



SECTION IX ATHLETICS

Robert Thabet, Executive Director

Section IX Athletics
Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Ulster BOCES at 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to order – Bob Thabet at 9:30 a.m.
All members were present except: Don Andrews
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Bob Thabet
3. Financial Report - Jim Osborne. Refer to handout.
Motion to approve by Bob Siracuse, 2nd by Al Wojtaszek. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Approval of December 2, 2008 Minutes. The minutes were e-mailed to the Section IX Athletic Council, Athletic Directors, Athletic Directors and Sports Chairpersons. Motion to approve by Dennis Burkett, 2nd by Pete Meoli. All in favor. Motion carried.

Coaches vs. Cancer.

Sara Starr from the American Cancer Society addressed the Section IX members. She distributed a participation form and asked for everyone their support. Her contact information is sara.starr@cancer.org (845) 331-8308 extension 27

Bob Thabet congratulated Fred Ahart on being named to the New York State Coaches Basketball Hall of Fame.

5. NYSPHSAA – Todd Nelson, Assistant Director
For additional details refer to the January 2009 NYSPHSAA Office Report which can be found on the Section IX website. Mr. Nelson reviewed the upcoming Coaching Clinics: January 16 – Softball, January 30 – Lacrosse, February 27 – Baseball, March 6 – Field Hockey and March 27/28 – Cross Country and Track & Field.
The Citizenship through Athletics Course will be offered February 4, 2009 at the NYSPHSAA Office.
The following items will be considered by the Executive Committee at the January 30, 2009 Meeting.
 - A. Modified – Mercy rule experiment in baseball and softball.
 - B. Safety – Collect data on injuries to head and neck area in girls lacrosse.
 - C. Softball – Super Regional in Classes B and C for sections 1-8-9-11. Increase student athlete roster size from 20-23 and bench personnel from 4-6 to equal baseball.
 - D. Baseball – Tied and suspended game rule.
 - E. Girls Lacrosse – Increase student-athlete roster size from 25-35 to equal boys lacrosse
 - F. Boys Tennis – To increase medals to award places 3-6 to equal girls tennis
 - G. Girls Tennis – To permit coaching on the court at Championship, but no cheering.

- H. Boys and Girls Tennis – The student athlete’s certified high school coach must be present at NYSPHSAA Championship events.
- I. Boys Volleyball – The use of NCAA Volleyball rules beginning in September 2009.

Postponed items from NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting that will be reviewed at the January meeting:

- A. Re-defining a scrimmage to be a practice competition
- B. Eliminating Friends and Neighbor status at the high school level

- 6. NYSPHSAA Representatives – Roberta Greene and Jim Wolfe
No report at this time.

- 7. Fiscal Concerns Committee – Bob Thabet

Bob Thabet reviewed each of the recommendations that were presented by the Fiscal Concerns Committee. Mr. Nelson (NYSPHSAA) discussed the potential direct savings that the member schools and sections would see while maintaining quality interscholastic athletic programs. The Section IX Athletic Council approved the following recommendations effective for two years.

- 1. Supporting the use of telephone conference calls and video conferencing for NYSPHSAA meetings to reduce the travel reimbursement costs for the NYSPHSAA meetings to reduce the travel reimbursement costs for the NYSPHSAA and Sections.
- 3. Support a moratorium on the expansion of NYSPHSAA tournaments as it pertains to participation.
- 10. Support the reduction of Central/Executive Committee Meetings to three per year.
- 11. Support the establishment of a team travel restriction for all member schools limiting out of state team travel to competition with bordering states only.
- 12. Support the establishment of a moratorium on the following NYSPHSAA (mandated) workshops such as Safety, Life of an Athlete, Sportsmanship and Chemical Health Workshops.
- 13. Support eliminating participation in the NFHS Leadership Conference.

The Athletic Council expressed an objection to:

- 2. The use of officials from the host section at all NYSPHSAA regional contests. Officials at semi-final and final contests will be reviewed in the future.
- 4. The use of centralized sites for all NYSPHSAA Championship competitions. The Athletic Council would like to hear from the Handbook Committee regarding the definition of a scrimmage before voting to support the establishment of a maximum number of scrimmages permitted by a team to: Varsity, JV and Freshman – 2 scrimmages and Modified – 1 scrimmage.

The Athletic Council expressed objections to the following but are open to further discussing:

- 5. The reduction of the maximum number of contests permitted during the regular season. Sports with 24 contests be reduced to 20 sports with 20 contests be reduced to 18 and sports with 18 contests be reduced to 16. Wrestling would be reduced to 19 points (5 tournaments) and football would be reduced by one contest. Junior Varsity and Freshman programs would be reduced by two (2) additional contests and the modified program would be reduced by two contests.
- 6. The reduction of the number of classes and divisions in team and individual NYSPHSAA championship competition.

7. The reduction of participants in NYSPHSAA Championships in individual and combinations (team/individual) sports.
 8. The reduction of tournaments (multi school competition) for team and individual sports.
8. Admission Prices for Students – Bob Thabet
The OCIAA is in favor of the Sport Coordinators establishing a separate and less expensive admission price for students. The MHAL has not met to discuss the issue. Bob Thabet asked to have this issue put on the next Section IX Agenda.
9. Dover Union Free School District Application to Section IX Athletics – Bob Thabet
Dennis Burkett reviewed the reasons that Dover most likely was interested in joining Section IX. They are competition, travel and expense. Bob Thabet would like Section IX to be proactive on this issue. He would like representatives from the OCIAA and MHAL to meet with Bob to discuss and set up a procedure for Section IX to follow. The Section would set up a criteria and questions for those school districts interested in applying for Section IX membership. Toni Woody expressed the concern that the application date and its deadline may be to early for some school districts.
10. BEDS Information – Jim Osborne
The school districts were asked to do a final review of their BEDS numbers because NYSPHSAA will vote on the classification numbers for 2009-2010.
11. Regional testing for selection classification – Jim Osborne
Frank Carrozza stated the OCIAA would like more information on Section X program. Dennis Burkett stated the concept is good. Both leagues expressed the biggest concern about the expense that regional testing would cost.
12. Potential Savings – Section IX Athletics – Jim Osborne
All approved motions would be for two years starting with the 2009-2010 school year.
 1. Awards – Eliminate Runner-Up Plaques awarded by Section IX Athletics. Motion by Doug Murphy, 2nd by Al Wojtaszek. All in favor. Motion carried.
 2. The Section IX Secretary stipend currently not being paid to anyone remains that way. Motion by Frank Carrozza, 2nd by Bob Siracuse. 9 Yes votes 4 No votes 1 Abstain
The motion did not pass.
 3. Reduce the number of days for Section IX Spring Track meets to a two day meet Class A & D on one day and Class B & C on another day. Motion by Toni Woody, 2nd by Pete Meoli. All in favor. Motion carried.
 4. The Spring State Qualifier meet reduce from a two day meet to a one day meet. Motion to table by Frank Carrozza, 2nd by Pete Meoli. All in favor. Motion carried.
 5. Reduce the number of Sectional Qualifiers for boys/girls tennis and boys/girls golf. Motion by Frank Carrozza, 2nd by Bob Siracuse. All in favor. Motion carried.
 6. Use the bid process to select Section IX Transportation to NYSPHSAA events. Motion to approve by Dennis Burkett, 2nd by John Landro. All in favor. Motion carried.
 7. On the Regional level propose to NYSPHSAA the use of Sectional officials for girls soccer.
13. NYSAAA Chapter 9 Awards – Toni Woody
The Section IX Awards Committee has nominated William Musgrove, Director of Athletics at the Family Foundation School, to be the recipient of the NYSAAA Athletic Administrators Award.

In addition, Mr. Erick Hart of SUNY New Paltz is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. The Community Service Award recipient is WRRV/CUMULUS Media General Manager, Chuck Benfer. The Awards will be presented at the NYSAAA Conference.

14. Broadcasting Contracts – Bob Thabet

Bob is in discussion with _____ about a possible contract to webcast certain Section IX sports. In regard to advertising Bob will meet with the Orange-Ulster BOCES on possible revenues.

15. Winter Chair Reports:

- a. Girls Basketball - Ken Rubino
- b. Boys Basketball - Fred Ahart
All rosters should be faxed or e-mailed to Rob Gravelle @ 651-7166 or rgravelle@floridaufsd.org
- c. Ice Hockey - Paul Bacsardi No report.
- d. Girls & Boys Indoor Track - Mike White & Dave Feuer
All entries should be done on-line. All seed times are based on participation in high school meets not club events. If you have any questions please contact Mike White.
- e. Boys Swimming - Scott Warner Refer to handout.
- f. Wrestling - Jeff Cuiilty
Frank Carrozza reporting for Jeff, on the NYSPHSAA meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be forwarded to the Athletic Directors.
- g. Gymnastics - Toni Woody No report.
- h. Nordic Skiing - Jon Stern
The coaches are looking into reducing costs and the schedule is being reviewed.
- i. Alpine Skiing - Janet Carey
The Section IX Meet is scheduled for Monday, February 9, 2009 at Hunter Mountain.
- j. Rifle - Master Sgt. Willard No report.
- k. Bowling - Amy McArdle No report.

16. Spring Chair Reports:

- a. Baseball - Dave Onusko See handout.
- b. Boys Golf - Dick O'Neill No report.
- c. Girls Golf - Bill Earl No report.
- d. Boys Lacrosse - Bill Miller
The NYSPHSAA State Lacrosse Chairman, Mr. Tom Hall, has requested to change the championship format starting in 2011. Refer back to the leagues for discussion.
- e. Girls Lacrosse - Wendy Crandall
The Girls Lacrosse Committee would like to vote to increase the student-athlete roster size from 25 to 35 to match the current student-athlete roster size in boys lacrosse. The Athletic Council took no action with regard to this issue.
- f. Boys Tennis - Bob Siracuse
The Sectional Tournament will be held on May 18-19, 2009 at SUNY Orange, Middletown, NY.
The NYSPHSAA Chairperson, Selina DeCicco, requested an approval to increase the number of medals awarded at the NYSPHSAA Championship to award places 3 to 6. This increase would also impact the number of matches played by participants. The Athletic Council took no action with regard to this issue.
- g. Track & Field - Joe Iatauro and Eric McLaud

Refer to handout and check website for dates, sites and times. Motion by Al Wojtaszek, 2nd by Dave Franskevicz, to allow modified events in a varsity order of events for cross-country, indoor and outdoor track & field. All in favor. Motion carried.

h. Softball - Bruce Guyette

The Athletic Council took no action with regard to the following issues.

1. To increase the number of team personnel allowed in the dugout to be the same as baseball.
2. To change the format of the current Regional Tournament in Class B & C for Sections I/VIII/IX and XI to send all 4 sectional champions to 1 site and play 2 games on 1 day. I vs. IX – VIII vs. XI. The winners would play.

17. Chair Reports:

a. Girls and Boys Modified Sports - Brian Devincenzi and Helenanne Gillinder

No report.

b. Safety - Janet Carey

The Committee supports the Girls Lacrosse Injury Survey. Mrs. Carey reported on the Concussion Management Meeting that was held in Kingston.

c. Chemical Health - Marco Lanzoni

The Life of an Athlete Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at Wallkill High School an agenda will be coming soon.

d. Officials Coordinator - Dennis Burkett No report.

e. Eligibility - Fred Ahart No report.

f. Sportsmanship - Glen Maisch

The survey is due by April 15, 2009. Please call Glen if you have any questions.

18. New Business:

Diane Wanser – Girls Soccer

Request to increase the number of officials in the NYSPHSAA Girls Soccer Tournament to utilize the 3 person diagonal system. Motion by Roberta Greene, 2nd by John Landro. All in favor. Motion carried.

Newburgh Free Academy will have a female on its boys ice hockey team.

Request to reduce the number of contests from 6 to 4 for indoor track, nordic and alpine skiing and gymnastics. Motion by John Landro, 2nd by Doug Murphy. All in favor. Motion carried.

The hospitals located in Section IX area by name, location and phone number will listed on the Section IX website.

The current updated monthly mileage report has been sent to Sport Coordinators and the Athletic Council. Please replace your form in the Section IX Handbook.

Jeff Hartman discussed the Selection Classification process that school districts are currently using and that the leagues should review all procedures with Athletic Directors.

Joe Iatauro asked everyone to speak out and support the Empire State Games. He asked for everyone to speak to their State representatives.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Burkett, 2nd by John Landro. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at Ulster BOCES at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Osborne
Section IX Athletics

JO/al