

Next, Ms. Maguire shared information about her favorite event of the year. On Sunday, May 21st, NJSIAA hosted over 1,100 people at the Pines Manor in Edison to honor 385 NJSIAA scholar-athletes. \$193K in scholarships were presented. Ms. Maguire thanked Joe Bollendorf for his assistance at the event – he spent over 90 minutes on the stage shaking hands and smiling for photos. Ms. Maguire then thanked everyone who supported the program.

FY 2023-2024 Budget Proposal – One Reading – Roll Call Vote – Ms. Maguire then thanked the members of the Finance Committee who have met all year to review the Association’s financial results, monitor its financial status and provide important feedback along the way. Prior to this meeting, members of the committee met to review the FY '23 – '24 budget in detail and approve the budget proposal.

A memo summarizing the budget was distributed, including the following highlights:

- The budget primarily relies on prior year activity to estimate its revenues.
- Based on the estimated revenues, the budget allocates the monies for planned expenses surrounding its sporting events and general and administrative overhead activities.
- The Association’s budget expects a break-even bottom line.
- Budgeted revenues are expected to increase by 2.5%, primarily due to increased sponsorship activity by our partner TPG and gate receipts.
- Budgeted expenses are expected to increase by 4%, primarily due to increases in officials expenses, tournament event staffing and legal fees.

A motion to accept the 2023-2024 budget proposal was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Kurt Karcich. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-33; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Official Championship Merchandise Provider – Northwest Designs Ink – The Finance Committee approved a contract renewal with Northwest Designs Ink as NJSIAA’s official championship merchandise provider. The association has worked with Northwest Designs to provide customizable NJSIAA championship apparel at our events since the 2017-2018 school year. They are a pleasure to work with and do a great job at all events. It’s amazing to see the lines at the cross country and track & field events – these student-athletes in particular love their championship logoed apparel.

Program Review

Ms. Maguire thanked the 15 members of the Program Review Committee who met all year to review proposals and provide valuable feedback before they are presented to the entire Executive Committee. On Monday, 6/5, nine members of the committee met virtually to review and endorse the following five proposals for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Swimming Classifications and Tournament Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote – Currently, there are 33 non-public girls’ swim teams and 37 non-public boys’ swim teams that are each classified into two groups by enrollment. Participation in the state tournament has been declining over the past several seasons, especially in the Non-public B group for both genders. For instance, 7 boy teams and 7 girl teams entered the Non-public B tournament in 2022-2023.

NJSIAA recommends that the swimming classifications for non-public schools be changed to one group with 2 sections (North and South) classified by geography, not enrollment. This model will allow for more consistent participation in the tournament and increase the number of teams qualifying from 16 to 24. With this model, there will be two sectional championships (North and South winners) for the first time. This model will also provide a more competitive balance to the tournament while minimizing travel in the early rounds. Lastly, unlike other sports where enrollment size may be a factor in determining the strength of a

program, this is not a factor for swimming, as the smaller non-public schools have been very successful in the state tournament. This was unanimously approved by the Swimming Committee.

Furthermore, changes to the Individual State Championships were recommended. New to the 2023-2024 school year, the individual state championships will combine the boys and girls finals into one event. NJSIAA staff and tournament staff feel this will be a very exciting event for the student-athletes and spectators by allowing both genders to compete at the same time. As a result, the 9th – 16th place participants during the preliminary races will not participate during the second day of the state finals. In previous years, these participants did return on the 2nd day to compete in consolation events; however, the swimming rules do not allow the 9th – 16th place participants to medal at the state finals. This was approved by the Swimming Committee, although there were three coaches on the committee that voted against this proposal.

A motion was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by John Fraraccio, to change the non-public swimming classifications to one group with 2 sections (North and South) classified by geography, not enrollment and to combine the boys and girls individual state finals into a one-day event. Motion carried unanimously.

Basketball State Tournament Championship Dates – One Reading – Voice Vote – NJSIAA staff has been working with Rutgers University staff to provide a schedule that will allow all boys and girls basketball state championship games to be played at Jersey Mike’s Arena on the same weekend. To accommodate all twelve basketball games (six boys and six girls), games must be scheduled the same weekend as the men’s Big 10 Tournament to ensure the Arena is available for our use for all games.

