



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

Section IX Athletic Council Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2024
The Restaurant at Apple Greens at 8:00 am
161 South Street, Highland, NY 12528

1. Call to Order- Greg Ransom
2. Review of Meeting Materials
3. Consent Agenda – list attached
4. Financial Report- Linda Trapani
5. Section IX NYSPHSAA Representatives- Roberta Greene and David Coates
6. NYSPHSAA Office Report
7. Combining of Teams - Tim Bult and Frank Alfonso
8. Spring Chair Reports:
 - a. Baseball Michael Gillespie
 - b. Softball Joe DiMattina
 - c. Boys Golf Jorma Tompuri
 - d. Girls Golf Bill Earl
 - e. Boys Lacrosse Rich Saulino
 - f. Girls Lacrosse Taryn Brechbiel
 - g. Boys Tennis Urvashi Gupta
 - h. Track & Field Matt Hemmer / Pat Burkhardt
 - i. Girls Flag Football Rich Silverstein / Greg Sirico
9. Fall Chairs Reports:
 - a. Cross-Country Jim Glover / Joe Cahill
 - b. Field Hockey Deb Beam
 - c. Football Dave Coates / Tom Casatta
 - d. Game Day Cheer Kelly Hall
 - e. Girls Soccer Diane Wanser
 - f. Boys Soccer Pete Ferguson / Tony Martelli
 - g. Girls Swimming Chris Sammons
 - h. Girls Tennis Urvashi Gupta / Matt Hayden
 - i. Volleyball Steve Boucher
10. Chair Reports:
 - a. Girls & Boys Modified Sports Greg Warren / Suzanne Lenzian
 - b. Safety Janet Carey
 - c. Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Suzanne Lenzian
 - d. Eligibility Tom Cassata
 - e. Officials Coordinator Dennis Burkett
 - f. Sportsmanship Adam Kless
 - g. Unified Sports Rich Silverstein
 - h. NYSAAA Christian Hodge
11. Old Business
 - a. Board of Regents – Proposed Amendments
 - b. Cheerleading Proposal
12. New Business
 - a. Ocean Breeze Site
 - b. Swim Cloud Proposal
13. Adjournment of Section IX Meeting

Next Meeting Date:
Thursday, September 5, 2024
Orange-Ulster BOCES, 9:30 am

Athletic Director Mandated Workshop:
Monday, September 9, 2024
Otterkill Golf Club, 8:30 am



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

Section IX Athletic Council, Inc.

Financial Report

Orange County Trust Company, Period Ending 06/02/2024

Reconciled on: 06/02/2024

Statement beginning balance: \$158,375.22

Statement ending balance: \$153,262.81

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>HOST SCHOOL</u>	<u>COMB. SCHOOL #1</u>	<u>RECO</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>	<u>IS#</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
*Football (8-man)	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-10/Ros-2	Team	Fall 2024
Football (8-man)	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-15/Ros-7	Team	Fall 2024
*Girls Soccer	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-11/Ros-4	Team	Fall 2024
Girls Soccer	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-7/Ros-9	Team	Fall 2024
*Boys Cross-Country	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-1/Ros-3	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Boys Cross-Country	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-2/Ros-1	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Boys Soccer	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-7/Ros-5	Team	Fall 2024
*Girls Cross-Country	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-1/Ros-2	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Girls Cross-Country	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-1/Ros-1	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Volleyball	Junior Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-4/Ros-7	Team	Fall 2024
Volleyball	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-4/Ros-1	Team	Fall 2024
* Stay Class D		OCIAA Approve	5/23/2024				
		MHAL Approve	5/24/2024				
		S9 Approve/Mins	6/11/2024 TBD				

Items for the Section IX Athletic Council

Voting Items for the July 2024 NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting

Consent Agenda Items:

- **Section IX Minutes Tuesday, May 14, 2024**
- **Ticket prices – NYSPHSAA Championships 2024-2025**
- **NYSPHSAA Transfer Form for Waivers & Exceptions**
- **Cheerleading: Update Required Coaching Course**
- **Girls Team Tennis: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028**
- **Boys Soccer: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028**
- **Girls Soccer: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028**
- **Field Hockey: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028**
- **Girls Volleyball: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028**
- **Football: 11 Man- Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2029**
- **Football-Move 8-Man Regional Championship to Week #22 & conduct the game at the Dome, during 11 Man Finals. Establish Regional Rotation**
- **Girls Wrestling: Representation Rule**
- **Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the Maximum Number of Tournaments**
- **Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the NFHS 1.5% Weight Loss Plan**
- **Girls Wrestling: Adopting the USA Junior Rules**
- **Boys Ice Hockey: Revision to Goalie Warm-up**
- **Boys Ice Hockey: OT during Regulation Season**
- **Girls/Boys Bowling: Split Composite Division into D1& D2**
- **Girls/Boys Bowling: Modify D1/D2 School Team Division-6 Man Format**
- **Outdoor Track & Field: Establish Cut-Off Numbers for 2025**
- **Unified Sports: Sports Offering/Rules Modifications**
- **Handbook Committee- Forfeit Exception for Football**

Items for Individual Discussion:

- **Football: Revision to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty**
- **Boys Wrestling: Early Weight Certification Date**
- **Girls Volleyball: Revise State Tournament Format Back to Pool Play**
- **Cheerleading: Early Start Date**

Section IX Items:

- **Cheerleading Proposal: Section IX teams to be allowed to compete in Game Day Divisions for the Winter Season**
- **Section IX Swimming & Diving Proposal – Swim Cloud**

Voting Items for the July 2024 NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting:

- **Ticket prices - NYSPHSAA Championships 2024-2025** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval of a \$.50 increase in NYSPHSAA Championship Ticket Prices beginning in the 2024-25 school year.
Effective Start Date: September 1, 2024
Rationale: Due to rising championship expenses, NYSPHSAA is seeking ways to increase revenue.
 - **NYSPHSAA Transfer Form for Waivers & Exceptions** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to require the use of the NYSPHSAA Transfer form for waivers and exemptions only.
Effective Start Date: Immediate implementation upon approval
Rationale: In the past, the NYSPHSAA Transfer Form was available for optional use by the Sections. It was not required. Sections asked the NYSPHSAA Transfer Committee to adapt the form to ensure Sections effectively address the concerns and circumstances of those involved and to align the form with the verbiage included in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.
 - **Cheerleading: Update Required Coaching Course** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to update the additional required coaching course to reflect the replacement of the AACCA Safety course and the New NFHS Cheerleading Rules course.
Effective Start Date: Fall 2024
Rationale: The NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved the requirement that the AACCA Safety course be added to the required courses Cheerleading coaches must take. This course was required every 4 years. The AACCA course has been replaced by the USA Cheer Safety Course offered on the NFHS website. A coach would be required to take this course once. The new course that is being recommended that coaches take yearly is the NFHS Cheerleading Rules course offered by USA Cheer, which is updated annually to cover the rules changes. This course will educate all coaches on the updated rules and skills that have been changed by the NFHS Spirit Rules Committee.
- Approve Regional Rotations for following sports:** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
- **Girls Team Tennis:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
 - **Boys Soccer:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
 - **Girls Soccer:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
 - **Field Hockey:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
 - **Girls Volleyball:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
 - **Football: 11 Man**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2029

- **Football: 8 Man** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to Move 8-Man Regional Championship to Week #22 & conduct the game at the Dome, during 11 Man Finals. Establish Regional Rotation
- **Girls Wrestling: Representation Rule** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to amend the current Representation Regulation for Girls Wrestling in the following manner.
NOTE: For individual, individual/ team sports, when a school district does not have a team designated for each singular gender, the Section Executive Director may grant a waiver of the Representation Standard for Sectional Competition when a student has met the qualification for participation in the current school year's NYSPHSAA Championship event. *In the sport of Girls Wrestling, if a school does have a team for both genders the female wrestlers may choose to compete in either the boys post season or the girls post season but not both.*
Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 Season
Rationale: The sport of girls wrestling continues to grow across NYS. Some schools are reluctant to start a girl's teams for a variety of reasons because girls are allowed to compete on the boy's team and still be eligible to compete in the girls post season. Data from across the country and shown that many more girls will wrestle if the school offers a girl only team. Until the sport grows to wear female wrestlers can practice and compete against other girls there is still a need for some wrestlers to compete and practice on boys' teams. The committee feels this recommendation will encourage schools to offer a girl's team and still accommodate female wrestlers that have been wrestling on boys teams for many years.
- **Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the Maximum Number of Tournaments** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to continue the waiver of the limitation of 6 tournaments during the regular season. The waiver is for girl only tournaments.
Effective Start Date: 2024- 2025 Season
Rationale: Currently there are not enough complete teams in the Sections to justify having dual meets during the regular season. The waiver allows girls to participate in as many competitions without going over the maximum number of contests allowed during the regular season.
- **Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the NFHS 1.5% Weight Loss Plan** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to waive the NFHS 1.5% weight loss plan.
Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 Season
Rationale: The Girls Wrestling Committee believes that there are other biological factors that affect girls weights as opposed to boys and this rule could have a negative impact on a female wrestler.
- **Girls Wrestling: Adopting the USA Junior Rules** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to adopt the Juniors rules in the USA Wrestling Rulebook.
Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 Season
Rationale: The Girls Wrestling Committee recommended and the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved using the USA Wrestling Rulebook for Freestyle wrestling. The juniors section of the rulebook is most appropriate for the HS level competition.

- Boys Ice Hockey: Revision to Goalie Warm-up** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to remove the language in the NYSPHSAA handbook under 14.10 #10 which states, "If, in the judgement of the official, he feels that a goaltender's warm-up has been made to give his team a stoppage of play or rest period, the official may assess a minor penalty for delay of game."
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 season
Rationale: The official has no way of determining what the intent of the coach was when making the substitution therefore this language is not enforced and puts the official in a no-win situation.
- Boys Ice Hockey: OT during Regulation Season** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to revise the language in the NYSPHSAA Handbook under 14.08 #11 letter b to mirror the OT procedure used during the post season. This would only be used when a winner is necessary.
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 season
Rationale: The Committee feels that the same procedure that is used in the post season should be used during the regular season when a winner is necessary. This provides consistency for players, coaches, and officials.
- Girls/Boys Bowling: Split Composite Division into D1& D2** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to establish two divisions for its Composite Division-Division 1 and Division 2-for competition during the State Tournament.
Effective Start Date: Winter (March) 2025
Rationale: Splitting the existing composite division by the current division enrollment numbers creates equitable opportunity to qualify for the state championship. The composite division awards state champions for Individuals as well as section teams. With 17,253 varsity bowlers in NYS in 2022-24, bowling would still be within its 5-8% range, per Championship Philosophy.
- Girls/Boys Bowling: Modify D1/D2 School Team Division-6 Man Format** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to modify the bowling format of the Division 1 and Division 2 school team events during the State Tournament to utilize a 6-man format.
Effective Start Date: Winter (March) 2025
Rationale: The existing format uses a 5-man format on a single pair of lanes (10 bowlers across 2 lanes). All five (5) scores currently count towards the team game total. While the 6-man format increases bowler participation with the additional competing player, the lowest individual score is dropped from the team total. The 6-man format also utilizes an additional pair of lanes (12 bowlers across 4 lanes) resulting in a more efficient tournament and better experience for student-athletes and fans instead of long days.
- Outdoor Track & Field: Establish Cut-Off Numbers for 2025** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to adopt the following classification cut-off numbers starting in 2025.

Class A	800 & Above	156 teams (24%)	8,066 athletes (39.76%)
Class B	799 to 400	168 teams (25.88%)	6,090 athletes (30%)
Class C	399 & below	325 teams (50%)	6,126 athletes (30.2%)

Effective Start Date: Spring 2025
Rationale: 3 divisions were approved. Need cut off numbers.

- Unified Sports – Sport offering/Rules Modification** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to for the following sport offering/rules modifications:
 Unified Soccer - Rules Modifications
 Unified Tennis – Rules Modifications
 Unified Bocce – Sport Offering/Rules Modifications
Effective Start Date: Fall 2024
- Rationale:** NYSPHSAA/SONY has been looking to offer a Fall sort to our Unified Sports program for several years. Some Sections have piloted programs in these sports and would like to have the sport/rule modifications officially adopted by NYSPHSAA to be placed in the handbook. Bocce would have to be approved as a NYSPHSAA Unified Sport. All of our sport offerings are administered through the local Section/leagues.
- Handbook Committee- Forfeit Exception for Football** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to add the following to the note for the Maximum Number of Contests in the NYSPHSAA Handbook, "Exception: In the sport of Football, when a team receives a forfeit win, the forfeit win will not count towards the maximum number of contests. The team who accepts the forfeit can reschedule a game that will count towards the maximum number of contests."
Effective Start Date: Fall 2024
Rationale: Many schools have lost out on homecoming games due to teams forfeiting. Additionally, two Section VI teams lost 25% of their season due to forfeits.
- Football: Revision to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to revise the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty for the sport of football. Any player disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike behavior or flagrant foul will be ineligible for the next two consecutive halves,
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 school year
Rationale: Currently, a student-athlete could be disqualified on the first play of a game and would have to sit out that entire game and the following game. This could equate to 25% of their season, based on an 8-game schedule. This is not equal, compared to all other NYS high school team sports. All other sport teams that have 16 or 20 games would only sit out 12.5% or 10% of their season. This rule will make it 12.5% for an 8-game schedule and 10% for a 10-game schedule. More than 75% of all football playing schools only participate in 8 games. This would mirror what the penalty is for a disqualification for targeting currently in the NYSPHSAA handbook.
- Boys Wrestling: Early Weight Certification Date** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: No
Motion: Consider approval to allow Sections to have an early weight Certification date starting no earlier than the Monday of Week #17.
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 school year
Rationale: NYSPHSAA has approved the 1.5% weight loss descent plan for all wrestlers competing in the boys season as of the 2023-2024 season. The weight loss descent plan locks wrestlers into a specific weight based on their certification weight at the beginning of the season. The descent plan is based on a student losing a maximum of 1.5% of their bodyweight each season. Unfortunately, some wrestlers were not able to compete for a majority of their season because their descent plan did not allow them to get to an eligible weight based on the certification at the beginning of the year. Other wrestlers were not eligible for a desired weight because their plan maxed out right above a particular weight class. If a Section was allowed to have an earlier certification date, then some wrestlers would be able to get certified and then start their weight descent plan 6 weeks prior o the season therefore maximizing their participation. If an earlier start date was allowed this would mean that the Section consultants would have to organize their staffs on two different

time periods to certify the wrestlers prior to the season starting. There is also no guarantee that a wrestler will follow the descent plan and be at the desired weight class at the beginning of the season.

- **Girls Volleyball: Revise State Tournament Format Back to Pool Play** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: No

Motion: Consider approval to revert back to a pool play format for the 2024 State Tournament.

Effective Start Date: Fall 2024

Rationale: Pool play guarantees that each team will play six (6) sets of volleyball (competing against all teams in their class) over an extended period of time, whereas bracket play only guarantees a minimum of 3 sets against one team) which can sometimes be completed in as little as 45 minutes. Student-athletes work tirelessly their entire career with dreams of making it to the NYSPHSAA Final Four. Teams across the state are accustomed to pool play during regular season multi-team tournaments. The pool play format will provide student-athletes a more memorable experience rewarding the hard work and dedication that they have endured to make it to the final four. While pool play and bracket play both have their flaws in determining the two state finalist teams, our committee feels that pool play will ultimately lead to the top two teams in the state facing off in the final match. Once the committee experienced the length of time it took for six classes playing bracketed play, the initial concern for the length of time it took to add another team to pool play was no longer a concern.

- **Cheerleading: Early Start Date** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: No

Motion: Consider approval for Cheerleading to start practice in week number 7 to coincide with the football start date.

Effective Start Date: Fall 2024

Rationale: Starting on the Wednesday of week number 7 allows the team to hold a tryout and start to develop the skills necessary to prepare for the upcoming season. The development of the skills can be done in a way that progresses to help reduce risk to the student athletes. As most cheerleading teams do not have scrimmages this allows teams to prepare to attend clinics and camps held during late August and early September. These clinics and camps are very valuable in preparing a team for competition during the season.

- **Cheerleading – Game Day Participation Fall and Winter Season** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: Tabled for further review

Motion: Consider approval for Game Day Participation in both Fall and Winter Seasons

Effective Start Date: Fall 2024

Rationale: By the NYSPHSAA guidelines, Game Day and Competitive are not separate sports, they are separate events within the same sport. The Game Day Championship is scheduled in the fall and the Competitive Championship is scheduled in the Winter. Therefore, within Fall Cheerleading and Winter Cheerleading, teams may compete within multiple events in the same competition for both Game Day and Competitive. There may be different individuals that compete in each of those events, similar to track, swimming, and gymnastics.

As Game Day is a lower progression within the sport of cheerleading, it may be more appropriate and safer for some developing programs to have a winter Game Day performance, rather than a Competitive performance. As Programs progress, they can develop Competitive performances alongside their winter Game Day performance.

- **Note:** Chairpeople are not looking for a Section or State Championship for Game Day in the Winter season. Game Day Cheerleading: Is currently only allowed in the Fall Season, in Section IX. Game Day competition is currently allowed in New York Sections 1, 4, 8, and 11 in the Winter Season. These sections allow their Game Day teams to compete at UCA/NCA regional and national competitions in the Winter.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Ticket Prices

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Tim Mullins, NYSPHSAA Budget/Audit Committee Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval of a \$.50 increase in NYSPHSAA Championship Ticket Prices beginning in the 2024-25 school year.

Effective Start Date:

September 1, 2024

Rationale:

Due to rising championship expenses, NYSPHSAA is seeking ways to increase revenue.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Budget/Audit Committee Meeting

Budgetary Impact:

Based on 100,000 attendees at NYSPHSAA Championships each year, there is an anticipated \$50,000 increase in revenue.

Notes:

The GoFan fee structure is \$1 plus 5% of the ticket price, so a \$10.50 ticket would carry a \$1.53 fee and the final price will be \$12.03 for all GoFan venues.

Those venues that do not permit the use of GoFan will continue to allow for cash sales, where the final ticket prices will be \$10.50 plus fees. Tickets for the JMA Wireless Dome and MVP Arena would be \$12.50 due to their current \$2 fee per ticket sold. Tickets sold through contractually obligated platforms such as Ticketmaster or SeatGeek will have additional fees added on, which is outside the control of NYSPHSAA.

Ticket prices were streamlined for NYSPHSAA to net \$10 per ticket in the 2021-2022 school year, with the approval of the all-digital ticketing platform.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

NYSPHSAA Transfer Form for Waivers & Exemptions

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Proposal:

Consider approval to require the use of the NYSPHSAA Transfer form for waivers and exemptions only.

Effective Start Date:

Immediate implementation upon approval

Rationale:

In the past, the NYSPHSAA Transfer Form was available for optional use by the Sections. It was not required. Sections asked the NYSPHSAA Transfer Committee to adapt the form to ensure Sections effectively address the concerns and circumstances of those involved and to align the form with the verbiage included in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Transfer Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None at this time.

Notes:

The Transfer Committee would like the NYSPHSAA Staff to examine and explore potential ways to provide digital options for this form in the future.

Attachments:

NYSPHSAA Transfer Form

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Cheerleading: Update Required Coaching Course

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Jen Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is recommending updating the additional required coaching course to reflect the replacement of the AACCA Safety course and the New NFHS Cheerleading Rules course.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

The NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved the requirement that the AACCA Safety course be added to the required courses Cheerleading coaches must take. This course was required every 4 years. The AACCA course has been replaced by the USA Cheer Safety Course offered on the NFHS website. A coach would be required to take this course once. The new course that is being recommended that coaches take yearly is the NFHS Cheerleading Rules course offered by USA Cheer, which is updated annually to cover the rules changes. This course will educate all coaches on the updated rules and skills that have been changed by the NFHS Spirit Rules Committee.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee

Budgetary Impact:

The USA Cheer Safety Course costs \$85 (AACCA was \$75 every 4 years) to take and the Rules Changing course cost \$18 annually.

Notes:

None

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

GIRLS TEAM TENNIS: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-28 **Using Guiding Principles**

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Chris Horgan, NYSPHSAA Girls Team Tennis State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Tennis Committee is seeking approval for a new regional rotation for 2024-28 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

With the assistance of the NYSPHSAA Office, each team sport committee was charged with developing new regional rotations, following the approval of new guiding principles for regional rotations, to focus on equity.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Girls Tennis Committee April 2024

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 8-0 in favor of supporting this proposal.

Attachments:

See proposed regional rotation.

CAC Feedback:

Voted 10-0 to support this proposal at its April 9th meeting.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

BOYS SOCCER: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-28 Using Guiding Principles

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Mike Andrew, NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer Committee is seeking approval for a new regional rotation for 2024-28 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

With the assistance of the NYSPHSAA Office, each team sport committee was charged with developing new regional rotations, following the approval of new guiding principles for regional rotations, to focus on equity.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer Committee in March 2024

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 6-5 in favor of supporting this proposal.

Attachments:

See proposed regional rotations

CAC Feedback:

Voted 8-2 in support of this proposal at its April 9th meeting.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

GIRLS SOCCER: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-28 Using Guiding Principles

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Joe Vas, NYSPHSAA Girls Soccer State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Soccer Committee is seeking approval for a new regional rotation for 2024-28 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

With the assistance of the NYSPHSAA Office, each team sport committee was charged with developing new regional rotations, following the approval of new guiding principles for regional rotations, to focus on equity.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Girls Soccer Committee in March 2024

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 10-1 (Section 1) in favor of supporting this proposal.

Attachments:

See proposed regional rotations

CAC Feedback:

Voted 8-2 in support of this proposal at its April 9th meeting.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

FIELD HOCKEY: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-28 Using Guiding Principles

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Bev Hooper, NYSPHSAA Field Hockey State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Field Hockey Committee is seeking approval for a new regional rotation for 2024-28 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

With the assistance of the NYSPHSAA Office, each team sport committee was charged with developing new regional rotations, following the approval of new guiding principles for regional rotations, to focus on equity.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Field Hockey Committee April 2024

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 7-1 (Section 1 opposed, Section 2 absent) in favor of supporting this proposal.

Attachments:

See proposed regional rotations

CAC Feedback:

Voted 9-1 in support of this proposal at its April 9th meeting.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-28 Using Guiding Principles

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Peggy Seese, NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Committee is seeking approval for a new regional rotation for 2024-28 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

With the assistance of the NYSPHSAA Office, each team sport committee was charged with developing new regional rotations, following the approval of new guiding principles for regional rotations, to focus on equity.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Committee March 2024

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 10-0 (Section 2 absent) in favor of supporting this proposal.

Attachments:

See proposed regional rotations

CAC Feedback:

Voted 9-1 in support of this proposal at its April 9th meeting.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

FOOTBALL: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-29 Using Guiding Principles

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Gary Vanderzee, NYSPHSAA Football State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Football Committee is seeking approval for a new regional rotation for 2024-29 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

With the assistance of the NYSPHSAA Office, each team sport committee was charged with developing new regional rotations, following the approval of new guiding principles for regional rotations, to focus on equity.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Football Committee March 2024

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

This NYSPHSAA Football State Committee voted 9-0 in favor of supporting this proposal.

Attachments:

See proposed regional rotations

CAC Feedback:

Voted 10-1 in support of this proposal at its April 9th meeting.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

FOOTBALL – MOVE 8-MAN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TO WEEK #22 AND CONDUCT IT AT JMA DOME DURING 11-MAN FINALS; ESTABLISH REGIONAL ROTATION

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Gary Vanderzee, NYSPHSAA Football State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Football State Committee is seeking approval to move the 8-man regional championship to week #22 and conduct it at the JMA Dome during the 11-man finals. The attached regional rotation for 2024-26 is part of this proposal.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

Due to the growth of 8-man football and seeking an additional week to play postseason, the committee would like to play the 8-man championship prior to the first 11-man final or immediately following the last 11-man final on the weekend of week #22. The committee also believes moving the regional final to the Dome creates an equitable situation with 11-man football where both can share the same venue.

The regional rotation being proposed meets the recently established Guiding Principles of Regional Rotations addressing equity in hosting and traveling to regionals.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Football State Committee on December 20, 2023. The State Committee formed a sub-committee and voted 6-2 (plus 1 abstention) to present this to the State Committee. The state committee supported this proposal by an 8-0 vote.

Budgetary Impact:

In the West Semifinal, since officials, awards, travel, and some facility fees are already rolled into expenses and revenues are accounted for, there won't be any change to the financials. For the East Semifinals, however, an additional game will increase costs, potentially by approximately \$3,000. Anticipated revenue would be \$3,000 based on 300 fans for the additional game, resulting in a net profit/loss of \$0. An additional game at the JMA Wireless Dome will incur an extra \$13,400 in expenses due to facility, staffing, security, etc. However, with anticipated ticket sales of approximately 300 fans generating \$3,000, this would offset some of the costs, resulting in a net loss of approximately \$11,400 for the one additional game.

Attachments:

Proposed regional rotation for 2024-26

CAC Feedback:

Voted 9-1 to DEFEAT this proposal.

DATE REVISED: April 11, 2024

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Girls Wrestling – Representation Rule

_____ Action Item
 X Discussion Item
_____ Informational Item

Presenter:

Ryan Palmer, Girls Wrestling Chairmen

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee is recommending amending the current Representation Regulation for Girls Wrestling in the following manner.

NOTE: For individual, individual/ team sports, when a school district does not have a team designated for each singular gender, the Section Executive Director may grant a waiver of the Representation Standard for Sectional Competition when a student has met the qualification for participation in the current school year's NYSPHSAA Championship event. *In the sport of Girls Wrestling, if a school does have a team for both genders the female wrestlers may choose to compete in either the boys post season or the girls post season but not both.*

Effective Start Date:

2024 – 2025 Season

Rationale:

The sport of girls wrestling continues to grow across NYS. Some schools are reluctant to start a girl's teams for a variety of reasons because girls are allowed to compete on the boy's team and still be eligible to compete in the girls post season. Data from across the country and shown that many more girls will wrestle if the school offers a girl only team. Until the sport grows to wear female wrestlers can practice and compete against other girls there is still a need for some wrestlers to compete and practice on boys' teams. The committee feels this recommendation will encourage schools to offer a girl's team and still accommodate female wrestlers that have been wrestling on boys teams for many years.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAAA Girls Wrestling Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

The committee voted 10-0 in support of this proposal.

DATE REVISED: April 12, 2024

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Girls Wrestling – Waiver of the Maximum Number of Tournaments

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Ryan Palmer, Girls Wrestling Chairmen

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee is recommending continuing the waiver of the limitation of 6 tournaments during the regular season. The waiver is for girl only tournaments.

Effective Start Date:

2024 – 2025 Season

Rationale:

Currently there are not enough complete teams in the Sections to justify having dual meets during the regular season. The waiver allows girls to participate in as many competitions without going over the maximum number of contests allowed during the regular season.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAAA Girls Wrestling Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

The committee voted 10-0 in support of this proposal.

Attachments: None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Girls Wrestling – Waiver of the NFHS 1.5% Weight Loss Plan

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Ryan Palmer, Girls Wrestling Chairmen

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee is recommending waiving the NFHS 1.5% weight loss plan.

Effective Start Date:

2024 – 2025 Season

Rationale:

The Girls Wrestling Committee believes that there are other biological factors that effect girls weights as opposed to boys and this rule could have a negative impact on a female wrestler.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAAA Girls Wrestling Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

The committee voted 10-0 in support of this proposal.

Attachments: None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Girls Wrestling – Adopting the USA Junior Rules

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Ryan Palmer, Girls Wrestling Chairmen

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee is recommending adopting the Juniors rules in the USA Wrestling Rulebook.

Effective Start Date:

2024 – 2025 Season

Rationale:

The Girls Wrestling Committee recommended and the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved using the USA Wrestling Rulebook for Freestyle wrestling. The juniors section of the rulebook is most appropriate for the HS level competition.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAAA Girls Wrestling Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

The committee voted 9-1 in support of this proposal. Section 1 voted against the proposal.

Attachments: None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Boys Ice Hockey: Revision to Goalie Warm-Up

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Scott Stuart, Boys Ice Hockey Chairmen

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Boys Ice Hockey Committee is recommending removing the language in the NYSPHSAA handbook under 14.10 #10 which states, "If, in the judgement of the official, he feels that a goaltender's warm-up has been made to give his team a stoppage of play or rest period, the official may assess a minor penalty for delay of game."

Effective Start Date:

2024-2025 season

Rationale:

The official has no way of determining what the intent of the coach was when making the substitution therefore this language is not enforced and puts the official in a no-win situation.

Proposal Originated:

The NYSPHSAA Boys Ice Hockey Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

None

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Boys Ice Hockey: OT During Regulation Season

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Scott Stuart, Boys Ice Hockey Chairmen

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Boys Ice Hockey Committee is recommending revising the language in the NYSPHSAA Handbook under 14.08 #11 letter b to mirror the OT procedure used during the post season. This would only be used when a winner is necessary.

Effective Start Date:

2024-2025 season

Rationale:

The Committee feels that the same procedure that is used in the post season should be used during the regular season when a winner is necessary. This provides consistency for players, coaches, and officials.

Proposal Originated:

The NYSPHSAA Boys Ice Hockey Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

None

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING – Split Composite Division into Division 1 & Division 2

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Mike O'Connell, NYSPHSAA Boys Bowling Coordinator
Eileen Shultis, NYSPHSAA Girls Bowling Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Boys and Girls Bowling State Committee is seeking approval to establish two divisions for its Composite Division—Division 1 and Division 2—for competition during the State Tournament.

Effective Start Date:

Winter (March) 2025

Rationale:

Splitting the existing composite division by the current division enrollment numbers creates equitable opportunity to qualify for the state championship. The composite division awards state champions for Individuals as well as section teams. With 17,253 varsity bowlers in NYS in 2022-24, bowling would still be within its 5-8% range, per Championship Philosophy.

Proposal Originated:

Section 5 shared at the committee meeting in March 2024.

Budgetary Impact:

This does not increase the length of the tournament as unused lanes in the bowling center will be assigned to Division 2 teams. Approximate cost to added lineage is expected to be \$3,000 for an addition 700-864 games. Anticipated attendance is 300-400 additional spectators, equivalent of \$3,000-\$4,000. To send additional teams, sections/schools will incur additional travel and lodging costs for student-athletes competing. NYSPHSAA must also book additional rooms to cover the second division lodging needs.

Notes:

The Boys and Girls Bowling State Committees supported this proposal with a 18-0 vote on March 9, 2024.

CAC Feedback

Voted 9-1 to support this proposal.

Date Revised: April 17, 2024

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING – Modify D1/D2 School Team Division to use 6-Man Format

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Mike O'Connell, NYSPHSAA Boys Bowling Coordinator
Eileen Shultis, NYSPHSAA Girls Bowling Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Boys and Girls Bowling State Committee is seeking approval to modify the bowling format of the Division 1 and Division 2 school team events during the State Tournament to utilize a 6-man format.

Effective Start Date:

Winter (March) 2025

Rationale:

The existing format uses a 5-man format on a single pair of lanes (10 bowlers across 2 lanes). All five (5) scores currently count towards the team game total. While the 6-man format increases bowler participation with the additional competing player, the lowest individual score is dropped from the team total. The 6-man format also utilizes an additional pair of lanes (12 bowlers across 4 lanes) resulting in a more efficient tournament and better experience for student-athletes and fans instead of long days.

Proposal Originated:

Section V Coordinator shared this concept at the committee meeting in March 2024.

Budgetary Impact:

An additional 20 competing players over both Division 1 and 2 events will result in an increase of approximately \$500 in lineage cost for NYSPHSAA. With 20 additional players now guaranteed to compete, it may result in additional admissions to offset lineage cost.

Notes:

The Boys and Girls Bowling State Committees supported this proposal with a 16-2 vote on March 9, 2024.

Attachments:

None

CAC Feedback

Voted 10-0 in support of this proposal.

Date Revised: April 17, 2024

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD: **Establish Classification Cut-Off Numbers for 2025**

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dan Doherty, Girls Track and Field Coordinator
Tom Wells, Boys Track and Field Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Boys and Girls Outdoor Track and Field State Committee is recommending the following classification cut-off numbers starting in 2025.

Class A	800 and above	156 teams (24%)	8,066 athletes (39.76%)
Class B	799 to 400	168 teams (25.88%)	6,090 athletes (30%)
Class C	399 and below	325 teams (50%)	6,126 athletes (30.2%)

Effective Start Date:

Spring 2025

Rationale:

With the approval of a third division in the sport of Track and Field, it is necessary the State Committee establishes classification cut-off numbers for a new class. The committee feels most athletes competing in the sport of Track and Field are in the largest division therefore it has established 800 and above for the top division and split the lower two divisions creating equity and fairness.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Track and Field Committee in 2024.

Budgetary Impact:

The establishment of new classification numbers does not yield a financial impact. The financial impact of adding a third division was explained in the original proposal.

Notes:

The NYSPHSAA Outdoor Track State Committee voted 17-5 in favor of supporting this proposal.

CAC Feedback:

Voted 10-0 in support of this proposal. Also identified potential issues with the use of "divisions" instead of "classes" therefore track will be known to have three classes.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Unified Sports: Sport Offering/Rules Modifications

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Todd Nelson, NYSPHSAA Assistant Director

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Unified Sport Committee is recommending the following sport offering/rules modifications.

Unified Soccer – Rules Modifications
Unified Tennis – Rules Modifications
Unified Bocce – Sport Offering/Rules Modifications

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

NYSPHSAA/SONY has been looking to offer a Fall sport to our Unified Sports program for several years. Some Sections have piloted programs in these sports and would like to have the sport/rule modifications officially adopted by NYSPHSAA to be placed in the handbook. Bocce would have to be approved as a NYSPHSAA Unified Sport. All of our sport offerings are administered through the local Section/Leagues.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Unified Sport Committee

Budgetary Impact:

SONY has provided support to local schools through equipment and other needs but no direct grant funding. Schools would be funding the program if they decided to participate.

Notes:

None

Attachments:

Soccer Rule Modifications
Bocce Rule Modifications
Tennis Rule Modifications

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Handbook – Forfeit Exception for Football

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Pat Pizzarelli, NYSPHSAA Handbook Committee Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval to add the following to the note for the Maximum Number of Contests in the NYSPHSAA Handbook, "Exception: In the sport of Football, when a team receives a forfeit win, the forfeit win will not count towards the maximum number of contests. The team who accepts the forfeit can reschedule a game that will count towards the maximum number of contests."

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

Many schools have lost out on homecoming games due to teams forfeiting. Additionally, two Section VI teams lost 25% of their season due to forfeits.

Proposal Originated:

Section VI Section Concern with support from the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

Budgetary Impact:

None.

Notes:

The team that receives the forfeit win has the opportunity to schedule another game. The Sections will determine how the games count towards league standings/seedings. The NYSPHSAA Football Committee supports this proposal.

Attachments:

None.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Football: Revision to NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Gary Vanderzee, Football Chairmen

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Football Committee is recommending revising the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty for the sport of football. Any player disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike behavior or flagrant foul will be ineligible for the next two consecutive halves.

Effective Start Date:

2024-2025 school year

Rationale:

Currently, a student-athlete could be disqualified on the first play of a game and would have to sit out that entire game and the following game. This could equate to 25% of their season, based on an 8-game schedule. This is not equal, compared to all other NYS high school team sports. All other sport teams that have 16 or 20 games would only sit out 12.5% or 10% of their season. This rule will make it 12.5% for an 8-game schedule and 10% for a 10-game schedule. More than 75% of all football playing schools only participate in 8 games. This would mirror what the penalty is for a disqualification for targeting currently in the NYSPHSAA handbook.

Proposal Originated:

The NYSPHSAA Football Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

The NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Committee supported this proposal.

Attachments:

See example

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Boys Wrestling: Early Weight Certification Date

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Marty Sherman, Boys Wrestling Chairmen

Proposal:

The Boys Wrestling Committee is recommending allowing Sections to have an early weight Certification date starting no earlier than the Monday of week #17. **Schools would be required to register any wrestlers participating in the early certification date by the Saturday of week #15.**

Effective Start Date:

2024-2025 school year

Rationale:

NYSPHSAA has approved the 1.5% weight loss descent plan for all wrestlers competing in the boys season as of the 2023-2024 season. The weight loss descent plan locks wrestlers into a specific weight based on their certification weight at the beginning of the season. The descent plan is based on a student losing a maximum of 1.5% of their body weight each season. Unfortunately, some wrestlers were not able to compete for a majority of their season because their descent plan did not allow them to get to an eligible weight based on the certification at the beginning of the year. Other wrestlers were not eligible for a desired weight because their plan maxed out right above a particular weight class. If a Section was allowed to have an earlier certification date, then some wrestlers would be able to get certified and then start their weight descent plan 6 weeks prior to the season therefore maximizing their participation. If an earlier start date was allowed this would mean that the Section consultants would have to organize their staffs on two different time periods to certify the wrestlers prior to the season starting. There is also no guarantee that a wrestler will follow the descent plan and be at the desired weight class at the beginning of the season.

Proposal Originated:

The Boys Wrestling Committee

Budgetary Impact:

There may be an increase cost to the Section but in theory the same amount of wrestlers is being certified before the season.

Notes:

DATE REVISED: 4/3/24

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Revise State Tournament Format Back to Pool Play

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Peggy Seese, NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Committee is seeking approval to revert back to a pool play format for the 2024 State Tournament.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

Pool play guarantees that each team will play six (6) sets of volleyball (competing against all teams in their class) over an extended period of time, whereas bracket play only guarantees a minimum of 3 sets against one team) which can sometimes be completed in as little as 45 minutes. Student-athletes work tirelessly their entire career with dreams of making it to the NYSPHSAA Final Four. Teams across the state are accustomed to pool play during regular season multi-team tournaments. The pool play format will provide student-athletes a more memorable experience rewarding the hard work and dedication that they have endured to make it to the final four. While pool play and bracket play both have their flaws in determining the two state finalist teams, our committee feels that pool play will ultimately lead to the top two teams in the state facing off in the final match.

Once the committee experienced the length of time it took for six classes playing bracketed play, the initial concern for the length of time it took to add another team to pool play was no longer a concern.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Committee on March 19, 2024.

Budgetary Impact:

There is minimal or no budgetary impact with this format.

Notes:

The Girls Volleyball State Committee supported this proposal with a 7-4 vote.

CAC Feedback:

Voted 8-2 to support this proposal.

DATE REVISED: April 11, 2024

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 1, 2024

Cheerleading: Fall Start Date

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Jen Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is recommending starting on the Wednesday of week number 7 to coincide with the football start date.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

Rationale:

Starting on the Wednesday of week number 7 allows the team to hold a tryout and start to develop the skills necessary to prepare for the upcoming season. The development of the skills can be done in a way that progresses to help reduce risk to the student athletes. As most cheerleading teams do not have scrimmages this allows teams to prepare to attend clinics and camps held during late August and early September. These clinics and camps are very valuable in preparing a team for competition during the season.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

In the past Cheerleading has traditional started the same time as the football teams.

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



May 21, 2024

Honorable Lester W. Young, Jr., Chancellor
Honorable Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner
New York State Education Department
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234

Chancellor Young & Commissioner Rosa,

Over the past year, I have appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the ongoing discussions being led by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to address equality and inclusivity in interscholastic athletic participation. The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) is certainly supportive of regulatory revisions focused on creating equity and equality in interscholastic athletic participation such as the proposed amendments to Sections 135.1, 135.4, and 135.5 relating to Mixed Competition and Extra Class Athletic Activities.

Respectfully, however, I would like to share some concerns raised by NYSPHSAA member schools relating to Mixed Competition and the Athletic Placement Process and offer recommendations. We feel these recommendations will improve the proposed amendments thus ensuring our member schools are able to implement the regulations as intended and provide valuable interscholastic participation opportunities for all students.

The following items represent areas of concern:

Significant Adverse Effect:

The proposed amendments will remove the ability of a school district and/or Section to determine if a male student-athlete will have a “*significant adverse effect*” upon the participation opportunities of female student-athletes. The ability of schools to have local authority in these cases is important and critical to ensure the integrity of female participation is maintained. NYSPHSAA member schools aim to ensure female student-athletes are not displaced by allowing unrestricted access for all male student-athletes to try out for a team when a male equivalent sport is not offered (i.e., field hockey, volleyball, gymnastics, flag football, etc.).

NYSPHSAA fully supports providing access in a less restrictive manner to female student-athletes to promote participation by the historically underrepresented gender in a fair competitive environment. NYSPHSAA also recognizes that combining genders for competition purposes should be done carefully and cautiously to avoid negatively impacting female participation opportunities.

NYSPHSAA recommends adopting an objective criterion for determining “*significant adverse effect*” for students and schools to rely upon when a male is interested in participating on a female team. For more than a decade, Pennsylvania has successfully utilized specific criteria for determining when teams can be mixed gendered (*PIAA Handbook: Constitution & Bylaws; Article 16 Section 4.C. Mixed Gender*



Participation); this criterion could help to resolve many issues with mixed competition participation. [See PIAA attachment]

Transgender Student Participation:

The proposed amendments (page 5) references “self-identified gender”:

“The proposed amendment requires that if no selection process is employed for participation in a particular extra class athletic activity, all students must be permitted to participate equally, regardless of self-identified gender.”

It is important to note NYSPHSAA continues to advise school districts to place students on interscholastic teams that most appropriately align with the student’s gender identity. During the Fall 2023 forums, many comments from participants centered on gender identity concerns, which are separate from mixed competition concerns. Furthermore, New York State’s anti-discrimination laws already address transgender participation.

NYSPHSAA recommends ensuring separating mixed competition amendments from transgender student participation but still allow our member schools to continue providing biological females access to male teams and biological males access to female teams when appropriate.

Uniform Team Selection Process for All Athletes:

The proposed amendments require team selection criteria to be posted on a school district’s website if equivalent male and female sports are not available (i.e., football, field hockey, gymnastics, flag football, etc.) and if a board of education utilizes the APP to allow students to move up or down. Requiring coaches to list criteria for team selection removes their ability to select their team on factors that are not easily defined such as technical ability, game, field, court awareness, physical aspects, attitude, motivation and personal traits. Additionally, providing selection criteria is going to subject the school district to additional parental criticism when students are not selected for the team. Furthermore, other school activities do not have similar requirements for selection (i.e., theatre, band, debate, choir, etc.).

NYSPHSAA recommends removing this requirement from the proposed amendments as school districts should continue to have the ability to employ coaches who can determine their team’s roster during an evaluation period.

Athletic Placement Process and Tanner Rating:

The proposed amendments remove the requirements within the Athletic Placement Process for 7th and 8th grade students to try out for the high school team. The intent of the Athletic Placement Process is to provide a protocol for those districts that choose to allow 7th and 8th grade students to move up or for 9th – 12th grade students to move down, allowing them to participate safely at an appropriate level of competition based upon physical and emotional readiness and athletic ability rather than age and grade alone.

The current Athletic Placement Process states:

“Students do not mature at the same rate, and there can be tremendous developmental differences between students of the same age. The APP is not to be used to fill positions on teams, provide additional experience, provide an opportunity for middle school or junior high students when no modified program is offered, or to reward a student. Instead, it is aimed at the few, select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness.”

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



NYSPHSAA fully supports elimination of the use of the Tanner Sexual Maturity Rating as the proposed amendments state:

"The Department recommends elimination of the Tanner Scale, which is intrusive and demeaning. Instead, the Department recommends that schools use research-based factors that affect the likelihood that a student would be more susceptible to injury, including: age; kinematics/biomechanics (movement of the body); body composition (% fat, bone, and muscle in the body); previous injury; grade of competition; training load (hours per week); position played; competition or practice; strength; player experience; checking, tackling, body contact; and environmental factors."

NYSPHSAA's concern is who will be responsible for assessing the above factors and using the research-based factors if all students are permitted to try out with informed parental consent. With the movement towards greater specialization in youth sports, schools will be faced with an influx of students or parents who believe they are capable of trying out for a high school team before they are ready. The ability to try out for a high school team should continue to be determined by the school district and the coaches they employ, not solely by the student-athlete's parents.

NYSPHSAA recommends removing any mention of the Tanner scale from the Athletic Placement Process and retaining the fundamental principles of this longstanding process.

I am interested in discussing these membership concerns and potential solutions with you at your earliest convenience. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert J. Zayas
NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Cc:
NYSPHSAA Section Directors
NYSPHSAA Officers

activities). This provision is to promote student safety in football-related activities that do not include Physical Contact.

4. Outside the PIAA-defined football season, in addition to PIAA member school sponsorship of activities defined in Section 2.A(3) of this ARTICLE, PIAA member schools may sponsor non-contact 7v7 programs provided that any participation by Coaches and/or students is voluntary.

5. In recognition of the unique circumstances within those PIAA member schools that are absent of any junior high/middle school interscholastic football program, students enrolled in and attending those member schools in grades 7 and 8 may annually participate in the out-of-season interscholastic football program organized and operated as National Football League (NFL) Junior Player Development. A student's participation shall be limited to a maximum of two weeks per year.

6. Nothing in this Section shall prevent any student from participating, up through the completion of 8th grade, on community based non-school affiliated youth fall football programs through December 31st of that fall football season.

D. Competitive Spirit.

Competitive spirit was adopted by the PIAA Board of Directors, as an opportunity to expand competitive opportunities for girls. Because of the unique elements of competitive spirit, application of certain PIAA Bylaws is not practical. To the extent inconsistent with the following, then, other PIAA Bylaws are waived:

1. **Season.** Competitive spirit squads may not Practice or participate in any Inter-School Practice, Scrimmage, and/or Contest on more than six days in any Calendar Week. Within that limitation, they may participate in Practices, Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests at any time and at the discretion of the Principal of the competitive spirit squad's member school. There is no maximum number of Inter-School Practices, Scrimmages, and/or Contests in which a competitive spirit squad may participate.

2. **Contest Officials.** Competitive spirit judges do not register with PIAA. They are retained by the Tournament organizers under standards set by the Tournament organizers.

3. **PIAA Championships.** Annual Competitive Spirit Championships shall be held by PIAA at a date and location to be determined by the PIAA Board of Directors. PIAA may license a third party to organize and manage said Championships.

E. Open Gyms.

This activity, as defined in the Glossary, is to encourage participation in a sport. Open Gyms are limited to two hours per day and three days per calendar week outside the defined sport season during the school year.

Weight training and conditioning activities are not considered Open Gyms and may be held daily so long as they are voluntary and not compulsory.

Effective July 1, 2019: Within 10 days prior to the start of each sports season, no student enrolled at a PIAA member high school may participate in any team competition on a team on which all other players and at least one coach are also affiliated at that student's school.

Section 3. Reporting of and Procedure for Alleged Violations.

Violations of this ARTICLE shall subject the Student, Team and/or school to any and all possible penalties provided for in Sections 2 through 9 of ARTICLE XIII of the PIAA Bylaws.

Section 4. Mixed Gender Participation.

PIAA strongly supports and encourages participation by both boys and girls in interscholastic athletics. Based upon real

and demonstrable physical and competitive differences between similarly aged and trained boys and girls in athletic performances, PIAA recognizes that combining genders for competition purposes would have a chilling effect on female participation in interscholastic athletics. PIAA further recognizes that, historically, girls' participation has been much more limited than boys' participation. To promote participation by the historically underrepresented gender in a fair competitive environment, PIAA, therefore, classifies sports by gender and limits mixed gender participation as follows.

A. If a school has a Boys' Team in a sport, boys at the school are not eligible to play on the school's Girls' Team in that sport. If a school has a Girls' Team in a sport, girls at the school are not eligible to play on the school's Boys' Team in that sport. The Principal may waive this limitation for a girl seeking to play on a Boys' Team if the Principal believes that the girl's skill level is such that participation on the Girls' Team would not provide meaningful competition for the girl.

B. Girls may play on a Boys' Team if the student's school does not sponsor a comparable Girls' Team in that sport. NOTE: softball and baseball are not viewed as being comparable sports. Despite some differences in rules, boys' volleyball and girls volleyball, as well as boys' lacrosse and girls' lacrosse, are viewed as comparable sports.

C. Boys may play on a Girls' Team if the student's school does not sponsor a Boys' Team in that sport and the Principal determines that:

1. the overall boys' athletic program at the student's school provides fewer opportunities for boys to participate than for girls;

2. the boy would not displace any girl from the Team's roster;

3. the boy would likely not, due to his physical size, athletic ability, and/or other characteristics, pose an increased risk of harm to opponents beyond that which would be posed by an average-sized and skilled participating girl; and

4. the boy would not provide his Team with a significant competitive advantage (as applicable herein, this means that the boy's participation would likely cause the Team to be noticeably more competitive than it would be without the boy's participation on the Team).

In considering whether to permit participation, with regard to factors 3 and 4 above, the Principal shall be guided by the following:

a. Where there is a question as to the risk posed to opponents or to a possible significant competitive advantage to the Principal's Team, such questions should be resolved in favor of the health and safety of opponents and in favor of preventing significant competitive advantage.

b. Due to the increased risk of injury to opponents in direct contact sports (field hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball), particular scrutiny should be applied by the Principal to requests in these sports.

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Section, boys are permitted to participate on a Spirit Team without Principal approval.

D. Rules applicable to Mixed Gender Teams: Because PIAA does not have a Mixed Gender classification, the following provisions govern participation by Mixed Gender Teams:

1. For Postseason purposes, Mixed Gender Teams (other than in the sport of Spirit) shall compete only in the sport classifications designated for boys.

2. For enrollment classification purposes, a Mixed Gender Team shall be classified by using the school's

Proposal: For Section IX teams to be allowed to compete in the Game Day divisions for the Winter Season - locally, regionally, and/or nationally - similar to Track & Field or any other athlete that is invited to or attends a National Competition.

Rationale:

- By the NYSPHSAA guidelines, Game Day and Competitive are not separate sports, they are separate events within the same sport. The Game Day Championship is scheduled in the fall and the Competitive Championship is scheduled in the Winter. Therefore, within Fall Cheerleading and Winter Cheerleading, teams may compete within multiple events in the same competition for both Game Day and Competitive. There may be different individuals that compete in each of those events, similar to track, swimming, and gymnastics.
- As Game Day is a lower progression within the sport of cheerleading, it may be more appropriate and safer for some developing programs to have a winter Game Day performance, rather than a Competitive performance. As Programs progress, they can develop Competitive performances alongside their winter Game Day performance.

Desired Outcomes:

- Increase student participation and number of cheerleading programs in section IX, as Game Day opens the door for more athlete participation with no difficulty requirement.
- Increase participant safety by encouraging programs and individual athletes to participate in the cheerleading event that is in line with their current skills and progressions.
- Increase overall technique and execution of all cheerleading events in Section IX, as Game Day focuses on technique and proper execution, over difficulty.

Considerations:

- The NYSPHSAA championship philosophy determines which state championships will be offered and how classes or divisions will be competed for at the state championship.
We are not looking for a Section or State Championship for Game Day in the Winter season.
- Game Day Cheerleading:
 - Is currently only allowed in the Fall Season, in Section IX. Game Day competition is currently allowed in New York Sections 1, 4, 8, and 11 in the

Winter Season. These sections allow their Game Day teams to compete at UCA/NCA regional and national competitions in the Winter.

- Allows athletes to grow and gain a competitive experience.
- Focuses on progression of skills and technique of the score sheet at a safe pace.
- Is a competitive division that rewards traditional cheerleading responsibilities at the schools.
Increases the presence of Cheerleading as a sport in school or communities.
- Could help to increase the presence of cheerleading in schools that may be losing athletes or even entire programs due to loss of interest because of the difficulty requirements.
- Coaches stipends - there should be no additional stipends needed for coaches as they will already be coaching during that season.
- It is the responsibility of the teams to pay their own way to UCA/NCA Regional or National competitions which would mean no additional costs to the district for those teams attending UCA/NCA events.
- Implementation - Section 1 has another separate try out for their Game Day team during their winter tryouts. Sections 4, 8 & 11 carry over their Game Day teams to the winter season.

Swim Cloud- Section 9 Swimming and Diving Proposal

May 15, 2024

It is proposed that Section 9 enter into a contract with Swim Cloud for a cost of \$100 per school, per year.

The agreement would look similar to this agreement that Swim Cloud signed with Section VI.

Rationale:

Prior to 2023, John Coombs ran a website for Section IX, as well as, NYSPHSAA. He collected top times, verified meet entries, and helped to organize championship meets at the section and state level. In 2023, John retired, and Swim Cloud took over those responsibilities. NYSPHSAA has entered into an agreement with Swim Cloud, and it is urging Sections to do the same.

This website is a necessary function to record individual and team results including times, records, and scores of meets. Swim Cloud is used to organize entries for the NYSPHSAA Championship meet. Also, it is used to share meet results to local newspapers.

If it helps, think of this website that functions much like Game Changer or Huddle.

Cost:

Please see the attached pdf with more information in regards to cost. However, the most cost efficient method is for Section IX to purchase the agreement for all school districts at a cost of roughly \$2500. (There are currently 25 swimming and diving programs in Section IX.) Then, each school would be billed their portion, \$100 per year. Please note that this is a yearly subscription, not seasonal. You would NOT need to pay a fee for girls and boys seasons separately. Conversely, shadow schools, or schools that only have a boys or girls program would also need to pay the cost of \$100 per year.

Please feel free to contact myself or Chris Sammons with any questions about this proposal.

Dan Wargo
dwargo@wcsdk12.org
Boys' Swimming and Diving Coordinator

Chris Sammons
csammons@kingstoncityschools.org
Girls' Swimming and Diving Coordinator

Region Standard Subscription Agreement

Welcome to Swimcloud!

We are excited to welcome **New York State Public High School Athletic Association Section VI (Section VI)** to Swimcloud! Our partnership aims to highlight **Section VI**'s swimmers and teams, fostering a spirit of community and competition. This document outlines our mutual understanding and the terms under which we will collaborate to serve your athletes and support your organization's goals.

1. Collaboration Overview

As part of our community, Swimcloud will provide **Section VI** with:

- A region microsite www.swimcloud.com/country/usa/prep/state/NY/section/NY-Sec-VI/ to include:
 - top times,
 - records,
 - team rankings,
 - top times widgets,
 - Customer Relationship Management (CRM) functionality.
- Set-up and Online Meet entries for:
 - 8 Championships Meets (Listed below), not to include NYPHSAA State or Section Championships
- Ability to create up to ____ sub-regions

In return, **Section VI** agrees to:

- Appoint a regional administrator (section chair) responsible for coach approvals, data cleanup, etc. This regional administrator will be subject to a criminal background check and approval by Swimcloud.
- Allow Swimcloud to use the **Section VI**'s logo during the term of this agreement for promotional purposes.
- Pay a fee of \$10 Per Team Annually

Pricing

Swimcloud will make Swimcloud Pro available to **Section VI**-member schools for \$150/season (50% discount) payable by teams. Alternatively, Swimcloud will waive the \$10/team Section fee and make Swimcloud Pro available to all member schools for \$100/season when paid by **Section VI** in one transaction.

2. Term and Renewal

This understanding begins on the date signed and will continue for one year. We hope this is the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership.

3. Mutual Commitment

Each party commits to fostering a cooperative and positive relationship. We both agree to communicate openly and resolve any concerns swiftly and amicably.

4. Signing Authority

Each person signing this document affirms they are authorized to agree to these terms on behalf of their respective organization.

5. Celebrating Our Partnership

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of [Organization]'s swimmers and enhancing the experience of your competitions with Swimcloud's services.

AGREEMENT CONFIRMATION

For Section VI

Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date

For Swimcloud

Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date

Included Meets

1. [GRNO Intersectional Championship](#) (Girls)
2. [CCAA Championship](#) (Girls)
3. [Niagara Frontier League Championship](#) (Girls)
4. [Buffalo All High Championship](#) (Girls)
5. [GRNO Intersectional Championship](#) (Boys)
6. [CCAA Championship](#) (Boys)
7. [Niagara Frontier League Championship](#) (Boys)
8. [Buffalo All High Championship](#) (Boys)



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

Section IX Athletics 2023-2025 Officers

Gregory Ransom
Tim Bult
Stephen Boucher
Suzanne Lenzian
Tom Cassata

Executive Director
President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Past President

Section IX Athletics 2024- 2025 Personnel

Gregory Ransom
Dennis Burkett

James Osborne
Linda Trapani
Tom Cassata

Executive Director
Officials Negotiator and
MHAL Coordinator
Secretary & Asst. Treasurer
Treasurer & Asst. Secretary
Eligibility Chairperson