the MOC, in addition to the next 30 individuals with the fastest times across all Groups who have not already qualified via their team (wildcards). In addition, based on feedback received from the Cross Country Committee, NJSIAA is also proposing an increase to the number of individuals that advance from each section to the State Group Championships – from ten (10) to fifteen (15). As with the above proposal concerning the MOC, this increase in amount of runners qualifying for the next round will ensure that those student-athletes in more competitive sections or with larger participation have an opportunity to compete in the next round of the state tournament.

A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Sheryl Smith, to make the above outlined changes to the criteria for qualifying for the Cross Country state tournament. Motion carried with two oppositions.

**Boys Wrestling Elite Events – One Reading – Voice Vote** – In June 2021, the Executive Committee approved a clarification to the Wrestling Rules and Regulations, Section 8, Maximum Meets to account for certain elite invitational wrestling events that take place during the wrestling season. The clarification provided wrestlers the opportunity to compete in events that suit their skill level – elite wrestlers may compete in nationally recognized tournaments while other wrestlers on the team will be able to compete in local events and tournaments without individual or team penalty. The clarification indicates that qualifying “Elite Events” shall be determined on a yearly basis. Last year, the following three Elite Events were approved by the Executive Committee:

- Beast of the East, University of Delaware
- Sam Cali Tournament, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Escape the Rock, Council Rock High School, Pennsylvania

This year, the NJSIAA Wrestling Committee and NJ Wrestling Coaches Association would like to add one additional Elite Event to this list – the Powerade Tournament – which will be held at Canon McMillan High School, Pennsylvania, December 28 - 30, 2022. However, schools will only be allowed to participate in three of these events under the rule clarification. If student-athletes participate in a fourth Elite Event, then their teammates will not be allowed to compete in local events and tournaments at the same time. Additionally, in this proposal, the NJSIAA Wrestling Committee and the NJ Wrestling Coaches Association seek to make clear that participation in Elite Events shall count toward the 30-match limit for individual wrestlers.

A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Steven Jenkins, to amend NJSIAA Regulations, Specific Sport Regulations, Wrestling, Section 8 (Maximum Meets), CL5 to read as follows ([Additions are underlined and deletions are ~~struck through~~.):

CL 5: For those events that qualify as “Elite Events,” to be determined on a yearly basis, the restrictions applicable to this Section 8 shall not apply, with the exception of the requirement that a wrestler may only participate in up to four weigh-ins per week. Participation in Elite Events shall count toward the 30-match limit set forth in CL2 above. Additionally, only one wrestler per weight class, per team shall be permitted to participate on the same day. For example, if a 285-pound wrestler on Team A wrestles at an Elite Event, Team A will not be permitted to enter another 285-pound wrestler in any other event on the same day.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the following Elite Events shall qualify for this rule clarification. Teams will be limited to participation in no more than three Elite Events per season. ~~The events that qualify as Elite Events shall be reviewed annually.~~

- Beast of the East, University of Delaware, December 17-18, 2022
- Sam Cali Tournament, Fairleigh Dickinson University, December 27-28, 2022
- Powerade Tournament, Canon McMillan High School, Pennsylvania, December 28-30, 2022
- Escape the Rock, Council Rock High School, Pennsylvania, January 14-15, 2023

Motion carried unanimously.

**Boys Volleyball Tournament Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote** – For boys volleyball, NJSIAA has previously hosted four sectional tournaments (North I, North II, Central, and South) with the winners of each section advancing to the semi-finals and finals of the State Championships. Also, the tournament has been seeded by a committee that considered many factors such as, but not limited to, RPI, wins and losses, and strength of schedule. Over the past five years, boys volleyball has seen tremendous growth – an increase from 141 teams during the 2017-2018 to 172 teams during the 2021-2022 season. In addition, NJSIAA staff is aware of at least six schools that will be adding JV-only programs for the 2022-2023 season and we expect the sport to continue to grow. Given the recent growth of boys’ volleyball, NJSIAA staff recommends the following changes to the tournament regulations:

- Classifications will be changed from four sections to four groups (I – IV) with a North and South section in each group.
- Qualification and seeding criteria will use traditional power points.
- Ultimately, four state champions will be crowned – one for each group.

These changes will bring the boys’ volleyball classifications in line with other sports of similar size, such as boys and girls lacrosse, and move from four sectional champions/one state champion to eight sectional champions/four state champions. In addition, the decision to use power points is consistent with the recent decision for girls’ volleyball and other NJSIAA sports to do so. The use of power points is beneficial because it provides objective data that is available during the season that is used for both qualification and seeding.

A motion was made by John Fracaccio, seconded by Joseph Ursino, to change the boys volleyball classifications from four sections to four groups (I – IV) with a North and South section in each group, use traditional power points for boys volleyball tournament qualification and seeding criteria, and crown four state champions in the sport – one for each group in the state tournament. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Eligibility Update** – The Eligibility Committee will meet again on 9/27. Waiver requests are due 9/19. There is an ongoing issue with submitting residential affidavits. Mr. Popadiuk asked that administrators make sure everything is filled out correctly before submitting because he’s receiving a lot of blank forms, which slows down the process, and keeps student-athletes ineligible for a longer period of time. Also, Mr. Popadiuk clarified that the forfeit of a football game earlier in the month from Asbury Park over grade ineligibility was imposed by the school, not NJSIAA. It stemmed from the school’s internal audit of eligibility. After today’s meeting, the Eligibility Appeals Committee will meet for a hearing to determine if there was a transfer for athletic advantage.