The proposed dates below reflect a schedule that will host four games on each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In addition, the tournament start will be two days later than previously approved to ensure that the tournament never starts on President’s Day and allows for one additional day between the Sectional Final, State Semifinal, and State Final rounds. The additional day in between rounds will allow extra rest for the student-athletes but also provide scheduling flexibility for inclement weather issues.

Proposed Dates:

	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Tournament Start (Wednesday)	Feb. 21 st	Feb. 26 th	Feb. 25 th	Feb. 24 th
Non-Public State Championships (Friday)	Mar. 8 th	Mar. 14 th	Mar. 13 th	Mar. 12 th
Public State Championships (Saturday/Sunday)	Mar. 9 th /10 th	Mar. 15 th /16 th	Mar. 14 th /15 th	Mar. 13 th /14 th
Start of Spring Sports Practices (Thursday)	Mar. 14 th	Mar. 13 th	Mar. 12 th	Mar. 18 th

There is an exception for the 2023-2024 season only, March 8th – 10th is the last regular season weekend for the men’s basketball team – this schedule anomaly is due to the NCAA Final Four being later in April than the other years. Since NJSIAA staff does not want to push the state championship dates any later into March, if the Rutgers men’s basketball team does have a home game scheduled for one of these dates, then staff will have an alternate venue available that can safely and adequately host the games scheduled for that day. The dates starting with the 2024-2025 school year will all correspond with the men’s Big 10 Tournament and there are no anticipated conflicts moving forward.

The Basketball Committee supports the proposal. A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Dave Ryden, to change the boys’ and girls’ basketball tournament dates so that both state championships can be played at Rutgers University every year, on the same weekend (will be the weekend of the men’s Big 10 Tournament every year). Motion carried unanimously.

Bowling Tournament Regulations – One Reading – Voice Vote – NJSIAA is continuing to see an increase in the number of boys and girls bowling teams. This past year there were 252 boys teams and 224 girls teams. Traditionally, NJSIAA has hosted a team state tournament that starts with sectional tournaments that are open for any team to enter. However, given the growth in the number of teams in recent years, NJSIAA has been outgrowing its capacity to host sectional tournaments at available bowling alleys. Therefore, NJSIAA staff propose the following restructuring of the team tournament to bring it in line with almost all other NJSIAA team-based tournaments which rely on classifications and seeded brackets that advance to the state championships.

Schools will be classified into four groups (I – IV), based on enrollment, and four sections (NI, NII, Central and South) based on northing number. For the boys, this will be approximately 16 schools per section. For the girls, this will be approximately 14 schools per section. The top 12 schools per section will qualify for the state tournament. The qualification criteria will be based on data that will be required to be reported to njschoolsports.com after every match – a similar reporting requirement to most other sports. New to this sport, the first three rounds will be hosted by the higher seed while the sectional championships will be held at four sectional sites. The sectional winners will advance to the team state championships – the state semifinals and state championships will be bowled on the same day.

The following is a summary of dates for 2023 – 2024:

- Sectional Championships – Saturday, February 26, 2024 (4 Sectional Sites)
- State Semifinal/State Championships – Tuesday, February 28, 2024 (Bowlero – North Brunswick)
- State Individual Championships – Thursday, March 1, 2024 (Bowlero – North Brunswick)

For all tournament dates listed above, both the boys teams and the girls teams will be participating on the same date at the same venues. Lastly, there will still be 100 boys and 100 girls competing at the state individual championships – the top 100 for each gender will be based on the average of their scores during the season up to the cut-off date.

A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Steve Jenkins, to restructure the team tournament to bring it in line with almost all other NJSIAA team-based tournaments which rely on classifications and seeded brackets that advance to the state championships. Motion carried unanimously.

Winter Track & Field – Public School Sectional Meets / Individual Entries – One Reading – Voice Vote – Similar to bowling, NJSIAA has seen an increase in the number of member schools hosting winter track & field teams, specifically among its public schools. Currently, there are 300 and 350 public school winter track & field and spring track & field teams respectively. The increase in public school teams has resulted in the public-school sectional meets becoming very time-consuming and very crowded. All public-school sectional meets are held at the Bennett Indoor Athletic Complex in Toms River. During this past season, we received criticism from participating coaches, officials, and tournament staff that the sectional meets now run closer to 6 hours and the facility is very crowded. The increase in participation makes it very difficult to accommodate all sectional meets on the dates scheduled and makes for very long days for our student-athletes, coaches, officials, and tournament staff.

