

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1161 Route 130 North Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 14, 2025

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Russell Petrocelli, at 11:06 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Dr. Carol Birnbohm, Jeremy Braverman, Carl Buffalino, Tony Cattani, Jason Corley, Maria Crowley, Judy Finch-Johnson, Barry Fitzgerald, John Fraraccio, Michael Gallo, Natalie Gorman, Steven Jenkins, Kurt Karcich, Howard Krieger, Dr. Michael Kuchar, Greg Lasher, Jason Miller, Dr. Anne Mucci, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Jeffrey Steele, Dr. Gregory Troxell, Michael Vinella, Tammy Wagner, Barry Walker, Tripp Welborne, Cynthia Wilks, and Sjoquelyn Winstead. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; Al Stumpf, Derryk Sellers, and Sandy Mamary, Assistant Directors; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following members of the press were in attendance: Brian Bobal, *NJ Advance Media* and Darren Cooper, *The Record*. Also present: Paul Anzano, Esq. of Pringle Quinn Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Carl Buffalino, seconded by Tammy Wagner, to accept the minutes of the April 2, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The legislature is currently reviewing the budget – Medicaid cuts are the big topic of discussion. Earlier in the month, Mr. Anzano and Ms. Maguire met with Senator Gopal regarding his charter school proposal. He is amenable to NJSIAA's concerns and is open to recommended changes. Mr. Anzano does not expect this proposal to be ready for consideration by June.

Annual Meeting Results – The annual meeting was held on 5/5/25 at the Pines Manor in Edison. Two ballots were presented to incorporate a competitive balance formula to determine how public schools are classified. The first ballot proposed to amend the Bylaws and allow a public school's classification to be changed based on a competitive balance formula as approved by the Executive Committee and set forth in the Policies and Procedures. The second ballot proposed to amend the Policies and Procedures and adopt the specific competitive balance formula endorsed by the Executive Committee this year for football, boys basketball, and girls basketball. Final ballot results are as follows:

Ballot #1 - 194 Yes; 90 No; 2 Abstentions

Ballot #2 – 188 Yes; 95 No; 2 Abstentions

Both proposals were passed by the membership.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

Drug Free Sports 2025-2026 Banned Substances List/Testing Protocols – One Reading – Voice Vote – The recommended 2025-2026 list of banned drug classes and testing protocols from Drug Free Sports was distributed. A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to

approve the 2025-2026 Drug Free Sports Banned Substances List and Testing Protocols. Motion carried unanimously.

Spring State Tournament Schedule – A listing of all spring championships was distributed. The list contained dates and locations for each planned championship event.

Scholar Athlete Luncheon – May 18, 2025 – Pines Manor – 398 students will be honored at this event, and each honoree is allowed to bring up to two guests, paid for by the association. Ms. Maguire thanked Executive Committee president, Russell Petrocelli, for he will give the invocation and greet every honoree on the stage.

Office Construction Update – This project is 80% completed and should wrap up in June. To date, the association has funded \$530,000, with just a little more to go. Mr. Maselli has been overseeing the renovation.

Program Review

11 committee members met virtually on 5/12 and approved the following six proposals:

Gymnastics Tournament Regulations – State Tournament Restructure – Voice Vote – Under the current format, sectional championships combine both individual and team competitions, resulting in events that last 4 to 5 hours. Additionally, efforts to evenly distribute gymnastics programs across four sections have proven inconsistent and overly reliant on manual placements. This lack of standardization has created inefficiencies and potential inequities. At its post season meeting in December, the Gymnastics Committee discussed ways to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the state tournament structure. On behalf of the committee, NJSIAA staff recommended the following changes to the current structure of the state gymnastics tournaments:

1. Team Sectional Tournament
 - The top 32 teams statewide will qualify.
 - There will be 4 sectional tournaments – consistent with current practice.
 - No individual entries will be permitted at the sectional tournaments.
 - This change is expected to greatly improve time efficiency and organization.
2. Team Championships
 - Each sectional champion and the next 4 teams with the highest team score from PowerPoints across all sectional tournaments will advance – a total of 8 teams will participate in the team championships – consistent with current practice.
3. Individual Championships
 - The top 35 individual scores per event statewide will qualify, regardless of section.
 - Qualifying scores will no longer be required.

