

David Frazier, Chair of the Controversies Committee, spoke on behalf of the Controversies Committee and explained how they came to their decision. Ari Schneider, Esq., represented Belleville High School and presented their case to the Executive Committee and its reason for the appeal of penalties. Brian Fenlon, Esq. represented and defended Paramus Catholic HS's position on the matter. The entire appeal hearing was transcribed by a court reporter. After all representatives pleaded their case, a motion was made by Jorge Diaz, seconded by Brendan Galligan, to enter in to closed session at 11:37 am. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued in closed session. At 12:24 pm, a motion was made by Jorge Diaz, seconded by Brendan Galligan, to enter back into open session. Motion passed unanimously. Tom Mullahey then made a motion, seconded by Jorge Diaz, to modify the decision of the Controversies Committee, and extend the penalties that were already levied to prevent these occurrences from happening again and provide a true deterrence for recruiting. Additional penalties proposed were: 1-Suspending the Assistant Football Coach Christian Maldonado, (who is also the Assistant Admissions Director for the school) for the remainder of the 2022 season and the entire 2023 football season; 2-Suspend Head Football Coach Greg Russo for the first four games of the 2023 season, and 3-fine the school \$1,000. The committee agreed additional action must be taken for the person responsible for the recruitment, the person responsible for the program, and the school itself needed to be held accountable. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-38; No-0; Abstain-1. Motion carried.

Cumberland HS Football Waiver Request – Varsity Team Disqualification Rule – The superintendent of Cumberland HS had planned to speak to the committee on behalf of his school's waiver request but had to leave so Executive Committee member/Cumberland Athletic Director Todd Jorgenson spoke. The Cumberland HS football team received three disqualifications in one game therefore are not eligible to participate in the football state tournament. Cumberland HS filed a waiver of this rule. They are not second guessing the disqualifications, but this has had an adverse effect on the program. Cumberland HS has not had an ejection in 11 years, so their concern is this one game, with one set of officials, is keeping them out of the tournament. Both teams had a disqualification so after the first disqualification, the officials were on high alert. A motion was made by Steve Shofhi, seconded by Leon Owen, to deny the waiver request of the disqualification rule for the Cumberland HS football team. Motion carried with one opposition and two abstentions. Mr. Shofhi did make note that the rule may need to be looked at in a future meeting.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

Program Regulations Amendment – Section 11 – Summer Recess – First Reading – A proposal to change the language in the association's Handbook surrounding the start of the summer recess was distributed. At present time, the rules state that, "The summer recess period begins the Monday after the last scheduled Spring NJSIAA event." NJSIAA staff would like to update the language to say, "The summer period begins the Monday after the NJSIAA spring sports competition end date. The spring season competition end date is published in the spring sports quick chart found on the NJSIAA website."

Section 11 Summer Recess

~~The summer period begins the Monday after the last scheduled Spring NJSIAA event. The summer period beginning date will not change because of postponements to the last NJSIAA spring events.~~ The summer period begins the Monday after the NJSIAA spring sports competition end date. The spring season competition end date is published in the spring sports quick chart found on the NJSIAA website.
The last day of the summer period is August 31.

The main reason for updating the language is that the association has established a single, uniform "competition end date" for all spring sports. This year the spring competition end date is June 11. Some sports might still be finishing their tournaments at that time, but the hope is to not delay the start of the

summer period for other sports. The update will also minimize confusion and provide a consistent date for member schools to rely on moving forward. For instance, this year, the Spring Track & Field Meet of Champions and Boys Tennis Singles/Doubles Championships will be held on June 14, 2023 and June 15, 2023, respectively. However, these events are subject to change on an annual basis due to availability of facilities – and sometimes may need to change after the school year has started. In addition, the update will eliminate the need for schools to ask for waivers of the rule for certain events that NJSIAA feels are important to support – such as the NFHS/NCAA June Scholastic Events for boys basketball. New to 2023, the NCAA girls basketball committee has approved a June Scholastic Event for girls basketball that will be hosted June 15th – 17th. There are other sports that wish to host similar recruiting events or other events during this same time so this update will provide equity to all sports and all member schools.

A motion was made by Ed Chmiel, seconded by Daniel Finkle, to change Program Regulations Amendment, Section 11, Summer Recess to say, “The summer period begins the Monday after the NJSIAA spring sports competition end date. The spring season competition end date is published in the spring sports quick chart found on the NJSIAA website.” Motion passed unanimously.

NFHS Section 1 Meeting – New Jersey hosted this year’s fall NFHS Section 1 meeting from September 28th – 30, 2022 in Lambertville. 25 staff members were present from the eight New England state associations that make up Section 1 and the NFHS, including Dave Frazier, NJSIAA’s Chair of Controversies Committee/AD, Rutherford HS who is an At-Large NFHS Board member. Two days of collaboration took place. Ms. Maguire thanked Al Stumpf for arranging the annual golf outing and Paul Popadiuk for presenting on behalf of NJSIAA. Presentations surrounded NFHS initiatives, officials recruiting efforts, transfers/eligibility issues, classifications/competitive balance proposals and sportsmanship concerns. These quarterly meetings are refreshing reminders that everyone is experiencing similar issues and can learn a lot from each other’s experiences.

NFHS/NJSIAA Participation Statistics Update – Ms. Maguire distributed a summary memo highlighting participation data at both the national level and within NJ. It was the first release of full-year participation statistics since the 2018-2019 school year. Participation is down both nationally and within NJ (down 5.7% nationally; 6.4% in NJ). All sports, except boys/girls volleyball and boys/girls golf, experienced decreases over the past four years. NJSIAA reported decreases in field hockey, boys/girls lacrosse, baseball and softball that were more than the decreases reported nationally. There are concerns with a significant decreasing trend in participation as student-athletes progress through high school – attrition is expected as student-athletes lose interest, focus on a single sport, and school workload becomes too busy. Sports of concern with significant attrition include football, basketball and baseball for boys and volleyball, basketball, and lacrosse for the girls. Ms. Maguire shared this memo with her Student Ambassadors. It’ll be interesting to hear their feedback throughout this year and next since they are current juniors, and this is when attrition usually sets in. The association feels there is still valuable learning opportunities from participation at all grades so will brainstorm how it can help schools retain student-athletes and keep them involved.

Football Update – High school football in NJ has had three very serious incidents this season. In a three-week period, there was a death and two spinal cord injuries. When these types of serious injuries occur, the association gathers as much information as possible on behalf of the NFHS since the NFHS writes the rules for high school football. NFHS relies on the National Center for Catastrophic Sport Injury Research (NCCSIR), based at the University of North Carolina, for their surveillance of catastrophic injuries related to participation in organized sports – college, high school and youth levels. The National Center’s mission is to improve the prevention, evaluation, management, and rehabilitation of catastrophic sports-related injuries and provide their research to the NFHS in its rule making process. On behalf of the association, thoughts and prayers remain with these student-athletes, their families, and their school communities. Ms. Maguire reached out to administrators at each school to offer the association’s support and solicit their help providing the National Center as much information as possible to learn what can be done in the future to make high school football even safer.

The public school state tournament will be seeded Sunday, October 23rd, and the non-public school state tournament will be seeded next Sunday, October 30th. Members of the non-public seeding committee are Joe McColgan (WJFL), Denis Nelson (Super Football Conference), Rich Shello (Big Central Conference), and Executive Committee 1st Vice-President, Jason Corley (Shore Conference). New to this season, NJSIAA is hosting a Regional Invitational Tournament for public schools that did not qualify for the state championship tournament. Public school state semi-final games will be hosted on November 19th and 20th. North I v. North II games will be held at Franklin HS while Central v. South games will be held at Cherokee HS. Ms. Maguire thanked Executive Committee members Dr. Birnbohm and Barry Fitzgerald for allowing the use of their awesome facility at Cherokee HS. The non-public state championships will be held on Friday, November 25th, at MetLife Stadium. The Non-Public B championship will be at 3:00pm while the Non-Public A championship will be played at 6:00pm. The public state championships will be held on Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th. The schedule of games will follow once the matchups are determined.

