

other top State Champions from across the country for the opportunity to be considered the best HS team in the country.

7. Any NJ girls or boys teams, Public or Non-Public, that win an NJSIAA State Championship can be invited to participate. Last year, the first year of the event, most of the teams invited were public school teams. This makes this event unique and a great opportunity for any NJ team to qualify.
8. Although the event is at the end of March/Early April NJ teams, like the other states who have teams that are invited, would cease practice after the NJSIAA Group Championship and request a waiver for a 6-day practice window leading up to the event and to play between 1 and 3 games in the event. (Following NJSIAA practice guidelines)

Though there may be concerns that this proposal could open the door to all the “pay for play” and “apply to play” type of post season national events, the NJSBCA believes based on the criteria needed to be invited to the State Champions Invitational and the structure of the event that the door will not swing wide open for these types of events and may offer guidelines if another sport wished to have a similar proposal be put into place for their sport. Below are the criteria upon which the NJSBCA believes the State Champions Invitational is unique:

1. It is run and televised by a major Media Outlet (Paragon/ESPN) creating great exposure for our member schools and their athletes.
2. It is completely free for the member school. All expenses are paid (flight, bus, hotel, meals, educational experience) and there is a financial benefit to that member school of \$2,500.
3. It is free for the NJSIAA yearly and has a financial benefit for the NJSIAA of \$2,500 for allowing teams to participate yearly. NJSIAA will receive an additional \$7,500 if one or more member schools are selected.
4. It is only open to teams that have won a State Championship in their respective state and are NFHS members and full state association members in their respective states.
5. It is an invitation only event, there is no “pay for play” or “apply to play” option.

The NJSBCA believes this is a special and unique opportunity that may occasionally be available to some of the NJSIAA member school’s girls or boys basketball programs and that we should be creating and sanctioning opportunities for our student athletes if the opportunities can fit the mission of the NJSIAA and its Member Schools, and this State Champions Invitational, although a post season national event, does fit that mission due to its unique structure and criteria.

Discussion took place. Teams cannot apply, they are invited. School districts can elect not to participate if they choose. Each year the tournament will take place at a different site – this year’s location has not yet been selected. One concern is the crossover between this tournament and the beginning of spring sports.

A motion was made by Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Jason Miller, to allow NJSIAA Member School’s girls and/or boys basketball programs to participate in the Paragon/ESPN State Champions Invitational which would require a waiver for coaching outside of the normal Winter Season. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

Fall Sports Recap – Ms. Maguire distributed a summary of all winners and runners-up for all fall state championships. Football state championships concluded over the past two weekends. Ms. Maguire thanked hosts MetLife Stadium and Rutgers University for their continued hospitality and support. Two teams finished the season undefeated – Caldwell High School (Group 2 state champion) and Toms River North (Group 5 state champion).

Advisory Committee Meeting – The Advisory Committee will be meeting at 1:00pm this afternoon for its first in-person meeting since December 2019. There are three proposals submitted for consideration – one from a member school and two from NJSIAA staff. The Advisory Committee meeting is the first step in the Association’s legislation process, which culminates at the annual meeting on Monday, May 2nd. At the January Executive Committee Meeting, Dave Frazier, Chair of the Advisory Committee, will present all endorsed proposals, which the Executive Committee can either approve or deny. Approved proposals will be presented at Sectional meetings during February and March, and then the final form and substance of the ballot for each proposal will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Committee at the March 29th meeting.

Wrestling – Wrestling season is underway. Classifications and tournament regulations have been posted to NJSIAA’s website on the wrestling web page. Ms. Maguire has been working on finalizing District and Region sites but will post all confirmed host sites within the next few days. Rutgers University will be hosting the boys team championships on Sunday, February 12th. The association will be realigning its Districts and Regions after the completion of this season so the Executive Committee will most likely see that proposal for consideration at the May meeting.

