

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**November 12, 2025**

**Roll Call** - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, via the Microsoft Teams virtual platform, was called to order by the President, Judy Finch-Johnson, at 11:03 am.

The following members were present: Assemblyman Al Abdelaziz, Jeff Baldino, Mike Bartram, Brian Bosworth, Anthony Browning, Carl Buffalino, Tony Cattani, Christopher Chiera, Jason Corley, Heather Crisci, Maria Crowley, Jorge Diaz, Barry Fitzgerald, John Fraraccio, Michael Gallo, John Germano, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Steven Jenkins, Elizabeth Jewett, Jennifer Killough-Herrera, Dr. Michael Kuchar, Greg Lasher, Brendan McGovern, Jason Miller, Russell Petrocelli, Dr. Timothy Purnell, Michael Raimondi, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Dr. Gregory Troxell, Michael Vinella, Paul Vizzuso, Tammy Wagner, Cynthia Wilks, and Sjocquelyn 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 sportswriters were in attendance: Jake Aferiat, *NJ Advance Media* and Mike McGarry, *Press of Atlantic City*.

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**Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made by Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried with one abstention.

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**Legislative Update (Paul Anzano)** – Mr. Anzano was unable to attend today’s meeting but distributed a report of current bills being considered by the legislature. He is available for questions.

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**Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire**

**Annual Meeting Legislation Deadline – December 1, 2025** – The deadline to submit legislation proposals for the 2025-2026 Annual Meeting is December 1. An alert has already been sent and more will follow. If a school wishes to submit a proposal, they should email it directly to Colleen Maguire, and cc Liz Nodeland. Any proposals received will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on 12/10.

**Advisory Committee Meeting – December 10, 2025** – The Advisory Committee will meet at 1:00pm on 12/10, after the Executive Committee meets. If any Executive Committee members wish to sit in the meeting, they should let Liz Nodeland know so she can order lunch.

**Fall State Championship Schedule** – Ms. Maguire thanked Mr. Stumpf, Mr. Sellers and Ms. Mamary for overseeing their respective tournaments. Excluding football, all fall tournaments will commence by next weekend. This upcoming weekend is the cross country Meet of Champions and the state finals for field hockey, non-public soccer and girls volleyball. Ms. Maguire shared a championship schedule for any Executive Committee who wished to attend an event.

**Football Update** – This weekend’s public sectional round has some great matchups scheduled. Some games will see record attendance. It is also the weekend of the Non-Public A 1<sup>st</sup> round and the Non-Public B second round. State finals are around the corner, right after Thanksgiving.

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## **Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)**

**Eligibility Updates** – There is an influx of waivers for winter athletes right now.

**Disqualification Updates** – Six football players from one school were disqualified at an early round state tournament game. NJSIAA's rule is that once the state tournament begins, teams won't be removed from the tournament, but the disqualified players do have to sit out the next game. That team ended up losing its next game.

**Cooperative Sports – Spring Season Approvals – Voice Vote** – The Cooperative Sports Committee met in October 2025 to review nine cooperative sports applications for girls wrestling and spring sports. There was also an emergent relief application for boys and girls swimming. The committee approved the following applications to be in place for a four-year period, with exception of the Warren Hills-Hackettstown boys and girls swimming emergent application, which will be in place for the 2025-2026 school year only.

The cooperative sports programs are as follows:

1. Buena-Vineland Girls Wrestling
2. Lyndhurst-North Arlington Boys Lacrosse
3. Mount Olive-Randolph Girls Wrestling
4. Newton-Kittatinny Girls Wrestling
5. Northern Valley Demarest- NV Old Tappan Girls Wrestling
6. Ramsey-Northern Highlands Girls Wrestling
7. St. John Vianney-Ranney Boys Lacrosse
8. St. Rose-Red Bank Catholic Boys Tennis
9. Warren Hills-Hackettstown Boys Swimming (Emergent Relief)
10. Warren Hills-Hackettstown Girls Swimming (Emergent Relief)
11. West Windsor Plainsboro North-WWP South Softball

A motion was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by Dr. Gregory Troxell, to approve the nine cooperative sports programs and two swimming emergent relief cooperative sports program requests, approved by the Cooperative Sports Committee in October 2025. The nine approved programs will be in place for a four-year period starting with the 2025-2026 school year; the two emergent relief requests will be for the 2025-2026 school year only. Motion carried unanimously.

**Bylaws – Host Families Clarification – Second Reading – Roll Call Vote** – This proposal was reviewed in the October 15, 2025 Executive Committee meeting (and detailed in the October 2025 meeting minutes). There being no further discussion or questions, a motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Russell Petrocelli to add a clause to the NJSIAA Bylaws Article V, Section 1, that states "Students who are residing with a host family while their parents/guardians are domiciled elsewhere in the United States are not eligible for interscholastic competition at NJSIAA member schools unless the host family has obtained full, court appointed guardianship." A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes: 35; No-0; Abstain-1. Motion passed second reading with one abstention.

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## **Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)**

**Tournament Regulations** – All winter tournament regulations will be posted later in the day.

**Winter Classifications** – This is the second year of a two-year cycle. Nothing will change from last year except for schools who have added or deleted a sport. If a school added a sport, they will be manually placed in the correct group – other schools won't be affected and moved as a result.

**State Tournament Dates** – All tournament dates for the 2025-2026 year are posted on NJSIAA's website but always check with the tournament regulations first – those dates will always be the most accurate if dates are changed in the middle of the year.

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**Al Stumpf, Assistant Director Update**

**Cross Country Update** – Last weekend, the Group Meets took place. 1,593 runners participated. The Meet of Champions will take place this weekend at Holmdel Park. The girls run at 11am; boys at noon.

**Soccer Update** – The non-public finals will take place this Sunday, 11/16 at Franklin HS. The public state finals will take place the following weekend on 11/22 and 11/23.

**National Girl & Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) Event** – This event will take place on 2/8/26 at Rutgers University. The nomination form will be sent via the AD alert system right after Thanksgiving break.

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**Derryk Sellers, Assistant Director Update**

**Gymnastics Update** – The gymnastics tournament has concluded. Mr. Sellers thanked Brick Memorial HS for hosting both the individual and team finals.

**Girls Volleyball Update** – The six state finals will take place over two days, on 11/15 and 11/16 at Franklin HS. Each day there will be 3 games at 11am, 1pm and 3pm.

**NJSCA Coaches Clinics** – 74 coaches attended the Bowling Coaches Clinic. The cutoff was 75 so this was well attended. 19 coaches attended the Fencing Clinic, 121 coaches attended the Golf Clinic, and the Tennis Coaches Clinic will be on 1/9/26 at Princeton University.

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**Sandy Mamary, Assistant Director Update**

**Tennis Update** – The team tournament has concluded.

**Field Hockey Update** – Sectional finals will be played later in the day. The five state finals will be played on Saturday, 11/15 at Bordentown HS.

**NJPSA Workshop Series** – The first workshop, Enforcing Expectations around Sportsmanship for Spectators, Parents, Athletes and Staff, was held in person at NJSIAA's office on 10/29, and was a success! Ms. Mamary received a lot of positive feedback. There was even more participation in the second workshop, which was virtual and held on 11/11. This one was titled Athletics and Human Resources: Elevating Professionalism in Athletics. Ms. Mamary was happy to see many new Athletic Directors attending the workshop. The next one, will be on 12/17, is virtual, and will address "Connecting the Dots: Moving the Athletic Program from an Island to a Team Approach." There have been numerous requests for the power point slides used in the presentations. Ms. Mamary has given Athletic Directors access to the first presentation and will share the recording of yesterday's virtual workshop once it's available. Per Russell Petrocelli's request, Ms. Mamary will also share the presentations with the Executive Committee.

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## **Finance Committee Update – Judy Finch-Johnson**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The October 14, 2025 through November 10, 2025 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Barry Fitzgerald made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gregory Troxell, to approve the October 14, 2025 through November 10, 2025 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell)** – Mr. Popadiuk reported that on 10/30, there was a Controversies Committee hearing to determine whether a member school athletic director/coach violated the NJSIAA sportsmanship policy. After listening to testimony, the committee found that the Athletic Director did violate the sportsmanship policy. If the Athletic Director chooses to appeal, it will be heard by the Executive Committee.

Mr. Goodell and Ms. Smith have been busy, working on two appeals defending the association. The first was an appeal of the Freehold Township waiver request that the Executive Committee denied 30-0 in the October meeting. The parents of the boys soccer players filed the appeal in the Mercer County Superior Court on Monday, 10/20. The court heard arguments on Wednesday, 10/22. Mr. Goodell argued that this case shouldn't be in the court system, but rather the appeal should have been filed with the Department of Education since Freehold Township HS is a public school. That same day, the judge issued a ten-page decision dismissing the case without prejudice and ruling that jurisdiction was with the DOE, not the court. To date no new appeal has been filed.

The second case involved an 18-year old tennis player, who lost her match in the NJSIAA singles tournament due to alleged biased officiating and improper conduct of the coach. Representing herself, she filed a claim with the NJ Superior Court asking for a temporary restraining order and requested that her match be replayed with neutral, mutually agreed-upon officials. Mr. Goodell and Ms. Smith prepared briefs, but never had to file them. Three days later the court ruled, without a court appearance, that there was no legal support for the young lady's arguments and that she had not demonstrated irreparable harm, and dismissed the complaint.

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**Old Business / New Business** – none

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**Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Gregory Troxell, seconded by Kurt Karcich at 11:28 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire  
Executive Director

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