

Officials' Appreciation Week – NJSIAA is currently celebrating Officials' Appreciation Week. The association is posting feature stories on various fall sport officials on its website and social media platforms. Ms. Maguire cannot highlight enough the importance of officials.

The association successfully hosted 25 Officials Bias Workshops for approximately 1,650 participants/fall officials. Starting next week, the association will begin its workshops for the state's winter sports officials. 30 workshops are scheduled through November. Registrations are underway.

Football Update – The public tournament will be seeded on Sunday 10/22, with games beginning the next weekend. Seeding for the non-public tournament will be one week later, on Sunday, 10/29, with games starting the following weekend.

Name, Image, and Likeness Policy Update – Second Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to amend Bylaws, Article V [Eligibility of Athletes] Section 2 [Amateur-Athlete], D. Name, Image and Likeness, to clearly articulate that NIL collectives are not permissible, regardless of any affiliation with a member school. Proposal details are outlined in the Executive Committee minutes dated 09/13/2023. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Program Review

First, Ms. Maguire thanked the 11 members of the Program Review Committee that attended Monday's meeting. Both proposals below were reviewed and endorsed unanimously.

Girls Wrestling Regulations – Voice Vote – NJSIAA staff recommended three updates to the Girls Wrestling Sport Specific Regulations which reflect current practice and will minimize confusion among member schools and coaches. They are summarized below.

1. Allow more than one event against multiple opponents during a week.
2. Clarify that a weight allowance is not provided for events on consecutive days.
3. Competition during the week between the boys team tournament and boys district tournament will not count against the 30-match limit, which is consistent with the boys wrestling regulations.

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Joseph Ursino, seconded by Dave Ryden to make the following changes in the Specific Sport Regulations, Girls Wrestling, Section 8 Maximum Meets section. (*additions are underlined; deletions are struck-through*)

Section 8 Maximum Meets

A wrestler may not participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as one weigh-in. A wrestler may participate in only more than one event involving more than four opponents during the week.

NOTE: Make-up matches must fall within the four weigh-in regulations.

CL 1: A weigh in counts only if the wrestler appears on the mat to accept forfeit or to compete.

CL 2: A wrestler may not compete in MORE than a maximum of 30 sub-varsity and/or varsity matches during the regular season (exclusive of the NJSIAA Tournament, Team and Individual).

CL 3: Two-day tournaments that are held on a Saturday and a Sunday will be considered as a tournament for the week of the initial day the tournament starts (in this case Saturday). A weigh-in for a two-day tournament starting on Saturday will count for the week the tournament started (in this case Saturday) and will not impact weigh-ins for the following week.

CL 4: When a student wrestles in a boys event and girls event on consecutive days, no weight allowance will be given to the student (or team).

CL 5: Girls events scheduled the week between the Boys Team Tournament State Finals and the Boys District Tournament will not count against the 30-match limit.

Motion carried unanimously.

Boys Golf Tournament Regulations – Voice Vote – The current qualification criteria for the boys golf tournament requires teams to play at least 6 matches and have a minimum .600 record by the cut-off date. There is increasing concern that the criteria limit the number of teams that qualify for the state tournament, but it is also not a good indicator of the strength of the team. There are many factors that impact a team's record – such as strength of their schedule or the difficulty of the golf course and many competitive leagues were knocking each other out of state tournament contention. Last year a 16-0 team finished in 10th place, therefore did not qualify for the tournament.

To address these concerns, the boys golf committee and NJSIAA staff recommend that the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System be used as a one-year pilot program. This system uses the PGA course and slope ratings for courses which has been adopted by the USGA to allow amateur handicaps to comparably travel from course-to-course. The IWanamaker Golf Scoring System will adjust scores posted on different courses played by member schools across the state.

11 other state associations that have moved their tournaments to the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System report positive feedback. The system objectively adjusts scores based on USGA approved parameters, provides online transparency for all results, and allows coaches/players to view rankings throughout the season. The boys golf committee feels this system is the best option available to ensure that the best teams and individuals qualify for the state tournament, and propose to use the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System ranking for the Team and Individual State Tournament as follows:

Team State Tournament

Based on the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System rankings, the top 8 ranked teams in each section using their best 6 matches, will qualify – a total of 160 teams will qualify for the team state tournament. The two lowest scoring teams in each section will advance to the state championships. There will still be a minimum requirement of 6 matches prior to the cut-off date for qualification.

Individual State Tournament

The IWanamaker Golf Scoring System will also rank individual golfers with a minimum of 6 matches to determine who qualifies for the individual state tournament. The golfer with the lowest score in each sectional tournament will advance to the individual state tournament. In addition, the next 24 high ranked golfers will advance to the individual state tournament – a total of 64 individuals will qualify for the individual state tournament.

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Dr. David Salvo, seconded by Maria Crowley, to approve a one-year pilot program using the IWanamaker Golf Scoring System for ranking golfers to qualify for the Boy's Golf Team State Tournament and Individual State Tournament. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Transfers Update – The number of transfers has slowed down.

