

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 16, 2022

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held remotely on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 via Cisco's WebEx Meetings platform, was called to order by the President, Joseph Bollendorf, at 11:03 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Jeff Baldwin, Dr. Carol Birnbohm, Dr. Patricia Camp, Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Heather Crisci, Maria Crowley, Denise Crudup, Danielle Dayton, Jorge Diaz, Daniel Finkle, Judy Finch-Johnson, Barry Fitzgerald, John Fraraccio, Dr. Kimberly Guccio, Dr. Dave Heisey, Steven Jenkins, Raymond Kiem, John Maggio, Brendan McGovern, Jason Miller, Thomas Mullahey, Leon Owen, Russell Petrocelli, Dr. Danny Robertozzi, Dr. Michael Rossi, Dave Ryden, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Gregory Troxell, Joseph Ursino, Paul Vizzuso, Tammy Wagner and Kathy Whalen. 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., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Brian Deakyne, *NJ Advance Media* and Darren Cooper, *NorthJersey.com*. Also in attendance: Paul Anzano of Pringle Quinn Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Russell Petrocelli, to accept the minutes of the October 19, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Mr. Anzano distributed a listing of bills related to high school athletics being considered by the legislature. NJSIAA is advocating for Senate Bill 2902 which would give the association flexibility in ticket pricing. Senator Sarlo is the bill's sponsor. Mr. Anzano expects activity in the legislature to pick up after 1/1/23.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

Other than some rescheduled sectional final football games one night due to rain, there was great weather and many excellent championship contests this past fall. Ms. Maguire thanked Al Stumpf, Derryk Sellers and Tony Maselli for their hard work and NJSIAA's administrative staff who worked behind the scenes to pull everything together. For Ms. Maguire, the highlight was watching the empathy and sportsmanship exhibited by NJ's student-athletes at the end of a contest. She often saw student-athletes on the winning team first go over to shake hands or give a pat on the back to their opponent before they went to celebrate with their own teammates. Lastly, Ms. Maguire thanked NJ.com for their coverage all weekend. Chris Faytok and his crew do a tremendous job organizing live streams across four different sports at four different venues over a very short period.

Program Regulations Amendment – Section 11 – Summer Recess – Second Reading - A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Tom Mullahey, 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.

NJSIAA Strategic Planning Committee Update – The strategic planning process is underway. Ms. Maguire thanked the Executive Committee members that are serving on this committee – Judy Finch Johnson from Elizabeth HS, Kim Guccio from Egg Harbor Township HS, Russell Petrocelli from DePaul Catholic, and Leon Owen from Willingboro HS. Yesterday, Ms. Maguire emailed a stakeholder survey

that has been compiled by HYA & Associates. The survey will remain open through Wednesday, November 30th. Ms. Maguire appreciates participation in the survey as well as efforts to solicit participation from colleagues as well.

NJSIAA Annual Report – NJSIAA recently published its first annual report for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The publication of an annual report has been on Ms. Maguire’s personal to-do list for the last few years, so she is grateful to staff member, Dena Maggio, for her efforts in pulling it altogether. An annual report is an opportunity for an organization to highlight all their efforts over the course of a fiscal year and to celebrate key stakeholders who have played a role in its success. Ms. Maguire hopes all enjoy a recap of another successful year of NJ interscholastic athletics

Football Update – The public sectional finals are completed. This weekend will be the four non-public state semifinal games and 10 public state semifinal games. Ms. Maguire thanked hosts Franklin High School (Ken Margolin and Anthony Brito), and Cherokee High School (Scott Agnew, Dr. Carol Birnbohm and Barry Fitzgerald). For the public schools, this post-season is particularly exciting since it’s the first year that teams will be playing for a state-wide championship across all groups. It has been over 70 years since this happened. These games will be played at Rutgers University on Saturday, December 3rd, and Sunday, December 4th. The non-public state championship games will be played on Friday, November 26th, at Met Life Stadium. All games will be live streamed for free by NJSIAA’s broadcasting rights partner, NJ.com.

Program Review

14 members of the Program Review Committee met on 11/14 and unanimously endorsed both proposals below.

Bowling Tournament Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Jeremy Braverman, to approve the following three changes to the 2022-2023 Bowling Tournament Regulations:

1. **Boys’ Sectional Sites** – The boys’ bowling sectional tournament will host four sectional sites (NI, NII, Central and South) as opposed to five sectional sites. This brings boys bowling sectional alignment in line with all other sports, including girls bowling. In addition, it minimizes the number of facilities that need to be used as NJSIAA staff has had to host sectional tournaments on different dates due to facility availability. Boys bowling will remain an entry-driven sport so all schools will be accommodated at one of the four sectional sites.

2. **Team State Championships** – As a result of moving to four sectional sites, there will be a total of 11 boys teams advancing to the team state championships across all four groups – a total of 44 teams will advance. Prior to this year, 45 boys’ teams advanced to the team state championships when five sectional sites were hosted. There will also be a corresponding increase in the number of girls teams advancing to the team state championships across all four sections – a total of 11 girls’ teams will advance for a total of 44 teams. Prior to this year, 36 teams advanced to the team state championships – so this represents an increase of 12 wildcard teams.

