



To: NJSIAA Executive Committee

From: Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer

Date: September 16, 2026

RE: Ice Hockey Chapter Proposal

Background

NJSIAA currently recognizes two officials' associations in the sport of ice hockey – the National Ice Hockey Officials Association (NIHOA) Metro and NIHOA South. The NIHOA Bylaws require that all officials be members of the national ice hockey officials association. This means that an NJSIAA official that is a member of this chapter has dual membership in the NJSIAA affiliated association as well as the national association.

Article VIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws give the Executive Committee the power to approve the certification of officials' associations, or chapters, in all sports. In addition, NJSIAA Policies provide that "Certification of an officials' chapter or association is at the discretion of the Executive Committee, which may consider, among other things, the need for a new chapter or association, the number of new officials in the membership of the new chapter or association, and whether the new chapter or association was created as a result of a conflict with an existing chapter or association."

Proposal

NJSIAA staff proposes that this Committee approve a new officials' association known as the New Jersey High School Hockey Officials Association – their application has been included with this proposal for your review.

It is staff's recommendation that the addition of this new officials' association will increase the number of quality officials available to officiate interscholastic games. This new officials' association will not require membership in the national ice hockey officials association.

It is important to note that it is common for officials' associations to have their own requirements; however, NJSIAA staff feel it is important that interested officials have options available based on their personal interest. For instance, in the sport of boys and girls basketball, there are NJSIAA approved officials' associations that are members of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) and other officials' associations that are not IAABO members.

Therefore, NJSIAA staff is comfortable that this new officials' association will be a positive addition to the sport of ice hockey.