Eligibility Update – The Eligibility Appeals Committee meets next week. The last Eligibility Committee meeting of 2023 will take place on 11/14. Eligibility waiver request forms are due 11/6. This is the last chance for fall sport athletes.

Bylaws Clarifications – First Reading – Voice Vote – At the Association’s May 2023 annual meeting, NJSIAA member schools approved changes to the transfer rule and athletic recruitment rule. NJSIAA would like to update these rules to 1-clarify that scholarships, monies, housing, etc. cannot be given to students in grades K-8 and 2- clarify when students are eligible to participate in sports, both during the season and during the summer recess period, once transferring to a new school. Enrollment is different than acceptance.

The following clarifications were proposed to NJSIAA Bylaw Article V Section 4 (Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.)

(1) NJSIAA Bylaw Article V Section 4

D. **Athletic Recruitment** – 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.

CL 1: Paragraphs 2(c) and 5 below are applicable to students of all grade levels, not just high school students.

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 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 transfer to a school as a result of athletic recruitment. Athletic recruitment includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Using mail, letters, brochures, or news media to compare high schools and to solely point out the athletic assets of the sender;
 - b. Engaging in proselytizing interviews or communications, initiated by school personnel or associates;
 - c. 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 Article X.

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.

(2) NJSIAA Bylaw Article V Section 4

K. Transfers

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.

CL 1: A transfer student is eligible to participate in sports at the new school when (1) the student has enrolled at the new school and (2) the student has either withdrawn from the former school, or the school year has concluded at the former school. Acceptance or admission alone does not constitute enrollment. This clarification is applicable to the school year and summer recess period.

A motion was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by Ed Chmiel, to approve the clarifications proposed by NJSIAA staff to Bylaw, Article V, Section 4. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

NJSIAA Sports Medical Advisory Committee Update – The committee met and discussed the following topics and policies:

- 1- The committee tightened up the Be Nice Program.
- 2- Going forward, the association will allow coaches to receive AED and/or CPR training from DOE approved companies besides the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross (the only two associations NJSIAA has previously permitted to provide the trainings). The DOE looks for the same components that NJSIAA does when vetting companies (must be live physical evaluation – testing can’t be all done online).
- 3- It was agreed to allow Q Collars. The NFHS permits them, so NJSIAA should too.
- 4- The DOE updated its concussions policy, so the committee updated NJSIAA’s concussions policy to reflect those changes.
- 5- The Infectious Disease Policy was updated and sent to schools. This was the first time the policy was updated since 2005.
- 6- It was agreed to allow Guardian Caps in football practices.

Safe Sports Zone Workshops – November 8, 2023 – The NJSIAA is offering two free work sessions from Jay Hammes from Safe Sports Zone. These workshops will help administrators anticipate the bad things that could happen at events and provide education and resources to provide a safe environment. NJSIAA is increasingly finding officials being accosted, parents being arrested, coaches getting out of control, etc. There will be two 3-hour sessions on 11/8. Both sessions are halfway full, with each currently having 30 participants signed up. The maximum number of attendees per class will be 60.

Mental Health Awareness Initiative – “be nice.” rollout – NJSIAA’s mental health initiative, already approved by the Executive Committee, will roll out tomorrow, after the Leagues and Conferences Officers meeting. Every coach is required to take NJSIAA’s new mental health course by July 2024. The course educates 1-how to recognize mental health and 2-what to do in that situation. It’s a one-time course, only 20-30 minutes, and it’s online.

Girls Tennis Update - Weather forced many matches to be played at indoor facilities. The tournament will end tomorrow (10/19) with the team semifinals and finals. It’ll also be the first time ever that the singles and doubles champions will be crowned on the same day as the team semis/state finals champions. It was an extraordinary tournament, with many impressive player performances.

Field Hockey Update – The season has been running well. The tournament will be seeded on Monday, 10/23 and begin shortly after.

Al Stumpf

Cross Country Update – Entries close Friday, 10/20. The public sectionals will take place on 10/28.

Girls Soccer Update – Entries closed already, and records are due.

Derryk Sellers

Gymnastics Update – Entries are due 10/25.

Boys Soccer Update – Seeding will be Monday, 10/23.

Girls Volleyball Update – Seeding will take place on Tuesday, 10/24.

NJSCA Clinics – The Bowling Clinic took place on 10/4 and went well. The event took place at Howell Lanes, which was a state-of-the-art facility. The Volleyball Clinic was rescheduled and will now take place at Riverside HS in January (was originally going to be held at Old Bridge HS.)

Finance Committee Update – Jason Corley

Approval of Monthly Checks – The September 12, 2023 through October 16, 2023 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Dr. Carol Birnbohm made a motion, seconded by Barry Walker, to approve the September 12, 2023 through October 16, 2023 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business / New Business – none.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – No report.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Ed Chmiel, seconded by Al Dyer, at 11:43 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: In