This new structure mirrors other NJSIAA sports that feature both team and individual championships. Participation in high school gymnastics has declined by approximately 30% over the last ten years among NJSIAA member schools. This proposal will make the tournament more efficient, scalable, and equitable, allowing it to better accommodate the changing landscape of the sport. Furthermore, the new format models that of the NCAA gymnastics tournament providing a familiar and proven structure.

A motion was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by Sheryl Smith, to approve the new proposed structures to the state gymnastics tournaments, as proposed by the Gymnastics Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

B/G Soccer – Mercy Rule Adoption – Voice Vote – NJSIAA staff, with the support of the Soccer Committee and the Association's Leagues & Conferences, proposed state adoption of the following mercy rule in the sport of boys and girls soccer - The game will end at the 20-minute mark of the second half if the goal differential is six (6) or more goals. After the 20-minute mark of the second half, the game will end once the goal differential becomes six (6) or more goals.

This mercy rule will be in place for all interscholastic contests, including but not limited to, regular season, league/conference tournament and state tournament contests excluding the state championship finals. This mercy rule will supersede any previous rules adopted by a league and/or conference. Statewide adoption of a mercy rule that is applicable to all interscholastic contests will bring consistency across all leagues and conferences and simplify application of the mercy rule for coaches and officials. It is in the Association's best interest to adopt a statewide mercy rule that is easily understood by all participants and site administrators. This will mitigate the risk of confusion or arguments that can take place when member schools are competing in non-league/conference contests.

A motion was made by John Fraraccio, seconded by Tripp Welborne, to adopt the mercy rule in boys and girls soccer for all interscholastic contests excluding the state championship final, and end the game at the 20-minute mark of the second half if the goal differential is six (6) or more goals. After the 20-minute mark of the second half, the game will end once the goal differential becomes six (6) or more goal in boys and girls soccer. Motion carried unanimously.

Football Tournament Regulations – Public Classifications – Non -Public Multiplier– Voice Vote –

On behalf of the Football Committee and the Football Leagues and Conferences Committee, NJSIAA staff recommended the following updates to the football tournament regulations.

1. Public School Snake Seeding Methodology - Update

Below is a revised seeding procedure that will be used to seed the public-school state tournament:

- a) The top 16 teams from each super-section will make the playoffs, following all of the same qualification guidelines as previous seasons, based upon UPR standings.
- b) Teams will be ranked #1-#16 in UPR, breaking all ties (as per the current regs), followed by any head-to-head jumps (as per the current regs). At this point in time, the order of the top 16 will be locked and there will be NO MORE jumps.
- c) Once the top 16 are declared as per the tournament regulations, the following "sectional seeding procedures" will take place.
- d) First, the #1 and #2 teams will be assigned as the #1 seed for each section based on northing numbers – the highest northing number in each super section will be the #1 seed in NI and Central.
- e) Next, the remaining teams (#3 - #16) will be sorted by northing number in order to split the remaining teams based on geography. The group with the highest northing numbers will be assigned to NI and Central, the group with the lower northing numbers will be assigned to NII and Central.
- f) Once the northing numbers separate each super-section into two sections, we will use the UPR to seed the teams in each section. THERE WILL BE NO ADDITIONAL JUMPS AT THIS POINT IN TIME, UPR NUMBERS ARE FIRMLY LOCKED.

- g) The winners of each section will play in the state semifinal against the winner of the other section from within the original super-section, using the UPR ranking to determine who the home team will be.

The committees feel that this revised seeding procedure will reduce travel distances for many schools during the first two rounds of the state tournament while maintaining the integrity of the sectional tournament bracket.

2. Non-Public Multiplier Schools

Below is the list of non-public schools that will start the 2025-2026 season in the following categories. There are no changes to how the multiplier will be calculated when a public school competes against one of these schools. In addition, consistent with prior year, if a non-public multiplier school loses to a non-multiplier school during the regular season, then they will move down a category or no longer be considered a multiplier school. This allows necessary fluidity during the course of the season to ensure the integrity of the multiplier values.