In addition, the tournament regulations need to be updated to specifically address how student-athletes who attend member schools without a winter track & field team will participate in either the public-school sectional meets, or non-public school group meets. The recommendations below are based on feedback from the Winter Track & Field Committee and NJSIAA tournament staff.

Public-School Sectional Meets: Currently, each team participating in the sectional meet can enter up to three individuals per event. Winter track & field hosts 10 events. NJSIAA staff recommends that each team be allowed to enter up to two individuals per event. In addition, each team will be allowed to enter one additional individual in up to three events – these are three “wildcard” entries to be used at a coaches’ discretion. The wildcard entries will provide an equitable opportunity for all schools entering the public-school sectional tournament to allow additional participation. Tournament staff believe that these new entry

parameters will bring the timing of the public-school sectional meets closer to a four to 4½ hour event, which is a much better time frame for everyone involved. Future consideration will be given to an increase in the number of wildcard entries should staff feel that an increase can be accommodated while keeping the meets within a reasonable time frame.

Individual Entries - If a member school enters a student-athlete as an individual entry (i.e., the member school does not host a winter track & field team), then that student-athlete will be seeded in the meet if there is a verified time in MileSplit at an interscholastic event during the current season. This means that any interested student-athlete will need to enter an interscholastic event as an unattached entry during the season for their time to be used for seeding. Otherwise, the student-athlete will not be seeded in any event.

Competition Start Date - Lastly, winter track & field does not typically host scrimmages due to the cost and viability of securing a facility. NJSIAA rules currently restrict scrimmages to four or less participating teams. Therefore, to provide additional regular season opportunities, NJSIAA staff recommends that the competition start date be moved to the same as the competition start date for both ice hockey and swimming – which is one week earlier than the other strenuous winter sports. For the 2023-2024 school year, the competition start date will be Thursday, December 7, 2023 – the practice start date remains Monday, November 27, 2023.

Dr. Patricia Camp asked if a team receives more wildcards for other events if they don't utilize two athletes in one event. The answer is no.

A motion was made by Maria Crowley, seconded by Steven Jenkins, to approve the winter track & field tournament changes which include 1- each public school team is allowed to enter up to two individuals per event (used to be three), plus one additional individual in up to three events ("wildcard" entries), 2- A student-athlete entering as an individual entry without a team can only be seeded in the meet if there is a verified time in MileSplit at an interscholastic event during the current season, and 3- changing the competition start date to Thursday, December 7, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Power Points – Out of State Opponents – One Reading – Voice Vote – In May 2022, the Executive Committee approved a proposal which no longer recognized games played against out-of-state or non-member opponents for PowerPoint purposes. While these games counted towards the team's maximum number of contests, they did not count towards a team's power points. NJSIAA staff continually reviews its PowerPoint calculation and results to ensure the formula can be relied upon as an accurate indicator of a team's ranking.

During the 2022-2023 school year, the association received feedback from non-public schools that this proposal has negatively impacted their ability to schedule competitively and seeding in the state tournament. There are non-public schools who have difficulty scheduling NJSIAA member schools so they will solicit out-of-state or non-member schools for regular season contests. In addition, these schools must abide by the 60% in-state rule to be eligible for the tournament, leaving some scrambling to meet this requirement. Also, certain conferences have had difficulty providing conference games to fill the schedule of certain non-public schools.

This feedback has been an unintended consequence that NJSIAA staff feels should be addressed for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, so it was proposed that games played against out-of-state or non-member opponents by non-public schools be recognized for PowerPoint purposes, with the exception of football. The non-public football tournament is seeded by a committee that does not place much emphasis on power points. Public schools will continue to use the power point formula approved in May 2022 which excludes out-of-state or non-member opponents. This proposal is a short-term solution to provide relief for non-public schools and for certain leagues and conferences that have struggled with scheduling. The Power Point formula will be under review this summer.

