

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 10, 2026

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, June 10, 2026, via the Microsoft Teams virtual platform, was called to order by the President, Judy Finch Johnson, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: Assemblyman Abdelaziz, Michael Baldwin, Mike Bartram, Brian Bosworth, Jeremy Braverman, Carl Buffalino, Christopher Chiera, Jason Corley, Heather Crisci, Jorge Diaz, Dr. Robert Fisicaro, Barry Fitzgerald, John Fraraccio, Michael Gallo, Natalie Gorman, Dr. Brack Healy, Brian Henry, Steven Jenkins, Dr. Elizabeth Jewett, Kurt Karcich, Jennifer Killough-Herrera, Howard Krieger, 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, Tripp Welborne, Cynthia Wilks, and Sjocquelyn Winstead. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; Sandy Mamary, Assistant Director; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Joe Zedalis - *NJ Advance Media* and Darren Cooper - *Bergen Record*.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by Dr. Gregory Troxell, to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2026 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update (Report given by Colleen Maguire on behalf of Paul Anzano) – Ms. Maguire shared Mr. Anzano's report since he was unable to attend. It's been quiet in Trenton – a lot of focus has been on the FIFA tournament and its impact on the area. Assemblywoman Carol Murphy, Chair of the NJ Health Committee, reached out and asked NJSIAA to attend a hearing next Monday that addresses sports medicine and safety. Mr. Maselli will attend, along with NJSIAA's SMAC Chairman, Dr. Peter Wenger. Senator Sarlo is the Budget Chairman. He reported that he is expecting a balanced budget final proposal by 6/30. After that, the next two big focuses of the legislature must be the costs of healthcare and special education. He also shared that the infrastructure created for the FIFA tournament will be a long-term improvement and benefit for future commuters. Assemblyman Abdelaziz concurred with everything Senator Sarlo shared.

Executive Committee President Updates – Judy Finch-Johnson

Approval of 2026-2027 Officers – One Reading – Voice Vote – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Jason Corley, to accept the following slate of executive committee officers for 2026-2027:

President - Kurt Karcich, Principal, Point Pleasant Borough High School
1st Vice-President - Dr. Gregory Troxell, Superintendent, Phillipsburg High School
2nd Vice-President – Steve Jenkins, Athletic Director, Bloomfield High School

Motion carried unanimously.

2026-2027 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – A motion was made by Dr. Gregory Troxell, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the following Executive Committee meeting dates for 2026-2027:

September 16, 2026 (in-person)
October 14, 2026 (in-person)
November 11, 2026 (virtual)
December 9, 2026 (in-person)
January 20, 2027 (virtual)
February 24, 2027 (virtual)
April 14, 2027 (in-person)
May 12, 2027 (in-person)
June 9, 2027 (virtual)

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

FY 2026 – 2027 Budget Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – First, Ms. Maguire thanked the members of the Finance Committee who have 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 allocation of the Association’s resources. Earlier in the day, members of the committee met to review the FY '26 – '27 budget in detail. A detailed memo summarizing the budget was distributed. Ms. Maguire shared the following highlights:

- 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 of approximately \$275K, which provides a necessary safeguard to offset any variability in revenues or unforeseen expenses.
- Budgeted revenues are expected to increase by approximately 3.6% while budgeted expenses are expected to increase by approximately 3.4%. The increase in budgeted revenues is due to increases in both corporate sponsorships and tournament entry fees. The increase in budgeted expenses is due to increases in both payroll/employee benefits and facility/equipment rentals.

A motion to accept the 2026-2027 budget proposal was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by Michael Raimondi. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Imposed Fines Proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Finance Committee reviewed and endorsed the below fines for the 2026-2027 school year. All fines are the same as the prior year except the attendance policy at the annual scholar-athlete luncheon violation fine, which is new. This fine will offset the cost of additional guests in attendance at the event. All fines are applied directly to the annual scholar-athlete luncheon account.

Description	Amount
Annual dues late fee – February 1 deadline	\$200
Disqualified coach	\$200
Tournament entry accepted after entry	\$150

deadline	
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
Scholar-Athlete Luncheon – violation of attendance policy (per person)* *new	\$100

(1) Additionally, team and/or individual will be placed on probation for one year. Any team and/or individual that withdraws during a probationary period is not eligible for next year's state tournament in that sport and will continue to be on probation for one additional year.

A motion was made by Michael Raimondi, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the 2026-2027 school year fines endorsed by the Finance Committee, including a new \$100 fine to schools who violate NJSIAA's attendance policy at the annual scholar-athlete luncheon. Motion carried unanimously.

Boys Wrestling – District/Regional Realignment Update – Ms. Maguire thanked Executive Committee members Kurt Karcich, Greg Troxell and Brendan McGovern for serving on the wrestling realignment committee, along with former NJSIAA Executive Committee President, Chuck Klaus (Superintendent, Haddonfield School District). The committee met twice to review the updated data from this past season and is in the process of finalizing the updates to the alignment in accordance with the proposals that were previously approved by the Executive Committee. It is anticipated that the final realignment will be posted no later than June 30.

NJSIAA Drone Policy Waiver – Last week Ms. Maguire granted a waiver of NJSIAA's drone policy. Pennsauken HS requested use of a drone by their district approved and licensed drone pilot during NJSIAA's Outdoor Track & Field Meet of Champions, which they hosted. The school district plans to use the footage for promotional purposes and to analyze/evaluate the event of this size and nature for future planning purposes. There were no issues during the event. Ms. Maguire reported that she never even saw the drone during the event.

Program Review Committee – Colleen Maguire

On Monday (6/8), eight members of the Program Review Committee met virtually and unanimously endorsed the following five proposals presented to the Executive Committee.

Specific Sport Regulations – Section 9 – Per Day Maximums – One Reading – Voice Vote – After a school asked if they could play two basketball games in one day NJSIAA staff realized it wasn't clear in the Handbook, therefore recommended the following updates to the sport-specific regulations regarding Section 9 –Per Day rules. There were no changes made, just the "Per Day" rules were clarified for all

sports. To provide greater consistency and understanding across all member schools and athletic programs, the following language was proposed in the NJSIAA Handbook.

Sports Specific Regulations (pages 63-85) - Section 9 (Per Day Maximums)

Baseball

Section 9 – Games/Innings Per Day: Unlimited

Basketball

Section 9 - Quarters Per Day: A basketball player shall play no more than five (5) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition. Overtime periods are a continuation of the 4th quarter.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

CL2: A team may play two (2) varsity games on the same day, however the team must follow the five (5) quarters rule.

CL3: When a team plays two games in one day, that is considered two (2) games and the three (3) games in a row limit still applies. In this scenario the school cannot play the day before or the day after the doubleheader.

Bowling

Section 9 - Games Per Day: Unlimited

Cross Country

Section 9 - Meets Per Day: A runner shall not compete in more than one meet during the same calendar day. This would include any combination of freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. Events that have qualifying heats are excluded.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of their time.

CL2: When there are multiple divisions in a single meet on the same day at the same site, e.g., freshman, junior varsity, and/or varsity divisions, an athlete may only compete in one of the divisions following the one (1) meet per calendar day rule.

CL3: When a team competes in a meet with multiple teams (tri or quad), it is considered one (1) meet.

Fencing

Section 9 - Matches Per Day: Unlimited

Field Hockey

Section 9 - Quarters Per Day: A field hockey player shall not play in more than six (6) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. Overtime periods are a continuation of the 4th quarter.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

CL2: A team may play two (2) varsity games on the same day, however the team must follow the six (6) quarters rule.

CL3: When a team plays two games in one day, that is considered two (2) games and the three (3) games in a row limit still applies. In this scenario the school cannot play the day before or the day after the doubleheader.

Flag Football

Section 9 - Quarters Per Day: A flag football player shall play no more than five (5) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition. Overtime periods are a continuation of the 4th quarter.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

CL2: A team may play two (2) varsity games on the same day, however the team must follow the five (5) quarters rule.

CL3: When a team plays two games in one day, that is considered two (2) games and the three (3) games in a row limit still applies. In this scenario the school cannot play the day before or the day after the doubleheader.

Football

Section 9 - Quarters Per Day: A football player shall play no more than Four (4) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition. Overtime periods are a continuation of the 4th quarter.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Golf

Section 9 - Games Per Day: Unlimited

Gymnastics

Section 9 - Meets Per Day: A gymnast shall not compete in more than one (1) meet during the same calendar day.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Ice Hockey

Section 9 - Periods Per Day: An ice hockey player shall play in no more than three (3) periods during the same calendar day. This would include any combination of sub-varsity and varsity competition. Overtime periods are a continuation of the 3rd period.

CL: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Lacrosse (Boys & Girls)

Section 9 - Quarters Per Day: A lacrosse player shall play in no more than six (6) quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity, and varsity competition. Overtime periods are a continuation of the 4th quarter.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

CL2: A team may play two (2) varsity games on the same day, however the team must follow the six (6) quarters rule.

CL3: When a team plays two games in one day, that is considered two (2) games and the three (3) games in a row limit still applies. In this scenario the school cannot play the day before or the day after the doubleheader.

Soccer

Section 9 - Halves Per Day: A soccer player shall play in no more than three (3) halves during the same calendar day. This would include any combination of freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. Overtime periods are a continuation of the second half.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

CL2: A team may play two (2) varsity games on the same day, however the team must follow the three (3) halves rule.

CL3: When a team plays two games in one day, that is considered two (2) games and the three (3) games in a row limit still applies. In this scenario the school cannot play the day before or the day after the doubleheader.

Softball

Section 9 – Games/Innings Per Day: Unlimited

Swimming

Section 9 - Events Per Day: A swimmer shall compete in no more than four (4) events during the same calendar day. Swimmers are limited to either two (2) individual events and two (2) relays or one (1) individual event and three (3) relays per calendar. This would include any combination of freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. Events that have qualifying heats are excluded.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of all their events. Meet will be rescored.

CL2: A team may compete in two (2) varsity meets on the same day, however the team must follow the four (4) events rules.

CL3: When a team competes in two (2) meets in one day, that is considered two (2) meets and the three (3) meets in a row limit still applies. In this scenario the school cannot play the day before or the day after the doubleheader.

Tennis (Boys & Girls)

Section 9 – Team Matches Per Day: A tennis player shall compete in no more than two (2) matches during the same calendar day. This would include any combination of freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. All third sets must be a 10-point match tiebreaker.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

CL2: A team may play two (2) varsity matches on the same day, however the third set must be a 10-point match tiebreaker.

Section 9 – Individual Tournaments Sets Per Day: A singles tournament player may participate in no more than 9 sets (3 matches) during the same calendar day. A doubles tournament player may participate in no more than 12 sets (4 matches) during the same calendar day. All third sets must be a 10-point match tiebreaker.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Track & Field (Indoor & Outdoor)

Section 9 - Events Per Day: A track and field athlete shall compete in no more than four (4) events, including relays during the same calendar day. This would include any combination of freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. Events that have qualifying heats are excluded.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of all their events. Meet will be rescored.

CL2: When there are multiple divisions in a single meet on the same day at the same site, e.g., freshman, junior varsity, and/or varsity divisions, an athlete may compete in any of the divisions as long as they are following the four (4) events per calendar day rule.

CL3: When a team competes in a meet with multiple teams (tri or quad), it is considered one (1) meet.

Volleyball

Section 9 - Games/Sets Per Day: Unlimited

Wrestling - Boys

Section 9 - Weigh-ins Per Week: A team may not schedule, nor may a wrestler participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A team may schedule only one event involving more than four teams during the week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as one weigh-in.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

Wrestling - Girls

Section 9 - Weigh-ins Per Week: A team may not schedule, nor may a wrestler participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as one weigh-in. A wrestler may participate in more than one event involving more than four opponents during the week.

CL1: Violations of this section result in ineligible participation and forfeiture of the game.

A motion was made by Anthony Browning, seconded by Christopher Chiera, to approve NJSIAA's recommended "Per Day" clarification updates to the Sport Specific Regulations Section 9 –Per Day rules for all sports. Motion carried unanimously.

PowerPoint Update – Minimum Number of Games – One Reading – Voice Vote – Every two years, the association reviews how the powerpoints system can be improved. After examination, NJSIAA staff recommended increasing the minimum number of games that count toward PowerPoints by two over the next two years (the first year will increase by one game; the following year will be two games). By increasing the minimum number of games, the quality of the PowerPoints used to qualify teams and seed state tournaments is improved and more results will be included in the calculation. NJSIAA conducted surveys of both coaches and athletic directors, and the results from both groups indicated favorable support for this change.

The sports of fencing and tennis are excluded from this recommendation, as their current average number of contests is already sufficient for the existing PowerPoints calculation. All other sports that are not listed, do not use this PowerPoint system.

Below is the recommended minimum number of games by sport:

Sport	Current Min. Number	Average Games Played Last Season	Proposed 2026-27	Proposed 2027-28
Baseball	16	21.6	17	18
Basketball (Boys)	16	22.9	17	18
Basketball (Girls)	16	22.1	17	18
Field Hockey	12	16.6	13	14
Ice Hockey (Boys)	14	19.9	15	16
Ice Hockey (Girls)	10	15.4	11	12
Lacrosse (Boys)	12	16.5	13	14
Lacrosse (Girls)	12	16.4	13	14
Soccer (Boys)	12	16.8	13	14
Soccer (Girls)	12	16.4	13	14
Softball	16	20.2	17	18
Volleyball (Boys)	16	22.0	17	18
Volleyball (Girls)	16	20.9	17	18

A motion was made by Carl Buffalino, seconded by John Germano, to increase the minimum number of games that count toward PowerPoints by one game in 2026-2027 and two games in 2027-2028 for the following sports: Baseball, B/G Basketball, Field Hockey, B/G Ice Hockey, B/G Lacrosse, B/G Soccer, Softball and B/G Volleyball. Motion carried unanimously.

B/G Volleyball Warmup Procedures – One Reading – Voice Vote – NJSIAA staff recommended the following changes to the warm-up procedure for boys' and girls' volleyball, at the request of NJSIAA's league and conference committee, as well as numerous athletic directors across the state. Schools are

becoming increasingly frustrated with matches not starting on time. Consistent warm-up procedures will help ensure that matches begin as scheduled. These warm-up procedures will be required during both the regular season and all rounds of the state tournament. It will have no effect on the actual play of volleyball. The proposed new warm-up procedures are as follows:

- Once the visiting team enters the gym, a 5-minute clock begins.
 - Both teams may be on the court simultaneously.
 - This time is reserved for dynamic movement, stretching, and shoulder activation only.
 - No balls are permitted during this 5-minute period.
- After the initial 5 minutes, official warm-ups begin:
 - 6 minutes – Home team: Full court.
 - 5 minutes – Shared court: Ball control only (passing, setting, no full-speed hitting).
 - 6 minutes – Visiting team: Full court.

Note: Officials are not required to be present for any part of the warm-up procedure.

Benefits of this adjustment:

- Maintains fairness and equal access to the court
- Reduces congestion during shared warm-up time
- Allows for a safer, more progressive increase in intensity
- Does not impact match start time or officiating responsibilities

A motion was made by Carl Buffalino, seconded by Christopher Chiera, to modify the volleyball warm-up procedures as outlined in today's Executive Committee meeting. Once the visiting team enters the gym, a 5-minute clock begins. After the initial 5 minutes, official warm-ups begin, which include 6 minutes for the home team using the full court, 5 minutes of shared court for ball control only (passing, setting, no full-speed hitting), then 6 minutes for the visiting team on the full court. Motion carried unanimously.

G Flag Football Tournament Regulations proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – Last month the membership approved flag football as a sanctioned NJSIAA sport, so the framework for the girls flag football tournament regulations was presented. This proposal supplements the previously approved NFHS rule adoptions which were in effect during this past season.

This proposal represents the collective effort of a working group of representatives from each football league & conference, who have been meeting for the past two years. In addition, the Sports Medical Advisory Committee reviewed and endorsed parts of this framework at its January 2026 meeting. Ms. Maguire thanked Tony Maselli, Sandy Mamary and Executive Committee member Mike Bartram who have been attending these meetings to provide valuable input and to ensure that the association is addressing all major topics necessary to roll out this newly sanctioned sport.

Proposed tournament regulations are as follows:

Important Dates

First practice date/competition start date/competition end date:

- Coincide with all other spring sports
 - First practice – March 8, 2027
 - Competition may begin – March 15, 2027
 - Competition end – June 13, 2027
- Strenuous sport rule applies - 6 days of practice/1 day of rest required

Maximum Games

The maximum number of games to be played is 14, exclusive of participation in one county or league/conference-based tournament, and the NJSIAA state tournament.

Consecutive Days Rule

Competition is not allowed on three (3) consecutive days.

Quarters Per Day Rule

A player shall not play in more than five quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the 4th quarter.

Uniforms/Flags

Compliance with NFHS rules around uniforms and flags is mandatory for 2026-2027 season. Away team shall wear white jerseys; home team shall wear dark jerseys. Participants must wear a one-piece quick release belt with 3 flags – 1 on each side and 1 in the center of the back. Flags must be 1 ½" wide by 14" long and must be solid color that is contrasting to the player's shorts.

Tournament Eligibility

1. Teams must be competing on a varsity interscholastic basis.
2. Sixty percent (60%) of the games played on or before the cutoff date must be against New Jersey schools.
3. Any player with two (2) or more disqualifications in the current season, prior to the start of the tournament, will be unable to compete in the state tournament.
4. Any varsity team accumulating three (3) or more player or coach disqualifications prior to the start of the tournament will not be permitted to participate in the state tournament.

Classifications

1. Two groups – Group A and Group B – sorted by enrollment
 - a. Group A – largest enrollment schools
 - b. Group B – smallest enrollment schools
2. Two sections – North and South – sorted by northing number

To Qualify for the Tournament

1. The top 16 teams from each section and each group will qualify for this tournament using the PowerPoint system.
2. Games played after the cutoff date will not count toward the PowerPoint calculation even if they were started before the cutoff date.
3. If there is a tie in power points, the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure will break all ties.
4. The minimum number of games to be played by the cutoff date is 10.

PowerPoint Procedure

The NJSIAA power point system will be used for all qualifying and seeding purposes.

1. The PowerPoint procedure will be using the 10 best power-pointed games from opening day to the cutoff date regardless of how many games were played.
2. The residual points earned from opponents will be calculated using your opponent's first 10 games played.
3. Teams that play less than 10 games will still be eligible for the tournament based on their total power points achieved at the cutoff divided by the minimum number of games (10).

Entry Procedure

1. The entry form must be completed online by the date listed.
2. All varsity schedules & rosters must be entered in njschoolsports.com by the start of the season. Rosters must be checked and updated, if necessary, by the start of the tournament. We cannot guarantee any roster changes made after the start of the tournament will make it into the tournament program.
3. All varsity scores must be reported to www.njschoolsports.com as soon as possible after each contest. If you encounter problems, please contact hssupport@njadvancemedia.com.
4. PowerPoints will be downloaded from the NJ SchoolSports website on the day after the cut-off at 12:00pm. Coaches are reminded that all team information must be totally up to date and checked for accuracy before the data is downloaded.

Entry Fee

\$90.00 per team, Payable to the NJSIAA (Please note Girls Flag Football Tournament)

Tournament Seeding

1. The qualifying schools in each group and each section will be seeded based on PowerPoint totals.
2. If there is a tie in power points for seeding, we will use the current NJSIAA tie-breaking procedure – see below.

PowerPoint Tie Breaking Procedure

1. Head-to-Head Competition. Any ties involving 3 or more teams, move to step #2
2. Average quality points per game.
3. Average residual points per game.
4. Average OOWP for all opponents.
5. Common opponent winning percentage
 - a. Example: Team A is 3-0 (100%) vs. team C and team B is 2-0 (100%) vs. team C, go to #6
 - b. Example: Team A is 2-1 (.667%) vs. team C and team B is 1-1 (.500%) vs. team C, Team A wins Tiebreaker
6. Team total winning percentage
7. Coin Toss

The tie breaking procedure above includes all contests from the competition start date to the cutoff date.

Tournament Rules & Information

1. The NFHS Flag Football Rules along with any NJSIAA rule modifications will govern this tournament.
2. All tournament rounds are **PLAY ON** dates. Schools can mutually agree to move tournament dates except for the state finals. If schools do not agree, then it must be played on the date listed. If any date is moved by mutual agreement, the potential next round opponents must be notified ASAP.
3. Game times for all rounds up to and including the sectional finals will be designated by the higher-seeded team.
4. The NJSIAA may need to establish the start times if there is any disagreement between schools.
5. All game times are pending the official's availability. Athletic Directors must communicate consistently throughout all rounds up to and including the sectional finals regarding start times and field locations.

6. Game times for the state finals will be established by the NJSIAA.
7. If any circumstance causes postponement, the game must be played on the next day. If the next day is a Sunday, the game may be played if both schools agree; otherwise, the game must be played on Monday. Teams must adhere to the deadline of the succeeding round, even though games may be played on consecutive days. Non-NJSIAA tournament games must be moved.
8. When conditions prevent a game from being played at the site of the higher seeded team in a reasonable amount of time, the tournament director may choose an alternate site, which may include the lower seeded teams' field.
9. Higher-seeded schools hosting tournament games must provide an athletic trainer for both teams. Each school will be asked to provide its own athletic trainer when tournament games are not held at a higher-seeded school.
10. The winning school must notify njschoolsports.com immediately after each game.
11. Participating schools must assign adequate supervision for all games, home and away.
12. The higher seeded team (Home Team) will wear dark jerseys for all games up to and including the sectional finals.
13. State tournament games suspended because of conditions which make it impossible to continue play, should be played to completion from the point of interruption. If the losing team at the point of interruption does not want to return to complete the game, the game will be considered complete.
14. Each school must provide three (3) NFHS approved flag footballs for all games, and the officials will decide which are to be used.
15. The Wilson GST SpeedSkin Heir is the official football of the NJSIAA tournament. The NJSIAA will provide 3 Wilson GST SpeedSkin Heir footballs to be used in all state finals games.

Officials Assignments

NJSIAA will assign all officials for all rounds of the tournament. The higher seed school will be responsible for paying officials during the first three rounds. NJSIAA will pay officials starting with the sectional final round.

Awards

Sectional Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to each Sectional Champion in each Group.

State Champions:

A team trophy and twenty-five (25) certificates to each State Champion in each Group.

State Tournament Schedule

Event	Dates	Location
First Practice	March 8, 2027	
Competition May Begin	March 15, 2027	
Cutoff	May 15, 2027	
PowerPoints Close (12:00pm)	May 16, 2027	
Tournament Seeding	May 18, 2027	
Regular Season Competition Ends	June 13, 2027	
Round 1	May 24, 2027	Higher Seed
Round 2	May 26, 2027	Higher Seed
Round 3	May 28, 2027	Higher Seed
Sectional Final	June 2, 2027	Higher Seed
State Finals	TBD	TBD

A motion was made by Anthony Browning, seconded by Carl Buffalino, to approve NJSIAA's proposed girls flag football tournament regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

B/G Wrestling Tournament Regulations proposal – One Reading – Voice Vote – Significant updates to the boys and girls wrestling sport specific regulations and tournament regulations were proposed, all which were unanimously supported by both the boys and girls wrestling committees. Changes are outlined below:

State Tournament Dates – 2026–2027

Boardwalk Hall has recently signed a 5-year contract to host the MAAC basketball tournament. After the season, staff provided coaches and leagues/conferences three date options for future state tournaments – 49% of coaches and 13 out of 15 leagues/conferences preferred the second option which is as follows:

Practice Start Date: Monday, November 30

Competition May Begin: Monday, December 7

Team Tournament: Monday, February 1 – Sunday, February 7

Boys Districts: Saturday, February 13

Girls Districts: Sunday, February 14

Boys Regions: Friday, February 19 – Saturday, February 20

Girls Regions: Sunday, February 21

Individual State Championships: Thursday, February 25 – Saturday, February 27

All match limit dates, cut-off dates and seeding dates will be updated to reflect the new state tournament dates. The corresponding dates will be in place for a five-year period – through the 2030-2031 school year which coincides with the Boardwalk Hall contract to host the MAAC basketball tournament.

3-Day Tryout Period

The committee requests that the 3-day tryout period (prior to Thanksgiving) count towards the 6-day practice/1-day rest rule – this will allow teams the opportunity to scrimmage prior to the competition may begin date. Therefore, starting Monday, November 23, once the 6-days of practice/1-day of rest rule is satisfied schools will be permitted to scrimmage on either Thursday, December 3, Friday, December 4 or Saturday, December 5 – schools will be limited to one scrimmage date prior to the competition may begin date. Practices are prohibited during the four-day Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

The schedule outlined above results in two less weeks of regular season competition relative to prior seasons; therefore, providing schools with the opportunity to scrimmage prior to the competition may begin date will be helpful for their scheduling purposes.

Boys Wrestling Dual Meet Event/Tournament Clarification

The committee recommends the following underlined clarification be added to Specific Sports Regulations – Boys Wrestling – Section 8 Maximum Meets:

A team may not schedule, nor may a wrestler participate in more than four weigh-ins per week. A team may schedule only one event involving more than four teams during the week. A two-day tournament with a weigh-in each day will count as one weigh-in.

CL 6: For dual meet events with more than four teams, if the event schedule limits all participating teams to no more than three matches, then the event will be considered the same as a quad and will not count as an event with more than four teams. Therefore, the team is still eligible to participate in another event involving more than four teams during that same week.

Boys Wrestling Power Points Update

The committee recommended that power points be based on 80% of a school's matches, with a minimum of 9 matches counting. Currently, power points use a school's best 9 matches which has led to concerns with the quality of the power points being used for tournament qualification and seeding. Instead, under this proposal, if a school wrestles 12 matches at the cut-off, then the top 10 will be used for power point calculations. If a school wrestles 24 matches at the cut-off, then the top 20 matches will be used for power point calculations. The committee reviewed data under different scenarios and unanimously supported the 80% proposal as it provided the best results which more accurately reflect the strength of each program.

Boys Wrestling Non-Public Classifications

Due to declining participation in the Non-Public B state tournament, the Committee recommends changes to the current classifications to increase participation in the Non-Public B state tournament which will result in a more competitive tournament. The classifications currently divide all schools equally into Non-Public A and Non-Public B, with any remainders being placed in Non-Public B. NJSIAA proposes that non-public schools with an enrollment equivalent to a public Group V, Group IV or Group III be classified as Non-Public A and non-public schools with an enrollment equivalent to public Group II and Group I be classified as Non-Public B. This model was adopted by football starting with the 2024-2025 season and has worked well. Based on the current year classifications, this will increase the number of schools classified as Non-Public B while keeping the enrollment differentials in line with the public-school classifications.

NJSIAA will allow schools who are classified as Non-Public B to solicit a waiver to move to the Non-Public A classification group.

Girls Wrestling Team Tournament

Based on results during the 2025-2026 season, the committee recommends that the top 12 teams per section qualify for the state tournament – this will allow 8 more teams to qualify for the team state tournament. The state tournament dates will remain unchanged while the top four-seeds in each section will have a first-round bye.

Girls Wrestling Dual Meet Status

Dual meets will no longer be defined by the number of bouts wrestled. Schools will be required to declare their dual-meet team status on or before December 15 of each season. Schools that declare they will wrestle dual meets will be considered to have team status – they will be included in the classifications and power point rankings. All events wrestled during the regular season by these schools will count as a dual meet for power point purposes.

Girls Wrestling Elite Events

The committee recommends that two elite events – Beast of the East and Escape the Rock – be treated the same as the boys elite events. It was noted that during the past season, some teams were impacted by these events and NJSIAA rules which prohibit a team to be split between two events on the same day. This will allow teams to participate in a regular season event while a few individuals may be participating in an elite event; however, teams will be limited to one wrestler per weight class participating on the same day – all the same boys requirements will apply to the girls elite events.

The following underlined clarification will be added to the Specific Sports Regulations – Girls Wrestling – Section 8 Maximum Meets:

CL 5: For those events that qualify as “Elite Events,” to be determined on a yearly basis, the restrictions applicable to this Section 8 shall not apply, with the exception of the requirement that a wrestler may only participate in up to four weigh-ins per week. Participation in Elite Events shall count toward the 30-match limit set forth in CL2 above. Additionally, only one wrestler per weight class, per team shall be permitted to participate on the same day. For example, if a 235-pound wrestler on Team A wrestles at an Elite Event, Team A will not be permitted to enter another 235-pound wrestler in any other event on the same day. For the 2026-2027 school year, the following Elite Events shall qualify for this rule clarification. Teams will be limited to participation in no than three Elite Events per season.

- Beast of the East, Delaware
- Escape the Rock, Pennsylvania

Dr. Fiscaro asked why schools are restricted from practicing the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. He is hearing schools want to be in the gym practicing. Ms. Maguire explained how that blackout was approved prior to her arrival, but it was at the request of schools who didn't want to pay for custodial services and also wanted athletic trainers and administrators to have off for a holiday break.

A motion was made by Anthony Browning, seconded by Carl Buffalino, to approve NJSIAA's proposed updates (outlined above) to the boys and girls wrestling sport specific regulations and tournament regulations for the 2026-2027 year, all which were unanimously supported by both the boys and girls wrestling committees. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

NJSIAA Bylaw Changes and Clarifications Proposal - Second Reading – Roll Call Vote – Mr.

Popadiuk reviewed in detail all proposed changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures to ensure accuracy and consistency last meeting. No further questions were asked, nor were specific changes requested to be voted on separately, so a motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Dr. Gregory Troxell, 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-34; No-0. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Approval of 2026-2027 Committees – One Reading – Voice Vote – Mr. Popadiuk distributed proposed committee lists for the NJSIAA 2026-2027 Eligibility Committee, Eligibility Appeals Committee, Controversies Committee and Cooperative Sports Committee. A motion was made by Kurt Karcich, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to approve the recommended Eligibility Committee, Eligibility Appeals

Committee, Controversies Committee and Cooperative Sports Committee for the 2026-2027 year. Motion passed unanimously.

Cooperative Sports Committee Approvals – One Reading – Voice Vote – The Cooperative Sports Committee met in June 2026 and approved the following four winter sport cooperative sports applications and one emergent fall application.

1. Belvidere-North Warren Girls Wrestling
2. Belvidere-North Warren Boys Wrestling
3. Brick Twp.-Brick Memorial Girls Wrestling
4. Woodbridge-Colonia-JFK Memorial Girls Wrestling
5. Manchester Twp.-Jackson Gymnastics (Emergent)

A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Dr. Gregory Troxell, to approve the four winter cooperative sports programs and one fall emergent relief cooperative sports program request, approved by the Cooperative Sports Committee in June 2026. The four approved winter programs will be in place for a four-year period starting with the 2026-2027 school year; the Manchester Twp.-Jackson gymnastics emergent relief request will be for the 2026-2027 school year only. Motion carried unanimously.

Spring Disqualification Report - draft – The spring report isn't finalized yet since the season isn't over, but the good news is so far, there's only 53 spring disqualifications, which is half the amount of last year and the least amount reported in eight years. For the year, there's been 482 total disqualifications, with 265 taking place in the fall. Baseball and soccer coaches are the biggest culprits.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

Baseball Update – The non-public finals take place later today at 4pm and 7pm at Rutgers University. Mr. Maselli is very excited about the new site, and happy to report that this is the first time in a long time that there will be no charge to attend. The four public finals will also be held at Rutgers, on Sunday, 6/14.

Heat Participation Policy – The association is always in communication with schools about this policy. It is important for schools to understand that is up to them to determine whether to cancel sporting events based on the wet bulb globe temperature, not NJSIAA. NJSIAA provides the information to make informed decisions but can't make the final decision for a school. Factors such as wind, grass v turf etc., are specific to each school and area.

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

Outdoor Track & Field – Unified Track Update – First, Ms. Maguire (on behalf of Mr. Stumpf) thanked all 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 28 at Franklin HS. 18 unified teams participated, which is the largest number of teams to date. The Meet of Champions was held on Wednesday, June 3, at Pennsauken HS. It was a tremendous day for track and field – especially for a few senior female track stars. Natalie Dumas of Eastern HS had unprecedented triple victories in the 400 M hurdles, 400 M and the 800 M for the second consecutive year. Sianni Wynn of Pennsauken HS took first place in the 100M, 200M and 4X100M relay, ending her legendary career with 15 individual Meet of Champion titles across both the indoor and outdoor seasons. The previous record holder was Sydney McLaughlin with 11 MOC titles. Ms. Maguire reported the MOC event had the biggest crowd she has ever witnessed to see these two ladies in their final interscholastic event. They are going to continue to make NJ proud on the

national stage. However, there are many future stars to be excited about. Current Union Catholic junior, Paige Sheppard, is setting state and national records in the 1,600 M; current Ocean Township sophomore, Leah Starkey, is setting state and national records in the 3,200 M; and current Winslow Township sophomore, Jasmine Jackson, recently set the state record for the 100 M hurdles. The future is very bright for girls track & field in NJ.

On the boys side, there was a remarkable and unprecedented feat when teammates Luke Hnatt and Sean Galvin from Christian Brothers took 1st and 2nd place in the 3,200 M. Both ran sub-9:10 times. Luke won the cross country MOC, indoor MOC and outdoor MOC during his senior season.

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

Softball Update – Mr. Sellers wasn't able to attend today's meeting because he was at Ivy Hill Park for the non-public softball championships. The public championships will take place two days later at the same location.

B Volleyball Update – The championships are being held at South Brunswick HS. Groups 2 & 3 played yesterday (6/9), while Groups 1 & 4 compete today (6/10).

Boys Lacrosse Update – The public championships will be on Friday and Saturday at TCNJ. It was an exciting non-public finals matchup between Delbarton and Seton Hall. Delbarton won by only one goal.

NJSCA Hall of Fame Nominations – June 15 through July 31 – The association is currently accepting nominations from member schools for the Scholastic Coaches Association Hall of Fame. The online nomination form will be sent to all schools via an Alert email on Monday, June 15 and will remain open through July 31. The committee meets in late summer/early Fall each year to select the next Hall of Fame class. Ms. Maguire thanked Maria Crowley for her service to the association and chairing the selection committee.

Sandy Mamary, Assistant Director Update

Boys Tennis Update – The season concluded and for the first time, there were no weather interruptions. Ms. Mamary loved having the last three rounds of the tournament being played indoors at Princeton University. The facility is gorgeous and the players appreciated being there.

Girls Lacrosse Update – In the Kent-Oak Knoll non-public state final, Kent beat Oak Knoll by one goal. The public state finals will be played on Friday and Saturday at TCNJ.

Finance Committee Update – Judy Finch-Johnson

Approval of Monthly Checks – The May 12, 2026 through June 8, 2026 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 Barry Fitzgerald, to approve the May 12, 2026 through June 8, 2026 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business / New Business – Dr. Fisicaro commented how Mr. Popadiuk has done an excellent job developing criteria and overseeing cooperative sports programs. He suggested though at some point, with budgets rising and district shortages, the association may want to revisit the criteria, so parents don't have to pay additional fees for sports and schools can avoid cutting programs.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – Mr. Goodell emailed his report prior to the meeting. He is always available for discussion or questions.

Yearly Recap (Colleen Maguire) – Ms. Maguire thanked the committee for their commitment and service over the past school year. The committee handled a lot of proposals and issues, while consistently keeping the best interests of NJ's student-athletes as a priority.

Then Ms. Maguire congratulated NJSIAA staff as the association wraps up another successful school year. She expressed feeling grateful for the great team she has in place, including the behind-the-scenes support team of Mike Cherenson, Paul Anzano, and Steve Goodell. The three are always available at any time of day or any day of the week, which is appreciated since many issues do not arise during typical school hours, so there are often phone calls while at home. Their feedback and institutional knowledge are instrumental when having to make time sensitive decisions and handle unique situations.

Next, Ms. Maguire thanked the members of the press who do a fantastic job covering New Jersey's student-athletes throughout the school year. The photos, feature stories and live game coverage mean a lot to the state's student-athletes and their families. Their efforts bring a level of attention across all NJSIAA sports that our student-athletes do not experience at other levels of sport.

Then appreciation was given to Judy Finch-Johnson for her support and service this past year as President. She was a fantastic representative of the Executive Committee, attending luncheon events and showing up at state tournaments when possible. Congratulations were given on a year well-served as President. Thankfully, Ms. Finch-Johnson will still be on the committee next year as a past-President.

Last, Past-President Russell Petrocelli was acknowledged, as he too will be missed since he is rolling off the committee. He was a good friend to the association last year during some difficult times around the high school wrestling season but Ms. Maguire was happy to report that he will still be around next year, serving on both the Advisory/Controversies Committee and the Eligibility Committee.

Adjournment – Before the meeting adjourned, Ms. Finch-Johnson shared some closing remarks. With profound gratitude and pride, she shared how she appreciated the work and positive meaningful impact of the committee and association. She thanked Ms. Maguire and her team for the support this past year and the initiatives and goals that were achieved by all. The meaningful progress attained was a direct result of the dedication, spirit, knowledge and time by everyone serving on the committee. Ms. Finch-Johnson knows she is passing the torch and leaving the committee in good hands with Kurt Karcich. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Anthony Browning at 12:03 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

CEM: ln