



Fencing Post Season Meeting Agenda April 8, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

1. Welcome and introductions
 - Present- **George Janto, Ted Li, John Reid, Micheal Malicki, Stephen Olson, Rich Molina**
2. Review of 2024 Post Season Minutes
 - **Minutes were reviewed and passed. – No questions or comments.**
3. Review of the regular season (Positive / Negative)
 - Reporting Match results in a timely manner. - **Some coaches are not reporting because they feel that they are providing “scouting” information to their opposing coaches. There are penalties for this – BUT it needs to be reported. New Tournament set up for 2025-26 season makes it mandatory to report – teams will not be able to qualify unless scoring information for teams and individuals are reported.**
 - Review of 50% rule. - **NJSIAA will be looking to clarify the rule during the summer to eliminate loopholes in it.**
 - Availability of officials. Use of non -approved officials.-**The NJSIAA has worked with the assigner to get coaches certified as officials for emergency situation. The NJSIAA has also worked to streamline the paperwork and background checks for potential officials. The NJ Fencing coaches will continue to help in this area with setting up officiating clinics to help train potential officials.**
4. Review of the post-season (Positive / Negative).
 - No fencing on Presidents Weekend- did it help? - **Beneficial for helping to lessen the impact of the Junior Olympic Competition for schools that advance to the Sweet 16.**
 - Play by dates. - Did it help? – **Helps particularly with schools who only have 1 coaching staff that coaches both the boys and girls teams.**
 - Hunterdon Central – Individuals- **Coaches gave positive feedback on the site. Feel that it is ideal for the Individual Championships. Compliments HC Athletic Director, Jesse Spencer and his staff for their help in setting up the event and for running the event.**
5. Review of dates for next season
 - TBD – based on new tournament set up. - **Will be determined once the new set up is written.**
 - **Nov. 24-26 – Try Outs- these days do not count towards the 6 plus 1 rule.**
 - **December 1 – first day of practice- counts towards 6 plus 1 rule.**

- **December 8 – Competitions can begin**
 - **March 8 – Competition end date**
6. Review of current regulations and any proposed changes for next season.
- Will be written up over the summer- **Tournament Regulations for both the team and Individual Championships need to be revised to reflect the new classifications and 16 team North and South Brackets.**
7. New Business
- **Need to report new teams to the NJSIAA so they can be included in the classifications.**
 - Power points for Tournament Brackets- **The NJSIAA will be looking at the current PP structure and possibly modify it over the summer. The Fencing Committee will recommend that a team's ten (10) highest power points be used for qualification.**
 - Independent Fencers – qualification – **need to be addressed and the number that schools can enter in each discipline needs to be defined. This year a school entered 6 in one discipline which could have potentially prevented other schools' independent fencers from qualifying. Some schools had enough independent entries that they could have competed all season as a co-ed team.**
 - **The committee recommends that a school without a fencing program be limited to no more than 2 entries per discipline.**
 - **It was also noted that this year 6 of the 24 Individual Champions have come from the independent fencing pool.**
 - Individual Fencer qualification – **how will they qualify w/o District Tournament? A committee will be formed to address this. It will be a 5-person Committee chaired by Mike Griffin from the NJ Fencing Coaches. The NJSIAA is asking that they have a preliminary report for review no later than September 1, 2025.**
 - **Two proposals- use NCAA Individual qualification standards modified to our needs or use Touch by Touch to qualify individuals. Committee members at the meeting are interested in pursuing TBT as most coaches are familiar with it.**
 - George Janto- recognition- **The NJSIAA and the NJ High School Fencing community thanked George Janto for his years of dedication to high school fencing in NJ and for all he has done to help get fencing to be put on the same level as other high school sports in NJ. George has announced his retirement from coaching, he will be missed. The NJSIAA hopes that George will continue to serve the high school fencing community in an advisory capacity.**
8. Old Business
- **Credentials for coaches on the floor.- Was not as much of a problem this year- with the new tournament set up, it may not be an issue in the future.**
9. Correspondence (See Attached)- **All issues have been addressed above.**
10. Good of the order. - **Members of the committee are concerned about the shortage of officials. They are also concerned when officials are assigned to a 4:30 match and one school and a 6:30 match at another school. When this occurs, the 6:30 match usually does not get started on time, making it a long day for the athletes, coaches and officials.**
- The NJSIAA recommended that with the change in the tournament set up that schools look to schedule tri and quad matches on Saturday when more officials may be available. It would also help with transportation costs. The elimination of the District Championships will help free up weekends for matches.**

Meet adjourned approx. 7:45 pm