A motion was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by John Fraraccio, to recognize games played against out-of-state or non-member opponents by non-public schools for PowerPoint purposes, with the exception of football. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano)

Mr. Anzano reported that all 120 legislative seats will be up for election this November. After the legislature approves the budget, they will break until the fall. Bill A4143/S3349, which requires payment of tuition for certain non-resident public school students, passed and was signed into law. This was proposed resulting from the Camden situation. Bill A3512 Aca (1R) / Bill S2387 Sca (1R), which prohibits sale of certain diet pills and dietary supplements for muscle building to persons under 18 years of age under certain circumstances, is in the Senate Budget Committee. Legislators are working hard to get this approved. Last, a bill introduced by Executive Committee member, Senator Paul Sarlo, to allow the ticket prices at postseason athletic events be increased to offset event-related expenses, passed the Senate unanimously and is pending Assembly vote.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Boys Tennis Update: The current air quality situation caused some hazy conditions, but it was ok to play, and the temperature was perfect.

Baseball Update: The two non-public state finals and four public state finals take place on 6/8 and 6/10 respectively, all at Hunterdon Central HS.

Girls Lacrosse Update: The two non-public state finals and four public state finals take place on 6/9 and 6/10 respectively.

Sports Medical Advisory Committee Update – The committee will meet in a few weeks to discuss its mental health initiative. The plan is to start with coaches and mandate them to take a mental health course as part of their certification requirements. After meeting with several companies, Mr. Maselli has moved forward and selected the organization to offer the course. More information regarding this initiative to come – right now the committee is in the planning stage. The hope is the plan will roll out next year.

NFHS Baseball Rules Committee Update – Mr. Maselli attended the meeting of the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee. Technology rule changes are on the horizon.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Cooperative Sports Program Approvals – One Reading – Voice Vote: The Cooperative Sports Committee met on May 15, 2023, to review 20 new program applications for winter sports. The committee unanimously approved 12 of the 20 applications (which are listed below). For each, the participating league or conference is noted in parentheses:

- a. North Hunterdon-Voorhees: Ice Hockey (Skyland endorsed)
- b. Lenape Valley-Hopatcong: Boys Wrestling (NJAC Endorsed)
- c. A.L. Johnson-Jonathan Dayton-Roselle Park: Ice Hockey (NJIHL, UCC endorsed)
- d. West Milford-Pequannock-Pompton Lakes: Ice Hockey (Big North endorsed)
- e. NV Demarest-NV Old Tappan: Boys Volleyball (Big North endorsed)
- f. Ramsey-Indian Hills: Ice Hockey (Big North endorsed)
- g. Phillipsburg-Belvidere: Boys Swimming (Skyland endorsed)
- h. Phillipsburg-Belvidere: Girls Swimming (Skyland endorsed)
- i. Wood-Ridge - Wallington: Boys Winter Track (NJIC endorsed)

- j. Wood-Ridge - Wallington: Girls Winter Track (NJIC endorsed)
- k. Redbank Regional-Henry Hudson: Ice Hockey (Shore endorsed)
- l. Emergent Relief: Jonathan Dayton-Union: Girls Gymnastics (UCC endorsed)

A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Jeffrey Steele, to approve the 12 cooperative sports programs approved by the Cooperative Sports Committee on May 15, 2023, for a four-year period starting with the 2023-2024 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Recruiting Violations – Bylaw Amendment – Policies and Procedures – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote - Last meeting, guidelines to assist the Controversies Committee when issuing penalties for recruiting violations was proposed. The proposal which increased the maximum fine available to the Controversies Committee, and added a new section to the NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies and Procedures section of the NJSIAA Handbook – titled “Interpretive Guidelines for Recruiting Violations.” passed first reading of the Executive Committee. Fines for the Controversies Committee hadn’t been increased in over 20+ years. Details of this proposal are outlined in the May 10, 2023 Executive Committee Minutes.

A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Judy Finch-Johnson, to amend Bylaws, Article X, PENALTIES, and add a new section to the NJSIAA Guidelines, Policies and Procedures section of the NJSIAA Handbook – titled “Interpretive Guidelines for Recruiting Violations”, with guidelines to assist the Controversies Committee when issuing penalties for recruiting violations. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-35; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Sportsmanship, Ethics and Leadership Workshop – This new free workshop is another tool for reinforcing what matters in high school sports. It will be held in-person this August, and again in January 2024. Topics addressed include the Role & Value of HS Sports, Ethical Issues, Leadership Responsibilities for Today’s AD and Coach, Specific Issues Confronting Athletes and Programs, Specialization, AAU/Club Sports, Emphasis on Winning, Parents, Media, Shrinking Budgets and Recruiting. Mr. Popadiuk is hoping this workshop will help coaches and athletic directors address current ethical issues. It’ll be incorporated into NJSIAA and Conference corrective action plans.

