

Annual Meeting Legislation – Final Approval – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 1st, at 12:00pm at the Pines Manor in Edison. This will be NJSIAA’s first in-person Annual Meeting since December 2018. The following three proposals were presented for final approval by the Executive Committee. The final drafts reflect feedback received during NJSIAA’s two sectional meetings – one held on March 15th at the DAANJ Conference, and one held virtually on March 24th. Ms. Maguire thanked Paul Popadiuk and the members of the Transfer Committee for all their efforts over the past 8 months. They spent a lot of time reviewing many different models and soliciting feedback from many stakeholders.

Paul Popadiuk explained each of the three proposed ballots, but first thanked Transfer Committee members Joe Bollendorf, Jorge Diaz, Judy Finch-Johnson, Kurt Karcich, and Russell Petrocelli, for their time and efforts over the past year.

1. **Ballot #1 - Athletic Recruitment Proposal** – After feedback from various constituents, the proposal to amend the Athletic Recruitment rule in the NJSIAA Bylaws hasn’t changed much from the one considered by the Executive Committee earlier in the year. The big change is removing bullet #5. The intent is to focus on the adults (coaches, schools, etc.), not penalize the student. K-8 recruitment no longer exists, and the definition of high school recruitment is clearly defined. The final proposal to be placed on the ballot is as follows:

D. Athletic Recruitment – ~~Athletic Recruitment is prohibited.~~ This subsection prohibits the recruiting of high school students. For the purposes of this subsection, a student becomes a “high school student” on the first day the student attends ninth grade, or the first day the student attends fall sports practice prior to the student’s ninth grade year, whichever is earlier.

1. Athletic recruitment is contrary to the purposes and objectives of high school sports. Prohibiting athletic recruitment helps to keep athletics in its proper place and subordinate to academics; protects student-athletes from those having interests that might not be consistent with the interests of the student-athletes; and maintains competitive equity on a level playing field among member schools.
2. Athletic recruitment is defined as any effort to, proselytize, pressure, urge or entice a student to ~~enroll in or~~ transfer to a school for athletic purposes. It is a violation for a member school to engage in athletic recruitment or for a student-athlete to ~~enroll in or~~ transfer to a school as a result of athletic recruitment. Athletic recruitment includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to solely point out the athletic assets of the sender;
 2. Engaging in proselytizing interviews or communications, initiated by school personnel or associates;
 3. Offering athletic scholarships, free tuition or other monetary assistance, either from the school directly or indirectly through some affiliated body or individual, to induce a student to attend the school for athletic reasons.
3. A member school shall be responsible for athletic recruitment by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school.
4. Any evidence of recruiting by a member school shall subject the school to a hearing before the Controversies Committee. A school that is found to have violated the athletic recruitment rule shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Art. X
5. ~~Any evidence of a student athlete enrolling in or transferring to a school as a result of athletic recruitment shall subject the student athlete to a prompt determination of eligibility by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. A student athlete who is found to have violated the athletic~~

~~recruitment rule shall be subject to a one year period of ineligibility in all sports, except that the student-athlete may return to his/her original school without penalty.~~

5. Any evidence that a student has moved to a residence associated with, leased, or provided by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school, including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school, shall be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting.

A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Jorge Diaz, to modify Bylaws, Article V, Eligibility of Athletes, Section 4D proposal as presented in today's meeting, and place it on the 2023 NJSIAA Annual Meeting ballot for vote by the membership. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Ballot #2 - Transfer Rule Proposal. The transfer rule has been rewritten. There was strong feedback to use the first practice date as the cutoff for the free transfer. There was back and forth whether the date should be the first day of practice or the first day of competition. The majority overwhelmingly wanted the first day of practice because they didn't want scenarios with students attending the first few practices, then realized they won't play, so they transfer. The new proposed transfer rule will allow a free transfer to students until the Start of Practice date. Those who transfer after the Start of Practice Date will be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility (or ½ the Maximum Number of Contests in that sport, whichever is less.) The membership also requested that the senior transfer sit be longer than the original proposed 15 days. Athletic Directors felt 15 days was not long enough to deter a transfer, so the proposal was modified so that Senior transfers will now be subject to a 22-day period of ineligibility (or 1/3 the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less) in each sport in which they participated during or after their third season of eligibility, during the 12 months preceding the transfer. There were no other changes to the proposal reviewed in December. The final proposal to be placed on the ballot is as follows (below replaces the current Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. Transfers):

Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. Transfers.

(1) Purpose.

NJSIAA's mission is to administer education-based interscholastic athletics, which support academic achievement, good citizenship, and fair and equitable opportunities. Transfers for athletic reasons undermine the stability of sports programs, elevate athletics over academics, lead to disparities in competitiveness, and erode the level playing field that the NJSIAA seeks to foster. Multiple transfers within a high school career disrupt a student's education. Transfers after a sports season has started not only disrupts the team but also the competitive balance among schools.

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.

Because the periods of ineligibility set forth in this rule are among the shortest in the nation, and the purpose of the rule is designed to deter inappropriate transfers, there shall be no waivers of this rule.

(2) Definitions.

Transfer: A "transfer" occurs when a student who has previously enrolled in a secondary school leaves that school and enrolls in a new one. The date of transfer shall be the earlier of the first day of class or the first day of sports participation at the new school.

Senior Transfer: A "Senior Transfer" is a student-athlete whose first transfer occurs during or after their third season of eligibility in a particular sport in which they participated in during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

Start of Practice Date: “The Start of Practice Date” is the first day of practice for each sport as set forth annually in the Program Regulations, Section 6.

Competition Start Date: The “Competition Start Date” is the first day of competition for each sport as set forth annually in the Program Regulations, Section 8. For football, the Week 1 Competition Start Date will be used.

HIB Transfer: Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, a state law that public schools are required to follow and non-public schools are encouraged to follow, harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) are matters that are investigated and addressed by the school. The NJSIAA does not hold hearings to determine whether a student was bullied. A “HIB transfer” will exist when a school, after investigating a HIB complaint, determines that the proper action to remediate the complaint is an alternative placement or a school transfer.

Maximum Number of Contests: The “Maximum Number of Contests” for each sport are as set forth in the Program Regulations, Section 15. For football the Maximum Number of Contests is nine. For wrestling and other sports without a maximum number of contests listed in the Program Regulations, the period of ineligibility shall be the number of days specified in each section below.

(3) A student’s first transfer.

Students are entitled to one penalty-free transfer during the first six semesters after their initial high school enrollment, provided that the transfer occurs on or before the Start of Practice Date of the sports season in which the transfer occurs.

(4) Transfers occurring after the Start of Practice.

Students who transfer after the Start of Practice Date will be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility (or $\frac{1}{2}$ the Maximum Number of Contests in that sport, whichever is less.)

(5) Transfers occurring after the Competition Start Date.

In addition to the period of ineligibility set forth in Section 4 above, any student who transfers after the Competition Start Date will not be eligible for NJSIAA postseason competition in that sport.

(6) A student’s second or subsequent transfer.

Students who transfer a second or subsequent time will be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility (or $\frac{1}{2}$ the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less) for all NJSIAA-sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

(7) Senior transfers.

Senior transfers, as defined above, are subject to a 22-day period of ineligibility (or $\frac{1}{3}$ the Maximum Number of Contests, whichever is less) in each sport in which they participated during or after their third season of eligibility, during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

(8) General application.

- (a) This Transfer Rule applies to all athletes at all levels of participation (not just varsity athletes) and is applicable to all NJSIAA-sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer. Transferring students may participate in a new sport without penalty.
- (b) The period of ineligibility will begin on the Competition Start Date of each sport. For students who transfer after the Competition Start Date, the period of ineligibility will begin on the date of enrollment.
- (c) When calculating the period of ineligibility using the Maximum Number of Contests, NJSIAA will round down to the nearest whole number if the number of contests is not

divided evenly. For example, if the Maximum Number of Contests were 14 then the calculation for a Senior Transfer (14 divided by 3) would be 5.67 and rounded down to a 5 contest sit.

(9) Exceptions.

Immediate eligibility, without penalty, will be granted for transfers resulting from DCP&P placement, court placement, HIB transfers, and military transfers.

(10) Enforcement.

The NJSIAA monitors transfers with the cooperation of the member schools. To that end, the NJSIAA maintains an online Transfer Portal. For each transferring student, the sending school and the receiving school must enter the required information into the Transfer Portal.

All Bylaws, rules and regulations in conflict with this new section shall be declared void.