Officials' Appreciation Week – NJSIAA is currently celebrating Officials' Appreciation Week, which coincides with the NFHS-recognized appreciation week. NJ is joining many state associations across the country celebrating its nearly 7,000 registered officials. Ms. Maguire thanked Dr. Rossi, the administration at Lenape Valley High School, and their Life Skills class, who shopped and prepared goodie bags for all officials assigned to their events that week. The picture of these students on social media was fantastic. The association continues to encourage all coaches and captains to do something special to thank their officials at an event this week. A small gesture of gratitude can go a long way.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Eligibility Update – Mr. Popadiuk shared a new feature in the Home Campus transfer portal. A reminder will be sent every five days to any Athletic Director who has not completed their transfer submission.

Cooperative Sports Update – The committee is meeting on 10/27 to review all spring sports cooperative sport applications.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Unsportsmanlike Behavior Reporting Update – Last year, NJSIAA started a pilot program in soccer where officials reported when they issued a yellow or red card. This year, the association has expanded the program by asking officials to report any behavior that is right under a DQ type behavior. The number of unsportsmanlike behaviors reported has been alarming. This is providing great data for a future proposal involving penalties for this type of behavior.

Girls Tennis Update – The Team Tournament Finals will be played tomorrow, while the Singles/Doubles Tournament Finals will be played this upcoming weekend at Mercer County Park. The individual tournament started with 192 players and is now down to six. The tournament has seen outstanding tennis competition.

Field Hockey Update – Seeding is next week. The tournament starts the first week of November and the finals will be played again at Bordentown HS.

Al Stumpf

Cross Country Update – Entries close 10/21. Non-public schools do not compete at the sectional level. The public sectionals will take place at on 10/29, the Group Championships on 11/5 and the Meet of Champions on 11/12. There is no spectator parking at Holmdel Park, but people can park in the Bellworks parking lot and be shuttled over.

Girls Soccer Update – Entries close 10/23 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 and 11/13. Two games will be played on 11/12 while the remaining four will be on 11/13.

NJ Basketball Coaches Association Clinic Update – A NJBCA clinic took place at the Fort Athletic Club in Oceanport, NJ on 9/30. Over 200 coaches were in attendance to hear esteemed speakers such as Rutgers men's basketball coach Steve Pikiell, Rider University girls basketball coach Lynn Milligan, University of Kentucky men's basketball coach John Calipari, University of Connecticut men's basketball coach Dan Hurley, and Monmouth University men's basketball coach King Rice.

June Scholastic Basketball Events Update – Since the NCAA/NFHS scheduled a girls scholastic recruiting event, New Jersey can now host both a boys and girls basketball recruiting event in the spring.

Derryk Sellers

Gymnastics Update – Sectionals will take place at the following four sites this year on 11/5/22:
North I - Ridgewood HS
North II - Hillsborough HS
Central - Manalapan HS
South - Southern Regional HS

The team and individual championships will be at Brick Memorial HS on 11/10 and 11/12 respectively.

Girls Volleyball Update – Cutoff is 10/22 and the tournament will be seeded on 10/25.

Boys Soccer Update – The State Finals will be played the weekend of November 11th at Franklin HS.

NJSCA Clinics – The bowling clinic took place on 10/13 at Howell Lanes. It was an amazing day with over 70 coaches in attendance. Mr. Sellers was impressed with the lasers on the lanes that taught proper form. There is an upcoming golf clinic on 10/21 at Galloping Hills Golf Course. The coaches attend the clinic, then play a round of golf. About 70 coaches are currently registered.

Finance Committee Update – Joe Bollendorf

Approval of Monthly Checks – The September 13, 2022 through October 14, 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 Mohammed Abdelaziz, to approve the September 13, 2022 through October 14, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business / New Business – Steven Jenkins asked if there's a way to alert NJSIAA if a school hits a certain number of transfers in the transfer portal. Mr. Popadiuk can look into that capability. Al Dyer expressed concerns about overriding decisions made by the Controversies Committee. Barry Fitzgerald started a discussion about who is responsible for fan behavior. Ms. Maguire thanked John Maggio for his service on the Executive Committee since he is retiring at the end of November.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – No report, but a motion was made by Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz to enter in to closed session at 1:04 pm. A motion was made by Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to enter into open session at 1:23 pm.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Jason Corley, at 1:24 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln