



# Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

Section IX Athletic Council Meeting  
Tuesday, April 9, 2024  
Orange-Ulster BOCES at 9:30 am

1. Call to Order - Greg Ransom
2. Review of Meeting Materials
3. Approval of March 12, 2024, Minutes
4. Financial Report - Linda Trapani
5. Section IX NYSPHSAA Representatives - Roberta Greene and David Coates – Items back from the Leagues
6. NYSPHSAA Office Report – Dr. Robert Zayas
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 Earle
  - e. Boys Lacrosse Rich Saulino
  - f. Girls Lacrosse Taryn Brechbiel
  - g. Boys Tennis Urvashi Gupta
  - h. Track & Field Matt Hemmer / Pat Burkhardt
9. 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
10. Old Business
  - a. Section IX Team Tennis
  - b. Roscoe/Livingston Manor Combining of Teams
11. New Business
  - a. Consent for use of photography/video
12. Adjournment of Section IX Meeting

**Next Meeting Date:**

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Orange-Ulster BOCES, 9:30 am

**Section IX Athletic Council, Inc.**  
**Reconciliation Summary**  
**Orange County Trust Company, Period Ending 02/29/2024**

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	Feb 29, 24
Beginning Balance	228,336.70
Cleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 68 items	-73,601.94
Deposits and Credits - 16 items	35,287.53
Total Cleared Transactions	-38,314.41
Cleared Balance	190,022.29
Uncleared Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 65 items	-29,882.43
Deposits and Credits - 6 items	16,888.77
Total Uncleared Transactions	-12,993.66
Register Balance as of 02/29/2024	177,028.63
New Transactions	
Checks and Payments - 21 items	-7,195.76
Deposits and Credits - 3 items	3,416.00
Total New Transactions	-3,779.76
Ending Balance	173,248.87



# Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

## Items for the Section IX Athletic Council

Voting Items for the May 2024 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting: Leagues

- Football – permanently continued use of the Standby Official, ***Both-Yes***  
at the SemiFinal and Final games as an on-field working Official
- Drone Policy – Law Enforcement ***Both-Yes***
- Appeal Procedure – Protest Committees & use of Video. ***Both-Yes***
- Sportsmanship Rule – Clarification ***Both-Yes***
- NYSPHSAA SAAC – Add SAAC student to ALL NYSPHSAA Standing Committees ***Both-Yes***
- Spring Sports – Adopt earlier start date of Monday of Week #36 starting 2025 ***Both-No***
- Hall of Fame Program – Revisions to Procedures. ***Both-Yes***
- Football – Request to start practice on Wednesday of Week #7. ***Both-Yes***
- Football- Modify the Combined Practice Requirements ***Both-Yes***
- Girls Volleyball- Adopt a Three-Day Tournament for 2024. ***Both-Yes***
- Skiing- Waiver for a Permanent Representation Rule 6-3. ***Both-Yes***
- Girls/Boys Bowling- Permit use of Rotating At-Large Berths ***Both-NO***  
***Unless all the Sections are included in the Rotation.***
- Girls/Boys Bowling- Allow Bowlers to compete in both Team & Composite Events 2025. ***Both-Yes***
- Girls Ice Hockey- Adopt New Regional Rotation for 2024. ***Both-Yes***
- Softball- Adopt NFHS Rules starting in 2025. ***Both-No***
- Boys Lacrosse- Classification Cut-Off Numbers for 2025. ***Both-Yes***

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee – January 31, 2024*

## **CHAMPIONSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE/FOOTBALL – Continue Use of Standby Official on the Field for Football State Semifinals and Finals**

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### **Presenter:**

Greg Ransom, CAC Chair

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee is seeking approval, at the request of the Football Committee, to permanently continue using the standby official at the semifinal and final games as an on-field working official.

### **Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2024

### **Rationale:**

Prior to the pilot, five working on-field officials and one standby official were being used. The back judge is responsible to cover all down field plays with the line judges supporting them. Today's teams and athletes are producing more and more downfield plays. These downfield plays are becoming more difficult for a back judge to cover alone. The standby official is on the sidelines working with the chain crew and is used if an official is not able to continue due to an injury or illness. Continuing to allow the standby official to be a working on-field official then there could have two back judges on each side of the field which would provide greater coverage for downfield plays and allow the line judges to monitor the line of scrimmage area better.

### **Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA CAC following a discussion and recommendation by the Football Committee in December 2023.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

Currently, the standby official is being paid ½ game fee to stand on the sidelines. If he was to become an on-field working official, he would receive a full game fee.

### **Notes:**

None

### **Attachments:**

None

### **CAC Feedback:**

CAC voted 9-0 in support of this proposal.

DATE REVISED: January 12, 2024



# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024

## Drone Policy – Law Enforcement

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

### Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

### Proposal:

Consider revising the NYSPHSAA Drone Policy to address law enforcement. Proposed revisions:

*"The NYSPHSAA Executive Director has the authority to grant an exception to this policy to ~~law enforcement~~, public safety agencies, NYSPHSAA media partners, or other entities or individuals; the use of drones by law enforcement agencies does not require approval from the NYSPHSAA Executive Director. Any request for an exception to the policy must be submitted to the Executive Director at least a week prior to the event. The exception is limited to the specific event requested and requires the consent of the host venue."*

### Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

### Rationale:

Law enforcement agencies work cooperatively with school districts and should not require approval from NYSPHSAA to operate a drone during a high school interscholastic event.

### Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA staff

### Budgetary Impact:

None

### Notes:

The NYSPHSAA Handbook Committee supports this proposal.

### Attachments:

Revised Drone Policy

DATE REVISED: January 12, 2024



## **New York State Public High School Athletic Association Drone Policy**

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association prohibits the use or possession of unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, for any purpose by any person or entity at all scrimmages, regular season and post season events.

This prohibition applies to the area above and upon all spectator areas, fields of play, courts, arenas, stadiums, mats, gymnasiums, pools, practice facilities, parking areas and or other property being utilized for the purpose of the interscholastic activity.

If there is a report of UAS activity at an athletic event school, Section and/or State Association officials will, in consultation with the sports officials, suspend the play until such time as the UAS is removed from the area as defined above or the school, Section/ State and sports officials determine it is safe to proceed.

For purposes of this policy, a UAS is any unmanned airborne device or aircraft. The NYSPHSAA, Section and/or Member School reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone operating or attempting to operate a UAS or to request the immediate removal of any person using or attempting to use a UAS in violation of this policy.

The NYSPHSAA Executive Director has the authority to grant an exception to this policy to ~~law enforcement~~, public safety agencies, NYSPHSAA media partners, or other entities or individuals; the use of drones by law enforcement agencies does not require approval from the NYSPHSAA Executive Director. Any request for an exception to the policy must be submitted to the Executive Director at least a week prior to the event. The exception is limited to the specific event requested and requires the consent of the host venue.

Any use granted under this provision must comply with the applicable FAA regulations as well as any and all requirements set forth by NYSPHSAA. News media must have the necessary FAA authorization. Any individuals granted an exception would be required to sign a document acknowledging and agreeing to the terms of use and agreeing to hold the NYSPHSAA and its member schools harmless from damage to persons or property.

*\*Approved May 5, 2017 (Executive Committee)*

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024

## Appeal Procedure – Protest Committees & Use of Video

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

### Proposal:

Consider revising the NYSPHSAA Appeal procedures to address when the committee meets and to clarify the use of video is not permissible. Proposed revisions:

*"All questions and/or protests as to game/meet rules or as to the conduct of the game or meet shall be heard and decided by the game/meet committee established by that Section or State Sport Championship Committee as the case may be prior to play continuing; and all such decisions shall be final with no right of appeal. in any case, video may not be used to overturn an official's decision unless the rules clearly provide for the use of video (i.e., ice hockey, cheerleading, basketball, etc.)."*

### Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

### Rationale:

NYSPHSAA addressed several situations this fall pertaining to protest committees. NYSPHSAA staff and Sections continue to answer questions pertaining to the use of video to overturn an official's decision. The proposed revisions will help to clarify and emphasize the use of video is not permitted.

### Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA staff

### Budgetary Impact:

None

### Notes:

The NYSPHSAA Handbook Committee supports this proposal.

### Attachments:

None

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024

## Sportsmanship Rule – Clarification

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

### Proposal:

Consider revising the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship rule to read:

*"Spectators and/or anyone involved in interscholastic athletics shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language or engage in any racially/culturally insensitive action. NYSPHSAA Sections may sanction, censure or place schools on probation that fail to address derogatory or inappropriate behavior deemed harmful to physical or mental well-being for those involved in interscholastic activities."*

### Effective Start Date:

Fall 2024

### Rationale:

At the request of the NYSPHSAA DEI Committee, the NYSPHSAA Central Committee approved the addition of language to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship rule to address the use of vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language or engage in any racially/culturally insensitive actions. For clarity, the rule should not only apply to "spectators" as it currently states.

### Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA staff

### Budgetary Impact:

None

### Notes:

The NYSPHSAA Handbook Committee supports this proposal.

### Attachments:

None



# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## NYSPHSAA SAAC – ADD NYSPHSAA SAAC STUDENT TO ALL NYSPHSAA STANDING COMMITTEES

- ☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### **Presenter:**

Jayda Perry, NYSPHSAA SAAC Leader  
Aiden Pearl, NYSPHSAA SAAC Leader

### **Proposal:**

Consider approval to add a NYSPHSAA SAAC member to all NYSPHSAA Standing Committees (CAC, Philosophy, Budget/Audit, DEI, Handbook, Modified, Safety, Sportsmanship, SADC).

### **Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2024

### **Rationale:**

The NYSPHSAA SAAC discussed different ways for the student perspective to be more prevalent in decision making process within NYSPHSAA. After thorough discussion, the committee felt it was important to include the student perspective in the standing committee discussions. It will help students understand the processes and provide a perspective to the adults working on behalf of the student-athletes. Overall, the student perspective is crucial for adults making decisions, as it brings valuable insights, promotes inclusivity, and contributes to the creation of policies and practices that better serve the needs of the student-athlete population.

### **Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA SAAC December 3, 2023 Meeting

### **Budgetary Impact:**

None.

### **Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA SAAC student selection would be volunteer based. The student would serve in an Ex-Officio capacity to provide a student perspective (non-voting).

### **Attachments:**

List any attachments

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **SPRING SPORTS – Adopt Earlier Start Date of Monday of Week #36 Starting in 2025**

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Spring Sport Coordinators & State Committees

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Spring Sport Coordinators/Committees are seeking approval to start the Monday of Week #36 beginning in 2025.

**Effective Start Date:**

Spring 2025

**Rationale:**

The boys/girls lacrosse and baseball (battery week) committees proposed earlier start dates at the October Executive Committee meeting and the proposals were defeated. It was recommended that all spring sports be canvassed to gauge their interest in a “combination” proposal to start week #36.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Executive Committee in October 2023

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

Each Sport Committee met to discuss and vote on this proposal. Results are below:

Baseball – In Favor (10-0)

Softball – In Favor (6-4)

Boys Golf – In Favor (7-2-1)

Girls Golf – Opposed (0-10)

Flag Football – Opposed (0-8)

Boys Lacrosse – In Favor (7-1)

Girls Lacrosse – In Favor (6-2)

Outdoor Track – In Favor (6-4)

Boys Tennis – Opposed (2-8)

**Attachments:**

None

**CAC Feedback**

N/A

Date Revised: January 16, 2024

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## Feedback:

### **IN FAVOR:**

**Baseball (10-0 in favor)** – Likes flexibility. Earlier start allows all sections the option and not hold back everyone. Possible minor conflicts with winter championships.

**Softball (6-4 in favor)** – Likes the flexibility of going earlier/Section can be more restrictive. Starting earlier means extra days allows more time to get in min # of practices.

**Boys Lacrosse (7-1 in favor)** – Allows flexibility. Can give schools extra practice time to play scrimmages/games earlier and condense season less.

**Girls Lacrosse (6-2 in favor)** – Many athletes don't pick up a stick until first practice; extra week will help those kids. Likes the flexibility of going earlier/Section can be more restrictive. Overlap of winter sports a concern. Managing gym/facility space a concern.

**Boys Golf (7-2-1 in favor)** – No concerns/comments.

**Outdoor Track (6-4 in favor)** – No concerns/comments.

### **OPPOSED:**

**Boys Tennis (2-8 opposed)** – Likes flexibility. Overlap of winter sports a concern. Concern of extending coach contracts/more time. Concern of competitive advantage for some sections with good weather.

**Girls Golf (0-10 opposed)** – Concern of competitive advantage for some sections with good weather. Golf unique. Outside only. Believes established start dates should be what we follow. Concern of extending coach contracts/more time.

**Flag Football (0-8 opposed)** – Believes established start dates should be what we follow. Following with girls lacrosse for sport standards stay aligned with start dates, stay with what we use now. Made a change a few years ago to push back fall sports which has trickled into other seasons. Weather is also an impact on the season start date for spring.

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee – January 31, 2024*

## **HALL OF FAME PROGRAM** – Revisions to Policies and Operating Procedures

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

**Presenter:**

Joe Altieri, NYSPHSAA Assistant Director/Program Liaison

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame Committee is seeking approval of revisions to its Policies and Procedures document effective immediately.

**Effective Start Date:**

Immediately

**Rationale:**

NYSPHSAA and the HOF Screening Committee is tasked with periodically evaluating the HOF process to ensure it is efficient and up to date. The proposed revisions are items that need updates in the manual due to technology, shifting of dates and procedures that allow for better efficiency from the nomination to the selection process.

The HOF Committee last met in 2017 and made revisions then.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame Committee meeting on December 14, 2023.

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

Per the HOF Policies and Operating Procedures, all action of the Screening Committee is confidential (Article IV, Section 2e) therefore committee names will not be stated in the proposal or are in the meeting minutes.

**Attachments:**

See attached items proposing to be approved.

**CAC Feedback:**

N/A



# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **FOOTBALL** – Request to Start Practice on Wednesday of Week #7

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### **Presenters:**

Scott Barker, NYSPHSAA Section V Football Coordinator  
Gary Vanderzee, NYSPHSAA Football State Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Football State Committee is seeking approval to allow NYSPHSAA member football programs to start football practice on Wednesday of Week #7 (currently football starts Saturday or Week #7).

### **Effective Start Date:**

August 2024

### **Rationale:**

The following points have been noted as reasons why the committee would like to move forward with this:

- Required 10 days of practice (football is the only fall sport that requires 10)
- Current start date does not allow flexibility or absence of a student-athlete before Game 1
- Current start date requires practices over entire Labor Day Weekend
- Fiscal strain for districts opening up schools over Labor Day
- This proposal builds in 2-day flexibility for eligibility
- Allows for safer progression of practice with a holiday weekend
- Accounts for possible missed practices/games over Jewish holiday

### **Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Football Committee at its December 2023 meeting.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

None

### **Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Football State Committee voted 10-1 in favor of this proposal at its January 8, 2024 zoom meeting. This proposal makes it necessary for NYSPHSAA to seek approval from the New York State Education Department to extend beyond the NYSED 15-week limitation for Fall sports. Dr. Zayas will make this request.

### **Attachments:**

None

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **FOOTBALL – Modify the Combined Practice Requirements**

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### **Presenters:**

Gary Vanderzee, NYSPHSAA Football State Coordinator  
Ken Stoldt, NYSPHSAA Football Assistant State Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Football State Committee is seeking approval to modify its combined practice requirements. The request would be to add letter "F" to the guidelines to read:

F. 11-man football may conduct 11-on-11 drills for a maximum of 10 offensive and 10 defensive plays.

### **Effective Start Date:**

August 2024

### **Rationale:**

Teams are given an opportunity to practice game-like scenarios utilizing the full schematics of 11-on-11 football. This minimal participation provides a healthy progression to a full scrimmage or contest.

### **Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Football Committee at its January 8, 2024 Zoom meeting.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

None

### **Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Football State Committee voted 10-1 in favor of this proposal at its January 8, 2024 zoom meeting.

### **Attachments:**

None

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL – Adopt a Three-Day Tournament Starting in 2024**

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

### **Presenter:**

Peggy Seese, NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Committee is seeking approval to adopt a three-day, bracketed tournament starting with the 2024 season.

### **Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2024

### **Rationale:**

The addition of a 6th class has greatly extended the day of semifinal competition. The 2023 tournament was bracket play and the doors opened at 7:00 am on a Saturday and finished at 11:15 pm. Even if pool play was conducted, the day would have been shortened some but not significantly.

### **Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA State Committee Meeting in November 2022, then again in March 2023. A possible three-day tournament schedule was further discussed during and after the 2023 tournament in November and it was agreed to go forward with the proposal for a three-day tournament. In March 2024, the committee meets for its annual meeting and will discuss a suitable schedule with the staff.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

\$900 electric, \$200 garbage, \$300 personnel. Court and building rental would not be increased because NYSPHSAA is already occupying the building and has the court set up that Friday morning. With this proposal, some teams would now play Friday afternoon/evening but would not incur additional travel expenses. They would simply play a day earlier. Competition would start no earlier than 3:00 pm on Friday so teams can travel in the same day.

### **Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Committee supported this proposal 10-0 during a January 5<sup>th</sup> Zoom call.

### **Attachments:**

None

### **CAC Feedback**

CAC voted 9-0 in support of this proposal.

Date Revised: January 12, 2024

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association

*Executive Committee – January 31, 2024*



## **SKIING – Waiver for A Permanent Representation Rule (6 to 3)**

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### **Presenter:**

Dennis O'Brien, NYSPHSAA Alpine State Coordinator  
Bob Underwood, NYSPHSAA Nordic State Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Skiing State Committee is seeking approval for a permanent waiver of the Representation Rule reducing the minimum number of races from six (6) to three (3). This would be for all sections participating in alpine or nordic skiing.

### **Effective Start Date:**

Immediately

### **Rationale:**

Due to the unpredictability of sufficient snow each season in NYS, the committee is requesting a lower number of races to accommodate those sections who cannot conduct more than three meets prior to the sectionals.

### **Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Skiing State Committee meeting on December 13, 2024

### **Budgetary Impact:**

None

### **Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Skiing State Committee voted 11-0 in favor of this proposal at its December 13, 2024 Zoom meeting.

### **Attachments:**

None

### **CAC Feedback:**

N/A



# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING – Permit Use of Rotating At-Large Berths To Eliminate Pacer Teams at State Tournament**

☐ 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 permit the use of rotating at-large berths when a division (1,2 or composite) has an odd number of teams competing in the NYSPHSAA Bowling Championships. At-large berths would eliminate pacer teams at the State Tournament and be a part of the state tournament competition.