Joseph Bollendorf asked if a senior transfer refers to a first-time transfer. That is correct. If a senior transfers for a second time, they would be subject to the 30-day sit penalty. A motion was made by Daniel Finkle, seconded by Jorge Diaz, to modify Bylaws, Article V, Section 4.K. Transfers as presented in today's meeting and place it on the 2023 NJSIAA Annual Meeting ballot for vote by the membership. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Ballot to Set Earlier Effective Date of Transfer Rule Amendment Proposal. The NJSIAA Constitution provides that legislation adopted by the membership at the annual meeting becomes effective on July 1, following the annual meeting, unless the membership determines by a separate 2/3 vote of the ballots cast that an earlier date should be set. If the new transfer rule is adopted by the membership at the May 1 Annual Meeting, NJSIAA staff proposes that there be a second ballot presented to the membership, stating: "The transfer rule amendments having been adopted by the membership, it is here by determined by the membership that these amendments shall become effective on the first day of June, 2023." The rationale is to prevent students from trying to beat the rule when the current school year ends, which will inevitably happen.

A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Ed Chmiel, to approve a ballot for the 2023 NJSIAA Annual Meeting that sets an earlier effective date of June 1, 2023 for the Transfer Rule Amendment Proposal if adopted by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Strategic Planning Committee Report – Russell Petrocelli, 2nd Vice-President, highlighted the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) but before doing so, Ms. Maguire thanked Committee members, Dr. Brian Brotschul (Superintendent, Delran HS), Judy Finch-Johnson (Assistant Superintendent, Elizabeth Public School District), Jen Fleury (Athletic Director, Villa Walsh Academy), Dr. Kimberly Gruccio (Superintendent, Egg Harbor Township HS), Bill Librera (Principal, Watchung Hills High School), Leon Owen (Athletic Director, Willingboro HS), and Mr. Petrocelli (Principal, DePaul Catholic HS).

Mr. Petrocelli presented the SPC's report. The committee held the first meeting in June 2022 to discuss purpose, process, and timeline. Individual and focus groups to interview were identified and 20 individual interviews and 8 focus group meetings were held over the summer of 2022. Using the information from these interviews, a written report was generated, and questions were developed for a stakeholder survey. The report, in its entirety, was mailed to each Executive Committee member. Stakeholder surveys were sent out to superintendents, athletic directors, principals, coaches, and officials using NJSIAA email lists. Several meetings were held to discuss the survey results, analyze the data, and create a final Strategic Plan. The great majority that replied to the survey were coaches.

The Mission, Vision and Values of the NJSIAA was developed. Consensus was reached by the committee in all these areas. It should be noted that the excellence of the Association was uncovered by

both the interviews and survey, which led to the revision of the current Mission/Vision/Values, outlined below.

NJSIAA Mission Statement

The mission of the NJSIAA is to assist member schools in providing equitable education-based interscholastic athletic opportunities that support academic achievement, good sportsmanship and fair play for student athletes.

NJSIAA Vision

Through collaboration with key stakeholders the NJSIAA will strive to achieve student athlete growth in an ever-changing environment for their future success.

NJSIAA Values (not in order of importance)

The NJSIAA values:

- A physically and emotionally safe and healthy playing environment
- Educational experiences of all student athletes through participation in interscholastic sports
- Excellence in academics and athletics
- Rules that support fair play
- Cooperation among member schools to advance individual and collective well-being
- Programs that through interscholastic participation develop good citizenship, promote healthy lifestyle, foster involvement from a diverse population and promotes school/community relations
- Properly trained officials who enhance interscholastic competition
- Student athlete engagement in programs that promote the understanding that interscholastic athletics is a privilege
- Insistence that good sportsmanship be exhibited at all times by student athletes, coaches, officials and spectators
- Effective communication to assist in understanding the function of the NJSIAA at all levels

The SPC also tasked NJSIAA with following action items in 2023-2026:

1. The Executive Director with the support of the Executive Committee will consistently monitor emerging issues and bring those issues before the governing body when needed.
2. The NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer will review on a yearly basis and report to the governing body any findings that need to be brought to discussion on recruiting and transfer of student-athletes.
3. The NJSIAA Chief Operating Officer will oversee recruitment and retention of officials across all sports by affiliated officials' chapters.
4. NJSIAA staff will continue to solicit feedback to identify the most effective and efficient communication methods. Meetings will be held as necessary with selected stakeholders to assist with evolving communication plans. Feedback will be solicited across all stakeholder categories on an annual basis.
5. The Executive Director, the NJSIAA staff and Executive Committee will meet to develop a "flow chart" type diagram that clarifies for members the NJSIAA decision-making process. It is suggested that this be in direct alignment with the NJSIAA Bylaws.

NOTE: The action items will be monitored with feedback given to the Executive Director and Executive Committee over the first year of implementation by Dr. James J. Lynch, Associate from Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates which facilitated this project.

A motion was made by Mohammed Abdelaziz, seconded by Michael Baldwin, to approve the Strategic Planning Report submitted by the Strategic Planning Committee including the revision of the current NJSIAA Mission/Vision/Values and the proposed action items for 2023-2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Winter Season Recap – A summary of state champions and runner ups across all winter sports was distributed. Overall, the winter championship season went well – the weather cooperated and there were

very good crowds. Ms. Maguire congratulated Kira Pippins from Bloomfield High School. She became NJ's first four-time girls wrestling state champion. Ms. Maguire then thanked Mr. Maselli, Mr. Stumpf, and Mr. Sellers for their hard work and efforts running NJSIAA's winter tournaments, all (but two sports) host an individual and a team tournament. Ms. Maguire also thanked the media for their coverage this winter.

NFHS Legal Meeting – Next month, Ms. Maguire, along with Mr. Goodell, will travel to Indianapolis for the annual NFHS Legal Meeting which will be hosted on April 20th and 21st. This is one of the best meetings of the year as Executive Directors and Attorneys present on different issues that have impacted their state associations. All presentations are very interesting, and almost all surround a topic that NJ has dealt with, so it is good to learn how matters are handled by other states. This year, Mr. Goodell and Ms. Maguire will be giving a presentation on cooperative sports programs and how NJ has dealt with the increasing trend in the need for cooperative sports programs across many sports.

Scholar-Athlete Luncheon – May 21, 2023 – On Sunday, May 21st, NJSIAA will host its 30th annual Scholar-Athlete luncheon at the Pines Manor in Edison. Last year, there were over 1,100 people in attendance and scholarships were awarded to approximately 360 student-athletes. Ms. Maguire anticipates this year's event being just as big. The association is currently soliciting nominations – each member school in good standing is eligible to nominate one senior student-athlete to attend the luncheon. The deadline to submit a nominee is this Friday, March 31st. Every senior student-athlete in attendance at the luncheon will receive a minimum \$500 scholarship. Ms. Maguire thanked all who have continued to support the program through county, conference, and professional associations.

National ACL Injury Coalition – Hospital for Special Surgeries/Aspen Sports Institute – The Hospital for Special Surgeries (HSS) and the Aspen Sports Institute have partnered to develop policies, practices, and partnerships to reduce the risks of serious knee injury. Ms. Maguire attended the kick-off meeting of this coalition earlier in the week at HSS in Manhattan. HSS is putting a lot of money behind this coalition to ring the alarm bells of the alarmingly increasing trend of ACL injuries – specifically at younger ages. Medical professionals at the meeting state that ACL injury awareness is in the same place that concussion awareness was 20 years ago – people need to pay attention and take it seriously. One surgeon shared that he is “sick of performing ACL repair surgeries...especially on young people that could have been avoided.”

There are 15 members on the coalition, which include the following varied stakeholders: HSS surgeons/staff, CDC staff, an Orthopaedic surgeon from Cedars-Sinai Institute in Los Angeles (who travels with US Mens National Soccer Team), the Director of Research for Major League Soccer, the President of the Datalys Center - High School RIO injury surveillance survey, and the Aspen Sports Institute Executive Director. The coalition's initial efforts are targeted at the high school population, so Ms. Maguire was very excited for the opportunity to join the coalition. A few items of concern:

- o There is an alarming increase in both the 10–14-year-old and 15-18-year-old categories for ACL injuries
- o Onset of osteoarthritis starts approximately 10-12 years after ACL repair surgery
- o Those having ACL repair surgery are 15X more likely to have knee replacement surgery
- o Sports with most the injury prevalence are soccer, basketball, lacrosse, football and field hockey

Dr. Pearle and his staff are working on the development of a training app that provides a 7-minute neuromuscular training program that should be done 4 times per week – the program focuses on “foundational body control” – which is fundamental to minimizing risk for ACL injury. Foundational body control ensures the knee stays in its natural alignment...many of us are prone to “knee valgus” – which means the knee moves naturally inward when running, jumping or cutting, this is when the knee is most susceptible to injury, such as an ACL tear. All videos watched at the conference clearly showed the knee in a valgus alignment at the time of the ACL injury. Ms. Maguire is hoping to deploy this training module to coaches this summer.

Program Review

On 3/27, Mr. Popadiuk hosted 10 members of the Program Review Committee for a virtual meeting to review the following two proposals. Both proposals were endorsed by the committee.

50% Participation Rule Clarification – Specific Sport Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote -

NJSIAA currently has a 50% participation rule applicable to fencing, swimming and ice hockey, but the rule wasn't written clearly so it was proposed to clarify the language (not change it). Fencing, swimming and ice hockey are dominated by club students, who can participate in the state tournament, if and only if they compete in at least 50% of the school's total high school games/meets. NJSIAA rules for ice hockey currently state:

Section 16 Championship Eligibility. A student competing on an interscholastic ice hockey team must play as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total games/meets to be eligible for the NJSIAA Championship Tournament.

CL: This means a student must play in at least 50% of the school's games up to and including the cut-off date while he/she was properly enrolled and eligible at said school according to NJSIAA regulations Extraordinary circumstances (i.e. injuries or participation on US National teams) will be reviewed on a case by case basis for the purposes of this clarification.

The purpose of the Championship Eligibility rule is to ensure that student-athletes participate in at least 50% of the school's total games in order to participate in the NJSIAA state tournament. This rule was put in place as a result of student-athletes who were rostered but did not compete during the regular season – they only competed during the post-season. This was due primarily to their club sport commitments and was prevalent in the sports of ice hockey, swimming, and fencing. NJSIAA staff feel that this rule is necessary to protect those student-athletes who participated during the regular season and also to maintain the competitive balance and integrity of the state tournament. This proposal is to update the clarification above to better reflect how extraordinary circumstances are handled to avoid confusion moving forward.

Below is the updated proposed clarification for ice hockey, fencing and swimming to better capture the intent of the 50% rule:

CL: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's games, up to and including the cut-off date, less those games in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Dr. David Salvo, seconded by Steve Jenkins, to approve the updated clarification to the 50% Participation Rule in the Specific Sport Regulations for ice hockey, swimming and fencing. Motion carried unanimously. It is important to note, this rule applies only to team tournaments, not individual tournaments.

Procedure in the Event of Thunder or Lightning – Policies & Procedures – One Reading – Voice

Vote - The second proposal recommended updates to NJSIAA's thunder and lightning procedures. At the September Program Review committee, this proposal was tabled as the committee had good feedback to take into consideration. Since that meeting, Mr. Maselli solicited further feedback from our leagues and conferences to assist with drafting updated procedures. Guidelines are voluntary, not mandatory. One important proposed addition is guidance on the postponement if lightning or thunder persists 75 minutes after the onset of the delay, except for football which the host school site management shall determine how long to delay the game before it is postponed. The proposed new guidelines to replace the existing "Procedure in the Event of Lightning" is as follows:

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF THUNDER OR LIGHTNING

All coaches and officials should monitor the weather report on game day. The protocol below details the steps to be followed in the event of lightning and/or thunder at outdoor events. If the host school has a more stringent policy, including those schools with lightning detection systems, that policy shall be adhered to. This policy should be reviewed annually with all administrators, coaches, and game personnel.

Every school should develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas, and should determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area. A designated safer area is a substantial building with plumbing and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium, or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.

If severe weather strikes prior to the beginning of the event, host school site management shall be the decision-maker regarding the policy. If it occurs once the event has begun, the lead game official shall be the decision-maker.

When one contest is suspended on a site due to thunder or lightning, all outdoor contests/activities on that site must be suspended.

When caught in a thunderstorm without the availability or time to reach a safe structure, the risk of injury may be minimized by seeking low ground and avoiding contact with anything made of metal. Avoid bleachers, metal fences, and standing pools of water.

Guidelines for schools when thunder is heard, or lightning is seen:

Mandatory

1. Suspend play, or delay the commencement of the contest, for 30 minutes. All participants and spectators shall vacate the outdoor venue to a designated safer area immediately.
 - a. A list of the closest safer areas should be announced and displayed at all outdoor venues.
 - b. Clear instructions should be announced over the public address system (if available) to guide participants and spectators to safer areas.
2. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard or lightning is witnessed prior to resuming play.
3. Any subsequent thunder or lightning after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count shall begin.
 - a. If, for example, the contest is suspended at 7:00 p.m. due to a lightning strike, and then lightning is witnessed again at 7:25 p.m., the earliest the contest may resume is 7:55 p.m.

