

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

December 10, 2025

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Judy Finch Johnson, at 11:03 am.

The following members were present: Jeff Baldino, Mike Bartram, Brian Bosworth, Anthony Browning, Christopher Chiera, Jason Corley, Maria Crowley, Jorge Diaz, Dr. Robert Fisicaro, Barry Fitzgerald, John Fraraccio, Michael Gallo, John Germano, Natalie Gorman, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Dr. Brack Healy, Steven Jenkins, Dr. Elizabeth Jewett, Kurt Karcich, Jennifer Killough-Herrera, Dr. Michael Kuchar, Dr. Anne Mucci, Russell Petrocelli, Dr. Timothy Purnell, Michael Raimondi, Steve Shohfi, Dr. Gregory Troxell, Joseph Ursino, Michael Vinella, 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, and Derryk Sellers, 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*.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Barry Fitzgerald, to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update (Steven Goodell for Paul Anzano) – Mr. Anzano was unable to attend today's meeting but emailed his legislative bill tracking report. Any questions or concerns, please reach out to Steve Goodell or Colleen Maguire.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maquire

Fall State Championships Summary – A summary of state champions across all sports was distributed. There was great attendance across many events, including a record setting day at MetLife Stadium on Friday, November 28. There were approximately 18,700 people in attendance at the four football games. Ms. Maguire was happy to report that it was a successful fall state championship season and congratulated staff, specifically Mr. Stumpf and Mr. Sellers, who logged many miles on their cars over a four-week period. She also thanked committee members who came out to watch and support.

Competitive Balance Formula Update – Ms. Maguire reminded the committee about the competitive balance formula policy proposal that was passed in May. The policy is specific to football in the fall season and will be applied to the next two-year classification cycle, which begins with the 2026-2027 school year. 14 schools met the success factor which is the first step of the formula. Mr. Popadiuk will reach out to these schools to confirm their enrollment policy and determine if the school will move up a classification group. Once finalized, the final list of schools that will be subject to this new policy will be shared with the committee.

Advisory Committee Meeting Proposals – The Advisory Committee is meeting later in the day. A total of four proposals were submitted to the committee, one by staff, the other three by member schools. Proposals that are endorsed by the Advisory Committee will be presented at next month's Executive

Committee meeting for consideration and approval. If endorsed by the Executive Committee next month, they will be presented to the membership in two sectional meetings in March. Sponsors can tweak the proposals based on feedback received there, and then final proposals will be presented to the Executive Committee in April for approval. Once approved by the Executive Committee, the membership will vote on them at the annual meeting in May.

NIAAA Conference – December 13 - 16 – The National Athletic Director Conference will be held in Tampa, FL starting this weekend. Ms. Maguire, along with Mr. Stumpf and Mr. Sellers will be attending. Two active athletic directors will be honored: Dave Frazier, AD at Rutherford HS is receiving the NFHS Section 1 Citation award while Ryan Miller, Scotch Plains Fanwood HS AD will receive the Bruce D. Whitehead Distinguished Service award.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Eligibility Updates – Transfers have been rolling in. Winter season has multiple competition start dates, but as of 12/8, all student athletes were allowed to play in games if cleared. The Eligibility Committee and Eligibility Appeals Committee met in November to review winter request waivers.

Disqualifications – Fall Season Update – Unfortunately, there was a 19% increase in disqualifications from last fall. Last year there were 230 fall disqualifications as compared to 283 this year. Boys soccer claimed the majority of the infractions, with 144 in total and a record 18 from coaches. Mr. Popadiuk met yesterday with Mr. Stumpf and Mr. Sellers to discuss coaching relationships with officials.

Bylaws – International Student Policy Clarifications – First Reading – Voice Vote – Last year the Executive Committee approved a revised international student eligibility policy as set forth by the International Committee. The committee met this fall to review feedback and suggestions from the membership. It was agreed upon to incorporate suggestions from Ranney School and Shore Regional into the policy which were 1-Though students who are housed with district staff are not eligible to play Varsity, they will be able to play on the sub-varsity level; and 2- Allow sub-varsity student-athletes to participate alongside varsity athletes, without their results counting toward the varsity outcome in the following sports that may not have sub-varsity levels: Cross Country, Gymnastics, Bowling, Swimming/Diving, Fencing, Golf and Track & Field.

The Committee unanimously proposed the following underlined updates to Bylaws Article V, Section 4 M.2:

2. **International Student Eligibility Requirements:**

- a. An International Student is eligible for one season of varsity athletics and unlimited seasons of sub-varsity athletics, per sport, if all of the following conditions are met:
 - i. The student satisfies the requirements to be considered an International Student, as listed above; and
 - ii. The student has been assigned to a host family without any prior contact or influence from the student, the student's parents, the school, or any other interested parties before the placement.; and
 - iii. The student was not selected or placed on any basis relating to the student's athletic abilities/interests; and
 - iv. The student does not reside with district staff members, boosters, or coaching staff (paid or voluntary); and
 - v. The student and school have completed the NJSIAA International Student Eligibility Form, and it has been approved by the NJSIAA; and
 - vi. The student has not been previously enrolled in another U.S. school, or participated on a U.S. athletic team (club, school, or otherwise); and

vii. The student meets all eligibility requirements in Article V of NJSIAA Bylaws.

CL 1: Any student who is residing with a district staff member will remain ineligible for varsity sports as per requirement iv above but will be eligible for unlimited seasons of sub-varsity sports.

- b. Notwithstanding any provision of Article V, a student who receives eligibility under this section shall thereafter be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at that or any other NJSIAA member school.
- c. Sections 1 and 2 are not applicable to students who move to the United States with their parent/guardian as defined in Section 8.
- d. Schools are limited to one international student per varsity team during a given season. There is no limit on the number of international students participating at the sub-varsity level.

CL 2: International students who would otherwise have to compete at the sub-varsity level may participate alongside varsity athletes in the following sports, when sub-varsity levels do not exist: Cross Country, Gymnastics, Bowling, Swimming/Diving, Fencing, Golf and Track & Field. However, their results may not count toward the varsity score or outcome.

These additions would keep to the spirit of the rule by eliminating recruiting and competitive balance issues while allowing student-athletes to experience sub-varsity sports. It would also alleviate participation issues with sub-varsity only eligible students in sports where no true sub-varsity exists. A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Steve Shohfi to amend NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 M.2 to allow international students who are housed with district staff to play on the sub-varsity level and also permit international student athletes to participate alongside varsity athletes, without their results counting toward the varsity outcome in the following sports that may not have sub-varsity levels: Cross Country, Gymnastics, Bowling, Swimming/Diving, Fencing, Golf and Track & Field. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Cooperative Sports Approvals – Voice Vote – The Cooperative Sports Committee met again to review three additional cooperative sports applications. The committee approved the following applications, to be in place for a four-year period:

1. Cherry Hill East – Cherry Hill West - Girls Wrestling
2. Lenape Valley – Hopatcong – Girls Wrestling
3. Timothy Christian – Roselle Catholic - Baseball

A motion was made by Dr. Gregory Troxell, seconded by Russell Petrocelli, to approve the three cooperative sports programs, approved by the Cooperative Sports Committee in November 2025. The three approved programs will be in place for a four-year period starting with the 2025-2026 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

State Tournament Officials Fees – Preliminary Rounds – Beginning with this upcoming winter tournament season, the association will roll out a new process for payment of officials working state tournaments. Previously, officials were paid the local agreed upon rate for the first three rounds. There were several problems with this system. First, it put enormous pressure on assignors to find out the “local” rate for the various areas they assign. And the rates around the state vary. A committee, with a representative from each conference had been created to determine the acceptable local rate, but assignors weren’t always using these recommendations. Going forward, NJSIAA will pay all officials of a tournament the same rate that is determined by this special ad hoc committee for the first three rounds of

state tournaments. Rates may vary by sport. Now, no official will turn down a game because they can be paid better somewhere else, and this will legitimize the work of the committee, who meets 2-3 times per year. Mike Bartram questioned if the rate in the first three rounds could potentially be less than an official rates in the regular season. The answer is yes, but officials usually receive more than the regular rate in the later rounds of the tournament.

Ice Hockey Safety Updates – The Ice Hockey Committee met and requested the following two safety changes. First, they wanted line change procedures to be addressed. Players are not permitted to sit on the boards waiting for their line change. Both feet must be inside the boards. Failure to follow this new procedure should be met with a warning (not a penalty). Second, the penalty for not wearing a neck guard was increased to a two-minute minor penalty. Each additional infraction will also carry two-minute minor penalties. All coaches have already been informed of this new rule.

Fall Background Check Update – Every year officials are background checked. This year, there were only three officials flagged and suspended. This is below average and the lowest number in years.

Al Stumpf, Assistant Director Update

Basketball Update – The season has started and some teams have already played their first game.

Fencing Update – The fencing tournament has a new setup and coaches have praised it. The individual entry form is now open.

Unified Basketball and Bowling Update – Coaches have been prepped with rules for the season, which has already begun.

NGWSD Nomination Deadline – Each school can nominate one female senior. The nomination form for this event is open until 12/15. A notice was sent today with a list of school nominations already received. The girls will be honored on 2/8/26, during halftime of the Rutgers-Nebraska women's basketball game.

Derryk Sellers, Assistant Director Update

Winter Track Update – The Bubble in Toms River has been redone with new lines and a new surface. As a result of this, no outside chairs are permitted, so parents must be notified.

NJSIAA Hall of Fame / Awards Luncheon – A new award – the Bill Bruno Coaching Award - will be presented at this event in January, in honor of former NJSIAA Assistant Director, Bill Bruno. His wife may even present it to the inaugural recipient.

NJSIAA Coaches Clinics - The Tennis Clinic will take place on 1/9 at Princeton University's state-of-the-art tennis indoor facility.

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

Field Hockey Update – The tournament was great and Bordentown HS was thanked for being a phenomenal state finals host.

NJSIAA Workshop Series – The third part of the series, Connecting the Dots: Moving the Athletic Program from an Island to a Team Approach, will take place next week and be virtual.

Finance Committee Update – Russell Petrocelli

Approval of Monthly Checks – The November 11, 2025 through December 8, 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 Dr. Gregory Troxell, to approve the November 11, 2025 through December 8, 2025 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – Update given in closed session.

Old Business / New Business – none.

Closed Session – A motion was made by Jason Corley seconded by Jorge Diaz, at 11:40am to enter in to closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session/Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Jorge Diaz, seconded by Barry Fitzgerald at 12:02 pm, to enter open session and adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: In