



Basketball Post Season Meeting Agenda April 14, 2025 @ 10:00am

1. Welcome and introductions.
 - Reminder that this committee is advisory only – not policy making.
 - Present- ***Al Stumpf – NJSIAA, Jason Miller, Jeff Steele, Bill Vacca, Lisa Kukoda, Brendan McGovern, Jeff Cohen, Anthony Browning, Erin Keenan***
 - NV – non – voting members-***Bob Grauso / Nick Mariniello- NJBCA, Brian Lauducci- IAABO***
 - **The NJSIAA extended thanks to Lisa Kukoda, Alex Mirabel and W. Scott Durham for their service to the Committee – their terms are ending with this meeting.**

2. Review of 2024 Post Season Minutes
 - See Attachment- ***Minutes were reviewed – no issues. Motion to accept – Miller, Seconded by Browning – all were in favor.***

3. Review of the regular season (Positive / Negative)
 - Complaints about spectator policies and crowd issues. ***Use of Unsportsmanlike form. - Al Stumpf explained how the form was used and how schools were contacted to correct these issues. This procedure worked well this year.***
 - Definition of in season tournament what counts as post season vs regular season tournament. - ***Still getting concerns/issues understanding it. Clarification will be included on the basketball webpage. Will be discussed at this meeting. - If there is a county/conference-based tournament, this tournament must be used as the PLUS 1 tournament – games do not count towards the 24-game regular season count. Any other tournament a team plays in – those games MUST be included in the 24 regular season game count.***
 - Level of officiating- role of coaches in evaluation of Officials. - Additional Training for officials- IAABO offers to help. - ***Coaches need to get involved. Al Stumpf and the NJSIAA recognize that in season coaches have many tasks and that may be the reason that coaches are not participating in the observations. The NJSIAA will explore the possibility of adding retired coaches to their basketball observers list to help get an objective observation from a coach's perspective.***

4. Review of the post-season (Positive / Negative)
 - Post Season Official Assignment- ***NJSIAA assigned all rounds this year – did it work? – NJSIAA received very few concerns about the officiating in the state tournament this year. This change in assigning has helped. State assignors also were able to introduce new officials into the state tournament this year.***

- **State assignors want to thank the local assignors for their input on their recommendations of officials.**
 - **State assignors were instructed to try and keep the 3 person crews together from the Sectional Finals through the Group Championships, this enabled the officials to be familiar with their partners. This worked well.**
 - Ticket sales – online vs at the door- **NJSIAA recommended for Sectional finals – if host school expected a sell out to use paper tickets with a 60/40 split. Did it work? This worked well, NJSIAA will continue this practice.**
 - Alternate days that boys and girls from same section play- NJSIAA did not schedule separate days BUT did allow schools to move games by mutual agreement. **This practice will continue.**
 - Predetermined sites Group Semis – G/B – NJSIAA received positive feedback. Ticket sales – NJSIAA is surveying host sites about clearing the gyms between games and selling separate tickets for each game. **All of these sites did an outstanding job in hosting these events. The NJSIAA survey results from the host sites were that all the sites except 1 prefer to clear the gym between games. This may cause the game times to be adjusted.**
 - Officiating games in postseason. **Covered previously in the minutes.**
 - Use of 4th official Sectional finals through Group Finals. **This was an added precaution used this year for the first time. The 4th official was used twice during the championship rounds to help clarify an issue.**
 - All semi- final sites were equipped with backboard LED lighting at buzzer.
 - Other issues at pre-determined sites- locker rooms, white boards. **-Issues were discussed, nothing major but they will be addressed with the host schools.**
5. Review of dates for next season – see proposed attached calendar
- Try- outs – 3 days prior to Thanksgiving- Nov. 24 -26
 - First practice towards 6 days - Monday. Dec. 1
 - First Competition- Monday Dec. 8
 - Cut Off – Feb14
 - Tournament starts – Feb 25
 - End of Competition – March 8
6. Review of current regulations and any proposed changes for next season.
- Possible Power Point – possible calculation change. **The NJSIAA is looking at this issue during the summer. Two main issues that came up in the Committee were: Out of State / Non- Member records and using all games up to the cutoff for power point calculations.**
7. New Business
- NJBCA – June Scholastic Event – Girls – June 12-14 Boys- June 20-22 Both at Montgomery HS. -
 - **NJ Live was discussed by the NJBCA.**
 - **NJBCA will be developing a Mentor/Mentee program to help new coaches with being better prepared in sportsmanship, state rules knowledge, game preparation and coaching skills.**
 - **NJBCA will be surveying coaches and preparing a presentation for the NJSIAA to consider adding the shot clock to NJ high school basketball. There was discussion at this meeting about the positive and negative aspects of adding the clock- cost factors and running the clock correctly. The NJBCA is working with vendors to see if they can work out a discount program for purchasing the equipment. Because schools develop their budgets for the following year in November, the NJBCA will work to have this information available before November.**

- **Because of the cost to our member schools, any plan or recommendation would need to be presented to and voted on by all NJSIAA member schools.**
- Billy Martin:
- Development of a "Mercy Rule" statewide for regular season and state tournament play. - **The committee is recommending the following for a statewide "mercy rule":**

If a team achieves a lead of 30 points or more at halftime or during the second half (3rd and 4th quarters), the game shall proceed with a running clock. This includes all stoppages of play EXCEPT for the following:

- **Time outs requested by either team.**
- **Injuries (when officials stop play to replace an injured player)**
- **Administration of a Technical Foul**
- **Any unusual circumstance where the referee requests the timer to stop the clock.**
- **Otherwise, the clock will continue to run during all other dead ball situations.**

Additionally- if the point differential becomes 15 points or less during the second half, the clock would revert to normal game timing procedures.

- **This rule would apply to ALL regular season and NJSIAA playoff games. This would supersede ALL previous conference rule modifications regarding a running clock.**
 - **This will be presented to all athletic conferences in the state for discussion and feedback before it is put into effect. The goal is for implementation for the 2025-26 season.**
- **Last minute of play procedure. - Stoppage of clock like the college game. NJSIAA has checked with the NFHS about this procedure. This is not an NFHS rule for basketball, they also do not allow the state association to use it as a rule modification. The NFHS recommends that if the NJSIAA is interested in this, the NJSIAA should submit a Rule Change Proposal in January 2026 for consideration by the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee.**

8. Old Business- **None**

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9. Correspondence (See Attached)

- Chatham and Gill – shot clock discussion. **Discussed in notes.**
- GMAC – Reading sportsmanship statement prior to game in locker room. – **Discussed at meeting – coaches and officials present at meeting were concerned about male officials going into female locker rooms and it interrupting the pre-game warmups to return to the locker room for its reading.**
- Voorhees HS – end tournament a week earlier. – **Cannot be done if we continue to use Rutgers as the tournament site. We received many positive comments about the tournament at Rutgers.**
- **Issues were briefly discussed, those relating to classifications, Charter Schools, season scheduling and competitive balance are not in the authority of this committee to address. All correspondence regarding these issues has been forwarded to the proper person/committee.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 pm