**Cooperative Sports Application Deadline** – Spring applications are due 9/22.

**Legal One Workshop – October 28<sup>th</sup>** – On 10/28, NJSIAA along with Legal One, will host a virtual workshop titled The Changing Law on Bullying, Hazing and Athletics. An eblast will be sent this week. The workshop will be free. NJSIAA is resuming its relationship with Legal One, which was on hold due to COVID-19.

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

**Disqualification Report** – It is hard to compare this year’s final report to the past few due to COVID, but there is a growing concern with the amount of coaches being disqualified in certain sports. The final 2021-2022 Disqualification Report was distributed.

**Unsportsmanlike Behavior Reporting** – Last year, NJSIAA started a pilot program in soccer where officials reported if they issued a yellow or red card. When it rolled out, it was just for information gathering. This year, the association is asking officials to report any behavior that is right under a DQ type behavior. For example – excessive celebrating after a touchdown, fans berating an official after the game, etc. After one week, there’s been approximately 50 complaints.

**Officials Recruiting Efforts** – Since there’s a nationwide official shortage, NJSIAA is trying to recruit new officials via social media and giving a rebate bonus for signing up and working at least one event. This is to help offset the fee for dues, uniform and equipment as they initially begin and see if they like it. The process to become an official used to begin at the NFHS level, but now will start on the NJSIAA

website. NJSIAA will pinpoint the best chapter and pass on that starting point information to new officials interested. The association has received over 200 new prospects via our website.

**NJSOA Awards Luncheon – September 18<sup>th</sup>** – 3 years ago Mr. Maselli wanted to separate the officials' and coaches' awards program and give the officials their own program, then COVID-19 happened. This Sunday, Mr. Maselli is happy to finally be able to host the first officials-only awards program, which this year will honor over 45 officials.

**NJSIAA Coaches Manual** – This manual was condensed from 50 pages to 12. Mr. Maselli wanted it to be reader friendly and more concise. The Officials Manual was just finalized and will be posted later in the day. Next up will be the General Tournament Manual.

**Tennis and Field Hockey Update** – Both sports are running smooth so far. The tennis tournament starts the first week of October.

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### **Al Stumpf**

**Cross Country Update** – Entries to enter the tournament can be submitted from 10/01/2022 - 10/21/2022. Sectionals will take place at the following four sectional sites: North 1 @ Garret Mountain, North 2 @ Oak Ridge Park, Central @ Thompson Park, South @ Dream Park. Both the Group Championships and Meet of Champions will be conducted at Holmdel Park on 11/5 and 11/12 respectively.

**Girls Soccer Update** – The entry form will be open from 10/01 – 10/23. Cutoff is 10/22 and seeding takes place on 10/24. The public tournament begins 10/26, while the non-publics begin play on 10/29. Since Kean has another event on 11/12, the State Finals will be broken up and take place over two days, on 11/12/22 and 11/13/22. Two games will be played on 11/12 while the remaining four will play on 11/13.

**Unified Sports Update** – The program continues to grow in NJ. This year, NJSIAA will offer Unified Basketball, Bowling and Spring Track, and possibly Swimming.

**June Scholastic Basketball Events** – This event at Franklin HS in June was very successful. 60 teams and 600 athletes participated. There were 75 college coaches from D1 to D3 schools. Over 30 athletes received multiple offers from the event and more continue to come in. There was a mandatory academic component, which was given by HOF Seton Hall coach, Fred Hill. A girls' event was not done last year due to the recruiting calendar, but the hope is there will be one for the girls this year.

**NCAA Basketball Evaluation Period** – This is going on right now, from 9/9 – 11/6. The evaluation can only be one hour. The college coach must reach out to the school and request the meeting. A high school coach or administrator can be present, and there cannot be more than 2 per week. The evaluation can involve skills, 5 on 5 (but cannot be more than 15 minutes). Coaches should refer to page 2 in the Guidelines, Policies and Procedure section of our handbook for complete guidelines

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### **Derryk Sellers**

**Gymnastics Update** – The gymnastics tournament program review proposal approved earlier in the meeting is a positive change because there is a shortage of gymnastic officials.

**Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball Update** – Both the Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball State Finals will be played the weekend of November 11<sup>th</sup> at Franklin HS. Mr. Sellers is looking forward to both those events.

**ShopRite Cup Results** – Mr. Sellers is excited to give out the 2021-2022 ShopRite Cup to winners at their pep rallies and school events. Congratulations to the following schools for earning the ShopRite Cup in 2021-2022.

- Group 1 - Shore Regional HS
- Group 2 - Haddonfield Memorial HS
- Group 3 - Summit HS
- Group 4 - Westfield HS
- Non-Public A - Christian Brothers Academy
- Non-Public B – St. Rose HS

**NFCA/NJSCA Program Updates** – Anyone joining the NJSCA must now do so through the NFHS website, rather than through NJSIAA directly. Once filling out the information on the NFHS site, coaches are automatically made members of the NJSCA. An email about the new process was sent to every coach in NJSIAA’s database system.

**NJSCA Clinics** – There are three upcoming NJSCA clinics:

1. Bowling Clinic on 10/13 at Howell Lanes
2. Golf Clinic on 10/21 at Galloping Hills Golf Course
3. Volleyball Clinic on 1/7/23 at Riverside HS

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**Finance Committee Update – Joe Bollendorf**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The June 6, 2022 through September 12, 2022 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Kurt Karcich made a motion, seconded by Raymond Kiem, to approve the June 6 through September 12, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Old Business / New Business** – none

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**Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell)** – No report, but a motion was made by Jorge Diaz, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz to enter in to closed session at 11:56 am. A motion to enter open session was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by Dr. Danny Robertozzi at 12:44 pm.

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**Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Patricia Camp, seconded by Jason Corley, at 12:44 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire  
Executive Director