

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 11, 2025

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, via the Microsoft Teams virtual platform, was called to order by the President, Russell Petrocelli, at 11:05 am.

The following members were present: Jeremy Braverman, Anthony Browning, Carl Buffalino, Kevin Carroll, Jason Corley, Jorge Diaz, Judy Finch-Johnson, Barry Fitzgerald, Michael Gallo, Natalie Gorman, Steven Jenkins, Kurt Karcich, Howard Krieger, Dr. Michael Kuchar, Brendan McGovern, Jason Miller, Dr. Anne Mucci, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Jeffrey Steele, Dr. Gregory Troxell, Michael Vinella, Tammy Wagner, Barry Walker, Tripp Welborne, Dr. Clifford Williams, and Sjoquelyn Winstead. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following members of the press were in attendance: Brian Bobal, *NJ Advance Media*.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by Judy Finch-Johnson, to accept the minutes of the May 14, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Mr. Anzano did not attend today’s meeting but had distributed a listing of current bills being considered by the legislature. He is available for questions.

Executive Committee President Update – Russell Petrocelli

Approval of 2025-2026 Officers – One Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to accept the following slate of executive committee officers for 2025-2026:

President - Judy Finch-Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, Elizabeth Public School District
1st Vice-President - Kurt Karcich, Principal, Point Pleasant Borough High School
2nd Vice-President - Dr. Gregory Troxell, Superintendent, Phillipsburg High School

Motion carried unanimously.

2025-2026 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – A motion was made by Judy Finch-Johnson, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the following Executive Committee meeting dates for 2025-2026:

September 17, 2025 (in-person)
October 15, 2025 (in-person)
November 12, 2025 (virtual)
December 10, 2025 (in-person)
January 21, 2026 (virtual)
February 25, 2026 (virtual)
April 15, 2026 (in-person)
May 13, 2026 (in-person)
June 10, 2026 (virtual)

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

FY 2025 – 2026 Budget Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – Ms. Maguire first thanked the members of the Finance Committee who met all year to review the Association's financial results, monitor its financial status and provide important feedback on significant matters, such as ticket prices and allocating the Association's resources. Prior to this meeting, members of the committee met to review the FY '25 – '26 budget in detail. A detailed memo summarizing the budget was distributed. Ms. Maguire summarized the highlights below:

- 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 an overall increase in net assets (net profit) of approximately \$250K – which provides a necessary safeguard to offset any variability in revenues or unforeseen expenses.
- Budgeted revenues are expected to increase by approximately 2% while budgeted expenses are expected to increase by approximately 1.5%.

A motion to accept the 2025-2026 budget proposal was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Jeff Steele. Motion carried unanimously.

Broadcast Rights Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – NJSIAA's current contract with NJ Advance Media for its primary broadcast rights expires at the end of this school year. In February 2025, NJSIAA posted an RFP for its broadcast rights services to live stream state championship events. The Association received two proposals – one from NJ Advance Media and one from Big State Sports.

The Finance Committee reviewed both proposals at its April 2025 meeting and requested additional feedback from member schools via the leagues and conferences, which NJSIAA staff solicited at its April 2025 meeting. All feedback was positive for both organizations, specifically: both are NJ-based so they know member schools and teams well, both are very professional to work with and live streams by both organizations are well done.

At its May 2025 meeting, the Finance Committee unanimously endorsed a proposal to enter into a 5-year contract with both NJ Advance Media and Big State Sports. NJ Advance Media will be the primary rights holder and Big State Sports will be the secondary rights holder. The total contract rights between both rights holders will be \$70K/year for years 1 -3 and \$75K/year for years 4-5.

A motion was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by Jeff Steele, to enter into a 5-year contract with both NJ Advance Media and Big State Sports with NJ Advance Media as the primary rights holder and Big State Sports as the secondary rights holder. Motion carried unanimously.

NJ Advance Media Contract Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – Since 2008, NJSIAA has partnered with NJ Advance Media to maintain NJSIAA's schedules, rosters and results. The timely and accurate reporting of results to NJ Advance Media's platform is integral to the reliability of the power points that are used to qualify and seed many of NJSIAA's state tournaments. The contract also includes an annual contribution of 30 scholarships to the scholar-athlete program. The Association's current contract with NJ Advance Media for these services expires at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Earlier today, the Finance Committee reviewed the draft contract renewal and unanimously endorsed the recommendation to renew the contract for an 8-year period. The total contract value is \$40K/year, which represents an increase of \$15K/year, for the data reporting rights and annual scholarship donations.

A motion was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to renew NJ Advance Media's contract for another 8 years to maintain NJSIAA's schedules, rosters and results and provide an annual contribution of 30 scholarships to the scholar-athlete program. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Imposed Fines Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Finance Committee reviewed and endorsed the below fines for the 2025-2026 school year. All fines are the same as prior years except the late fee for remitting annual dues, which is new to 2025-2026. Member schools were still submitting annual dues through May this past school year when the due date is October 1. Therefore, it was recommended to assess a late fee to those schools who remit payment after February 1. Staff spends too much time following up with member schools to collect outstanding items. All fines are applied directly to the annual scholar-athlete luncheon account.