Voluntary Guidelines

4. If the thunder or lightning persists, and access to the field for warmups cannot resume 75 minutes after the initial suspension of play, the contest shall be postponed to a later date. If participants can safely return to the field of play within 75 minutes, the players shall participate in a brief workout period, and the contest shall resume.
 - a. Athletic Administrators, Coaches & Officials may agree to alter #4 if all agree.
 - b. If an agreement on how long to wait cannot be reached, then #4 will be used.
5. For Football only, the host school site management shall determine how long to suspend the game before it is postponed.

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Dave Ryden, seconded by Steve Jenkins, to amend the existing "Procedure in the Event of Lightning" (Pages 36-37 of NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies, and Procedures) with the language proposed in today's meeting, which should make the policy more easily understood, and to highlight the specific procedure that administrators and officials must abide by in the event of lightning or thunder. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Operating Officer Update (given by Paul Popadiuk for Tony Maselli)

Baseball, Girls Lacrosse and Boys Tennis Updates – All important updates are posted on the individual sport pages on NJSIAA's website. Tournament Regulations for each sport will be posted by opening day. Beware of the Baseball Pitch Count change. All pitch counts must be recorded on nj.com following the game. For girls lacrosse, Mr. Maselli is looking for a state finals location, and for boys tennis, all teams should currently be in the UTR system.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Cooperative Sports – Winter Sports Applications – Deadline April 17, 2023 – The Cooperative Sports Committee will meet in May 2023 to review all winter sport applications received. The deadline to submit is 4/17.

Eligibility Update – The last Eligibility Committee meeting of the school year will take place on 5/2. All age/credit/semester eligibility waiver requests are due by 4/24.

Compliance Monitor Program Updates – This program is now up and running and there have already been great site visits. If your school needs help or mentorship, please email Mr. Popadiuk to arrange a site visit by one of NJSIAA's Compliance Monitors.

AI Stumpf Update

State Champions Invitational - Basketball – April 6-8, 2023 – The Roselle Catholic boys basketball team and the Morris Catholic girls basketball team were invited to participate in the national Paragon Basketball Invitational tournament in Washington, DC. Don Bosco Prep (boys), Saint John Vianney (girls) and Paul VI (girls) were also considered. The girls will play Desert Vista HS in their first game on 4/6 and the boys will play Curtis Washington HS. Both games will be broadcast on ESPN U. The tournament is single elimination. Ms. Maguire, Mr. Stumpf, and Bob Grauso (President of the NJ Basketball Coaches Assoc) plan to go to support NJ's teams.

Golf Update – The golf tournament is in good shape. Executive Committee member, Brendan McGovern, will be the NP North Site Director. The girls and boys championships will both be played at the Raritan Valley Country Club on 5/15 and 5/16 respectively.

Spring Track Update – All sectional sites have been solidified. The Group Meet for Groups 2&3 will be at Delsea HS because Pennsauken moved to Group IV status. The Meet of Champions and the Unified Championships will both be at Franklin HS, but on different dates. The Unified Championships will be on Thursday, 6/8 at 5pm while the MOC will be on Wednesday, 6/14.

Derryk Sellers Update

Boys Volleyball Update – This is the first year that the boys and girls tournament will seed the same way. This spring, the boys volleyball tournament will now utilize power points for seeding.

Softball Update – Mr. Sellers plans to attend as many games as possible.

Boys Lacrosse Update – Mr. Sellers is looking for host sites for the boys lacrosse finals, ideally in the center of the state.

Finance Committee Update – Joe Bollendorf

Approval of Monthly Checks – The February 18, 2023 through March 27, 2023 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Tom Mullahey made a motion, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to approve the February 18, 2023 through March 27, 2023 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – Mr. Goodell is scheduled to argue the appeal of the Executive Committee decision regarding Paramus Catholic football coaches Russo and Maldonado in the Superior Court, Bergen County, on 4/10.

The Controversies Committee hearing on the Camden HS basketball recruiting allegations is tentatively scheduled for 5/2 and 5/3, but the case is still pending in the Appellate Division.

Old Business / New Business –

NJIC / Mary Help of Christians Bowling Waiver Request for the 2023-2024 Season – Mary Help of Christians Academy, an all-girls school in the NJIC, has no schools in their conference with female bowling teams to compete against. A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Joe Ursino, to allow Mary Help of Christians Academy girls bowling team compete against NJIC member schools all boy bowling teams for the 2023-2024 season. This waiver has been granted multiples times. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Jeremy Braverman at 11:58 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln