PAGE 1
IN RE: :
: :
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING :
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Monday, May 1, 2023
Edison, New Jersey
APPEARANCES:
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MS. MAGUIRE: We do have a quorum. We have 305 registered schools here and they're still trickling in. If you haven't already, please make sure you help yourself to the buffet. It will be open through most of the meeting.

So, thank you all for being here. This is the 2023 NJSIAA Annual Meeting. I'm Colleen Maguire, the Executive Director, if I haven't met you in person yet.

So, I just want to introduce the dais here. We have Steve Goodell, NJSIAA General Counsel. We have Dave Frazier here as Chair of the Advisory Committee. Dave is also the AD at Rutherford High School. We have Jen Fleury, Secretary of the Advisory Committee. Jen is the AD at Villa Walsh Academy.

All right. Some housekeeping items.

Since attendance is based on the delegate card submitted at the registration, I'm going to ask for a motion and a second to omit the roll call, and I know I have a motion from Sandy Mamary of Westfield High School and I have a second from Linda Ionta of Jonathan Dayton High School.

Also the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes, the

transcript is available on the NJSIAA website.

If you go to under Inside NJSIAA Constitution

and Legislation, the transcript is always out

there all year long if anyone needs.

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So again, it's hard to believe this is our first in-person Annual Meeting since December of 2018. I have a feeling many of you in this room are new to NJSIAA since the last in-person Annual Meeting. So, it is good to be here.

I want to thank the NFHS Network for hosting today's luncheon. I hope you all enjoyed. It was a nice little touch to add to the event, and more importantly I really want to take a moment and thank our Executive Committee Presidents and Past Presidents that are here today to help assist with the voting. I believe we have Joe Bollendorf here, the current President. Joe is the retired Superintendent of Washington Township High School. Joe, if I could embarrass you and have you stand for a second. Thank you. Next to him we have Past President Steve Shohfi. Steve is with the School Boards Association with Point Pleasant Beach High School. Steve. And we have Mary Liz Ivans, Past President and the retired President

and Principal of Notre Dame High School. you, Mary Liz. Somewhere in the room, but maybe not is Greg Bailey, also a School Boards Association with West Milford High School. Greq Bailey's here, and I also have one other attendee on behalf of the Executive Committee who is going to be helping us with the ballots is Kurt Karcich, the Principal of Point Pleasant Borough High School. Thank you, Kurt, for being here.

Parliamentarian, I just want to words of caution. Please take the time to make sure your ballot is complete. Make sure you actually check your vote. Make sure the school's name is legibly written and make sure all the other contact information is there. Every year that we do this we have at least a handful of ballots that do not get counted because one of those pieces of information actually are not completed.

So, thank you. Without further ado, I'm going to turn the meeting over to Steve Goodell, our Parliamentarian. Thank you all.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Colleen. Can

people hear me? No. Microphone up? Okay. How about now? Okay. Good.

I'm Steve Goodell. I'm the attorney for the Association. Today I'm serving as Parliamentarian. What that means is that I'm here to help make sure the voting goes smoothly and that we have certain rules that we follow.

So here's the rules. You've got three ballots that you're going to be voting on today. Two of them are amendments to the bylaws. To pass an amendment to the bylaw, it requires a majority vote of the members present here at this meeting. There's a third ballot that you have as well. If the second ballot, the one dealing with the transfer rule passes, then you will be asked to determine whether or not the effective date that the ballot goes into effect should be changed. That requires a two-thirds vote of the members present. So that's what the vote standards are.

Each of these ballots is going to be moved and seconded by the floor after which Paul Popadiuk from the NJSIAA will explain the proposal. Members then have an opportunity to do three things. First, come to a microphone

and ask questions about the ballot. If you're unsure exactly what this proposal is, you can ask questions to clarify in your mind. Once it's been clarified, then members who want to speak against it come to the microphone and limit yourself to three minutes each speech, and anybody who wants to speak against it can. Once everybody who has spoken against it is finished, then we'll have members who wish to speak in favor of the proposal. They'll come to the mike as well. After the debate is concluded, you'll be asked to vote, and the vote counters will come to the tables and collect your ballots, and as I said make sure they're completely filled out. Those are the procedures.

The votes will be counted as quickly as possible and as soon as we have a result, we will interrupt whatever is happening to tell you what the result is.

Dave Frazier who is the Chair of the

Advisory Committee will run the committee. Will

run this meeting, introduce all the speakers and

take care of all of the motions. Jen Fleury,

the Secretary is here as well representing the

Advisory Committee and keeping track of

everything that goes on. We also have Karen

Ahern, who is a court reporter who is recording

all of the words that we say.

With that, Dave.

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MR. FRAZIER: Good afternoon, everyone.

Once again I'd like to welcome you all to the Annual Business Meeting. I'd like to give a special thanks to the Advisory Committee and also Jen Fleury, Secretary of the Advisory Committee, for all that was done to assist in getting these proposals to you.

Just a quick timeline. The NJSIAA

Advisory Committee met December 9th, 2022 to
review the proposals set before you today. The

NJSIAA Executive Committee voted to accept the
proposals at their meeting on January 18th,

2023. Following acceptance by the Executive

Committee, member schools had the opportunity to
provide feedback, input and ask questions of
these proposals. Mr. Popadiuk visited several

conferences, addressed the membership at the

DAAA -- DAANJ Conference as well as held a

virtual sectional meeting on March 24th, 2023 to
further discuss these proposals.

As Mr. Goodell stated, each of these

proposals shared with you today are up for a

vote. Ballot numbers 1 and 2 are bylaw

amendments, and they will require a majority of

the ballots cast at this meeting, and ballot

number 3, should we get to that, will require a

two-thirds majority of the ballots cast.

First proposal today is ballot number 1, proposal to amend the Athletic Recruitment Rule. That is your yellow ballot. That's sponsored by the NJSIAA staff. I'd like to call up Mr. Popadiuk to speak on these proposals. The NJSIAA staff has proposed these changes to the Athletic Recruitment Rule. The Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee have endorsed these proposals.

First I will ask for a motion to move the proposed legislation for adoption. Tom Mullahey as a motion and Jason Corley as a second. Tom Mullahey is from Clifton High School, Jason Corley from Long Branch High School. With that being said, I'd like to call Mr. Paul Popadiuk.

MR. POPADIUK: Good afternoon. Before I get started, I would just like to publicly thank a few people who did a lot of work with all of these proposals. The Transfer Committee is

composed of Joe Bollendorf who's our retired 1 2 Superintendent from Washington Township and the President of the NJSIAA, Miss Judy Finch-Johnson 3 who is the Assistant Superintendent from 4 5 Elizabeth, Jorge Diaz who is a Superintendent of Middlesex County Vocational-Technical Schools, 6 Russell Petrocelli, who is the Principal of 7 DePaul Catholic High School and Second 8 Vice-President of the NJSIAA, and Kurt Karcich 9 10 who is the Principal of Point Pleasant Borough. Kindly give them a round of applause. 11 They put in a lot of hours and work. 12

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Ballot one, Recruitment. The NJSIAA staff
has proposed amending the Athletic Recruitment
Rule to remove violations for recruiting
student-athletes prior to entering high school,
remove potential penalties against
student-athletes and add language stating that
evidence of a student has moved to a residence
provided by a person associated with the school
shall be considered prima facie evidence of
recruiting.

Do we have any questions regarding this rule? Dan.

MR. VIVINO: Go to the mike?

1	MR. POPADIUK: Please.
2	MR. FRAZIER: State your name and school.
3	MR. VIVINO: Yeah, hi. Dan Vivino,
4	Westwood High School.
5	Paul, just to try to understand the
6	when a student finishes eighth grade, it's June
7	28th and they're not enrolled at another school
8	say outside of their district boundaries.
9	They're invited to a practice at that school on
10	July 3rd. What where does that fall under
11	this new rule in terms of
12	MR. POPADIUK: A person no recruiting K
13	through eighth. Eighth ends with the first day
14	of practice if they play a fall sport or the
15	first day of school if they are not a fall
16	athlete. So under your scenario, no recruiting
17	violation. Kid is still technically in eighth
18	grade until he practices for you or attends your
19	school, is not a fall athlete.
20	Any other questions? C'mon up.
21	MR. DOTY: Good afternnoon, David Doty,
22	Kinnelon High School.
23	Just trying to understand the difference
2 4	between the old rule and the new rule.
25	Obviously all the things on the yellow are

now -- continued to be not allowed for a high school student, but does that mean all those things are allowed for someone K to eight --

MR. POPADIUK: Correct.

MR. DOTY: -- like the offering of an athletic scholarship or some of the other things that are delineated on that yellow that can be done for someone before they get to high school?

MR. POPADIUK: There are no athletic scholarships, monies, etc., buying someone a house. Those types of things we try to stay away from, but any other coaches' contact, all the other things that were illegal K through eight are legal now, but there are no athletic scholarships allowed throughout.

MR. DOTY: So help me out, Paul, because I apologize, I don't know off the top of my head. Is there anywhere else in there that then governs K to eight recruitment or was it just in this rule when we're going to just high school now to try to be sure --

MR. POPADIUK: Correct. Correct. We're going just high school. If you want to use the term recruitment, recruitment is allowed K through eight. The committee felt that the

bottom line it's happening on all stages from 1 2 your flag football. The kids are trying to -- I saw a kindergartner last week try to get to my 3 school. That kind of thing is happening as well 4 5 as public and private. Public schools want the ability of going to their middle school and say 6 7 come play for me as well as non-publics. It's their life line to get kids to come to their 8 school for enrollment issues. 9 10 MR. DOTY: So, again, I apologize if I'm 11 not understanding correctly, but does our rule

MR. DOTY: So, again, I apologize if I'm not understanding correctly, but does our rule say anything governing K to eight at all? Cause if they don't, then they can get a scholarship I guess; right?

MR. POPADIUK: You get a scholarship for an -- for a student, you're applying that scholarship to when they are in high school.

MR. DOTY: Thank you.

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MR. POPADIUK: You're welcome.

MR. POPADIUK: Other questions? Seeing --

MR. FORTIS: Steve Fortis, Absegami High School.

Just a clarification on the start date.

The start date for a fall practice is the

official date the NJSIAA sets down, not what my school sets?

MR. POPADIUK: Correct. You have a seven on seven, you're doing summer workouts, that is not. The start of practice is that first day of practice set by the NJSIAA.

MR. FORTIS: Thank you.

MR. POPADIUK: You're welcome.

Anyone else? Seeing none, I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Frazier.

MR. FRAZIER: Okay. At this point, does anyone wish to speak against the motion? If you wish to speak against the motion, you can make your way to the microphone and once again please identify yourself, your name, your school, your position. Seeing none, does anyone wish to speak for the motion? For the motion, same procedure. If you wish to speak for it, make your way to the microphones, name, school and position. Seeing that there's none, I'm going to now call the question for this proposal to amend the athletic recruitment rule.

Please note that this proposal requires a majority vote of the membership based on the total number of ballots cast. As Miss Maguire

said, please make sure your ballot is complete and your vote is properly marked. Make sure that it is also signed. NJSIAA staff is around the room now to collect the ballots from each of you or tables.

No vote will be counted unless it appears on the voting ballot and the registration is properly signed and executed by the person delegated at the voting representative. Please check the number of the ballot. It should be the yellow ballot, ballot number 1. Before you pass that in, please make sure that it is signed. Please note that votes cast after the initial collection shall be marked void. So please make sure that you turn it in now. We'll announce the results as soon as they're counted.