A (80% of SI)	B (75% of SI)	C (70% of SI)	D (70% of SI)
Bergen Catholic DePaul Catholic Don Bosco St. Joe's (Montvale)	Delbarton Pope John St. Augustine	Holy Spirit Paramus Catholic Red Bank Catholic Seton Hall Prep St. John Vianney St. Peter's Prep St. Thomas Aquinas	Paul VI St. Joe's (Metuchen)

3. Season Dates – 2025 – 2026 School Year

Below is a list of regular season start dates and state tournament dates:

Week 0 – Thursday, August 28, 2025 (all levels)

Week 1 – Thursday, September 4, 2025

Public – First Round – Friday, October 31, 2025, or Saturday, November 1, 2025

Non-Public First Round – Friday, November 7, 2025, or Saturday, November 8, 2025

State Championships – Friday, November 28, 2025 – Sunday, November 30, 2025 *

State Championships – Thanksgiving Day team – Wednesday, December 3, 2025

*Dependent on facility availability at Met Life Stadium and Rutgers University.

A motion was made by Steven Jenkins, seconded by John Fraraccio, to approve the updated football public school snake methodology and non-public multiplier schools, as well as the 2025-2026 school year season dates for the football tournament regulations on behalf of the Football Committee and the Football Leagues and Conferences Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Ice Hockey/Swimming/Bowling – Practice Start Date – Voice Vote – NJSIAA staff, with the support of the Ice Hockey, Swimming, and Bowling Committees, as well as the Association's Leagues & Conferences, proposed a modification to the NJSIAA Rules & Regulations – Program Regulations –

Section 6 (Start of Practice) that will permit ice hockey, swimming, and bowling to begin practice one week earlier than currently allowed, which is the Monday of Thanksgiving Week. However, the date that competition may begin will remain unchanged.

This proposal addresses challenges unique to these sports, which often rely on third-party facilities for practice. These facilities can present difficulties in securing adequate and consistent practice times within the current preseason window.

Additionally:

- Ice hockey and swimming require athletes to complete a minimum of six practices before their first competition. The current schedule, combined with the Thanksgiving holiday, limits the ability of teams to meet this requirement without strain.
- The extra week would provide greater flexibility and opportunity for teams to safely and effectively prepare for competition.

It is recommended that this proposal, if approved, begin with the 2025-26 winter season and future dates are summarized below.

Current Practice Start Date Ice Hockey/Swimming/Bowling	Proposed Practice Start Date Ice Hockey/Swimming/Bowling	Practice Start Date All Other Sports
November 24, 2025	November 17, 2025	December 1, 2025
November 23, 2026	November 16, 2026	November 30, 2026
November 22, 2027	November 15, 2027	November 29, 2027

A motion was made by Sheryl Smith, seconded by John Fraraccio, to modify the NJSIAA Rules & Regulations – Program Regulations – Section 6 (Start of Practice), to permit ice hockey, swimming, and bowling to begin practice one week earlier than currently allowed, which is the Monday of Thanksgiving Week. However, the date that competition may begin will remain unchanged. Motion carries unanimously.

B/G Bowling Tournament Regulations – Match Play Format – Voice Vote – The Bowling Committee hosted its post season meeting in March and discussed several key issues facing high school bowling in New Jersey. The primary concern was the lack of standardization in match and scoring formats across the state. This proposal focuses on aligning regular season match play with the five-player format used in post season competition to ensure uniformity, fairness, and integrity in rankings. Currently, team rankings for state tournament qualification are calculated using the PowerPoint system, which factors in the top four (4) individual scores per match. This creates inconsistencies and potential advantages for teams fielding more than four bowlers. To address these inconsistencies, NJSIAA recommended adopting a five-bowler format for both match play and PowerPoint calculations starting with the 2025–26 winter season.

Proposed Match Format

1. Regular season matches will be contested 5 vs. 5.
2. The PowerPoint system will be modified to calculate all five bowlers' scores.
3. If lane availability is limited, matches may be split: 3 vs. 3 on one lane pair and 2 vs. 2 on another lane pair.
4. Each match will consist of three (3) games.

Currently, schools compete with either 4, 5 or 6 bowlers per match – the number of competitors varies across all leagues and conferences. Schools using more than four bowlers gain a competitive edge by excluding lower scores from PowerPoint calculations. Standardizing the match format to five bowlers is a compromise across all leagues and conferences and eliminates perceived competitive advantages that were allowable during the 2024-2025 season. As NJSIAA has restructured its high school bowling tournaments in recent years, it is important that the regular season is aligned with the state tournament format. By moving to a uniform format across all schools, the integrity of the power point rankings and state tournament seeding will not be compromised.

