

# **Championship Philosophy Committee Report**





**NYSPHSAA**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY REPORT**  
**APRIL 2010**

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

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The committee met five times during the 2009 -2010 school year 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 and April 27, 2010.

**PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT**

The committee supports the current philosophy statement as written with the following addition, "NYSPHSAA will sponsor Championships that represent excellence achieved in each sport."

**QUALITY vs QUANTITY**

NYSPHSAA will sponsor Championships that represent excellence achieved in each sport. 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 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 NYS Federation championship events, the sport committee will make a recommendation if the At –Large opportunities will be extended to the PSAL, CHSAA or AIS.

**AT-LARGE COMPETITORS**

For designated individual sports, a cap will be established to limit the number of At-Large competitors participating in championship events. The At-Large competitors will

be the top state-wide performers that have met the minimum qualifying standard recommended by the Sport Committee and approved by the Executive/Central Committee. NOTE: For NYS Federation championship events, the sport committee will make a recommendation if the At –Large opportunities will be extended to 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**

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.

**CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**April 30, 2010**

**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  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Mark Ward  
President - Patrick Pizzarelli  
NYSPHSAA Staff – Nina Van Erk, Bob Stulmaker, Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri

The committee respectfully requests approval of the following:

**NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP  
PHILOSOPHY and GUIDELINES**

**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.”

**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**

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 competitors participating in championship events. The At-Large competitors will be the top state-wide performers that have met 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.

The authority to increase or decrease participation in NYSPHSAA Championship events lies with the NYSPHSAA Executive/Central Committee. The committee will be guided by the established percentage of opportunity (5% - 8%) when considering requests. NYSPHSAA Sports Committee may not request more classifications for their championship than allowed by established formulas.

Requests for increases or decreases in the number of 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 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 8 competitors for Alpine Skiing per Section

- Maximum of 8 competitors for Nordic Skiing per Section
- 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 and Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field and Golf

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

**Current One Division Sports:**

- Swimming & Diving:
  - Maximum of 32 competitors per event
  - Maximum of 24 relay teams per event
  - Maximum of 24 competitors in diving
- Indoor Track & Field:
  - Maximum of 30 competitors per event
  - Maximum of 16 relay teams 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
  - Maximum of 20 competitors per event per division
  - Maximum of 16 relay teams per event per division
- Wrestling
  - Maximum of 16 competitors per weight class per division

The At-Large competitors will be the top state-wide performers that have met the minimum qualifying standard recommended by the Sport Committee and approved by the Executive/Central Committee.

## ***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 1<sup>st</sup> State Championship in 4 classes
- Field Hockey increased to 4 classes

### ***1995***

- Girls Lacrosse conducted its first State Championship in 2 classes
- Football 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 increased to 3 classes
- Cross Country 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 increased 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, 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 - 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment)
- Wrestling - 2 class State Championship ( 2-year experiment)
- Alpine Skiing added a school team championship.
- Basketball - 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment)

### **2003**

- Girls Lacrosse increased to a 3 class State Championship (2-year experiment)
- Boys Soccer – 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 – 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment)
- Girls Volleyball – 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment)

### **2004**

- Swimming and Diving qualifying standards extended through 2005-2006.
- Cross Country – 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 30<sup>th</sup> place prelim time to develop a qualifying standard, 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP WORKSHEET

	VARSIY PROGAMS	CURRENT	ALLOWABLE	PROPOSED
	2006 - 2007	CLASSES/DIVISIONS	CLASSES/DIVISIONS	CLASSES/DIVISIONS
	2009-2010*	2009 - 2010	2009 - 2010	CHANGES
<b>BOYS TEAM SPORTS</b>				
Baseball	723	5	5	NONE
Basketball	743	5	5	NONE
Football	*462	5	5	NONE
Ice Hockey	150	2	2	NONE
Lacrosse	*311	3	4	NONE
Soccer	680	5	5	NONE
Volleyball	180		2	NONE
Rifle	20	1	1	NONE

<b>BOYS TEAM/IND SPORTS</b>				
Bowling	388	1	4	2
Cross Country	554	5	5	4
Skiing	112	1	2	1

<b>BOYS INDIVIDUAL SPORTS</b>				
Golf	599	1	2	NONE
Swimming	293	1	1	NONE
Tennis	517	1	2	NONE
Outdoor Track	633	2	2	NONE
Winter Track	390	1	2	NONE
Wrestling	492	2	2	NONE
Gymnastics	12	1	1	NONE

<b>GIRLS TEAM SPORTS</b>				
Basketball	741	5	5	NONE
Field Hockey	*238	3	3	NONE
Lacrosse	*256	3	3	NONE
Soccer	682	5	5	NONE
Softball	733	5	5	NONE
Volleyball	*697	5	5	NONE
Rifle	7	1	1	NONE

<b>GIRLS TEAM/IND SPORTS</b>				
Bowling	322	1	4	2
Cross Country	545	5	5	4
Skiing	97	1	1	1

<b>GIRLS INDIVIDUAL SPORTS</b>				
Gymnastics	122	1	1	NONE
Swimming	333	1	2	NONE
Tennis	458	1	2	NONE
Outdoor Track	635	2	2	NONE
Winter Track	396	1	2	NONE
Golf	143	1	1	NONE

<b>TEAM - FORMULA</b>	
# PROGRAMS	# CLASSES PERMITTED
24- 100	1
101- 200	2
201- 300	3
301- 400	4
401 - ABOVE	5
<b>INDIVIDUAL SPORTS FORMULA</b>	
# PROGRAMS	# DIVISIONSPERMITTED
24-300	1
301 - ABOVE	2

<b>TEAM/INDIVIDUAL - FORMULA</b>	
# PROGRAMS	# CLASSES PERMITTED
24- 200	1
201 - 425	2
426 - 500	3
501 - ABOVE	4

**PERCENTAGE OF CHAMPIONSHIP OPPORTUNITY PER PARTICIPANT**

SPORT	NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	PERCENTAGE OF		NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	PERCENTAGE OF
<i>Semi finals and Finals only</i>	BOYS	PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATION		GIRLS	PARTICIPANTS	PARTICIPATION
Baseball	11292	460	4.1%				
Basketball	9301	320	3.4%		8429	320	3.8%
Bowling	4129	126	3.1%		3128	126	4.0%
Cross Country	8306	660	7.9%		6638	660	9.9%
Field Hockey					4365	300	6.9%
Football	19177	1100	5.7%				
Golf	6994	99	1.4%		1330	54	4.1%
Gymnastics	95				1647	180	10.9%
Ice Hockey	3169	200	6.3%				
Lacrosse	7721	420	5.4%		5465	360	6.6%
Outdoor Track	20255	1023	5.1%		20036	906	4.5%
Skiing	1253	130	10.4%		997	130	13.0%
Soccer	13454	500	3.7%		13082	500	3.8%
Softball					10112	460	4.5%
Swimming	5476	747	13.6%		7593	971	12.8%
Tennis	7614	90	1.2%		6839	90	1.3%
Volleyball	2342	150	6.4%		7808	300	3.8%
Winter Track	10639	665	6.3%		10791	679	6.3%
Wrestling	9572	420	4.4%				

SPORT	NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	PERCENTAGE OF		NUMBER OF	NUMBER OF	PERCENTAGE OF
<i>Including Regionals</i>	TEAMS	OPPORTUNITIES	PARTICIPATION		TEAMS	OPPORTUNITY	PARTICIPATION
Baseball	723	50	6.9%				
Basketball	743	50	6.7%		741	50	6.7%
Field Hockey					240	21	8.8%
Football	566	50	8.8%				
Ice Hockey	150	14	9.3%				
Lacrosse	301	21	7.0%		258	21	8.1%
Soccer	680	50	7.4%		682	50	7.3%
Softball					733	50	6.8%
Volleyball	180	50	27.8%		629	50	7.9%

Data was taken from a variety of sources: 2006-2007 Participation Survey, Maximum Roster Size (Sport Coordinators Manual) and Championship participation from 2009 Championships for Outdoor Track and Girls Swimming and 2010 for Indoor Track and Boys Swimming. Data only includes NYSPHSAA competitors

Swimming numbers reflect the number of entries in all events including 4 person relays

Track and Field numbers reflect the number of entries in all events including actual number of individuals listed for relays

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 (6<sup>th</sup> place – 30<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **October 15, 2009**

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Ryan Sherman (2), Tony Bjork (10).

#### **Minutes:**

Introductions were made and a summary of the responsibilities of the committee was discussed. Doug Kenyon reviewed the history of developing the current championship philosophy of the NYSPHSAA.

Pat Pizzarelli welcomed the group and thanked the members for serving. Over the years the state championships have been successful yet questions have been raised recently. He stated that this is a time for us to review what we are doing for the student athletes in New York State. He encouraged the committee to talk about the problems that need to be addressed and explained the need to go back to the sections to gather input so informed decisions can be made.

Quantity vs. Quality – Dick McGuire shared an impression that the quantity of participants has slowly taken over the quality. Because of the fiscal crisis we are facing we should address this issue.

Nina Van Erk reviewed the current Championship Philosophy Report highlighting the process that was used and the standards that were arrived at for the growth and/or reduction of the current NYSPHSAA championships at the time.

Karen Lopez led a conversation to identify the issues:

#### ***TEAM SPORTS – State Championships and Regional Championships***

Saul Lerner stated that basketball is organized extremely well. From a Section 11 perspective, Lisa Lally agreed that team sports are doing well but commented that the location of tournaments is sometimes an issue. Karen Peterson shared that the pairings in regional events is sometimes an issue in Section I and questioned if we are getting the best teams to the state tournaments. Ramona Wenck mentioned some facility problems. Karen Lopez mentioned a concern about the finances. Saul felt that the regional match-up should be left up to sport committees. Mike Cring reported that some football leagues in Section III are discussing dropping out of the football championships and finishing with just a Sectional Championship. Others expressed a concern over the start of football and the conflict with summer regents' exams.

#### ***INDIVIDUAL SPORTS – State Championships***

Nina and Bob Stulmaker reviewed the qualifying standards for all the individual sports. 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 (6<sup>th</sup> place – 30<sup>th</sup> place averages are used).
6. Should the committee re-visit the Individual Sport formula for the number of varsity programs needed for two divisions?

Mike Cring felt we should look at all the qualifying formulas so we can make informed decisions. Pat Burke thought electronic timing helped the consistency in swimming. In track, during the regular season, handheld timing is used. Kathy Hoyt addressed the fact that some sections hold team championships at the sectional qualifier and this has an impact on the entries in events so the team can achieve the highest team score.

Karen Lopez indicated that in the sport of track individuals can qualify during regular season if 5 teams are participating. It was discussed that a school team relay can qualify during the season but at the state meet the participants in the relay may be totally different. This has an impact by increasing the numbers of students at the championship event. There was a great deal of discussion regarding alternates and relay events are also a concern.

The sports that could go to two divisions were reviewed by using the data from the 2006-2007 Participation Survey. Indoor track could go to two divisions and concern regarding the fiscal implications was discussed. Karen Peterson indicated some of the smaller schools feel that it should be an automatic move to two divisions if the required number of programs is achieved.

Committee members debated why a sport contested in two divisions would need two different standards for qualifying. Does the size of the school indicate the level of success? It was stated that when comparing large school vs. small school, it does not necessarily mean the large school student will be faster.

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?

### ***COMBINATION TEAM/INDIVIDUAL SPORT S***

Nina outlined the criteria used for determining the number of competitors in each of the championship events in this category.

The discussion was lengthy and included statements such as:

- Cross country permits the better runners 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?

### **ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION**

Steve Broadwell asked where we want the pendulum to swing. Are we looking at a finite number of participants to achieve excellence in the tournament? Karen Peterson thought to look at a 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. Joe Altieri explained 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. Dave Bernsley agreed citing centralized or repetitive sites are positive for the student athletes. When teams and individuals know the site of the championship, a goal to get to the "dome" or Glens Falls can be set for the team.

### **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 to 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**  
**NYSPHSAA OFFICE**

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>  
10:00 AT NYSPHSAA OFFICE**

## CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2010

**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. Welcome and introductions
2. Review of items discussed at October 15, 2009 Meeting
3. 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 that included:

- Unlimited Number of Entries - Limitation of "at large" participants by means of a data base entry system of athletes/relay teams, or establish a pre-selected percentage or maximum number of athletes that would qualify to attend NYSPHSAA Championships.
  - Standardize the process for establishing qualifying times – uniformity for all sports.
  - Equal opportunity across all sections for athletes to qualify for championship events (in season vs. championship events) Note: using section championship events brings standardization to the process (timing, facilities, weather, etc)
  - Number of place awards given at championship tournaments – many variations
  - Equalize the percentage of championship opportunity per participant chart
  - Assure gender equity for same sports
  - The high percentage of athletes participating in boys/girls swim state championship event
  - Process for in season qualifications for boys/girls alpine & Nordic ski
4. 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)

5. Conclusion of 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.

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

**NEXT MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**10:00 AT NYSPHSAA OFFICE**

**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
- Establishing a balance between Quality and Consistency.





## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 MEETING

MARCH 1, 2010

### MINUTES

**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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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. The committee agreed to write a philosophy statement to establish limitations on the number of entries in the following individual sports:
  - One Division Sports:**
    - B/G Swimming & Diving: maximum of 30 competitors; 24 competitors in relays; 24 competitors in diving
    - B/G Indoor Track & Field: maximum of 30 competitors; 16 competitors in relays
  - Two Division Sports:**
    - B/G Outdoor Track & Field: maximum of 20 competitors per division; 16 competitors in relays

In these 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> @ 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  
March 23, 2010

## MINUTES

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### DISCUSSION

There was spirited debate and discussion by members of the committee. Discussion included the following points:

- The decision of when the qualifying time can be reached up to each individual sport committee.
- Allowing each sport committee to decide what each sport chooses to do. (All were in favor)
- Philosophy is consistency throughout the state between sports so that is what we must focus on when making our decision.
- The sport committees could recommend the process for setting the qualifying standard. The Championship Advisory Committee would require a rationale for the recommendation which will provide for a “check and balance”.

### 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.
- What if each section wants to be more specific by only allowing the champion to move on? This would depend upon how the “philosophy” was approved by the Executive Committee.
- Sport committee will determine the method and minimum of qualifying time.

- How should relays be determined?
- Should there be a maximum of 2 alternates for the relays?
- Sport specific rules are different for each sport. The sport committee should make a recommendation.
- Possibly leave the section responsible for determining who participates in the relays. (ex: If in the Olympics the country “owns” the team why shouldn’t we?)

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

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

- Skiers must compete in sectionals to move on
- 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
- Alternates: Some Sections bring alternates but most do not because of the added expense

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

- Virtually the same as Alpine Skiing
- They DO NOT bring alternates unless someone is injured or sick

The total number of competitors in the NYSPHSAA Skiing Championships is 336. The Boys percentage of participation is 13.4% and the Girls percentage is 16.9%. It was stated that if you look at the sectional winners of slalom and giant slalom they are more than likely the same person, therefore Sections may bring a completely different “unqualified” athlete in the opposite event because the winner will not participate in both events at states. The staff confirmed that there are 12 skiers in total from each Section, not 12 for slalom and giant slalom.

Discussion included:

- If there are 4 for school and 4 for section wouldn’t each Section be represented by their top 8 competitors? Out of the top 8 you could get the individual champion.
- Dropping to 8 competitors should not damage the sport but in fact increase the level of competition.
- The committee suggests capping tournament, specifically skiing, from 12 to 8 (4 individual and next top 4)
- Sport committee can figure out how at-large are composed but must be consistent throughout the state.

#### **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.

Discussion included the following points:

- In bowling there are no individual champions. If someone’s a good bowler and their high school team is not successful, they have a chance to qualify for the championships as a member of the sectional team.
- Should the Association continue to have team vs. individual sports?



- Wrestling discusses a team competition at a state level every year.
- How do we keep all individual sports from requesting to become team sports to get a state championship?
- We need to leave it alone if it's not broken.
- The decision of team championships vs. individual championships should be the recommendation from the sport committee.

**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

Discussion included the following points:

- Sport committee will make a recommendation as to how the additional 5 competitors will be chosen. Either the next best 5 runners or the next best 5 runners not on the winning school team.
- Cross country is the only sport in this category that has 5 classifications.
- Reducing the classes from 5 to 2 would be too drastic. If cut off numbers were established, similar to team sports, the number of classes for team/individual sports would be controlled.
- If 4 classes were established, the percentage of participation would change to Boys 6.4% and Girls 8%. If the change was to 3 classes the percentage of participation would be Boys 4.8% and Girls 6 %.
- 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.
- There was a great deal of discussion as to what the cut off criteria should be.

The committee was in favor of establishing the following numbers for the determination of classes for all individual and team sports.

24-200= 1 class (gymnastics would stay in 1 class)

201-425= 2 classes (bowling to go to 2)

426-500= 3 classes

501+ = 4 classes (loss of 1 class in XC and while balancing quality and quantity)

The impact of this proposal includes:

Skiing and Gymnastics would stay in one class

Bowling could request to go to two classes

Cross Country would be reduced to one class

**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. The percentage of participation is 10.9% No changes necessary for gymnastics.

#### **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 27<sup>th</sup> @ 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.