As the representatives are collecting, please do not leave. We will move on to proposed legislation on ballot number 2.

Gentlemen and ladies, may I have your attention as we move forward. We're now on to ballot -- presentation of ballot number 2, Proposal to Amend the Transfer Rule. This is our blue ballot.

The sponsor again is the NJSIAA staff.

The NJSIAA staff has proposed the changes to the transfer rule. The Advisory Committee and the Executive Committee have endorsed this proposal.

I will call up Mr. Popadiuk, and as he makes his way up, again I will ask for a motion to move the proposed legislation forward, and I have Kevin Murphy from Washington Township High School and the second Dan Vivino from Westwood High School.

I'll now call up Mr. Paul Popadiuk to explain the proposed legislation. Following his explanation, we'll open it to questions about the proposal questions.

MR. POPADIUK: Ballot two, Transfer Rule. This rule is designed to discourage transfers for athletic reasons, multiple transfers and transfers after a sports season has begun by imposing short, but predictable periods of ineligibility for those transfers while providing one penalty free transfer under certain conditions. Students are entitled to one penalty free transfer during the first six semesters after their initial high school enrollment provided that that transfer occurs on or before the start of practice date of the

1 sports season in which the transfer occurs.

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Students who transfer after the start of practice date will be subject to a 30-day sit. Additionally, any student who transfers after the competition start date will not be eligible for the NJSIAA postseason competition in that sport.

Students who transfer a second or subsequent time will be subject to a 30-day sit for all NJSIAA sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

A senior transfer is a student-athlete who transferred occurs during or after their third season of eligibility in a continuing sport.

Senior transfers are subject to a 22-day sit in each sport in which they participated during or after their third season of eligibility.

Anyone has any questions, please make your way up, you can form a line, and we'll get through them as quick as we can.

MR. NELSON: Paul, Dennis Nelson from Riverdell.

A senior who transfers in from out of state, moves in from out of state, they're

subject to the sit; is that correct?

2 MR. POPADIUK: That is correct. For those sports they participate in.

Any other questions? Seeing none, we will call up Mr. Frazier.

MR. FRAZIER: At this time, we open it up if anyone wishes to speak against the motion, please make your way to one of the microphones and again state your name, position and school. Anyone wishes to speak against? I'm sorry. Mr. brown, before you speak, when we do call the question, please do not fold your ballots. Please keep them open.

Turning back to you, Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Thanks, Dave. My name is Chris Brown, Athletic Director from Park Ridge High School, and I would like to speak against the transfer proposal.

I feel this piece of legislation will be detrimental to the landscape of high school athletics, far worse than what is already going on at the college level. It does not take much to see the negative impact the portal has had on college athletics. The rich get richer. Small school feed into mid-majors, mid-majors to power

five and power five kids jump in wherever the best deal is. There no loyalty or continuity to programs.

Colorado is just a recent example of how ugly it can get. Couple that with NIL deals which N -- New Jersey also has on the high school level and you have the Wild West. In my opinion, we are on a collision course with the same trend if we allow free transfers to students in grades nine through eleven. The rich will continue to get richer, and once you start down this road there will be no turning back.

Couple of things to bring up. In college sports, every school has compliance officers, and the NCAA has enforcement officers with various employees on staff. I give Paul Popadiuk a lot of credit and I respect the heck out of him, but how in the world is one person supposed to deal with each and every shady transfer that is about to take place? People hardly fill out the paperwork after near threats from the NJSIAA. The number of transfers will double, triple, even quadruple with this proposal. How will an already understaffed

office even attempt to handle the load?

Also do we really think this will only stop at one transfer? Although there's a penalty phase in place for transfer two, again the load will fall primarily on one person, Paul Popadiuk, and an understaffed NJSIAA office.

As Paul has done the traveling road show throughout the state this year, and I've seen it more than once and really appreciate his time and effort to communicate and work on the proposal, there's been a couple different times where people have asked or given feedback including myself why not have a phased approach.

Freshmen, we understand when you're young, most oftentimes your parents are making these decisions. If you want to give a freebie there, I can understand that. As a sophomore, how about 14 days; junior, 21 days; senior, 28 in line with what we have currently. This allows for that young student who made a tough decision at 13 to make a move without a penalty, but certainly takes into account a later move that may have more to do with athletic advantage then how a student grows or matures.

This theory was well received in many

respects. Like I know in our conference it was discussed and brought up, but unfortunately we were told that because powers that can be above the NJSIAA don't endorse it, that it wouldn't -- there's no chance that it's going to go. That we basically have to take what's being handed to us because if we don't, it's going to be handed to us from a higher power.

We are a group of over 400 athletic administrators, experts in the field about to be forced to accept a new transfer rule similar to college model that we've clearly seen that it doesn't work. Because if we try to adapt in any other way there's a good chance we'll be forced to accept an even more lenient rule by the powers to be above the NJSIAA. It doesn't make sense. It hasn't since the beginning.

I feel we should stand up and make a statement by voting no. The current rule may not be perfect, but it's certainly better than the free-for-all we are about to embark on. Thank you.

MR. FRAZIER: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

Anyone further that wish to speak against the motion? Excuse me. The proposal.

With that being said, if anyone wishes to speak for the motion, please step forward to the mike, name, school, position. As I see none, we'll now call the question for this proposal to amend the transfer rule. First, note this is the blue ballot. Second, please do not fold it. Note that this proposal requires a majority vote of the membership based on the total number of ballots cast. Make sure the ballot is complete. NJSIAA officers will be around to collect the blue ballots. Once again please make sure the ballot is complete, signed and filled out with your vote before passing it in for collection. Once we move past this blue ballot, we will move on to the next proposal.

Gents and ladies, any further blue ballots? Going once, going twice. As I see no further blue ballots, we conclude the voting section for ballot number 2.

As we stated earlier in opening that ballot number 3 is contingent on ballot number 2. So, we will patiently await as we are counting the ballots for number 2 to see if ballot number 3 comes into play. So please do not leave, do not ghost turn in your ballots.

We're counting them as quickly as possible. We will have the results of the -- I see Colleen coming up, Miss Maguire that is, for ballot number one.

Okay. Gentlemen and ladies, for ballot number 1 proposal to amend the athletic recruitment rule, yeses 263, the noes 48, the abstentions are 2. Two hundred sixty-three yes, 48 no, two abstain. This motion passes. Once again as we await ballot number 2 please sit tight before we get to present ballot number 3.

Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I call your attention to the podium for ballot number 2, proposal to amend the transfer rule is yeses 216, the noes 96, one abstention. Once again 216 yeses, 96 no, one abstention.

Because this proposal passed we can therefore vote on ballot number 3, the proposed ballot number 3. Ballot number 3 is our pink ballot proposal to set an earlier effective date for the transfer rule amendments. Once again the sponsor is the NJSIAA. I'll call up our Chief Compliance Officer, Mr. Popadiuk again. The NJSIAA staff has proposed an early effective date for the transfer amendment, transfer rule

amendments. The Advisory Committee and the
Executive Committee have endorsed this proposal.

Once again I'll ask for a motion to give this
proposed legislation for adoption. I have
Dennis Nelson of River Dell and Mike Gately of

Mainland Regional.

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At this time, I'll turn it over to Paul Popadiuk for presentation and again for questions

MR. POPADIUK: All right. Ballot number

3. The new transfer rule has been adopted. The

NJSIAA staff proposes that the transfer rule

amendments be made effective as of June 1st,

2023 rather than July 1st, 2023. Rational for

this is to stop discriminate practices of

someone who at the end of a school year

transfers from one school to another on June

25th as to July 1st or 2nd. They have to go by

two different set of rules. So, we're trying to

close it off at the end of the school year so

that the rules can be adequately and evenly

applied as the mass transit and transfer race

may begin.

