

Sectional Issues - Back to the LEAGUES

* ELEMENTS Friends & Neighbor status - NS. ✓

* BUDGET \$50 per school
-05 more per student after 300

NYSPHSAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 20, 2008

ACTION ITEMS

The Action Items will be reviewed at 8:30 AM and the Executive Committee meeting will begin at 9:00AM.

Executive Director's Report

Approved

- Approval of the Section III request to change the 2008 - 2009 Modified Season dates for the Frontier League.

Approved

- Retroactive action to approve as Friends and Neighbors: Rippowam Cisqua School (1), Hoosac School (2), Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs (2) and Chemung Valley Montessori Middle School (4).

Assistant Director's Reports

Approved

- Assistant Sport Coordinators -
 - Marcia Horan - Girls Indoor Track & Field
 - Peter Szymanski - Boys Indoor Track & Field

Championship Advisory Committee

NO VOTE WAS TAKEN

- Approval for a Boys Volleyball State Championship for the Fall of 2009.
- Approval of the Wrestling Regional Proposal.
- Approval of the seeding procedures for the Wrestling Championship.
- Approval of a revised Roster Size Form to clarify student athletes and bench personnel.
- Approval of a revised "Change Form" used by Sections and the CAC.

Approved

Approved

AMENDED FORM →

Sports Committees

Approved

- Boys and girls Cross Country - Waiver of the Jewelry Rule to allow wrist watches worn on the wrist. Follows NFHS rule.

Approved

- Girls Basketball - A waiver of the requirement of the home team to wear a light colored uniform. A waiver of the requirement for officials to request a physicians note when an athlete wears a "sleeve" on the arms or legs.

Modified Committee

Approved

- Volleyball - Permission to use the Libero player and waiver of the uniform requirement.
- Wrestling - Reduce the time between bouts to 45 minutes. If a wrestler competes in 2 or 3 bouts the time period of the bouts may be either - 3 one minute periods or Program II which is Period 1 (1 minute) and Periods 2 & 3 (1 1/2 minutes).

Approved

- Boys Track & Field - Pilot experiment to raise the hurdle in the 55m from 30" to 33"

SECTION LEAGUE APPROVAL

Handbook Committee

- Senior All Star Contests - The committee recommends the removal of the last paragraph, "A student who participates in any unapproved all-star contest shall be ineligible to compete in interschool athletics in all sports for a period of one year from the date of such participation."
- Approval of defining a scrimmage as a "practice competition".
- Schools that have made arrangements with another member school to share the use of a practice facility may do so without violating the Scrimmage Regulation as long as the athletes/teams do not scrimmage before the required number of practices has been completed.

Safety Committee

- Approval to remove "approximately" from the Thunder and Lightning policy.

Sportsmanship

- Approval to change the name of the Good Sports Award to the Sportsmanship Promotion Program. The award would be referred to as the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Promotion Recognition Award.

**New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Inc.
October 20, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting**

A. Executive Director Report (Enclosed)

B. Scholar Athlete Team Award – Friday, December 5, 2008

C. Championship Advisory Committee Report

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Boys Volleyball State Championship – Fall 2009 | Approved/Not Approved |
| 2. Wrestling Regional Proposal | Approved/Not Approved |
| 3. Wrestling Seeding of State Tournament | |
| 4. Student Athlete Bench Personnel – Roster size | (Section IX Chairperson) |
| 5. Form Change for CAC to ADD: | (Section IX Chairperson) |

I am aware of this proposal and verify that it has been discussed and voted on at the Section “Approved or Not Approved”

D. Safety Committee Report: (Enclosed)

1. Minimum Weight Certification Program
2. Concussion Management
3. Heat Index
4. Girls Lacrosse Helmets

E. Handbook Committee Report (Enclosed)

F. Life of an Athlete Committee Report
Training Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at Wallkill High School

October 20, 2008

TO: NYSPHSAA Central Committee
FROM: Nina Van Erk

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August - October Activity - During the months of August through October I have represented the Association at a variety of conferences, meetings and championships.

- Athletic Council - Sections 4 & 7
- Wrestling & Basketball (B/G) Committee meetings
- Championship Advisory, Handbook, Budget & Finance, Pension meetings
- Insurance Meetings
- Rawlings – ball adoption meeting
- NFHS Section I meeting – New Hampshire
- NFHS Spirit of Sport Committee
- NYSCOSS Athletic Advisory Committee

Mandatory Eligibility Workshops – With the assistance of Bob, Todd and Joe twelve workshops were conducted throughout the state. The workshops were very well received as they were informative for both the veteran and new athletic administrator. The evaluations were very useful as we were able to adjust the presentations based on the feedback we received. On a scale of 1 (low) – 5 (high) these 492 evaluations reflected that the workshops met the expectation of the attendees (4.4) and the topics and information were pertinent (4.6). These ratings were slightly higher than last year. All member schools have met the mandate for the 2008-2009 school year. The total workshop cost to the NYSPHSAA was approximately \$5,100.

GED Diplomas – Trish Kocialski, NYSED, has offered the following interpretation regarding students who have received their GED diplomas. This interpretation is different from interpretations in the past. NYSED Regulation on diplomas states:
Earning a high school equivalency diploma or an Individualized Education Program diploma shall not be deemed to be equivalent to receipt of a high school diploma pursuant to Education Law, section 3202(1) and shall not terminate a student's entitlement to a free public education pursuant to such statute. Students can be enrolled in the school and eligible for interscholastic athletics as long as they meet all the other eligibility requirements. A copy of the letter is included in your packet.

NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame – REMINDER - Nominations for the 2000 NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame are due to the association office by December 15th. All nominations must be endorsed by a section.

Office of Civil Rights – From time to time the Office of Civil Rights provides technical assistance regarding compliance with Title IX. The document in your packet will assist schools in assessing compliance with Federal law and guide administrators in determining when an activity is considered a sport.

Kings School – Please be advised that the Kings School is no longer a member of the NYSPHSAA for the 2008-2009 school year. However the Kings School was approved as a Friend and Neighbor of the NYSPHSAA in October 2007.

SECTION III Modified Season Dates – Section III requests the following changes for the Frontier League Modified Sports Season: Volleyball October 27 – December 20, Wrestling November 6 – January 10, Basketball January 12 – March 20 and Spring Sports start on March 23. **ACTION REQUESTED**

Jewish High Holy Days – A letter was received from Hewlett Woodmere requesting consideration to change the seven day practice regulation to accommodate the observance of the Jewish High Holy days. The Handbook and Safety Committees reviewed the request. Please refer to the respective reports.

Participation Survey – The NYSPHSAA will be conducting the Participation Survey this spring. Please remind the athletic administrators in your Sections of the importance of this survey so we may, once again, accomplish our goal of 100% data submission.

Executive & Central Committee – Please welcome the new Female Representative from Section II, Liz Hempstead and Dennis O'Brien, the Male Representative from Section V. Liz hails from the Albany Academy where she has been the Director of Athletics for the Albany Academy for Girls and the Section II Modified Representative. Dennis is currently our Boys Skiing Coordinator.

NCAA Freshman Eligibility Standards – *REMINDER* - Starting August 1, 2008 student athletes in Division I institutions will be required to have 16 core courses. A summary of NCAA requirements for core courses, test scores and GPA is included in your packet.

Retroactive Action – This fall I received a number requests to retroactively approve Friends and Neighbors applications. The office will work more closely with the Sections and schools to avoid this in the future.

NYSPHSAA Directory - Thank you for updating your personal information for the new directory. If any additional changes are necessary please submit them to Sandy.

Future Meeting Dates –

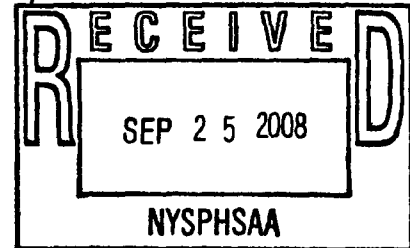
January 30 - 31, 2009	The Regency - Binghamton
May 1 - 2, 2009	Holiday Inn – Carrier Circle - Syracuse
August 4 - 6, 2009	Crowne Plaza - Lake Placid – Section VII (Tuesday – Thursday) Hall of Fame: Wednesday, August 5th
October 19, 2009	Holiday Inn – Albany (Wolf Road)
August 3 – 5, 2010	Holiday Valley – Ellicottville – Section VI



Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Instructional support
Room 320 EB
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234
(518) 474-5922; fax: (518) 473-4884
[Http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/cial/](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/cial/)

September 23, 2008

Nina Van Erk
Executive Director
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
8 Airport Park Boulevard
Latham, NY 12110



Dear Nina:

I am writing to respond to your recent letter regarding the interpretation of Commissioner's Regulation 135.4(c)(7)(b)(1): Duration of Competition:

(1) Duration of competition. A pupil shall be eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons of such sport commencing with the pupil's entry into the ninth grade and prior to graduation,...

The question revolves around the interpretation of "prior to graduation" from the Handbook Committee regarding participation in sectional and state tournaments. After discussion and review at SED, there are two scenarios to consider.

In the first, if a student completes the educational requirements for graduation (required examinations, course work, required attendance, and achieved the required 22 credits) in less than eight semesters (i.e. finishing all requirements in January), the student's eligibility expires upon termination of schooling.

In the second, if students continue their educational plan for the full eight semesters, their eligibility expires when they have completed all the educational requirements for graduation (as listed above). Holding the graduation "ceremony" early does not indicate a student has graduated until all educational requirements are met. If the student is returning to the school after the "ceremony" to complete the educational requirements for graduation, they are still eligible for competition. If you have further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Kocialski
Associate in Physical Education

CC: Tom Hogan
Office of Non-Public Schools

To: NYSPHSAA Executive Committee
From: Todd Nelson
Date: October 20, 2008
Re: Safety Committee Report

Minimum Weight Certification Program

Our Section Consultants have been offering courses to certify new instructors for our program. School districts have been reminded that our program also includes a nutritional component. Schools have been asked to use the portfolios and CD's that were provided by the Association. Athletic Administrators should share these materials with their coaches, student-athletes, and parents. Schools are also encouraged to use The National Wrestling Coaches Association program to help students and parents maximize their potential. We are working with the Coaches Association to have any fees waived for our state.

Concussion Management

Lloyd has secured another grant for this year and will work with the association to implement a "Grass Roots Approach". He will be meeting with each Section Concussion Management team to assist them in establishing a viable program for their schools. Lloyd is also working with the sections to recognize centers within the section that student athletes can receive additional services if their symptoms do not improve. If any section or school has any questions or concerns can contact Lloyd directly. His email is fit4lifeconsulting@gmail.net.

Heat Index

The Safety Committee has formed a sub committee to look at making a recommendation to the executive committee in the spring of 2009. The committee has discussed the importance of having each Section having some type of policy regarding heat index. Some of the state had an issue with the high heat index we experienced in the spring of 2008. Some sections and schools could not participate in certain games during our State Championships. The committee feels that is important that each section establish some type of policy. Currently Section XI is the only section that has a current policy and Section VIII is looking to adopt a policy similar to Section XI. Oregon has a state wide policy that involves athletic administrators enter their zip code to get information about temperature and humidity, which can be used to establish current heat index. Based on the current heat index athletic administrators and coaches are directed on what is acceptable to do in regards to games and practice. A recommendation will be coming in the spring Executive Committee meeting. Please contact your safety committee rep for further input.

Girls Lacrosse Helmets

The safety committee has gathered a tremendous amount of data regarding head injuries to female lacrosse players. We invited an orthopedic surgeon, who also has experience in the Albany Trauma Center, to speak to the committee regarding his concern of a potential catastrophic injury in girl's lacrosse. The data does show that girls are more likely to have a head/facial injury than boys. This is

due to the fact that the boys are protected and the girls are not. The feeling that has come out of the girl's lacrosse community and US Lacrosse is that helmets will make the game more physical, which could result in more injuries. This topic has impact on school districts at many different levels. I have instructed the safety committee representatives to go back to their sections and communicate and distribute the data that has been collected to coaches, athletic administrator, principals, and superintendents. We will be having a conference call with the entire committee on December 12, 2008 to discuss this topic further and possibly make a recommendation to the executive committee at the January 2009 meeting. Please make sure this topic is on the agenda at all section, league, and superintendent meetings before our conference call in December.

High Holy Days

The committee discussed the concern raised by a section regarding high holy days and the seven day practice rule. The committee felt that this was a section and league issue. Many sections and leagues find themselves in similar situations during the year and the proper modifications to the schedule are made. The committee did not want to waive the seven day rule in this instance.

Suspended Games

The committee discussed the issue of how to handle suspended games as it relates to the night of rest. The committee will collect data from each sport on how they handle suspended games and the opinions of athletic administrators and sport coordinators on how many nights of rest they recommend before the game is completed. The committee will discuss their findings at the spring 2009 meeting with a recommendation to follow.

Thunder and Lightning

The safety committee would like to make a motion to remove the word approximately from the thunder and lightning rule in the NYSPHSAA handbook on page 110 (2) (c).

TO: NYSPHSAA Executive Committee
FROM: Robbie Greene, Handbook Committee
DATE: September 29, 2008
RE: Handbook Committee Report



Attendance: Robbie Greene, Steve Broadwell, Julie Maney, John Gallagher, Carol Rog, Bonnie Smith, Renee James, Trish Kocialski and Nina VanErk. Absent with notification: Ted Bondi.

POSTPONED FROM AUGUST MEETING:

SENIOR ALL STAR CONTESTS – The committee recommends the following change:

- Removal of the last paragraph, "A student who participates in any unapproved all-star contest shall be ineligible to compete in interschool athletics in all sports for a period of one year from the date of such participation." Rationale – to regulate what we have control over. **ACTION REQUESTED**

NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS:

TRANSFER RULE

The committee discussed the reference to "one school district to another" in the handbook and how it affects school districts with multiple high schools. The committee is seeking input from the Executive Directors to determine which multiple high school districts have defined attendance zones or open enrollment. It was suggested to treat the students in open enrollment multiple high school districts in the same manner as K-8 districts. Once a student enrolls, that high school becomes the district of residence. Rationale – to add consistency in interpretation of the Transfer Rule

PRACTICE AT SAME FACILITY & SCRIMMAGE:

The committee discussed the need to further define a scrimmage. The NYSPHSAA staff and handbook Committee felt that a scrimmage is a simulated contest and should not be considered a practice. The Committee recommends defining a scrimmage as a "practice competition" and striking the reference to "practice sessions/" in the Handbook. **ACTION REQUESTED**

The committee discussed situations when two schools share a practice facility such as in the sports wrestling and swimming. The committee felt that the redefining of a scrimmage provided clarity in these types of situations and recommends the following:

- Schools that have made arrangements with another member school to share the use of a practice facility may do so without violating the Scrimmage Regulation as long as the athletes/teams do not scrimmage before the required number of practices has been completed. **ACTION REQUESTED**

TWO SPORTS IN ONE SEASON

Section II requested that this be discussed at the Handbook Committee meeting. After much discussion the committee offered no suggestion for change but supported the current policy that permits this to occur with Section approval.

SPORTSMANSHIP REGULATION

Again, the committee discussed the situation when a coach is ejected from the last contest of the sport season. The committee requests clarification by the Sportsmanship Committee prior to action by the Executive Committee.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The committee discussed permitting foreign exchange and international students who have graduated from school in their home country be permitted to participate in athletics as long as the student has met the age requirement. No support was voiced for this change.

SUSPENDED GAME

The committee discussed the Suspended Game rule as a result of a suspended football game in the Section V area. The committee affirmed that a suspended game is a continuation of a contest and the required number of nights rest rule does not apply. The committee cited that the sport specific game rules would also apply. The committee took no action but suggested this issue be taken to the Safety Committee for discussion.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES PRIOR to STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Trish Kocalski (NYSED) presented the committee with the attached letter pertaining to participation in interscholastic athletics after graduation ceremonies are held. A student who has completed the educational requirements for graduation in less than 8 semesters will have their eligibility expire upon the termination of schooling. Students who continue their education plan for the full 8 semesters are eligible until all the educational requirements (required examinations, course work, required attendance and achieved 22 credits) are completed. Holding a graduation "ceremony" early does not indicate that the student has graduated. If the student is returning to the school after the "ceremony" to compete the educational requirements for graduation, they are still eligible for competition.

SEVEN DAY PRACTICE REGULATION & THE JEWISH HIGH HOLY DAYS

A SCHOOL FROM Section VIII requested consideration to waive the seven (7) day practice regulation due to the Jewish Holidays. The handbook discussed the matter and referred it to the Safety Committee for their review.

PRO AM EVENTS

The committee discussed whether or not there was a need to establish a regulation pertaining to a student athlete's participation in Pro-Am events. The committee did not see a need for such action.

OFFICIALS

The committee debated the need to for language in the Handbook address the issue of the number of officials at athletic contests. The committee recommends that this issue be addressed at the Officials Coordinating Federation meeting in October.

FUTURE DISCUSSION

Establishment of a Transgender Policy

FUTURE MEETINGS

**JANUARY 15, 2008 – THURSDAY – CONFERENCE CALL
9:30 AM**



Brian Devincenzi
Director of Athletics
Millbrook Central School District
845-677-2510 ext. 126
Fax 845-677-2530

Fall State Modified Report

1. Executive Report

- a. Make sure yellow cards are reported to Section
 - b. P. 126-127 – explains the extended time option – was approved last year, just a reminder – this is extended time for 4 quarters
-

2. Discussion Items

a. Volleyball – Libero Player

Motion (McCarthy, Romanello)

“Modified Volleyball Game Rule #6 (NYSPHSAA handbook, page 148) shall be changed to read: ‘With sectional/league approval, the libero player may be used at the modified level.’ “

Approved unanimously. This item will go directly to the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee. There was discussion and agreement that a pinny can be worn by modified volleyball athletes instead of a different uniform. This motion gets one more athlete active on the court. It was suggested that volleyball officials’ groups should receive this information quickly to facilitate implementation of the use of the libero player. Because some sections are currently playing modified volleyball, this change will **NOT** be used in modified volleyball until the 2009-10 school year.

B. Section III “Mercy Rule” Experiment in Softball and Baseball

Section III representative Brad Dates reported that the experiment, shortening games at the end of the 4 ½ or 5th inning if the score differential is 15 runs or more, worked overwhelmingly. Games were shortened, but kids’ integrity was kept. Other sections were interested in joining in on this “mercy rule” experiment.

Motion (Dates, Romanello)

“With sectional/league approval, a ‘mercy rule’ experiment in modified baseball and softball will be permitted, allowing a game to end after the fifth inning when a team at the short end of the 15 run rule has completed their fifth at-bat.”

Approved unanimously 15-0. This item will go directly to the Executive Committee in January, and, if passed, may be implemented for the Spring 2009 baseball/softball seasons. Sectional representatives must declare their section’s intent to participate in the “mercy rule” experiment by **December 1, 2008**. Each section must collect data from participating schools and complete/forward summative surveys to the modified baseball and softball coordinators after their seasons of participation.

C. Section IV Wrestling Proposal

Section IV representative Carl Koenig presented a proposal for a pilot program to increase the length of the 2nd and 3rd periods in multiple bout wrestling meets. The proposal would increase mat participation time by a minute. Considerable discussion occurred and the following points were made:

- The proposal is not much different from “Program 2”, which already exists in the modified wrestling game conditions (*reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, Modified Wrestling Game Condition #6a, page 148*)
- This proposal should not be an officials’ contract issue because Program 2 is already in the handbook
- Carl Koenig is willing to create a survey to evaluate the proposal.

Motion (Koenig, Devincenzi)

“With sectional/league approval, a two year pilot program in modified wrestling may be implemented that allows modified wrestlers who compete in two or three bouts in a contest to wrestle using the time periods for bouts of ‘Program 2’: 1st Period – 1 minute, 2nd and 3rd Periods: 1 and ½ minutes.”

- **Approved** 14-1. This item will go to the Safety Committee, and if approved, will be forwarded directly to the Executive Committee. Pending their approval, and then sectional approval, it may be used during the upcoming winter season. Sectional representatives must declare their section’s intent to participate in this proposed pilot program by December 1, 2008. The participating sections must be willing to collect data from participating schools and complete/forward summative surveys to modified wrestling sport coordinator John Richard.

D. Section IV Track Proposal

Carl Koenig presented a proposal for a two-year pilot program that would increase the height of the hurdle in the 55m modified boys’ event from 30 inches to 33 inches. The rationale is that the boys currently face a 9” increase in hurdle height once they move onto the high school level; the girls face a 3” increase. There was an expressed concern about the safety of such a large height increase for boys, considering the growth spurt common in adolescent boys. Carl Koenig agreed to create a survey to evaluate the pilot program.

Motion (Koenig, Franco)

“With sectional/league approval, a two year pilot program in modified track and field may be implemented that would increase the height of the hurdle in the 55m modified boys’ event from 30 inches to 33 inches.”

- **Approved** 14-1. This item will go to the Safety Committee, and if approved, will be forwarded directly to the Executive Committee.

Pending their approval, and then sectional approval, it may be used during the upcoming spring season. Sectional representatives must declare their section's intent to participate in this proposed pilot program by December 1, 2008. The participating sections must be willing to collect data from participating schools and complete/forward summative surveys to modified track and field sport coordinator Teresa Lee.

3. Action Item – Wrestling

Motion (McCarthy, Devincenzi)

*“Modified Wrestling Condition #6 (b) shall be edited to read:
There must be a 45 minute rest period between bouts.”*

Approved unanimously 15-0. This item has already been passed by the Safety Committee and will go straight to the Executive Committee.

Various Items:

Nina Van Erk explained that it is important to note that there is a tabbing error in the first line of text in the chart on page 127 that helps to clarify it. In the second column labeled “TIME LIMITS”, in the second row, the 3rd box labeled simply “Play” should read 5th Period Play”, and the 4th box labeled “5 Period Extended Play” should read “4 Quarter Extended Play.” There should not be text in the 5th box at all. Please refer to the online NYSPHSAA handbook to help to clarify this error.

Section 10. Lori Brewer reported on the successful Section 10 regional testing in Selection/ Classification initiated for the Fall 2008 season. Initially in August, they utilized four testing sites on two different dates, with a retest at one site a week later. The first testing accommodated students who were interested in being Selection/Classified onto any high school sport. During the first week of school in September, they held two more test dates at two different sites to accommodate athletes who were away during the summer or for transfer students. Eighty-five (85) athletes were tested; 65 passed and 18 failed; 2 were tested for mixed competition. Several did not return for re-tests; most were winter athletes who can return for re-testing later this school year. In the future, preliminary paperwork will be required to be sent/brought to the testing site to verify readiness for testing. For timeliness, they will have a site coordinator and four testers in the future. Accountability was great, and the pressure was taken off home school ADs. Some schools chose to bus their students; parents took others. Generally, parents were very supportive. Feedback from the schools has been very positive. Later in the fall, for winter athletes, they will offer the S/C testing on two different days at three different sites, with one re-test day. In the spring, there will be one test day.

Molded Cleats

Todd Nelson noted that it may be time to re-evaluate the modified level equipment requirement that "only sneakers or shoes with molded soles and molded cleats are permitted at the modified level." (*reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 131*). It is becoming difficult to find molded cleats; most athletic shoes now have screw-in designs. Sectional representatives were asked to bring up this item at their local levels for further discussion at the spring meeting of this Committee.

Need for Modified Sports Coordinators

We are in need of modified sport coordinators for girls' basketball, girls' and boys' gymnastics, girls and boys' tennis, and boys' and girls' soccer. The assistance of sectional representatives and current sports coordinators was requested in soliciting new Committee members to fill these important roles.

Procedures for Weather delays or cancellations of Section IX contests.

- 1. In sectional competition between two individual schools, e.g. baseball, basketball, etc., the respective superintendents of the competing schools will determine if weather conditions are safe enough for travel and competition. The Sports Chair for the contest in question will advise the respective athletic directors of the playing venue conditions.**
- 2. In sectional competition involving multiple schools, the respective Sports Chair will advise the Executive Director or Designee of any adverse conditions. The Executive Director or Designee will consult with the participating schools then decide whether to hold or cancel the competition.**
- 3. All sectional scheduling will include a make-up date, published in advance, to be used if necessary.**
- 4. In the unlikely event that no sectional play is possible to determine a Section IX representative for state competition, the Executive Director or Designee in consultation with the respective Sports Chair will determine the sectional representative. Under ordinary circumstances, this will be the highest seed. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, the highest seed is not chosen, the selection of the sectional representative by the Executive Director or Designee is final and binding.**