A motion was made by Sheryl Smith, seconded by John Fraraccio, to change the bowling match format so that 1-Regular season matches will be contested 5 vs. 5; 2-The PowerPoint system will be modified to calculate all five bowlers' scores.; 3-If lane availability is limited, matches may be split: 3 vs. 3 on one lane pair and 2 vs. 2 on another lane pair; and 4-Each match will consist of three (3) games. Motion carried unanimously.

Wrestling Tournament Regulations – Voice Vote – On behalf of the Boys and Girls Wrestling Committees, NJSIAA staff recommended the following updates to the wrestling tournament regulations:

1. State Tournament Dates – 2025–2026

Due to a scheduling conflict with Boardwalk Hall, the individual state tournament will be moved to March 12 – 14 for the 2025-2026 school year (the corresponding dates from this past season would have been March 5 – 7). As a result, the boys committee recommends pushing back the start of the team tournament which will allow one extra week of regular season competition and keep the tournaments progressing on a consistent schedule with prior years. Therefore, the committee recommends the following dates for the 2025 – 2026 season:

Below is a list of regular season start dates and state tournament dates:

Team Tournament: Monday, February 16 – Sunday, February 22

Boys Districts: Saturday, February 28

Boys Regions: Friday, March 6 – Saturday, March 7

Girls Regions: Sunday, March 8

Individual State Championships: Thursday, March 12 – Saturday, March 14

All match limit dates, cut-off dates and seeding dates will be updated to reflect the new state tournament dates.

2. District Tournament Entry Fee

Flo Wrestling, who owns Trackwrestling.com, has informed NJSIAA that they will be rolling out a new pricing model next school year. Instead of a la carte pricing menu, they are moving to a bundled pricing model that will charge the state association a fixed amount per school in each season – boys and girls. This new pricing model will provide free use of the Trackwrestling.com platform for schools in either season for hosting tournament brackets – schools and/or leagues and conferences will no longer have to pay Flo Sports directly when hosting their own tournaments. The new bundled pricing model will lead to an overall increase of approximately \$22K to the Association.

As a result of this new model, in an effort to offset the increase in cost to the Association, the Finance Committee has approved an increase to the district (or region) entry fee from \$16.00 to \$25.00. The total increase to the school's entry fee will be \$126.00 per school for a boys team (14-weight classes) and \$108.00 for a girls team (12-weight classes).

3. Reporting Weights – Violations

In recent years, there has been an increase in reports of coaches not entering the correct weights in Trackwrestling – the weights entered in Trackwrestling do not match the weights on the weigh-in sheets. As a result, the student-athlete's weight decent plans are not accurate which may lead to wrestler's competing in weight classes that they are not eligible to compete in. NJSIAA staff has had to investigate several of these reports and oftentimes the misreporting of weights in the Trackwrestling system are intentional in an effort to manipulate a student-athlete's weight decent plan.

The committee endorsed an automatic sanction for any coach who does not enter the correct weights to be applied consistently to all coaches – a two-week suspension and a \$200.00 fine. During the suspension period, the coach may attend practices but cannot be anywhere in the vicinity of an event nor have any communications with others on the coaching staff during an event.

4. Girls Wrestling Season – Separation

The committee continued to unanimously support the proposal that was approved last year to separate the girls season from the boys season. Starting the 2025-2026 season, girls will be limited to one season on Trackwrestling – they will no longer be allowed to be entered in both the girls and boys seasons. Lastly, there will no longer be a minimum number of matches requirement to enter the girls individual tournament.

5. Girls Wrestling Team Tournament

The girls wrestling committee has requested approval to sanction a girls team tournament starting with the 2025-2026 season. The committee recommends a minimum of 9 dual meet matches to enter the tournament and defines a dual meet match as one with a minimum of 7 bouts wrestled (i.e., 5 or fewer forfeited weight classes). The tournament will consist of a north and south section with the top 8 teams in each section seeded. The tournament will run in coordination with the boys team tournament week with the girls rounds being held on the same dates and the boys non-public tournament rounds.

6. Girls Wrestling Individual Tournament

The girls wrestling committee has requested approval to expand the individual tournament starting with the 2025-2026 season by hosting district tournaments. There will be 12 district tournaments held the day after the boys district tournaments – 3 districts will be mapped to each region. The top 4 will advance to the region tournament and the top 4 at each region tournament will advance to the individual state championship finals, representing an increase from a 12-wrestler bracket to a 16-wrestler bracket.

A motion was made by Steven Jenkins, seconded by Jeremy Braverman, to approve the recommended changes to the wrestling tournament regulations, as proposed by NJSIAA staff and the Boys and Girls Wrestling Committees.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Cooperative Sports Program Approvals – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Cooperative Sports Committee met in May 2025 to review 24 cooperative sports applications for winter sports. Twenty were approved and four were denied. Mr. Popadiuk expects that at least three of the applications denied will appeal the decision and request a hearing in front of the Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee.

The committee approved the following applications:

1. Brick Township – Brick Memorial – Boys Ice Hockey
2. Camden Eastside – Camden – Girls Basketball

3. Chatham-Millburn – Livingston – Girls Ice Hockey
4. Cliffside Park – Ridgely Memorial – Girls Wrestling
5. Henry P. Becton – Woodridge – Boys Wrestling
6. Henry P. Becton – Woodridge – Girls Wrestling
7. Hoboken-Weehawken – Secaucus – Girls Ice Hockey
8. Lodi – Saddle Brook – Boys Wrestling
9. Lodi – Saddle Brook – Girls Wrestling
10. Monmouth – Matawan – Boys Swimming
11. Monmouth – Matawan – Girls Swimming
12. Mount Olive – Hopatcong – Hackettstown – Boys Ice Hockey
13. Mount Saint Dominic Academy – DePaul Catholic – Girls Swimming
14. Newark Academy – Morris Catholic Boys Wrestling
15. Parsippany Hills – Parsippany – Girls Basketball
16. Ramapo Indian Hills – Glen Rock – Boys Swimming
17. Ramapo Indian Hills – Glen Rock – Girls Swimming
18. Rancocas Valley – Burlington Township – Girls Swimming
19. South Brunswick – North Brunswick – Monroe – Boys Ice Hockey
20. Sparta – Jefferson – Girls Wrestling

A motion was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by Gregory Troxell, to approve the twenty winter cooperative sports programs approved by the Cooperative Sports Committee in May 2025 for a four-year period starting with the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried with one abstention.

Bylaws Changes and Clarifications Proposal – The NJSIAA Chief Compliance Officer is tasked each year with reviewing the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures to ensure accuracy and consistency. There are several areas that are not worded correctly, not within the spirit of the rule, or need to be amended to clarify current practices or address new areas of need. In consultation with NJSIAA staff and counsel, Mr. Popadiuk recommended the following changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures. Each recommended change is supported by a brief rationale statement.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

[Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.]

Bylaws, 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.

CL1: It is considered a transfer if a homeschooled student moves from homeschooling to a high school or from a high school to homeschooling. If the student's home district has a Board of Education policy that permits homeschooled students to participate in sports, the student will be exempt from the penalty sit when transferring from homeschooling to the home district or from the home district to homeschooling.

CL 2: A transfer student is eligible to participate in sports at the new high 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.

CL 3: Sports participation at the new school includes participation in summer sports activities. Therefore, students who participate in summer sports activities at their new school, and subsequently transfer to another school, or return to their former school, prior to the start of the school year, are subject to the 30-day period of ineligibility for a second transfer.

Rationale: This makes it clear that a student who leaves a school, enrolls in a new school, participates in summer sports activities at the new school, and then either enrolls in a third school or reenrolls in their original school, is subject to the 30-day period of ineligibility for a second transfer. This will stop students from disenrolling from a school, trying a new school's sports program out during the summer, and then transferring back to their school or to a different new school without penalty.

Competition Start Date: The "Competition Start Date" is the first day of the school's first regular season contest competition for in each sport. ~~as set forth annually in the Program Regulations, Section 8. For football, the Week 1 Competition Start Date will be used.~~

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 sit-out period will be three (3) games for a 22-day period of ineligibility, and four (4) games for a 30-day period of ineligibility, regardless of the maximum number of contests. ~~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.

Rationale: Changing these definitions make our rule consistent with changes that have been made to our competition start date (allowing schools to start their regular season any time after their 6 practices), and it clarifies the number of games football players will sit, making it easier for ADs to calculate the period of ineligibility.

Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 E (Credits)

2. To be eligible for athletic competition during the second semester (Feb. 1 to June 30), a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12½% of the credits (15) required by New Jersey for graduation (120) at the close of the preceding semester (Jan. 31). Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.