Description	Amount
Annual dues late fee – February 1 (new)	\$200
Disqualified coach	\$200
Tournament entry submitted after entry deadline	\$150
Tournament withdrawal on or after tournament seeding date – before tournament brackets are final (12:00pm the following day)	\$150
Tournament withdrawal after tournament brackets are final (1)	\$300
Late entry/day of event entry (MileSplit)	\$150
Failure to timely report results as required – tournament regulations	\$150

A motion was made by Jeff Steele, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the 2025-2026 school year fines endorsed by the Finance Committee, including a new \$200 fine to schools who submit their annual dues after February 1. Motion carried unanimously.

Student Ambassador Applications – Class of 2027 – The association is currently accepting online applications from the Class of 2027. The application link has been sent to all schools via an Alert email. Ms. Maguire is looking for 8 – 10 students from the Class of 2027 to serve for a two-year period. The first meeting of the school year will be on Sunday, September 7. At this meeting, Steve Goodell will review hot topic issues with the students such as transgender sports participation, NJSIAA's sportsmanship policy, and recent incidents that the association had to deal with. Only one applicant per school is permitted.

Office Construction Update – The renovation project is near completion. Inspections took place this past Monday without issue. NJSIAA funded 99% of the total cost. To date approximately \$640K has

been paid. The only remaining item is a small amount for exterior signage which will be completed in the next two weeks.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Spring Disqualification Report (Draft) – The data for disqualifications in boys lacrosse is misleading in the report. The number of disqualifications is correct (and too high), but forty disqualifications came from one bench clearing game. Also, Mr. Popadiuk was disappointed in the number of baseball coaches who received disqualifications (20 total). It's out of control and Mr. Popadiuk plans to work with leagues and conferences officers to help curb it.

Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee Approvals – One Reading – Voice Vote –

The Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee met in June 2025 to hear four cooperative sports appeals for winter sports. The committee approved the following applications for a four-year period starting with the 2025-2026 school year.:

1. Saint John Vianney – The Ranney School – Boys Hockey
2. Highland Regional – Triton Regional – Boys Wrestling

Additionally, the Cooperative Sports Committee reviewed and approved an emergent relief application for Henry Hudson and Keansburg to co-op in field hockey for one year, for the 2025-2026 school year. The schools, if they wish, may apply for a regular four-year approval next year.

A motion was made by Brendan McGovern, seconded by Steven Jenkins, to approve the following cooperative sports programs: 1-Saint John Vianney & Ranney School in ice hockey (for four years); 2-Highland Regional & Triton Regional in boys wrestling (4 years); and Henry Hudson & Keansburg in field hockey (one-year). Motion carried unanimously.

Bylaws Changes and Clarifications Proposal – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote – In May, Mr. Popadiuk recommended several changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures. These changes are detailed in the May 2025 minutes. Before today's roll call vote. Mr. Popadiuk asked the committee if they had any further questions which they didn't. He also asked if the committee would like to vote on each change individually, but it was agreed that all changes can be covered under one roll call vote.

A motion was made by Jeff Steele, seconded by Steve Shohfi, 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. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-26; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2025-2026 Advisory/Controversies Committee – One Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Steve Jenkins, seconded by Brendan McGovern, to accept the proposed Advisory/Controversies Committee for 2025-2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of 2025-2026 Eligibility & Cooperative Sports Committees – One Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Jeff Steele, to accept the proposed Eligibility & Cooperative Sports Committees for 2025-2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Baseball Update – The two non-public finals games take place later in the day. Public schools will play their championship games on Saturday. Mr. Maselli is hoping for no rain, which is forecasted.

Officials Registration Update – Registration continues to be running smooth. There were some complaints about the new system, but they were minor.

Power Points Review – Mr. Maselli is going to review the power points system for each sport this summer. There will be recommendations for minor tweaks, but no major changes will be made until after the two-year cycle is completed.

Al Stumpf, Assistant Director Update (given by Colleen Maguire)

Spring Track Update – On behalf of Mr. Stumpf, Ms. Maguire thanked all the member schools who hosted a track and field meet over the past few weeks – all sites were well run.

The unified track championships were hosted on May 29 at Franklin High School. 15 unified teams participated, which is the largest number of teams to date.

The Meet of Champions was held on Wednesday, June 4, at Pennsauken HS. It was a beautiful day for track and field and proved to be a record-breaking day – especially for the girls.

The following 3 state records were broken:

1. Boys 4 X 100 relay – Burlington Township – 40.74 seconds (previous record 2003)
2. Girls 1,600 – Paige Shepard – Union Catholic – 4:37.65 minutes (previous record 2021)
3. Girls 100 hurdles – Taylor Cox – Union Catholic – 13.18 seconds (previous record 1988)

And the following 8 Meet of Champions records broken:

1. Two boys records in the boys 400M and boys 4 X 100 relay
2. Six girls records broken – almost all girls are grades 11 or below:
 - a. 100
 - b. 200
 - c. 800
 - d. 1,600
 - e. 100 hurdle
 - f. 4 X 100 relay

June Scholastic Event – Girls Basketball Waiver Request Update – At last month's meeting, the Executive Committee approved a waiver request to allow certain girls teams to start summer recess workouts one week early (June 9) that are participating in this weekend's event. Since that meeting, Franklin HS girls basketball team was added to the list of teams participating. Also, NJSIAA extended the waiver to the Shawnee girls basketball team who will be participating at the same scholastic event in Philadelphia – which is hosted by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association on the same dates.

Derryk Sellers, Assistant Director Update (given by Colleen Maguire)

Softball Update – Mr. Sellers wasn't at today's meeting because he was at Ivy Hill Park for the non-public softball championships. The public finals will be played on Friday, June 13th.

Boys Volleyball Update – The boys Groups 1 & 4 volleyball finals will be at South Brunswick HS today, while Groups 2 & 3 will compete for the championships on 6/12.

Boys and Girls Lacrosse Update – The non-public championships are at 4:00pm and 6:30pm later in the day at Kean University. The schedule for the public championships was posted on 6/10. The schedule is purposely kept flexible to accommodate schools with both boys and girls teams participating. This year, three schools (Mountain Lakes, Summit and Westfield HS) have boys and girls lacrosse teams both playing in the finals, so they are scheduled to play a double-header on the same day at the same site.

NJSCA Hall of Fame Nominations – June 16 through July 31 – The association will begin accepting nominations from member schools for the Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame on June 16. The online nomination form will be sent to all schools via an Alert email and will remain open through July 31. The committee meets in August each year to select the Hall of Fame class. Ms. Maguire thanked Executive Committee member, Maria Crowley, for chairing this committee and overseeing this event for the past few years.

Sandy Mamary, Assistant Director Update (given by Colleen Maguire)

Boys Tennis Update – It was a beautiful day last Thursday for the team tennis championships, unlike the weather for the singles/doubles tournament, which has been a complete nuisance. The tournament was supposed to start on Saturday but was postponed to Sunday. Then on Sunday, the afternoon games were disrupted. The tournament resumed earlier in day and will play all day today and Thursday (6/12) before culminating Friday morning with the singles and doubles finals. This has been one of the most difficult tennis seasons to date, but the Mercer County Park system has been a wonderful and flexible host site.

Finance Committee Update – Russell Petrocelli

Approval of Monthly Checks – The May 13, 2025 through June 9, 2025 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Kurt Karcich made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey Steele, to approve the May 13, 2025 through June 9, 2025 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – Mr. Goodell had no report this month, but did encourage committee members to reach out to him or Alexis Smith, Esq., if there are questions about NJSIAA legal matters from this past year.

Old Business / New Business – Jeremy Braverman attended the Meet of Champions and shared how well run the event was, how beautiful the facility was at Pennsauken HS, and how watching Eastern's Natalie Dumas compete was something special.

Mr. Petrocelli thanked Ms. Maguire and NJSIAA staff for the past year and wished Ms. Finch-Johnson, Mr. Karcich, and Dr. Troxell his best as they lead the committee next year.

Ms. Maguire then thanked several people for the past year. First, she thanked the committee for their commitment, service, professionalism and consistently keeping the best interests of New Jersey's student-athletes as a priority. Then she thanked NJSIAA staff for another successful school year, which included the behind-the-scenes support team of Mike Cherenson, Paul Anzano, Steve Goodell and Alexis Smith, who are always on call and always available to assist. Next, she thanked the members of the press who do a fantastic job covering our student-athletes throughout the school year. The photos, feature stories and live game coverage really do mean a lot to our student-athletes and their families – their efforts bring a level of attention to all NJSIAA sports and student-athletes that is not found in other types of sports leagues.

Ms. Maguire then thanked Russell Petrocelli for his support and great job as President, this past year. He was a fantastic representative of the Executive Committee attending luncheon events and showing up at state tournaments. Ms. Maguire expressed being happy he'll be around next year as past-President.

Lastly, Ms. Maguire recognized a few more departing Executive Committee members who were not in attendance at the May meeting and thanked them for their service. Those members whose terms are expiring or who are retiring are as follows:

Maureen Dzwil – Officials Association Representative

Chris Huber – Department of Education – Ex Officio representative

Danny Robertozzi – Passaic County superintendent representative

Kevin Carroll – Bergen County principal representative

Michael Rossi – Sussex County superintendent representative

Jorge Diaz – Middlesex County superintendent representative

Senator Benjie Wimberly – former Assemblyman Wimberly – Ex Officio representative – state assembly

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Steele, seconded by Steve Shohfi at 11:39 am. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: In