Any questions?

MR. COUNARD: Shawn Counard from

So next fall, winter and spring there are two sets of transfer rules, somebody who transfers before June 1st assuming this passes, somebody transfers after June 1st. So I may have two students, two different students who have transferred let's say without a bona fide change of address, one on, I don't know, May 12th, one on June 2nd. One has to sit, one doesn't have to sit; is that correct?

MR. POPADIUK: That is correct.

 $$\operatorname{MR}.$  COUNARD: And there's no appeal to that, there's no --

MR. POPADIUK: Correct. Anybody who transfers before the new rule takes place knows what they're doing and has to abide -- I akin it to the traffic sign that was there on Tuesday. Someone blew through it, got a ticket, and then they removed it two weeks later, and they're not going to ticket everybody who runs through that. So, that's kind of why we couldn't -- there was no way for us to retroactively go back and grandfather because it wasn't just grandfathering for the good. So you have a

person who may have transferred without a bona fide change of address in December, is going to have to sit. By the same token, there's someone who transferred in December with a bona fide change of address, and it was their second transfer. So, I can't go back and zap them as well. So, that's the reason as far as me not trying to go back and go through the -- I think there's twenty-six hundred transfers that happened this year.

MR. COUNARD: Thank you.

MR. POPADIUK: You're welcome.

Any other questions? Seeing none, the esteemed Mr. Frazier.

MR. FRAZIER: Thank you.

At this time if anyone wishes to speak against the motion, please make your way up to the podium, state your name, school, position.

Anyone wishing to speak against the motion.

Seeing there is none if anyone wishes to speak for the motion, please make your way up to the microphones in the aisle. Once again state your name, school and position. Seeing there is none, this is the pink ballot. Before I call the question, we will wait until all the results

of this proposal are in before we adjourn and close the meeting.

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So, at this time I'll call the question for this proposal to set an early effective date for the transfer rule amendments. This proposal requires two-thirds vote of majority based on the total number of ballots. It's two-thirds. Once again pink ballot. Please make sure it's filled out completely, signed appropriately, checked off, address and all information there is correct.

Once again NJSIAA staff members chosen to assist, please wave your pink ballots and they can collect. We will conclude after the final vote of ballot number 3 is counted.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have the results. This is ballot number 3, proposal to set an early effective date for transfer rule amendments, 277 yes, 34 no, two abstentions.

Once again 277 yes, 34 noes, two abstentions.

That is greater than two-thirds majority. This motion also carries. I'd like to thank all of you for your participation today in our Annual Business Meeting. Wishing you all a great spring and summer season.

1	We'll need a motion to adjourn, and I see
2	way in the back Laura Palmerezz from Verona High
3	School and right up front Chuck Donohue from
4	Southern Regional. The Annual Meeting is now
5	closed. Thank you very much.
6	(Whereupon the meeting was
7	adjourned.)
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1	IN RE: : CERTIFICATE
2	<b>:</b>
3	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING :
4	:
5	I, KAREN M. AHERN, the officer before whom the
6	
7	foregoing meeting was taken, do hereby certify that the
8	witnesses whose testimony appears in the foregoing
9	meeting was duly sworn by me, and that said meeting is
10	a true record of the testimony given by said witnesses;
	that I am neither attorney nor counsel for nor related
11	to or employed by any of the parties to the action in
12	which the meeting was taken; and further that I am not
13	a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
14	employed by the parties hereto or financially
15	interested in the action.
16	interested in the action.
17	
18	Karen M. Ahern
19	
20	CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER & NOTARY PUBLIC
21	LICENSE NO. XIO1061
22	DATED: May 8, 2023 NOTARY I.D. NO. 2084523
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