CL 5: ~~An athlete~~ A student in 9th, 10th, or 11th grade, who is ineligible under Article V, Section 4.E(2) may become eligible for the remainder of the spring sports season on May 1, if he/she the student meets the requirements of Article V, Section 4E(2) as of that date. A student in 12th grade may become eligible at the end of the third marking period if the student meets the same requirements.

Rationale: This more accurately describes our practice. As an added incentive and perk, we allow seniors to become eligible at the end of the 3^d marking period, rather than wait until May 1st.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 1 and 2 above, a pupil who is eligible at the beginning of a sports season shall be allowed to finish that season.

CL 3: It is recognized that students may accelerate their academic programs during their first three years of secondary schooling. Consequently, such students may be eligible in the second semester of their senior year even when they carry less than 12½% of the State minimum (15 credits) during the first semester provided they are meeting their school district's graduation requirements and are passing all courses required for graduation. ~~in which they are enrolled at the start of the first semester.~~ Seniors who withdraw from courses with a passing grade (WP) will be eligible provided they are carrying sufficient credits for graduation purposes.

Rationale: This clarification places the focus on graduation requirements of State and school.

Bylaws, Article IX, Sportsmanship
Section 3: Association Responsibility: Sportsmanship Rule/Policy

Unsportsmanlike conduct shall include but not be limited to the following:

- A. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who strikes or physically abuses an official, opposing coach, player, or spectator.
- B. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who intentionally incites participants or spectators to violent or abusive action.
- C. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who uses obscene gestures or profane or unduly provocative language or action towards officials, opponents, or spectators.
- D. Any person (athletic department, staff member, student-athlete, or a fan or spectator associated with a member school) who engages in harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event.
- E. Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official, opponents and/or opposing coaches/players.
- F. The administration of a member school will be responsible for the unsportsmanlike conduct of that school's athletic department, staff members, student-athletes, fans or spectators.

Rationale: This clarifies that member schools are responsible for everyone associated with the school.

Section 5
Executive Authority:

- A. The Investigation of Complaints. The Association vests authority in its President and Executive Director to investigate and take appropriate action on any reported flagrant violation of the sportsmanship rule occurring during the regular season or NJSIAA tournament competitions. The President or Executive Director may request the school or the league or conference to investigate the violation and report any action taken. The President or Executive Director may also refer the violation to the Controversies Committee for investigation.
- B. Bias incidents. In addition to any other investigation undertaken by a school, league

conference or the NJSIAA, the Executive Director shall forward to the New Jersey Division on Civil Rights any report of a violation of the sportsmanship rule resulting from harassing verbal or physical conduct related to race, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or religion at an interscholastic event.

- C. Reported violations shall be resolved in a manner sufficient to correct the problem and may range from a written statement of the findings by the Executive Director to the school administration, to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension, disqualification, or removal from interscholastic events.
- ~~D. Any report of a violation of good sportsmanship occurring during an NJSIAA sanctioned event, must be submitted in writing and include the violator and/or his/her school.~~

Rationale: This defines the types of disciplinary actions that may be administered by the Executive Director. This also removes outdated language that is no longer relied on by NJSIAA staff.

NJSIAA Rules and Regulations

Program Regulations:

Section 2 Strenuous Sports

A player on an interscholastic athletic team shall participate in only one strenuous high school sport at a time during the regular high school sports season. A player may drop one high school sport to participate in another, but he/she may not return to a sport from which he/she withdrew.

The strenuous sports are: Baseball, Basketball, Unified Basketball, Cross-Country, Diving, Fencing, Field Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Spring Track, Winter Track, Unified Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling.

Rationale: Unified Basketball and Track are considered strenuous sports.

Section 6 Start of Practice

For all strenuous sports (which excludes bowling and golf), student-athletes must take part in 6 practices and have one day of rest (6 days on and 1 day off rule) prior to participating in a scrimmage or regular season contest. ~~the "first scrimmage" date must include one day of rest within the first 7 days from the first practice (6 days on and 1 day off rule).~~ The 6 days of practice and 1 day of rest do not have to be consecutive but must adhere to the 7-day time frame. This requirement applies to all three seasons.

Rationale: This language adjusts to schools that elect not to scrimmage.

Specific Sport Regulations:

4. Disqualification

- a. Any student-athlete or coach disqualified before, during or after an interscholastic event for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct will be disqualified from the next two (2) regularly scheduled games/meets, with the exception of football which will carry a one (1) game disqualification, at that level of competition and all other game(s)/meet(s) in the interim at any level in addition to any other penalties which the NJSIAA or a league/conference may assess.