NFHS Campaign - #BenchBadBehavior – Last month, NFHS announced a campaign targeting unsportsmanlike behavior at high school sporting events – the hashtag is BenchBadBehavior and NFHS has created a comprehensive toolkit for use by state associations and member schools. NJSIAA is promoting this campaign on social media and directly to member schools. The association has provided electronic copies of flyers that can be printed and used by member schools around their facilities. The toolkit also includes public address scripts, social media content and important messaging that can be used for parents and student-athletes.

The association will continue to solicit reports from officials and schools to monitor unsportsmanlike behavior across all winter sports. During the fall season, there were a little over 250 unsportsmanlike behavior reports submitted. 65% were soccer related (the large majority in boys’ soccer) and 30% were football related. Overall, 60% were related to student-athletes while 26% were related to coaches (the large majority in boys’ soccer). Tony Maselli monitored these reports during the season and asked staff to follow up with schools for those that he felt needed follow up. Ms. Maguire thanked member schools for their prompt attention when they were contacted and their immediate follow-up with their coaching staff and/or student-athletes.

Chief Operating Officer Update (given by Colleen Maguire for Tony Maselli)

Officials Recruiting Efforts – In August, the association launched a recruiting campaign with a rebate program. To date, there are approximately 100 new official cadets that have registered with one of our chapters (19 in field hockey, 68 in soccer, and 10 in volleyball). This is in addition to the successful campaign that the NJ Football Officials Association ran last spring which added approximately 75 new cadets via a similar program funded by a state grant, not to mention baseball added 22 cadets this year vs 11 last year. Ms. Maguire thanked Mark Bitar, NJSIAA’s officials recruiting coordinator, for his efforts assisting all chapters across all sports with their use of social media and other online resources to recruit the next generation of officials. Mr. Bitar continues to be a valued resource to our office and to our officials’ chapters – for instance, the wrestling official’s association recently reported they have the highest cadet class ever this year with approximately 60 officials. Ms. Maguire also thanked Executive Committee member, Tom Mullahey, who has done outreach in North Jersey, with support from Senator Sarlo.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Eligibility Update – The Eligibility Appeals Committee will meet on 12/14 to hear five cases (one athletic advantage). On 12/15 there will be an Eligibility Workshop for charter schools that reviews NJSIAA rules and what can and can't be done.

Transfer Portal – Mr. Popadiuk reminded Athletic Directors to regularly check the transfer portal as we enter a new season since he doesn't want athletes sitting in the portal, waiting on administrators. Athletes cannot play until they are cleared by Mr. Popadiuk, which is usually done within 24 hours of proper paperwork being submitted. Mr. Popadiuk sent out two reminders to schools and will send one more next week. Yesterday, he cleared 77 students sitting in the portal for over three weeks. He may have cleared some kids that shouldn't have been, but he didn't want to hold up the kids that should be cleared but were not because administrators weren't checking the portal.

Al Stumpf

Basketball Update – Everything is on track. Mr. Stumpf has secured all tournament sites.

Fencing Update – Everything is set except Mr. Stumpf is looking for a host site for the individual championships. He has a possibility in the works.

The regulations for both basketball and fencing are being tweaked and will be posted soon.

Unified Basketball and Unified Bowling Update – Mr. Stumpf has a meeting later in the month to set up the championship tournaments for both Unified Basketball and Unified Bowling.

Derryk Sellers

Bowling Update – Bowlero is still open and "ready to roll". The regulations have been updated and the season has started.

Winter Track Update – The regulations are ready and will be posted soon.

NJSCA HOF – The NJSCA Hall of Fame will take place on 1/15/23 at the Pines Manor in Edison.

Finance Committee Update – Joe Bollendorf

Approval of Monthly Checks – The November 15, 2022 through December 5, 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 Russell Petrocelli, to approve the November 15, 2022 through December 5, 2022 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business / New Business – none

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Daniel Finkle to enter in to closed session at 11:46 am. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Daniel Finkle, to enter into open session at 12:10 pm.

Adjournment – Before adjournment, Ms. Maguire wished Executive Committee member Todd Jorgenson best in his retirement and thanked him for his two and half years on the Executive Committee and for being a reliable and resourceful member of the Program Review Committee.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Steven Shohfi, at 12:11 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln