

**CHAMPIONSHIP
PHILOSOPHY
COMMITTEE**



FEBRUARY 2011



NYSPHSAA
CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE REPORT
February 2011

INTRODUCTION

In August of 2009, the NYSPHSAA President, Patrick Pizzarelli, responded to a number of concerns expressed by the membership regarding our championship events. For the second time in a 10 year period, an Ad Hoc Championship Philosophy Committee was appointed. The challenge set forth was to review and if needed, revise the current philosophy and guidelines of the NYSPHSAA Championship events.

NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs – Karen Lopez (7) and Doug Kenyon (2)
Section 1 – Karen Peterson - Athletic Administrator
Section 2 – Ryan Sherman - Superintendent
Section 3 – Mike Cring - Principal
Section 4 – Ramona Wenck - Superintendent
Section 5 – Kathy Hoyt - Athletic Administrator
Section 6 – Patrick Burke - Athletic Administrator
Section 7 – Steve Broadwell - Superintendent
Section 8 – Saul Lerner – Athletic Administrator
Section 9 – David Bernsley – Principal
Section 10 – Tony Bjork – Athletic Administrator
Section 11 – Lisa Lally - Athletic Administrator
Past President – Dick McGuire
1st Vice President - Mark Ward
President - Patrick Pizzarelli
NYSPHSAA Staff – Nina Van Erk, Bob Stulmaker, Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri

The committee met seven times during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years to deliberate, study and discuss the approved NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy. The meetings were held on October 15, 2009, January 14, 2010, March 1, 2010, March 23, 2010, April 27, 2010, November 16, 2010 and February 8, 2011.

After a lengthy and careful review, the committee unanimously agreed to the following recommendations.

The committee respectfully requests approval of the following report.

NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY, GUIDELINES and PROCESS

PHILOSOPHY

NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY: “NYSPHSAA will sponsor Championships that represent excellence achieved in each sport. In the interest of equitable competition, minimal loss of academic time, financial impact and logistical concerns including, but not limited to, travel, lodging, meals and facilities for competition, the NYSPHSAA will sponsor one championship experience in a sport when six or more of its sections having four (4) or more of their member schools each sponsor that sport. Championships will be conducted according to established guidelines. All sports will be recognized by the NYSPHSAA as either a team sport or an individual sport, or a combination team/individual sport. Variations will be permitted in the NYSPHSAA classification system.”

QUALITY vs QUANTITY: The percentage of opportunities for athletes to compete in NYSPHSAA Championships should fall within a designated range of 5% to 8% for all sports. Percentages will be calculated using the number of varsity athletes participating in the sport and the number of competitors in the championship event.

REPRESENTATION: Each Section would be permitted to qualify a minimum of one representative for all NYSPHSAA Championship events. In designated sports, additional At-Large competitors will be selected to complete the tournament structure. NOTE: For combined NYSPHSAA Championships and NYS Federation Championship events, a minimum of one representative from the PSAL, CHSAA, and AIS will be permitted to qualify with additional At-Large opportunities to be determined by NYSPHSAA.

AT-LARGE COMPETITORS: For designated individual sports, a cap will be established to limit the number of At-Large NYSPHSAA competitors participating in championship events. To be considered for an At-Large position, an athlete must meet the minimum qualifying standard recommended by the Sport Committee and approved by the Executive/Central Committee. NOTE: For combined NYSPHSAA Championships and NYS Federation Championship events, the sport committee will recommend to the Executive Committee the number of At-Large opportunities for the PSAL, CHSAA or AIS.

QUALIFYING PROCESS: A uniform process will be established to bring state-wide consistency across all sections for the purpose of qualifying athletes for NYSPHSAA Championship events.

GENDER EQUITY: Every effort should be made to provide for equitable participation opportunities in NYSPHSAA Championships when the sport is similar or the same. (Example: soccer, track and field and baseball/softball)

CHAMPIONSHIP CATEGORIES: NYSPHSAA Championship events will continue to be contested in one of 3 categories: Team, Individual or Combination Team/Individual.

CLASSES and DIVISIONS: NUMBER OF CLASSES AND DIVISIONS - A formula will be used to identify the maximum number of championship classes or divisions allowed. The formula will be based on the number of varsity programs sponsored by NYSPHSAA member schools in a sport. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WITHIN THE CLASSES AND DIVISIONS - The BEDS numbers will be used to designate classification, striving for a statewide balance in each class and division.

DEFINITIONS:

- Team Sport Championships - competition between intact school teams.
- Individual Sport Championships - competition between individuals representing their section.
- Combination Team/Individual Sport Championships - competition consisting of both school teams and individuals representing their section.

GUIDELINES and PROCESS

Each Section would be permitted to qualify a minimum of one representative for all NYSPHSAA Championship events. For designated individual sports, a cap will be established to limit the number of At-Large NYSPHSAA competitors participating in championship events. To be considered for an At-Large position, an athlete must meet the minimum qualifying standard recommended by the Sport Committee and approved by the Executive/Central Committee.

NYSPHSAA Sports Committees are responsible for making recommendations for their respective sport. A sport specific uniform process will be established to bring state-wide consistency across all sections for the purpose of qualifying athletes for NYSPHSAA Championship events. In individual sports, consistency will be required for issues such as, but not limited to, in-season qualifying, ownership of relay teams, qualifying meets, etc.

The final authority to increase or decrease participation in NYSPHSAA Championship events lies with the NYSPHSAA Executive/Central Committee. Sport Committees will present any and all proposals for change to the Championship Advisory Committee. The committee will be guided by the established percentage of opportunity (5% - 8%) when considering requests. NYSPHSAA Sports Committees may not request more classifications for their championship than allowed by established formulas. The Championship Advisory Committee will forward their recommendations on to the Executive/Central Committee.

Requests for increases or decreases in the number of participants or classes (divisions) must adhere to the adopted championship philosophy. All changes require the approval of both the Championship Advisory Committee and the NYSPHSAA Executive/Central Committee.

The NYSPHSAA will annually establish the classification numbers for all sports in which championships are conducted. NYSPHSAA Sports Committees may petition for a variation of the classification numbers for their sport. Such requests must be presented to the NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee for review and recommendation with final approval granted

by the Executive/Central Committee. Any approved change must remain in effect for two (2) years.

Any changes approved by the NYSPHSAA Executive/Central Committee before the end of the calendar year will go into effect the following school year.

The NYSPHSAA staff will evaluate each sport's championship event to assure compliance with the approved philosophy as it relates to percentage of opportunity and growth of championship events. The committee recommends a review of the championship philosophy at a minimum of every 5 years.

CHAMPIONSHIP FORMULAS

TEAM SPORTS: Currently applies to: Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Softball, Football, Baseball and Ice Hockey.

Number of Varsity Programs	Number of Allowable Championship Classes or Divisions
24 -100	1
101 - 200	2
201 - 300	3
301 - 400	4
401 - above	5

COMBINATION TEAM/INDIVIDUAL SPORTS: Currently applies to: Cross Country, Skiing, Bowling and Rifle.

Number of Varsity Programs	Number of Allowable Championship Classes or Divisions
24 -200	1
201 - 425	2
426 - 500	3
501 - above	4

- Cross Country
 - Maximum of 7 competitors per school team per class
 - Maximum of 5 individual competitors per Section per class
- Skiing
 - Maximum of 61 competitors for Alpine Skiing
 - One school team (3 competitors) per Section
 - One section team (3 competitors)

- At-Large competitors will be selected based on formula considering the number of programs in a Section and the winning Section from the previous year’s meet.
 - Maximum of 48 competitors for Nordic Skiing
 - One school team (3 competitors) per Section
 - One section team (3 competitors)
 - At-Large competitors will be selected based on formula considering the number of programs in a Section and the winning Section from the previous year’s meet.
 - Bowling
 - School Team Championship – Maximum of 8 competitors per school team
 - Sectional Team Championship – Maximum of 6 competitors per Section Team
 - Rifle
 - School Team Championship – Maximum of 4 competitors per school team in .22 (small bore) and maximum of 4 competitors per school team in air gun.
 - Sectional Team Championship – Maximum of 2 competitors per Section team in .22 (small bore) and maximum of 2 competitors per Section team in air gun.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS: Currently applies to: Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Wrestling, Gymnastics, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field and Golf.

Number of Varsity Programs	Number of Allowable Championship Classes or Divisions
24 – 300	1
301 - above	2

Current One Division Sports:

- Swimming & Diving: The qualifying standard will be determined by using a 3 year seed time average to achieve the following:
 - Maximum average of 32 competitors per event (including diving)
 - Maximum average of 24 relay teams per event
- Indoor Track & Field: The qualifying standard will be determined by using a 5 year average of the 6th place finisher to achieve the following:
 - Maximum of 30 competitors per event
 - Maximum of 16 relay teams per event

Note: Currently, each section may send the top two competitors per event, plus the third place finisher if they have met the qualifying standard. Relays are permitted one entry per event.

- Gymnastics
 - Top three (3) qualifiers per section for the five (5) events
 - Top three (3) qualifiers per section for the all around event
- Tennis
 - Maximum of 9 competitors per section
 - Three singles and three doubles teams
- Golf
 - Maximum of 9 competitors per section

Current Two Division Sports:

- Outdoor Track & Field – The qualifying standard will be determined by using a 5 year average of the 6th place finisher to achieve the following:
 - Maximum of 20 competitors per event per division
 - Maximum of 16 relay teams per event per division

Note: Currently, in Division I and II, each section may send the top competitor per event, plus the next best performer if they have met the qualifying standard for their division. Relays are included.
- Wrestling
 - Maximum of 16 competitors per weight class per division

Note: Currently, At-Large competitors are determined using the approved formula.

SKIING EVENTS	ENTRIES	TOTAL ENTRIES	COMMITTEE PROPOSAL
GIRLS NORDIC			
Individual	56	56	48
Relays	14	14	
BOYS NORDIC			
Individual	56	56	48
Relays	14	14	

Same athletes no alternates

SKIING EVENTS	ENTRIES	TOTAL ENTRIES	COMMITTEE PROPOSAL
GIRLS ALPINE			
SLALOM	79	79	61
GIANT SALOM	79	79	
BOYS ALPINE			
SLALOM	84	84	61
GIANT SALOM	84	84	

Same athletes no alternates

GIRLS NORDIC ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
56	310	18.1%
48	310	15.5%

BOYS NORDIC ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
56	315	17.8%
48	315	15.2%

GIRLS ALPINE ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
79	611	12.9%
61	611	10.0%

BOYS ALPINE ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
84	832	10.1%
61	832	7.3%

NOTE: Relay teams have been counted as ONE (1) entry

BOYS and GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

	BOYS	NUMBER	FOUR
Section	CLASSES	PARTICIPANTS	CLASSES
1	5	60	48
2	5	60	48
3	5	60	48
4	5	60	48
5	5	60	48
6	5	60	48
7	3	36	36
8	4	48	48
9	5	60	48
10	3	36	36
11	5	60	48
MAXIMUM ENTRIES		600	504
ACTUAL ENTRIES 2009		597	
ACTUAL ENTRIES 2010		596	

	GIRLS	NUMBER	FOUR
Section	CLASSES	PARTICIPANTS	CLASSES
1	5	60	48
2	5	60	48
3	5	60	48
4	5	60	48
5	5	60	48
6	5	60	48
7	3	36	36
8	4	48	48
9	5	60	48
10	3	36	36
11	5	60	48
		600	504
		598	
		591	

BOYS		
Number of	Number of	Percentage of
Entries	Participants	Participation
597	9088	6.6%
504	9088	5.5%

GIRLS		
Number of	Number of	Percentage of
Entries	Participants	Participation
598	6950	8.6%
504	6950	7.3%

2009-2010 Season - 584 Boys Teams

2009-2010 Season - 557 Girls Teams

NOTE:

Section 7 has three Classes B, C and D (No AA, A)

Section 8 has four Classes AA, A, B and C (No D)

Section 10 has three Classes B, C and D (No AA, A)

BOYS INDOOR TRACK and FIELD

INDOOR TRACK BOYS EVENTS	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES	PROPOSED TOTAL
55 m DASH	27	30
300 m DASH	26	30
600 m RUN	27	30
1000 m RUN	25	30
1500 m RUN	28	30
3000 m RUN	27	30
55 m HURDLES	26	30
4 x 200 Relay	11	16
4 x 400 Relay	11	16
4 x 800 Relay	11	16
Intersectional Relay	9	16
Long Jump	27	30
Triple Jump	28	30
High Jump	24	30
Pole Vault	23	30
Shot Put	23	30
TOTAL ENTRIES	353	424
TOTAL ENTRIES	427	676

Relay teams counted as ONE (1) entry

Relay teams counted as FOUR (4) entries

CURRENT

NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
353	11879	3.0%
427	11879	3.6%

Relays as One Team

Relays as Four Entries

PROPOSED

NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
424	11879	3.6%
676	11879	5.7%

Relays as One Team

Relays as Four Entries

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK and FIELD

INDOOR TRACK GIRLS EVENTS	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES	PROPOSED TOTAL
55 m DASH	26	30
300 m DASH	23	30
600 m RUN	25	30
1000 m RUN	29	30
1500 m RUN	25	30
3000 m RUN	26	30
55 m HURDLES	22	30
4 x 200 Relay	11	16
4 x 400 Relay	11	16
4 x 800 Relay	11	16
Intersectional Relay	9	16
1500 m RACEWALK	20	30
Long Jump	24	30
Triple Jump	24	30
High Jump	24	30
Pole Vault	23	30
Shot Put	24	30
		30
TOTAL ENTRIES	357	454
	483	676

Relay teams counted as ONE (1) entry
 Relay teams counted as FOUR (4) entries

CURRENT

NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
357	11211	3.2%
483	11211	4.3%

Relays as One Team
 Relays as Four Entries

PROPOSED

NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
454	11211	4.0%
676	11211	6.0%

Relays as One Team
 Relays as Four Entries

BOYS OUTDOOR TRACK and FIELD

DIVISION I DIVISION II

OUTDOOR TRACK BOYS EVENTS	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES
100 m	20	17
200 m	16	15
400 m	15	15
800m	18	16
1600m	12	16
3200	14	14
110 H	18	16
400 IH	15	16
4 x 100 Relay	15	14
4 x 400 Relay	13	14
4 x 800 Relay	14	14
Pentathlon	15	13
Steeplechase	16	18
Long Jump	18	18
Triple Jump	13	13
High Jump	17	18
Pole Vault	15	15
Shot Put	13	15
Discus	15	14
CURRENT TOTAL ENTRIES	292	291
PROPOSED ENTRIES	418	417

BOTH DIVISIONS				
NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY				
	Number of	# of	%	
	Entries			
CURRENT	583	20566	2.8%	Relays as One Team
PROPOSED	835	20566	4.1%	Relays as Four Entries

Relay teams counted as ONE (1) entry

Relay teams counted as FOUR (4) entries

GIRLS OUTDOOR TRACK and FIELD

DIVISION I DIVISION II

OUTDOOR TRACK EVENTS	GIRLS	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES
100 m		15	20
200 m		13	18
400 m		13	12
800m		14	18
1500m		15	14
3000		12	16
100 H		17	15
400 IH		13	13
4 x 100 Relay		12	16
4 x 400 Relay		13	15
4 x 800 Relay		14	17
Pentathlon		14	12
Steeplechase		14	14
Long Jump		17	17
Triple Jump		14	16
High Jump		15	18
Pole Vault		15	16
Shot Put		13	17
Discus		11	15
CURRENT TOTAL ENTRIES		264	299
PROPOSED ENTRIES		373	443

BOTH DIVISIONS				
NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY				
	Number of	# of	%	
	Entries			
CURRENT	563	19401	2.9%	Relays as One Team
PROPOSED	816	19401	4.2%	Relays as Four Entries

Relay teams counted as ONE (1) entry

Relay teams counted as FOUR (4) entries

GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING 2009 - 2010

SWIMMING & DIVING GIRLS EVENTS	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES	CPC PROPOSAL AVERAGE
50 Freestyle	57	32
100 Freestyle	68	32
100 Butterfly	58	32
100 Breaststroke	54	32
100 Backstroke	49	32
200 Individual Medley	46	32
200 Freestyle	35	32
500 Freestyle	37	32
Diving	23	32
AVERAGE	47	32
200 Freestyle Relay	168(42)	96(24)
200 Medley Relay	128(32)	96(24)
400 Freestyle Relay	116(29)	96(24)
AVERAGE	34	24

CURRENT

NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
839	6686	12.5%
530	6686	7.9%

Relays as Four Entries
Relays as One Team

PROPOSED

PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL		
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation
576	6686	8.6%
360	6686	5.4%

Relays as Four Entries
Relays as One Team

TOTAL ENTRIES	839(530)	576(360)
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The **TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES** will be an **AVERAGE** of 32 for events and 96(24) for relay:

NOTE: Relay teams have been counted as **FOUR (4)** entries - Number in (##) indicates relay team:

BOYS SWIMMING AND DIVING 2009 - 2010

SWIMMING & DIVING BOYS EVENTS	NYSPHSAA ENTRIES	CPC PROPOSAL
50 Freestyle	45	32
100 Freestyle	41	32
100 Butterfly	28	32
100 Breaststroke	53	32
100 Backstroke	39	32
200 Individual Medley	39	32
200 Freestyle	39	32
500 Freestyle	34	32
Diving	43	32
AVERAGE	40	32
200 Freestyle Relay	72(18)*	96(24)
200 Medley Relay	88(22)*	96(24)
400 Freestyle Relay	116 (29)*	96(24)
AVERAGE	23	24
TOTAL ENTRIES	637(430)	576(360)

CURRENT

NYSPHSAA SCHOOLS ONLY			
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation	
637	5916	10.8%	Relays as Four Entries
430	5916	7.3%	Relays as One Team

PROPOSED

PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL			
Number of Entries	Number of Participants	Percentage of Participation	
576	5916	9.7%	Relays as Four Entries
360	5916	6.1%	Relays as One Team

The **TOTAL NUMBER OF ENTRIES** will be an **AVERAGE** of 32 for events and 96(24) for relay:

NOTE: Relay teams have been counted as **FOUR (4)** entries - Number in (##) indicates relay team:

HISTORY

In 2001, the NYSPHSAA approved its first Championship Philosophy due to a concern over the lack of consistency in the growth of the Championship events. The Association was faced with a trend towards increased participation in NYSPHSAA Championships in a variety of sports. Concern over this trend began to grow within the NYSPHSAA, especially in the absence of a more defined philosophy. Concern focused on whether the NYSPHSAA was granting approvals merely to increase participation at its Championships and whether excellence was being maintained with these approvals. The 2001 Championship Philosophy addressed these concerns.

In August of 2009, the NYSPHSAA representatives voiced concern over the growth of participation in NYSPHSAA Championship events. A committee was established with the responsibility to review and revise if needed, both the philosophy and the philosophical guidelines for NYSPHSAA State Championships.

The following is a summary of the approval for the expansion of NYSPHSAA Championship events and related changes.

1993

- Football's 1st State Championship was held in 4 classes.
- Field Hockey increased to 4 classes.

1995

- Girls Lacrosse conducted its first State Championship in 2 classes.
- Football was increased to 5 classes.

1996

- Outdoor Track and Field received approval for a 3 class State Championship.

1997

- Bowling added school team competition to State Championship.
- NYSPHSAA declared a moratorium on approvals for increased participation.

1998

- NYSPHSAA adopted a championship philosophy permitting sport specific requests to be considered (moratorium lifted).
- Wrestling received approval for a 3 class State Championship (later rescinded).
- Boys Lacrosse was increased to 3 classes.
- Cross Country was increased to 4 classes.
- Skiing received approval for x-country relay school team entry into State Championship.
- Boys Swimming and Diving received approval to freeze qualifying standards to increase participation.
- Rifle received approval for separate air rifle team entry into intersectional.
- Girls Lacrosse requests to increase to 3 classes.
- Wrestling revised its request for 2 class competition.

2000

- Ice Hockey At-Large entries approved for the 2001 Championships.

2001

- Approved the Ad Hoc Committee on Championship Philosophy proposal.
- Defeated the Field Hockey and Track and Field amendment.
- Cross Country, Girls Volleyball and Boys Lacrosse received approval for a two-year extension of classification variations.
- Boys Swimming qualifying standards frozen through the 2004 tournament.
- Baseball increased to 5 classes for the 2003-2004 tournaments.
- Ice Hockey received approval to classify based on strength of program effective 2003-2004 tournament (2-year experiment).
- A two year moratorium was approved on any changes to the Championship Philosophy through the 2003-2004 school year.

2002

- Girls Soccer and Softball increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Wrestling increased to a 2 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Alpine Skiing added a school team championship.
- Basketball increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).

2003

- Girls Lacrosse increased to a 3 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Boys Soccer increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Girls Swimming and Diving adopted a qualifying standard for each event (3-year experiment).
- Delayed until 2005-2006 the implementation of the classification formula for participation in a 2 class Ice Hockey State Championship.
- Cross Country increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Girls Volleyball increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).

2004

- Swimming and Diving qualifying standards extended through 2005-2006.
- Cross Country increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Girls Volleyball received approval of the classification variations for 2005-2006 and 2006-2007.
- Ice Hockey State Championship Division I and II placements to be determined by each Section.
- Baseball received approval for a 5 class State Championship.
- Girls Lacrosse received approval for a 3 class State Championship with variations in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

- Girls Golf received approval for a State Championship as early as June 2006 pending six Sections.

2005

- Wrestling extended their 2 class state tournament format experiment to 2005-2006.
- Bowling received approval to schedule high school team competition on Saturday and Sectional team competition on Sunday.
- Swimming and Diving requested to continue using qualifying standards for entry into State Championships.
- Girls Soccer, Basketball and Softball will continue with 5 classes at State Championships.
- Girls Golf 2006-2007 State Championship will be a 36 hole, 2 day tournament on the second weekend of June 2007.

2006

- Cross Country received approval to continue the 5 class State Championship.
- Wrestling received approval to fill in the byes at the State Championships using a wild card formula (2-year experiment).
- Girls Swimming received approval for annual adjustments of qualifying standards.
- Field Hockey classification variations for 2006-2007 were approved.
- Boys Swimming and Diving received approval for qualifying standards in the 200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle Relay, 200 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle and the 500 Freestyle.
- Boys Soccer received approval to continue the 5 class State Championship.
- Girls Lacrosse received approval to continue the 3 class State Championship with classification variations.
- Wrestling received approval to continue a two division State Championship.
- Girls Volleyball received an approval for an extension on proposing a variation in classification for 2007-2008.
- Cross Country received an approval for the variation classification numbers for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

2007

- Football received approval for a classification number change for 2008.

2008

- Swimming and Diving received approval for a one year trial to use the 30th place prelim time to develop a qualifying standard, 15th place time for relay events and 396.00 for diving.
- Ice Hockey requested classification based on enrollment.
- Boys Volleyball received approval for a State Championship for Fall 2010 pending six Sections.

2009

- Approved a moratorium on the expansion of existing tournaments as it pertains to participation.
- Approved consideration of centralized sites for state championship events as a cost savings measure.
- Approved the use of enrollment to designate the divisions in Ice Hockey with a cut off of 1100 and up for Division I and 1099 and below for Division II.

2010

- Approval for the use of classification variations in the sports of Football, Boys Volleyball, Girls Volleyball, Cross Country, Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse.

Championship Philosophy Committee
October 15, 2009

MEETING SUMMARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Karen Peterson (1), Michael Cring (3), Kathy Hoyt (5), Ramona Wenck (4), Saul Lerner (8), David Bernsley (9), Lisa Lally (11), Steve Broadwell (7), Pat Burke (6), Dick McGuire (Past President), Pat Pizzarelli (President), Bob Stulmaker (Assistant Director), Nina Van Erk (Executive Director), Doug Kenyon (co-chair) and Karen Lopez (co-chair). Absent with notification: Mark Ward (1st Vice President), Ryan Sherman (2), Tony Bjork (10).

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The role of the committee is to review the current philosophy and assess if any modifications are necessary. The committee will consider such topics as:

- ◆ Current expectations of our student athletes, schools & sections
- ◆ Quality of competition vs. quantity of participants
- ◆ Fiscal concerns associated with championship events
- ◆ How to improve existing championship events

DISCUSSION

TEAM SPORTS – Regional and State Championships

At this time, the members of the committee did not identify any significant issues with team championships.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS – State Championships

The members of the committee identified the following concerns after discussing quality vs. quantity and at large vs. qualifying times/distances.

1. Some sports do not have any limitations on the number of participants if the qualifying standard has been met.
2. Lack of consistency throughout the Sections on when the qualifying standard can be met.
3. Lack of consistency in how Sections select the individuals for NYSPHSAA Championship events.
4. Lack of consistency in the number of place winners that go on to the championship event.
5. No consistent formula for the qualifying times/distances (6th place – 30th place averages are used).
6. Should the committee re-visit the Individual Sport formula for the number of varsity programs needed for two divisions?

COMBINATION TEAM/INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

The discussion was lengthy and included statements such as:

- The better athletes and the good teams to proceed to the tournament
- There is an incomplete definition of this category
- How did sports achieve the dual status, what is the history behind this designation?

FUTURE REVIEW

The committee agreed we need to have the best athletes at our championship events. The committee would like to review the following:

1. The relay procedure for the sports of track and swimming.
2. The Individual Sport formula for the number of varsity programs needed for two divisions.
3. Should it be a choice of the committee or an automatic approval to increase to two divisions when the required number of programs is achieved?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION

Where we want the pendulum to swing? Are we looking at a finite number of participants to achieve excellence in the tournament? Should we address the broader philosophical question, what is the percentage of access to championship events? To be fair and equitable, we examine all categories of sport; team, individual and team/individual sports. The site selection of championship venues was discussed. The use of centralized sites was discussed as a cost saving measure. There are three options that are currently being used by the sport committees. They include:

1. rotation from Section to Section (XC, track, gymnastics),
2. bid process (basketball, volleyball, softball)
3. best available site (tennis, football, soccer)

The committee felt that a future discussion will be held about centralized sites for our championship activity.

NEXT STEPS

At this point in time, the committee is in agreement with the approved NYSPHSAA current philosophical statement:

"In the interest of equitable competition, minimal loss of academic time, financial impact and logistical concerns including, but not limited to, travel, lodging, meals and facilities for competition, the NYSPHSAA will sponsor one championship experience in a sport when six or more of its sections having four (4) or more of their member schools sponsor that sport."

The committee felt strongly about the need to gather more information and be supplied with updated participation information before any recommendation could be discussed.

The Association staff will assist the committee by gathering or updating the following information:

1. Input from Sport Coordinators regarding their sports' NYSPHSAA tournament
 - a. Brief history of the evolution of the tournament
 - b. How is quality vs. quantity addressed
 - c. Using the current philosophical statement for championship events what changes could be made to the tournament
2. Update NYSPHSAA Championship Worksheet (page 21 of Philosophy Report)
3. Update number of participants in NYSPHSAA Championships (Joe's Report)
4. Update list detailing number of medals awarded at NYSPHSAA Championships
5. Gather information from Sections on how athletes qualify for the individual sport NYSPHSAA Championships
6. Compile a comparison of the formulas used for developing individual sports qualifying standards
7. Gather information regarding relay events and participants for swimming and track
8. Construct a comparison indicating the percentage of championship opportunity in all championship events using the Participation Survey data.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday - JANUARY 14, 2010 – 10:00 AM

CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Karen Lopez (Co-Chair), Doug Kenyon (Co-Chair), Karen Peterson (1), Ryan Sherman (2), Michael Cring (3), Ramona Wenck (4), Kathy Hoyt (5), Patrick Burke (6), Steve Broadwell (7), Saul Lerner (8), Tony Bjork (10), Lisa Lally (11), Dick McGuire (Past President), Mark Ward (1st Vice President), Patrick Pizzarelli (President), and Nina Van Erk (Executive Director)

1. Review of items discussed at October 15, 2009 Meeting
2. Committee reviewed the individual sport information collected and compiled by the NYSPHSAA office staff. Nina explained how the information was collected and walked the committee through the various pages of information which included the process that each section uses to select athletes for state championship events, qualifying standards for each individual sport, percentage of championship opportunity per participant, awards ordered for championship events, and athlete participation in sport-by-sport state championship events. The review of information stimulated discussion, questions and concerns.
3. The committee unanimously agreed on the following points:
 - Each Section would be permitted to qualify a minimum of one representative for all NYSPHSAA Championships.
 - The establishment a limit on the number of entries (at large, qualifying standards, magic times, etc.)
 - The establishment of a uniform process for all sections to qualify their athletes for NYSPHSAA Championship events.
 - To provide equity in participation opportunity for NYSPHSAA Championships when the sports are the same or similar. (Example: soccer, basketball and baseball/softball)
4. Follow up for next meeting:
 - The Percentage of Opportunity Chart will be revised into team and individual sports
 - Nina will provide committee members with a meeting summary for presentation and discussion purposes at section meetings
 - Philosophical discussion – is the charge of the committee to identify specific problem areas and make recommendations or to make recommendations that will provide greater equity and improve the quality vs. quantity philosophy of state championship events.

Agenda will include:

- Review the charge of the committee:
 - Current expectations of our student athletes, schools & sections
 - Quality of competition vs. quantity of participants
 - Fiscal concerns associated with championship events
 - How to improve existing championship events
- Before any recommendation can be made a final review of information and possible recommendations for individual sport championship events
- Review of information and possible recommendations for combined team/individual sport championship events
- Review and recommendations for team sport championship events
- Relay teams – listed athletes vs. school owned
- Process for establishing variation of classification numbers
- Achieve a balance between quality at NYSPHSAA tournaments” and consistency in the selection/qualification process used to determine number of competitors and teams.

Committee members are encouraged to forward suggestions, opinions, or additional concerns to Nina.

**NEXT MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 1st
10:00 AT NYSPHSAA OFFICE**



CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 1, 2010

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance: Karen Lopez (Co-Chair), Doug Kenyon (Co-Chair), Karen Peterson (1), Ryan Sherman (2), Michael Cring (3), Ramona Wenck (4), Ed Stores (proxy for Kathy Hoyt) (5), Patrick Burke (6), Steve Broadwell (7), Saul Lerner (8), Lisa Lally (11), Dick McGuire (Past President), Mark Ward (1st Vice President), Patrick Pizzarelli (President), and Nina Van Erk (Executive Director), Bob Stulmaker (Assistant Director), Todd Nelson (Assistant Director), Joe Altieri (Director of Marketing & Media)
Absent with notification: David Bernsley (9), Tony Bjork (10)

1. Welcome and introductions.
2. The minutes of the January 14, 2010 meeting were reviewed.
3. The committee reviewed the individual sport championship events on the Percentage of Championship Opportunity Per Participant Chart. The review of information stimulated discussion, questions and concerns that included:
 - Should the committee just look at the percentage of participation or should they also look at the number of participants to provide equity in participation opportunities at state championships?
 - A suggestion was made to develop a percentage range for autonomy at the Section level.
 - Using criteria similar to Wrestling to fill the At-Large positions was suggested.
 - The sports of Wrestling, Tennis and Golf have a cap on the number of participants allowed.
4. Individual Sports –The committee is attempting to balance the Quality vs Quantity philosophy for individual sports. The committee agrees that all Sections should have representation in all individual sport championships, one automatic qualifier. The committee agreed to write a philosophy statement to establish limitations on the number of entries in the following categories of individual sports:
 - One Division Sports
 - Two Division Sports

The committee is considering the following:

In individual sports, the At-Large representatives will be determined by the following process:

1. Meet the current qualifying standards established by the Sport Committee.
2. The top performers state-wide will receive an At-Large entry to fill out the field of competitors.

5. Conclusion of meeting:

- The committee needs to determine if their charge is to make a recommendation that will direct the process Sections use to determine the At-Large positions for individual championship events so there is a consistent manner and opportunity across the State.

Committee members are encouraged to forward suggestions, opinions, or additional concerns to Nina.

**NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010
10:00 AT NYSPHSAA OFFICE**

Agenda will include:

- Review of information and possible recommendations for combined team/individual sport championship events – skiing, cross country and bowling
- Review and recommendations for team sport championship events
- Relay teams – listed athletes vs. school owned
- Process for establishing variation of classification numbers
- Establishing a balance between Quality and Consistency



CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE
March 23, 2010

SUMMARY

ATTENDANCE: Karen Peterson (1), Steve Broadwell (7), Tony Bjork (10), Dave Bernsley (9), Dick McGuire (Past President), Saul Lerner (8, Nina Van Erk, Todd Nelson, Bob Stulmaker, Karen Lopez (Co-Chair). By telephone conference: Mark Ward (NYSPHSAA 1st VP), Kathy Hoyt (5), Doug Kenyon (Co-Chair), and Abby Ingraham (Intern - Recorder)

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROGRESS

Karen Lopez discussed and reviewed the last meeting. She reviewed the ideas that gathered consensus:

- Limit the number of participants that would fill the At-Large entries.
- Each section would send 1 champion
- At-Large entries (qualifying time or benchmark for at large entries would be required)
- Changing the wording from “qualifying time” to “At-Large entry”
 - This would be the top performer that reaches the minimum bench mark
 - One focus of this committee is to discuss whether or not the athletes can reach the qualifying standard at any time throughout the season or only at a championship event.
 - Committee feels that it would be better if we allow the qualifying standard to be achieved anytime throughout the season.

SUMMARY OF INDIVIDUAL SPORTS:

In the sports of Swimming & Diving, Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field, where the events are based on time, distance or scoring by an official, the following procedure will be used:

- Each Section will have the opportunity to send one competitor per event to the NYSPHSAA Championship. Sections will determine these competitors at the Section Championship event.
- Additional At-Large competitors will be included in the NYSPHSAA Championship. These At-Large competitors will be designated by a two step process. First, the competitor must achieve the minimum qualifying standard and must be among the top statewide performers to fill the designated number of At-Large entries.
- Each individual sport committee will be responsible for making recommendations for approval, such as, the minimum qualifying standard, when performances can be achieved, how performance data will be collected, etc.
- Each sport may have a different procedure, but, it must be the same for both boys and girls. Once approved, the procedure must be consistently applied state wide.

COMBINED INDIVIDUAL & TEAM SPORTS Bowling, Cross Country, Skiing, and Girls Gymnastics

SKIING – The following information was provided on the current process used for participation in the NYSPHSAA Championship.

- Each Section has 12 representatives for a total of 84 competitors
 - 4 of 12 represent a school team (they compete for their high school team and also score for their section)
 - Other 8 competitors are chosen by a method decided by each section
 - 3 League champions and next 1-3 in slalom and giant slalom
 - Each section chooses differently
- The committee suggests capping the tournament, specifically skiing,

BOWLING

The committee members discussed the manner in which the athletes were chosen in their respective Sections. The NYSPHSAA Bowling Championships consist of a school team of 8 and a section team of 6 per section for both boys and girls.

CROSS COUNTRY – Currently the NYSPHSAA Championship event includes:

- 5 classes
- 7 team members representing the best school team
- The next best 5 individuals from the Sectional championship race

- By establishing cut-off numbers to determine the number of classes a sport could have, this would permit other sports to jump up or down to more or less classifications.

GYMNASTICS – Currently the Gymnastics championship consists of a Team and individual Championship. The top 3 competitors in each category per event and top 3 for all around competition max of 15.

TEAM SPORTS FORMULA/CATEGORY

The team category was discussed. The following points were addressed:

- In Boys Volleyball there are 128 schools participating. The % of opportunity will be reduced when the accurate number of schools involved is changed on the chart.
- The percentage of opportunity is high for Ice Hockey (9.8%) but the committee felt due to the nature of the sport, a change was not suggested.

OVERALL SUMMARY

- “Growth, consistency, opportunity and equity” The committee addressed these issues for all championships and categories.
- Team and Team/Individual sports percentage of opportunity was between 6-8%.
- The committee focused on a more competitive tournament by addressing the At-Large competitors. The committee answered the **quality vs. quantity** question.
- The committee suggests evaluating the Championship Philosophy every 5-10 years.

NEXT MEETING
April 27th @ 10 AM
NYSPHSAA Office

A final draft of the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy will be reviewed and edited. All committee members are encouraged to attend.



CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE
April 27, 2010

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Karen Lopez (Co-Chair), Doug Kenyon (Co-Chair), Karen Peterson (1), Ramona Wenck (4), Kathy Hoyt (5), Pat Burke (6) Steve Broadwell (7), Saul Lerner (8), Tony Bjork (10), Lisa Lally (11), Dick McGuire (Past President), Mark Ward (NYSPHSAA 1st VP) Patrick Pizzarelli (NYSPHSAA President) , NYSPHSAA Staff – (Nina Van Erk, Todd Nelson, Bob Stulmaker, Joe Altieri). Absent: Ryan Sherman (2), Dave Bernsley (9) and Mike Cring (3).

The committee met to review and edit the recommendations to be presented at the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee at their meeting on April 30-May 1, 2010. Several changes were made to address clarity and understanding. The PowerPoint presentation was shown and the appropriate changes were made.

Additional discussion included the following point:

- Disparity in the number of schools in each of the Sections. Some Sections will have a large number of large schools while others may have a large number of small schools. In team sports, this presents a problem during Sectional Championships because of the strength of programs. Discussion led to no change in the proposed Championship Philosophy.

NEXT STEPS:

- At the conclusion of the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee, Nina Van Erk will provide the members of the committee with a summary of input received from the Section Representatives.
- Committee representatives should work in conjunction with their Section Executive Director to present the Championship Philosophy to their Section's membership.
- The Championship Philosophy Report will be discussed at the NYSPHSAA Central Committee meeting in August.
- If needed, the committee will reconvene by conference call in the fall.
- Projected timeframe for a vote on the Championship Philosophy Report will be December 2010.

President Pizzarelli thanks the members of the committee for their efforts and expressed confidence in the report being in the best interest of the NYSPHSAA.



CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE
November 16, 2010

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Karen Lopez (Co-Chair), Doug Kenyon (Co-Chair), Karen Peterson (1), Ryan Sherman (2), Mike Cring (3), Ramona Wenck (4), Kathy Hoyt (5), Pat Burke (6) Steve Broadwell (7), Saul Lerner (8), Dave Bernsley (9), Tony Bjork (10), Lisa Lally (11), Dick McGuire (Past President), Mark Ward (NYSPHSAA President) , NYSPHSAA Staff – (Nina Van Erk, Todd Nelson, Bob Stulmaker, Joe Altieri). Swimming: Diane Hicks–Hughes, Patrick Ryan, Peter Hugo. Indoor Track: Oscar Jensen and Dave Hennessey. Outdoor Track: Dan Doherty and Don Sauer. Skiing: Dennis O’Brien and Bob Underwood. Cross Country: Chuck Wiltse and Marbry Gansle.

The committee met to review and discuss the counter proposals by the following committees: Swimming, Cross Country, Winter Track, Skiing and Spring Track. Each committee also provided a written report.

NYS FEDERATION - The committee discussed a concern raised by the sport committees that incorporate the CHSAA, PSAL and AIS in their championship events. The committee determined that the number of entries specified in the Championship Philosophy Report are limited to the NYSPHSAA membership. The individual sport committees would be responsible for recommending how many entries the other associations would receive for the NYS Federation portion of the championship event.

RELAYS – The committee determined that relays would be counted as four entries when determining the percentage of opportunity.

COUNTER PROPOSALS OFFERED BY THE SPORT COMMITTEES – Please refer to the written proposals submitted by the committee. The following is a synopsis of their presentations.

Swimming – The coordinators agreed with the range of 5% - 8%, however they did not agree with a strict limitation to the number of entries. They were opposed to the qualifying process outlined in the Championship Philosophy Report. The committee requested to use a four year average of the seed times to determine the qualifying standards. The boys would use the average of the 32nd place and the girls would use the 35th place. The committee indicated this change would restrict the number of entries to within the 5% - 8% range. This proposal would not impose a limit to the number of entries.

Indoor Track - The coordinators requested to maintain the current procedure used to qualify the athletes for the state meet. They indicated that all qualifiers compete in a qualifying meet and in-season qualifiers are not permitted. For individual events, the top two finishers qualify for the state meet plus a third competitor if they meet the qualifying standard. Relays are only permitted one entry per event. The qualifying standard is based on the 6th place finisher. The committee shared their concern over the inequities of indoor track facilities between the sections. The better facilities, specifically the Armory with the banked track, enable the athletes to have faster times which could be a problem with a statewide at-large entry system. The committee was not in favor of expanding the number of competitors at the Indoor Track meet.

Outdoor Track – The committee is requesting to maintain their current system and procedures for qualifying for the state championship meet. The top finisher from each division advances to the state championship and the next best performer if they meet the qualifying standard. In-season qualifying is permitted and the qualifying standard is based on the 6th place finisher. The committee expressed concern over different weather conditions, wind gauges, different timing systems (handheld and electronic) and the last minute preparation needed if qualifiers were selected from a statewide pool.

Skiing – The skiing committee’s proposal reduced and limited the participation to 61 competitors in alpine skiing. Their rationale was the higher number of competitors made our championship more attractive to the mountains to host our meet. The proposal included changing the Nordic entries to 48 competitors. In both disciplines, the competitors are chosen by the following: one school team – 3 competitors, one section team – 3 competitors. The at-large competitors would be chosen based on the number of programs in the section and the winning section from the previous year’s meet. The skiing representatives thanked the committee for the opportunity to re-evaluate their championship event.

Cross Country – The coordinators requested to maintain five (5) classifications based on the longstanding tradition of the sport. They also cited that five classifications balance the equality in school size and competition.

NEXT STEPS:

The Championship Philosophy Committee was unanimous on the following points:

- Skiing -The skiing proposal was accepted by the Championship Philosophy Committee. The skiing representatives limited the number of entries while maintaining a championship event for the skiers. It should be noted that in their proposal the 5%-8% of opportunity is higher due to the limited number of school and section programs in this sport. The Championship Philosophy Committee would like to thank the ski committee for their innovative and well thought out proposal.
- Cross Country – The Championship Philosophy Committee recommends no change to the original proposal. All team/individual sports would be limited to four classifications.
- Outdoor Track – The Championship Philosophy Committee agrees with the current qualifying standards. However, the committee requests the following information from the representatives: How would a cap on the number of competitors affect the meet regarding the cost and length of the meet? What is the coordinator’s rationale for leaving the 3rd best competitor home if they are possibly the 4th best competitor state wide?
- Indoor Track – The Championship Philosophy Committee agrees with the current qualifying standards. However, the committee requests the following information from the coordinators: How would a cap on the number of competitors affect the meet regarding the cost and length of the meet? What is the coordinator’s rationale for leaving the 4th best competitor home if they are possibly the 5th best competitor state wide? What is the rationale for not expanding the individual and relay entries to the maximum capped levels proposed by the Championship Philosophy Committee?
- Swimming – The Championship Philosophy Committee did not approve the swimming committee’s proposal. The committee requests the following information from the coordinators: What is the rationale for using the 32nd and 35th seed time? Why didn’t the coordinators revert back to using the 16th and the 18th place as it had years ago? What is the rationale for not limiting the number of entries? Any statistics provided by the sport committee should include the number of entries (four entries per relay).

An update on the progress of the Championship Philosophy Committee will be presented at the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting in December by Karen Lopez and Doug Kenyon.

The next meeting of the Championship Philosophy Committee is scheduled for **January 18, 2011 at 10:00 AM**. The sport coordinators are requested to provide the NYSPHSAA office the information indicated above prior to the next meeting.



CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE
February 8, 2011

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Karen Lopez (Co-Chair), Doug Kenyon (Co-Chair), Karen Peterson (1), Ryan Sherman (2), Kathy Hoyt (5), Steve Broadwell (7), Lisa Lally (11), Dick McGuire (Past President), NYSPHSAA Staff – (Nina Van Erk, Todd Nelson, Bob Stulmaker, Joe Altieri). Swimming: Diane Hicks–Hughes and Patrick Ryan. Indoor Track: Oscar Jensen and Dave Hennessey. Cross Country: Chuck Wiltse and Marbry Gansle. Mike Cring (3), Ramona Wenck (4), Pat Burke (6), Saul Lerner (8), Dave Bernsley (9), Tony Bjork (10), Mark Ward (NYSPHSAA President), Patrick Pizzarelli (NYSPHSAA Past President) and Peter Hugo.

Doug Kenyon reviewed the agenda and summarized the progress of the committee. He clarified that the limitation of entries were for NYSPHSAA student athletes. The committee was also convened to review and discuss additional written information submitted by the following committees: Swimming, Cross Country, Winter Track and Spring Track.

SPORT COMMITTEES – Please refer to the written proposals submitted by the committees. The following is a synopsis of presentations made at the meeting.

Indoor Track - The coordinators requested to maintain the current procedure used to qualify the athletes for the state meet. They indicated that all qualifiers compete in a qualifying meet and in-season qualifiers are not permitted. The committee was not in favor of expanding the number of competitors because of the potential need to make the championship a two day event due to the additional heats and flights. The coordinators indicated that the Intersectional Medley Relay incorporates some of the third or fourth place finishers. The coordinators did express a desire to permit a 2nd relay team from each Section if they meet a qualifying standard based on a five year average of the 3rd place finish.

Swimming – The coordinators were prepared with information outlining how the number of entries could be projected based on using a three year average of the seed times to determine the qualifying standards. The sport committee showed that by using the 28th place time, the number of entries would be reduced to an average of 36 competitors. This number also reflects the entrants that were the best in their Section. The coordinators indicated this standard would restrict the number of entries while getting closer to the requested participation percentage range of 5% - 8%. The coordinators also spoke in support of permitted in-season qualifying. The coordinators philosophically agreed with the range of 5% - 8%, however they did not agree with a strict limitation to the number of entries citing the anomalies in the sport. Using backstroke as an example, they showed how one event can be the premier event, yielding exceptional performances with higher participation numbers while another event might have less participants.

Cross Country – The coordinators requested to maintain five (5) classifications based on the longstanding tradition of the sport. Chuck Wiltse gave a presentation on the evolution of cross country explaining that our current “team and individual” format follows the NCAA model. At the Cross Country Championship meet, awards are presented to the top 20 individual competitors, the first place school team and the top Section team in each of the 5 classifications, both boys and girls. The coordinators shared documentation that showed a five classification system led to a balance and equality in school size and competition when using cut off numbers that in essence divided the schools evenly. The coordinators felt that a five classification system also provided for equitable Sectional championships.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Championship Philosophy Committee was unanimous on the following points:

- Indoor Track – The Championship Philosophy Committee agrees with the current qualifying standards used by the Indoor Track Committee. The Championship Philosophy will remain unchanged, permitting up to 30 competitors per event and 16 relay teams per event. The Winter Track Committee has the opportunity to request future changes to their current qualifying standards. The Championship Philosophy Committee requests an analysis to show the number of athletes in each event that have met the qualifying standard, but did not attend the championship meet because they placed 4th or higher.
- Swimming – The Championship Philosophy Committee was pleased with the efforts of the Swimming Committee. The committee understands the nuances of swimming and believes that a hard cap would be difficult for the sport. The committee recommends that the Swimming and Diving Committee determines the place time that will yield a qualifying standard (based on a three year average of seed times) that will bring an “average” 32 competitors per event and 24 relay teams per event. All participants, those that have met the qualifying standard and those swimmers that are the best in their section, must be included in the calculation.
- Cross Country – The Championship Philosophy Committee, because of their designation as a team/individual sport, recommends no change to the original proposal. The committee reaffirmed if cross country wished to remain in this classification of sport, it would be limited to four classes. The philosophy report calls for all team/individual sports be limited to four classifications because this classification of sport includes opportunities for both school teams and individuals representing their sections.
- Spring Track – The Championship Philosophy Committee agrees with the current qualifying standards used by the Spring Track Committee. The Championship Philosophy will remain unchanged, permitting up to 20 competitors per event and 16 relay teams per event in each division. The Spring Track Committee has the opportunity to request future changes to their current qualifying standards.

NEXT STEPS:

The minutes of the meeting, along with the Championship Philosophy Report, will be distributed to members of the committee for their review. During the week of February 22, 2011, the final product will be distributed to committee members, Section Executive Directors, Executive Committee representatives and Sport Coordinators.

The members of the Championship Philosophy Committee should make full presentations to their respective Athletic Councils to facilitate discussion and support. The finalized Championship Philosophy Report will be presented at the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting on May 6-7, 2011 by Karen Lopez and Doug Kenyon.