CL 2: Any student disqualified during a scrimmage will remain ineligible until the second regular season contest in football or the third regular season contest in all other sports. Scrimmage DQs do not count toward the team disqualification maximum but do count toward an individual's disqualification maximum for participation in the NJSIAA tournament. Scrimmages are not considered part of the disqualification rule.

Rationale: This sends a consistent message to student athletes that getting disqualified during a scrimmage is not okay and better aligns with the in-season rule without jeopardizing the team's ability to participate in the NJSIAA tournament.

4. Disqualification

- b. A disqualified player or coach may not be present at any contest in that sport during the period of disqualification. Definition of not being present at the site means the disqualified player or coach is not to be present in the locker room, on the bus, on the sidelines, in the stands or site area before, during or after the game/meet. In addition, a disqualified coach may not engage in any coaching or communication whatsoever with anyone at the contest.

Rationale: This clearly addresses coaches who are disqualified and try to circumvent the rule by using technology to coach from home.

Fencing

Section 1 Rules United States Fencing Association NCAA Rules shall govern all NJSIAA meets.

Rationale: NJSIAA has been following NCAA rules for years. This is a mandatory update.

Bowling

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic bowling team must participate as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total matches to be eligible for the NJSIAA Team State Tournament.

CL 1: 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 matches, up to and including the cut-off date, less those matches in which the student was not able to compete due to extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Gymnastics

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

CL 1: 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 meets, up to and including the cut-off date, less those meets in which the student was not able to compete due to extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Girls Tennis (Fall), Boys Tennis (Spring)

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic tennis team must participate as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total matches to be eligible for the NJSIAA Team State Tournament.

CL 1: 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 matches, up to and including the cut-off date, less those matches in which the student was not able to compete due to extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

Rationale: The addition of bowling, gymnastics and tennis is consistent with how we treat fencing, ice hockey, swimming and soccer.

Guidelines, Policies and Procedures

Unified Sports, Section 2. Unified Partner Eligibility

1. Any student participating in a strenuous sport at any level ~~the varsity level~~ at any time during the season is NOT eligible to compete as a Unified partner in a strenuous Unified Sport ~~the same sport~~. Appropriate participation for such a student may take place as a manager.

Rationale: Special Olympics New Jersey requested this clarification. It specifies that a unified partner may not participate in two strenuous sports during the same season.

A motion was made by Carl Buffalino, seconded by Barry Fitzgerald, to approve the recommended changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedure proposed by NJSIAA's Chief Compliance Officer, Paul Popadiuk, to correct areas that are not worded correctly, not within the spirit of the rule, or need to be amended to clarify current practices and address new areas of need. Motion carried first reading unanimously.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Officials Registration Summary – Mr. Maselli distributed a chart demonstrating the number of officials registered for each sport, each year, for the past three years. Giving a \$300 stipend to new officials was a two-year program and was a big success in recruiting new officials for most sports. Baseball and softball saw the biggest increase. Soccer was an anomaly that Mr. Maselli cannot explain since it saw a decrease in the number of officials. The association continues to recruit officials. Mr. Petrocelli asked if any sports are experiencing issues fielding officials. Mr. Maselli answered that JV and freshmen soccer games sometimes are cancelled due to lack of officials.

Sport Medical Advisory Committee (SMAC) Meeting Update – The committee approved next year's Steroid Testing Protocols and Banned Substance list, discussed flag football, and created a standard form for football helmet advisors. Next summer, the committee will produce its own concussion video for New Jersey, since NJ law requires the association provide one. The next meeting will be in June.

Baseball Update – Mr. Maselli has received many emails and phone calls asking if the association is going to move the cutoff date, which is Saturday, 5/17. Mr. Maselli will check to see if most schools have met the 16-game minimum before making that decision since it has been raining nonstop for days now.

Al Stumpf, Assistant Director Update

Golf Update – Mr. Stumpf thanked his sectional directors for getting all sectional matches in, despite the rain. The boys team and individual championships took place on a beautiful day this past Monday, while the girls competed the next day in rainy weather.

The boys individual champion was an impressive win by freshmen, Rory Asselta of St. Joseph Montvale, who shot 8-under 64 to win, even after pins were moved to make the course more challenging. Group winners were as follows: Group 1 – Madison HS; Group 2 – Mendham HS; Group 3 – Chatham HS; Group 4 – Westfield HS; and Non-Public – St. Joe Montvale.