Assistant Director Update (Al Stumpf)

Golf Update: Over 170 individual golfers participated in the boys state championships. Winners are as follows:

- Group 1: Mountain Lakes
- Group 2: Wall
- Group 3: Ramapo
- Group 4: Hunterdon Central (had the lowest score of 310)
- NPA: Newark Academy
- NPB: Gill St. Bernards

Over 90 individuals participated in the girls team tournament. The following schools won a title:

- North: Academy of Holy Angels (lowest score with 325)
- Central: Wardlaw Hartridge
- South: West Windsor-Plainsboro South HS

For the individual tournament, Andrew Lin of Montgomery HS won the boys championships with a score of 72, and Sirina Ganne of Holmdel HS won the girls individual championships with a score of 76.

Spring Track & Field / Unified Track & Field Update: The Group Championships will take place at Franklin HS and Delsea HS, with Franklin hosting Group 1, 4 and Non-public A schools; and Delsea hosting Groups

2, 3 and Non-public B schools. The Unified Track Championships will take place at Franklin HS at 5pm on 6/8. 13 teams are participating (the average each year ranges from 5 to 16 teams).

NJ Live Basketball College Showcase - The NJ Live basketball college showcases will take place this month. This is the first year there will be a recruiting showcase for the girls, which will take place at Montgomery HS and Rutgers Prep on 6/16 and 6/17 (30 teams). The boys are the following weekend (6/23 and 6/24) at Montgomery HS (60 teams participating.)

Assistant Director Update (Derryk Sellers)

Boys Volleyball Update: The finals will take place at South Brunswick HS on 6/10.

Softball Update: The two non-public state finals and four public state finals take place on 6/9 and 6/10 respectively, all at Kean University.

Boys Lacrosse Update: The four public finals will take place on 6/9 at both Hopewell Valley Regional HS and Bridgewater-Raritan HS. The two non-public state finals will be on 6/10 at East Brunswick HS.

Finance Committee Update – Joe Bollendorf

Approval of Monthly Checks – The May 9, 2023 through June 5, 2023 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Russell Petrocelli made a motion, seconded by Raymond Kiem, to approve the May 9, 2023 through June 5, 2023 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell)

1. Litigation continues for the two Paramus Catholic football coaches that are appealing penalties given to them by the Executive Committee. Last week, Mr. Goodell met with the judge assigned this appeal. There will be another round of briefings at the courthouse, and then oral arguments are scheduled for 7/31. All parties involved are hoping for a final decision prior to the football season.
 2. Over Memorial Day weekend. Ridge HS defeated Westfield HS in a 2nd round state tournament baseball game. The next day, Westfield HS filed a protest, as they believed Ridge HS violated the pitch count rule. A brief investigation took place which included interviews with the game's pitch counter, coaches, and the umpires. The investigation found that Ridge HS had violated the rule and not removed their pitcher when he reached his maximum allowable pitch count, so the protest was upheld. Ridge HS forfeited the game and Westfield HS advanced to the next round. Mr. Goodell explained there were no winners in this situation as Ridge was devastated since they won on the field and Westfield took no joy receiving the forfeit. The rule is there for a purpose and will be reinforced. The association will double its efforts to reinforce the rule to coaches, so they are aware of the consequences if not followed.
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Old Business / New Business – Ms. Maguire recapped the efforts of the Executive Committee over the past school year and thanked them for their commitment and service. Highlights include:

1. Thanks to multiple meetings, hours of invaluable discussion and feedback, a proposal to amend both the transfer rule and recruiting rule was finalized and given to the membership, which received over 70% approval at the annual meeting.
2. Many appeals were heard by member schools that were often time consuming and complex.
3. A new strategic plan was approved to replace an old, outdated version.

4. A Bylaw amendment to NJSIAA's recruiting rules that provides transparency and places priority on holding adults accountable for recruiting was approved.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Judy Finch-Johnson, seconded by Steve Shohfi at 12:09 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: ln