### **Effective Start Date:**

Winter (March) 2025

### **Rationale:**

Each year the host section is responsible for providing a different "pacer" team for each session due to the odd number of teams that are competing. This is done so teams are not bowling alone on a pair. Securing pacer teams requires the host section to recruit and get students out of school for Friday competition and ask them to volunteer Saturday and Sunday as well. It is a challenge to secure students all day for three days. Furthermore, this proposal would alleviate the management of the pacer teams during the tournament (lane assignments, hospitality, etc) and alleviate the concern of providing quality bowlers to pace with another teams.

It is proposed to establish a schedule which will specify which section will be awarded an at-large berth in each division of the NYSPHSAA Bowling Championships. The schedule will consist of sections who have ten (10) or more competing schools for each of the respective divisions.

### **Proposal Originated:**

Section VI- Dan Kaplan at the NYSPHSAA Boys/Girls Bowling State Committee meeting on October 13, 2023.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

There is no cost to NYSPHSAA as the lineage for the at-large teams would be the same as the pacer teams. There would be typical travel costs (lodging, transportation, meals) for rotating sections to send an additional team to the State Tournament.

### **Notes:**

The Boys and Girls Bowling State Committees supported this proposal with a 16-0 vote at their October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **CAC Feedback:**

CAC voted 8-1 in support of this proposal.

Date Revised: January 12, 2024

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING – Allow Bowlers to Compete in Both Team and Composite Events Starting in 2025**

☐ 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 allow bowlers to compete in both the team and composite state tournament events at section discretion. It is currently not permitted.

### **Effective Start Date:**

Winter (March) 2025

### **Rationale:**

The composite division was created to recognize the top bowlers from each section, but currently a bowler competing in the team event is ineligible to participate as an individual in the composite division. This proposal allows the best bowlers to be eligible to bowl in both the team and individual events at the state tournament at the discretion of the section.

In place of a High Series award in the composite division, this proposal would now allow a NYSPHSAA State Champion, Runner Up and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher to be awarded.

### **Proposal Originated:**

Mark Foeder and Brian Usselman, Section V Bowling Coordinators

### **Budgetary Impact:**

There is no cost to NYSPHSAA.

If a section chooses to send additional bowlers, typical travel costs (lodging, transportation, meals) will be incurred by the section.

### **Notes:**

The Boys and Girls Bowling State Committees supported this proposal with a 16-0 vote at their October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **CAC Feedback**

CAC voted 9-0 in support of this proposal.

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **GIRLS ICE HOCKEY – Adopt New Regional Rotation for 2024 Regional Quarterfinals**

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### **Presenter:**

Carl Normandin, NYSPHSAA Girls Ice Hockey Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Ice Hockey State Committee is seeking approval to adopt a new Regional Rotation and At-Large plan for its 2024 regional quarterfinals due to Section V announcing their intentions to participate in October.

### **Effective Start Date:**

Winter 2024

### **Rationale:**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, Section V informed the girls ice hockey committee and NYSPHSAA they would officially participate in girls ice hockey. This necessitated the committee to meet and develop a revised regional rotation and add an at-large rotation for its postseason playoffs. This sport culminates its season with a Regional Championship (a Final Four), and it is necessary to re-organize the round (quarterfinals) leading up to the final four to include Section V. Adding Section V also required the committee to establish an at-large rotation to fill the byes. See attached proposed brackets and at large rotation.

### **Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA State Committee Meeting in October/November/December

### **Budgetary Impact:**

None

### **Notes:**

The Girls Ice Hockey State Committee supported this proposal with a 7-0 vote at their Dec 6, 2023 meeting.

### **Attachments:**

- An overview of how the committee has handled the inclusion of "new" teams/sections for postseason play.
- Proposed brackets and at large rotation

### **CAC Feedback**

CAC voted 9-0 in support of this proposal.

Date Revised: January 16, 2024

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **SOFTBALL** – Adopt NFHS Rules Starting in 2025 Season

☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Jim Wright, NYSPHSAA Softball Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Softball State Committee is seeking approval to adopt NFHS Rules starting with the 2025 season.

**Effective Start Date:**

Spring 2025

**Rationale:**

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA State Committee Meeting in December 2022

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

The Softball State Committee supported this proposal with a 6-5 vote at their December 6, 2023 meeting.

**Attachments:**

None

**CAC Feedback**

Provided after January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Date Revised: January 16, 2024



Select USA/01-21											
potential waiver or FED					YELLOW are Potential Waivers		Items in Discussion				
Rule	#1: Bunt attempt	#2. Adding player/sub to line up card	#3. Fence Distance:	#4. Batter's box lines	#5. Bat grip	#6. Line-up changes	#7. Extra Player	#8. Shorthanded	#9. Coaches Responsibility	#10. Fitness of the grounds	#11. Tie games
USA	USA: It is NOT a bunt attempt if the bat is held in the strike zone-definitions	USA: No penalty or restriction (14.1)	USA: minimum: 200 Max:225 (2-1)	USA: NO rule	USA: The official bat: The grip shall not be less than 6" and NOT more than 15-There is a waiver stating the grip shall extend a minimum of 10" but not more than 15. (3.1D)	USA: Eligible roster members may be added to the available substitute list any time during the game with NO penalty. (4.1A1-2)	USA: Has the option of using an Extra Player-(EP)- (4.1C.1)	USA: Teams can play shorthanded to start or continue a game. The game can start or finish with 1 less player than required to start(8)(4.1D 1-2)	USA: A coach is responsible for the teams actions on the field and will represent the team in communication s with the umpire and the opposing team. (4.7A)	USA: Fitness of the grounds for a game shall be decided solely by the plate umpire. (5.2)	USA: Regulation the game-games that are regulation the games shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped. (5.3F)
		Fed: If a player/sub is added to the lineup card after being submitted the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach-any further changes made to a player/sub name or number results in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game. (3-1-3)	Fed: minimum: 185 Max: 235 (1-1-3a)	Fed: Erasing batter's box lines: That after an occurrence a team warning is issued and the next violation is a ball/strike and the offender and coach is restricted to the dugout. (6-3-17)	Fed: The grip shall extend a minimum of 10" but not more than 15". (1-5-2b)	Fed: If a player/sub is added to the lineup card, the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach of the team involved. Any further changes made to a player/subs name or number results in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game. (3-3-1, 3-3-3)	Fed: NO such rule	Fed: Must have 9 players to start the game. (4-3-1f)	Fed: Prior to the start of the game at the pregame conference, a head coach shall be responsible for verifying to the plate umpire that the lineup card is correct, all the players are legally equipped, and that players and equipment are in compliance with all NFHS rules. (3-5-1)	Fed: The home coach shall decide whether the grounds and other conditions are suitable for starting the game. (4-1-1)	Fed: If a regulation game has a tie score as in 4-2-2 it is a tie game.
FED	Fed: Holding the bat in the strike zone is considered a bunt attempt-2-8-2										

[illegible]



# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – January 31, 2024*

## **Boys Lacrosse – Classification Cut-Off Numbers**

- ☐ Action Item  
☒ Discussion Item  
☐ Informational Item

### **Presenter:**

Jim Amen, NYSPHSAA Boys Lacrosse Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The Boys Lacrosse Committee is seeking approval to change the current classification cut-off numbers for the 2025 season. Below are the recommended changes.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Cut-off Numbers</u>	<u>Schools</u>
Class A	1036 and Up	81 schools
Class B	728 – 1035	81 schools
Class C	727 – 450	82 schools
Class D	449 and Down	82 schools

### **Effective Start Date:**

Spring 2025

### **Rationale:**

The Boys Lacrosse Committee believes that all classes should be divided as equally as possible. After reviewing the current cut-off numbers, the committee feels an adjustment should be made to equally divide the classes.

### **Proposal Originated:**

Boys Lacrosse Committee Zoom meeting in November.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

None

### **Notes:**

The Boys Lacrosse State Committee voted 11-0 in favor of this proposal at its January 9, 2024 Zoom meeting.

### **Attachments:**

None

### **CAC Feedback:**

CAC voted 9-0 in support of this proposal.

DATE REVISED: January 12, 2024



Roscoe Central School District

LIVINGSTON MANOR  
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 23, 2024

Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

P.O. Box 656

Goshen, NY 10924

Dear Mr. Ransom,

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is John Evans and I am the shared Superintendent of the Livingston Manor and Roscoe Central School Districts. I write to you and the Section IX Executive Committee today on behalf of the Boards of Education of these districts with a unique request.

For over 20 years these two small rural schools have been combining athletics at one time or another in practically every sport offered by either school district. Over the last decade, multiple athletic programs have been combined each year at every level. During this time period a lack of consistency and uncertainty surrounding these combined athletic programs has contributed to inconsistent program success, game and entire season cancellations and an overall decline in student participation in athletics at both schools.

In an effort to better stabilize programs and to develop more comprehensive athletic offerings for the students of these two districts, the Livingston Manor and Roscoe Boards of Education are requesting special consideration be granted to our unique situation. At their respective December 2023 regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings both Boards unanimously passed resolutions respectfully requesting that Section IX consider policy changes or amendments/addendum be made to their current combining of teams policy and procedures that would allow the Livingston Manor and Roscoe CSDs to combine all athletic programs at the modified, junior varsity and varsity levels through a more permanent comprehensive sports merger. Official copies of the Board extracts of these resolutions are included with this correspondence. While we are seeking a permanent merger, we realize that such action would still require annual review and approval by Section IX per current NYSPHSAA policy and procedures. In an effort to provide additional background information and rationale for this request, I feel it is important for the executive committee to know that these two districts have conducted two different comprehensive full school district merger studies. The official recommendation at the conclusion of both of these studies was that the Livingston Manor and Roscoe school districts merge to create a new school district through centralization. On both

Roscoe Central School 6 Academy Street, Roscoe, NY 12776 607-498-4126  
Livingston Manor Central School 19 School Street, Livingston Manor, NY 12758 845-439-4400



occasions the idea of merger was put forth to the school communities for a vote and the communities voted against the complete school merger. The first study occurred in the early 1990s and the more recent study was completed in August of 2022 and the vote was defeated in both districts in October of 2022. While both school boards feel that a full school merger is in the best interests of students, they have been unable to move forward due to the lack of support from the voters in both communities.

Declining enrollment, shrinking class sizes and increasing financial challenges make it more and more difficult to offer the depth and breadth of educational and extracurricular opportunities these districts once offered independently. Both boards believe that working together through sharing across both schools can offer our students better opportunities.

According to the NYSED enrollment data for the 2000-01 school year, Livingston Manor's K-12 enrollment was 683 students and Roscoe's was 303. The current K-12 enrollment for the 2023-24 school year is 415 for Livingston Manor and 208 for Roscoe. In this time period Livingston Manor's enrollment dropped by 223 students and Roscoe dropped by 95 for a combined drop in total student enrollment in grades K-12 of 318 students. Included with this letter are copies of pages 13 & 14 of the official merger study document that was submitted to NYSED in August of 2022. These tables show the enrollment projections for both schools through 2028-29. As you can see by these charts, our declining enrollment is not expected to improve.

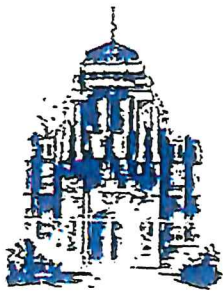
For the aforementioned reasons the Livingston Manor and Roscoe Central School Districts respectfully request that a permanent combining of teams for all sports at all levels of play be considered for approval by Section IX.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will make myself available at your convenience.

Educationally yours,

John Evans

Shared Superintendent for the Roscoe and Livingston Manor CSDs



# ROSCOE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

6 ACADEMY STREET • P.O. BOX 429

ROSCOE, NEW YORK 12776

607-498-4126

FAX 607-498-6015

JOHN EVANS  
SUPERINTENDENT

JANICE PHILLIPS  
PRE-K-12 PRINCIPAL

ROBIN FRANCISCO  
PRE-K-12 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

January 4, 2024

From the Regular Board of Education Meeting of December 19, 2023

## EXTRACT

### Permanent Athletic Merger

Be it resolved that the RCS & LMCS Boards of Education jointly feel that permanent athletic mergers in all sports at the modified, JV and Varsity levels are in the best interest of the students in both school communities. As such they have authorized their Superintendent to respectfully request that the OCIAA and Section IX athletic councils consider amendments to their current policies and procedures relating to the Combining of Teams to allow for permanent athletic mergers in all sports between these two independent school districts.

The Boards feel strongly that permanent athletic mergers would allow our two districts to more consistently offer age and ability level appropriate athletic programs to our students in a safer and more educationally appropriate manner. Thus allowing for the proper progression of our student athletes beginning at the modified level to junior varsity and ultimately the varsity level.

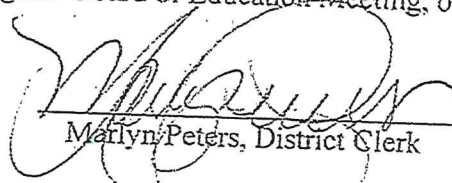
Motion made by: Joe Langan

Motion seconded by: Timothy Clark

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

I certify this is a true copy of the motion as it appears in the approved  
Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting, of December 19, 2023.

  
Marilyn Peters, District Clerk

# Livingston Manor Central School District

John P. Evans, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 947 • 19 School Street  
Livingston Manor, NY 12758

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
James Buck, President  
Jason Gorr, Vice President  
Frank Adamse  
Nicole Park  
Jill Smith  
Marlyn Peters, District Clerk

January 4, 2024  
From the Regular Board Meeting of December 20, 2023  
E X T R A C T

## Permanent Athletic Merger

Be it resolved that the RCS & LMCS Boards of Education jointly feel that permanent athletic mergers in all sports at the modified, JV and Varsity levels are in the best interest of the students in both school communities. As such they have authorized their Superintendent to respectfully request that the OCIAA and Section IX athletic councils consider amendments to their current policies and procedures relating to the Combining of Teams to allow for permanent athletic mergers in all sports between these two independent school districts.

The Boards feel strongly that permanent athletic mergers would allow our two districts to more consistently offer age and ability level appropriate athletic programs to our students in a safer and more educationally appropriate manner. Thus allowing for the proper progression of our student athletes beginning at the modified level to junior varsity and ultimately the varsity level.

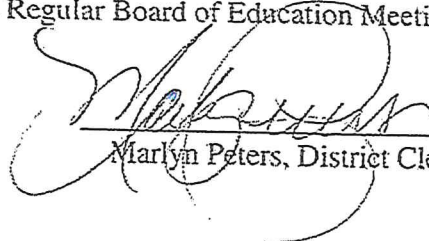
Motion made by: Jill Smith

Motion seconded by: Frank Adamse

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

I certify this is a true copy of the motion as it appears in the approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting, of December 20, 2023.



Marlyn Peters, District Clerk





**Table 2.2**  
**Livingston Manor Enrollment History and Projections**

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Live Birth Data for Incoming Kindergarten class	35	43	25	28	34	20	36	24	26	28	28	28	28
Grade K	29	35	26	38	25	29	28	35	24	26	28	28	28
Grade 1	26	30	35	29	37	22	29	28	35	24	26	28	28
Grade 2	30	24	27	39	30	40	22	29	28	36	24	26	28
Grade 3	37	26	23	26	38	31	38	21	28	27	34	23	25
Grade 4	33	35	24	26	22	39	30	37	21	27	26	33	22
Grade 5	27	32	38	22	27	22	39	30	37	21	27	26	34
Grade 6	40	28	29	35	24	31	22	40	31	38	21	28	27
Grade 7	35	35	29	33	35	27	32	23	41	32	40	22	29
Grade 8	42	38	33	29	32	37	27	32	23	42	32	40	22
Grade 9	23	43	36	33	27	33	37	27	32	23	41	32	39
Grade 10	27	28	43	30	32	26	33	36	27	32	23	41	32
Grade 11	30	21	28	44	31	35	26	32	36	26	31	23	40
Grade 12	37	30	21	25	37	30	33	24	30	34	25	30	21
Total Grades K-12	416	405	392	409	397	402	396	397	394	387	379	379	375
Total Grades K-6	223	210	202	215	203	214	209	221	204	198	186	191	190
Total Grades 7-12	194	195	190	194	194	188	187	176	190	189	193	187	184

NOTE: From 2025-26 to 2028-29 live births are the average of the previous five years. Consequently, from 2025-26 to 2028-29 the early grade enrollments are quite speculative.





**Table 2.3**  
**Roscoe Enrollment History and Projections**

	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 -20	2020 -21	2021 -22	2022 -23	2023 -24	2024 -25	2025 -26	2026 -27	2027 -28	2028 -29
Live Birth Data for incoming Kindergarten class	14	16	10	13	15	12	12	10	12	12	12	12	12
Grade K	9	13	11	19	10	15	12	12	10	12	12	12	12
Grade 1	20	11	14	10	19	12	16	12	12	10	13	13	13
Grade 2	21	17	11	14	13	21	13	17	13	13	11	14	13
Grade 3	18	19	19	10	16	10	20	12	17	13	13	11	13
Grade 4	12	18	20	19	12	15	10	21	13	17	13	13	11
Grade 5	22	14	20	20	19	12	16	11	22	13	18	14	14
Grade 6	21	24	12	21	19	21	12	16	11	23	14	18	14
Grade 7	19	20	23	13	21	19	21	12	16	11	23	14	18
Grade 8	22	18	19	20	13	22	18	20	12	15	11	22	13
Grade 9	17	20	20	21	21	11	22	18	20	12	15	11	22
Grade 10	20	16	22	17	21	20	11	21	18	20	11	15	10
Grade 11	14	16	17	19	18	16	18	10	19	16	18	10	14
Grade 12	22	16	15	16	20	17	16	18	10	20	16	18	10
Total Grades K-12	237	222	223	219	222	211	205	201	193	195	187	183	173
Total Grades K-6	123	116	107	113	108	106	99	101	98	101	93	94	90
Total Grades 7-12	114	106	116	106	114	105	106	100	95	94	94	89	83

NOTE: From 2025-26 to 2028-29 live births are the average of the previous five years. Consequently, from 2025-26 to 2028-29 the early grade enrollments are quite speculative.

Beginning in 2016-17, the K-12 student enrollment in Livingston Manor declined through the 2018-19 school year followed by an increase in 2019-20. The enrollment has



# Section IX Athletics

**Gregory Ransom, Executive Director**

*"Consent for use of Photography/Video:*

*NYSPHSAA member schools are responsible for notifying the NYSPHSAA Executive Director (in writing at least 48 hours prior to a NYSPHSAA post-season event), if student-athletes do not consent to their photographs, videos, or image being used in NYSPHSAA promotional materials(i.e. press releases, website, brochures, commercials, championship programs, etc.)*

*"Consent for use of Photography/Video:*

*Section IX member schools are responsible for notifying the Section IX Executive Director( in writing at least 48 hours prior to a Section IX post-season event), if student-athletes do not consent to their photographs, videos, or image being used in Section IX promotional materials(i.e. press releases, website, brochures, commercials, championship programs, etc.)"*