Pingry's Rayee Feng was crowned the girls individual champion after she defeated Holy Angels' Inha Jun in an extra hole playoff. Group winners were as follows: Public A-Princeton HS; Public B-Moorestown HS; Non-Public-Holy Angels.

Spring Track Update – Sectionals begin this weekend on 5/16 and 5/17 at various sites. The group championships will be on 5/30 and 5/31 at South Plainfield HS, Franklin HS and Stockton University. The tournament concludes at the Meet of Champions on 6/4 at Pennsauken HS. On 5/29, the Unified championships will take place at Franklin HS. 15 teams are registered to compete.

June Scholastic Event – Girls Basketball Waiver Request – One Reading – Voice Vote – Since the NCAA scheduled the Girls Scholastic Recruiting Event (Girls NJ Live) for June 12-14, which falls before the NJSIAA summer start date of June 16, the NJ Basketball Coaches Association Executive Board requested a waiver to allow participating NJ teams to begin their summer season on Monday, June 9 so they have adequate time to prepare. This request would apply only to teams participating in the event and would not affect other programs. Notably, the Boys Scholastic Recruiting Event is scheduled for June 20-22, providing boys' teams the same amount of preparation time. Approving this waiver would help ensure an equitable opportunity for the girls' teams.

The NJ teams scheduled to participate are Bayonne, Bishop Eustace, Caldwell, Chatham, Cherokee, Colts Neck, Depaul Catholic, Egg Harbor, Ewing, Gill St Bernard, Glenn Rock, Haddon Twp, Hillsborough, Holmdel, Hudson Catholic, Immaculata, Immaculate Heart, Lenape HS, Manasquan, Middle Twp, Middlesex, Morris Catholic, Morris Hills, Mount St. Mary's, Northern Valley Demarest, Old Tappan, Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Paramus Catholic, Pascack Valley, Pingry, Pope John, Ramapo, Ranney, Red Bank Catholic, Rumson Fair Haven, Rutgers Prep, Secaucus, Sparta, St. John Vianney, St. Rose, St. Thomas Aquinas, Teaneck, Thrive Charter, Trinity Hall, Verona, West Orange, Westfield HS, Westwood and Wildwood Catholic.

A motion was made by Jason Miller, seconded by Jeffrey Steele, to approve the waiver allowing NJ girl basketball teams participating in this year's NCAA scheduled the Girls Scholastic Recruiting Event (Girls NJ Live) from June 12-14, 2025, to begin their summer season on Monday, June 9. Motion carried unanimously.

Derryk Sellers, Assistant Director Update

Softball Update – The non-public and public championships will be played on 6/11 and 6/13 respectively, both at Ivy Hill Park.

Boys Volleyball Update – The finals will be played at South Brunswick HS, on 6/11 (Groups 2&4) and 6/12 (Groups 1&3).

Boys Lacrosse Update – The non-public finals will be played on 6/11. Along with the girls, the public finals will take place over two days (6/13 and 6/14) at four different locations (Somerville, Ridge, Hopewell Valley and Monroe).

Coach Clinics 2024-2025 Summary – Below is a summary of the number of registrants that attended coaching clinics in the 2024-2025 school year:

Bowling-	75
Golf-	100
Fencing-	30
Volleyball-	65
Tennis-	150
Wrestling-	135

Sandy Mamary, Assistant Director Update

Boys Tennis Update – Powerpoints close at noon on 5/15. Seeding will take place on 5/19.

Girls Lacrosse Update – Powerpoints are due 5/21, followed by seeding the next day (5/22). Finals sites are detailed under Derryk Sellers's lacrosse report, but specific group finals will not be assigned until matchups are determined. This is so if both boys and girls teams from the same school make it to the finals, they will play on the same day, at the same site.

Finance Committee Update – Russell Petrocelli

Approval of Monthly Checks – The April 1, 2025 through May 12, 2025 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Barry Walker made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey Steele, to approve the April 1, 2025 through May 12, 2025 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business / New Business – none

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – Mr. Goodell gave his report in closed session.

Closed Session – A motion was made to enter closed session by Barry Walker, seconded by Steve Shohfi at 12:08 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion to enter open session and adjourn was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by Carl Buffalino at 12:50 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

CEM: In