The boys and girls team state championships are hosted on different dates so there are no concerns with facility availability.

3. **Individual State Championships** – The top twenty-five individuals from each section will advance to the individual state championships – both boys and girls. A total of 100 boys and 100 girls will advance to the individual state championships – this brings the total number of girls advancing in line with the number of boys advancing. Prior to this year, 80 girls (20/section) advanced to the individual state championships.

Motion carried with one abstention.

Boys Ice Hockey Tournament Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Jason Miller, to approve the following changes to the 2022-2023 Ice Hockey Tournament Regulations:

Power Points – Traditional power points will be used to identify the top 16 teams in the Public A and Public B classifications and the top 24 teams in the Public C classification. The seeding committee when seeding the Public C group may choose to add wildcard entries to that bracket after the 24 seeds have been established for deserving schools. The Seeding Committee will continue to seed each group based on the same parameters that have been used in prior years.

The association is trying to move all team-based sports to a power point structure. Seeding will still be done by a committee, but it won't be up to the committee to manually pick the teams since power points will now determine the seeding. Motion carried with one abstention.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Eligibility Update – The Eligibility Committee met on 11/8/22. Any appeals from this meeting will be heard on 12/14 by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. The next scheduled Eligibility Committee meeting will be 2/28 and 3/28.

Cooperative Sports Program Approvals – The committee met on October 27, 2022 to review all spring sports cooperative sport applications. All five requests listed below were unanimously approved. A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Russell Petrocelli to approve the following five cooperative sports programs (the participating league or conference is noted in parenthesis) for a four-year period starting with the 2022-2023 school year.

1. Hamilton West – Nottingham: Girls Softball (CVC)
2. Hanover Park – Whippany Park: Girls Golf (NJAC)
3. J.P. Stevens – Metuchen: Boys Lacrosse (GMC)
4. Leonia – Bogota: Girls Softball (NJIC)
5. Parsippany Hills – Parsippany: Boys Lacrosse (NJAC)

Motion carried unanimously.

Compliance Monitor Program – Mr. Popadiuk is planning to restart this program beginning in January/February 2023. This program helps struggling or new Athletic Directors.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Update – The committee met in October. Important topics discussed were as follows:

1. The committee would like to increase mental health education and require coaches to take a Mental Health course similar to the concussion course that is required. They feel coaches should be educated in recognizing signs and symptoms and what steps to take if an issue is suspected.
2. NJSIAA currently tests for steroids in every sport, a change from years past. There have been no positive tests this year.

3. The committee would like to look at ACL Injuries and how to prevent them, specifically in females.
4. The committee would also like to find a way to track injuries without putting a burden on school athletic trainers (concussions, ACL injuries, etc). It would be nice to have a database of that information.
5. Though it's a long way from being a reality, discussion took place about the legislation looking to change school start times.

Field Hockey Update – Th weather was perfect, and the games went great. Mr. Maselli couldn't ask for a better championship tournament.

Al Stumpf

Girls Soccer Update – Weather was great for the finals on Saturday, but very cold on Sunday. Results are as follows:

Group 1	Mt. Lakes defeats Point Pleasant Beach 5-1
Group 2	West Morris defeats Wall 1-0
Group 3	Ramapo defeats Cherry Hill West 3-3 in a shootout
Group 4	Freehold Township defeats Ridgewood 1-0
NP A	IHA Defeats DePaul 4-3 in OT
NP B	Rutgers Prep defeats Paul VI 3-1

Cross Country Update – 5,054 total runners competed in this year's Cross Country State Tournament. Christian Brothers Academy won the Boys Team Meet of Champions while Union Catholic HS won the girls title. The Boys and Girls Individual Champions respectively were Micha Lawson from Rahway HS, and Emma Zawatski from Freehold Twp.

Basketball Update – Tryouts take place from 11/21 – 11/23. Practices are not allowed over Thanksgiving break. 11/28 is the first day of practice that counts towards the mandatory six practices before first scrimmages.

Derryk Sellers

Gymnastics Update – The tournament was a huge success. Freehold Township won the team tournament and is the 2022 state champion.

Boys Soccer Update – The following schools were crowned the 2022 NJSIAA's Boys Soccer State Champions:

Group 1	Haddon Township HS
Group 2	Delran HS
Group 3	Robbinsville HS
Group 4	Cherokee HS
NP A	Christian Brothers Academy
NP B	Gill St. Bernard's

Girls Volleyball Update – The following schools were crowned NJSIAA's 2022 Girls Volleyball State Champions:

Group 1	Bogota HS
Group 2	Sparta HS
Group 3	Tenafly S
Group 4	Westfield HS
NP A	Immaculate Heart Academy
NP B	Immaculate Conception Lodi

Finance Committee Update – Joe Bollendorf

Approval of Monthly Checks – The October 15, 2022 through November 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 October 15, 2022 through November 14, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business / New Business – none

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – A Controversies Hearing for the Camden HS basketball program investigation has been scheduled for 12/5.

A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Tom Mullahey to enter in to closed session at 11:33 am. A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Jason Corley, to enter into open session at 12:23 pm.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Jason Corley, at 12:24 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln