



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

Section IX Athletic Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
OU BOCES at 9:30 am

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 - David Coates and Suzanne Lendzian
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
 - i. Flag Football Elaine Schellberg/Greg Sirico
9. Chair Reports:
 - a. Girls & Boys Modified Sports Greg Warren / Amanda Zgrodek
 - b. Safety Janet Carey
 - c. Student Athlete Advisory Committee Suzanne Lendzian
 - d. Eligibility Tom Cassata
 - e. Officials Coordinator Dennis Burkett
 - f. Sportsmanship Aaron Hasbrouck
 - g. Unified Sports Rich Silverstein
 - h. NYSAAA John Giametta
10. Old Business
 - a. Schools Without Boundaries
11. New Business
 - a. Section IX Girls & Boys Sport Chairperson
12. Adjournment of Section IX Meeting

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Orange-Ulster BOCES, 9:30 am



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

NYSPHSAA Proposals

Consent Agenda

Section IX Athletics

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

- Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 11, 2025
- Consistency Among Championship Awards
- Cheerleading - Game Day Scoring Adjustment
- Baseball – Allow Scrimmages after 6th practice day
- Fall Start Dates effective 2025-2026
- Spring Start Dates effective 2025-2026
- Establish 8 Man Football Regional Championship Week #21

Other NYSPHSAA Proposals for the Athletic Council consideration:

OCIAA. MHAL

No.	No.	Establish Three (3) Nights Rest Rule for Regional Competition (Leagues prefer Two (2) Nights Rest
Yes.	2026.	Three (3) Region Concept
No.	No.	Regional Plaques
No.	No.	Cheerleading – Standard Practice for Fall & Winter Cheerleading
No.	No.	Girls Lacrosse – Artificial Noise Makers
Table	Table.	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Definitions



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

Bank Reconciliation Report

Orange County Trust Company

Period Ending: 02/28/2025

February – 2025 Account Summary

Statement beginning balance: \$178,901.28

Interest earned: \$7.02

Statement ending balance: \$169,517.98

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

CHAMPIONSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Establish Three (3) Night's Rest Rule for Regional Competition

- ☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee (Greg Ransom, Chair)

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee is seeking approval to establish a three-nights rest rule for all regional competition for all sports. The following language is being proposed for this rule.

Regional rounds immediately following Sectional Finals shall be scheduled, in advance of the postseason, with a minimum of three nights rest. Each subsequent round of regional games shall be scheduled, in advance of the postseason, with a minimum of three nights rest. Weather related issues shall not change any of the scheduled regional contests and delays may result in less than three nights rest. It is also recommended to conclude regional play the Saturday prior to the state final four.

Sample Schedule Set Up in Advance of Postseason:

Saturday or Sunday – Sectional Final
Tuesday or Wednesday – Sub-Regional
Saturday – Regional Final

Effective Start Date:

2025-26 school year

Rationale:

Three nights rest would allow for teams to get proper rest, schedule practice and be able to plan travel for regional competition.

Proposal Originated:

The number of nights rest a team gets in regional competition was brought forward as a concern by Section 1 at the Executive Committee meeting in May 2024. The CAC formed a sub-committee to discuss this on September 11th then present it to the full CAC on October 10th and January 16th.

Budgetary Impact:

None

CAC Feedback:

CAC voted 7-1 in support of this proposal at its January 16th meeting.

DATE REVISED: January 18, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



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3-Region Concept

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

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Details:

As shared with the Executive Committee in October, the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy Committee voted to support additional exploration and examination of a 3-Region concept to address long standing membership concerns related to regional rotations.

The basis of the 3-Region Concept is for Sections to have consistent geographic opponents, to reduce regional travel, school time missed, and travel expenses associated with regional participation. It is important to note that any regional rotation format will have challenges; no format will be perfect.

The NYSPHSAA staff is currently working to identify issues with the 3 Region Concept and potential solutions.

Attachments:

- [3-Region Concept Process & Sport Rotation Examples \(Link\)](#)

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Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Championship Philosophy: Regional Plaques

_____ Action Item
 X Discussion Item
_____ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Proposal:

Consider approval of consistent approach for awards at Regional Championship events in team sports by standardizing the presentation of only the Regional Champion plaque.

Effective Start Date:

2025-2026

Rationale:

Historically, both a Regional Champion plaque and a Regional Finalist plaque have been awarded at Regional Championship events. The Championship Philosophy Committee believes only the champion should be awarded at regional rounds.

Proposal Originated:

Championship Philosophy Committee

Budgetary Impact:

There is no budgetary impact for NYSPHSAA. It will be a cost savings to the Sections as Sections currently cover the cost of all Regional Champion and Finalist plaques. Finalist plaques cost \$45 per plaque.

Notes:

- Only team sports would be affected by this change.
- The Championship Philosophy Committee supported the proposal 11-1 (Section VII voted no, Section IX was absent).
- Sport Committee Feedback is listed below for the committees who have met thus far. Committees not listed will provide feedback after their meetings.
 - Field Hockey (0-10 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.
 - Football (0-10 OPPOSED) – Would like to keep current regional plaque system.
 - Baseball (0-11 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.
 - Girls Lacrosse (0-10 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Cheerleading – Standard Practice for Fall and Winter Cheer

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

Presenter:

Jennifer Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is seeking approval to set the following standard practice guidelines for competing teams in all sections.

- Fall Cheerleading - Teams are restricted to only practicing those skills allowable in Game Day Cheerleading. This then does not limit those teams who do not wish to compete, but allows schools to still have teams. It does restrict those schools from working on the more advanced skills and routines for the Winter Competitive Season in advance of the season, thereby negating any unfair advantage. It allows for schools building programs to do so in a safe manner.
- Winter Cheerleading- Since skills are more advanced for Competitive Cheer, there would be no restrictions for schools doing the lesser skills of Game Day during this season.
- Any school found violating this rule and practicing skills beyond what is allowed in Game Day during the Fall Season, would be ineligible for the postseason for the Winter Season.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2025 season

Rationale:

While NYSPHSAA defines the seasons as “Fall Cheerleading” and “Winter Cheerleading” with Game Day and Competitive being “Events” within each of those, sections are interpreting this differently. Some are allowing both in each season. Some are allowing only Game Day in the fall and only Competitive in the winter. Some are allowing teams to forego competing in the fall and just prepare/practice their competitive routines/skills for the winter. As a result, the State Committee is concerned with the following:

- The differences from section to section are creating extremely unfair advantages and disadvantages for certain teams/sections in competitive cheer. These disadvantages are causing coaches and athletes to leave cheerleading and as this grows, it will likely cause entire sections of NYS to withdraw from competing in NYS cheerleading.
- Schools that allow teams to not compete in the fall but practice/prepare for the winter season are paying for a coach that isn’t competing at all.
- Sections that do not allow Game Day in the winter prohibit teams from competing in Game Day nationally, as all national competitions for both Game Day and Competitive occur in January - March.

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- If we were to move to only allow Game Day in the fall and Competitive in the winter, it would set us back nationally and affect our athletes ability to compete for college scholarships.

Proposal Originated:

This was a topic of discussion at the Cheer State Committee meeting at the State Competition and discussed at prior state committee meetings. While NYSPHSAA Executive Committee agreed to approve limiting beginning choreography prior to the start date, teams are not foregoing the fall Game Day season, and working on their winter season from August forward when the season truly for State Competition does not begin until November. This proposal gets all sections on the same page as to what is allowed and what isn't.

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

Section representatives felt this yearly course was important training given the complexity of new skills added each year. They felt that the needed progression and trainings was a safety issue that needed to be addressed.

The Cheerleading State Committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal at its December meeting.

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Girls Lacrosse: Artificial Noise Makers

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Liz Parry, Girls Lacrosse Coordinator

Proposal:

The Girl's Lacrosse Committee is recommending prohibiting all artificial noise makers at NYSPHSAA Regional, Semifinal and Final games.

Effective Start Date:

Spring 2025

Rationale:

The Girl's Lacrosse Committee has received concerns that artificial noise makers can be distracting to the players and officials on the field, especially when used by spectators that are standing closest to the field.

Proposal Originated:

Girls Lacrosse Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

Currently Boys and Girls Basketball ban artificial noise makers during the state championship (NYSPHSAA rule) and the sport of Volleyball (NCAA rule). The committee was unanimous in this recommendation. The NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Committee will discuss at their Spring meeting.

Attachments:

None

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Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) DEFINITIONS

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Carlos Cotto, DEI Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval to add the definitions for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

Effective Start Date:

Immediately

Rationale:

Defining DEI aligns the association's efforts with its broader mission and values, demonstrating a commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable environment.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA DEI Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None.

Notes:

None.

Attachments:

Definitions

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for NYSPHSAA

Diversity:

Diversity at NYSPHSAA encompasses the recognition and inclusion of differences among student-athletes, schools, and communities, including but not limited to, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, disabilities, sexual orientations, gender identity or expression, and sexes.

Equity:

Equity at NYSPHSAA means ensuring fair treatment, equal access to opportunities, and addressing barriers to participation for all student-athletes, schools, and communities.

Inclusion:

Inclusion at NYSPHSAA means fostering a welcoming environment where all student-athletes, schools, and communities feel valued, respected, and empowered to participate fully.

By prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion, NYSPHSAA is committed to creating a culture of belonging that enhances the experiences and success of everyone involved.



Schools Without Boundaries Committee Meeting Report

Date: February 4, 2025 at 9:00am

Attendees: Joe Sigillo (I), Mike Robbins (2), Dr. Scott Sugar (III), Jeff Ferrara (IV), Dr. Patrick Irving (V), Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty, Michael Graney (VII), Patrick Pizzarelli (VIII), Greg Ransom (IX), Bill Porter (X), Todd Gulluscio (XI), Alphonse Lambert (Non-Public, East), Buddy Wleklinski (Non-Public, West), Stephen France (Charter, East), NYSPHSAA – Adam Stoltman (Chair), Tim Mullins, Debra Ferry, Russell Bartlett, Renee James, Dr. Robert Zayas, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri
Not present: Mark LaMorticella (Charter, West)

Status Updates/Items Discussion/Action Taken:

1. **Welcome:** Adam welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of this discussion in shaping future policies for Schools Without Boundaries. He highlighted the significant efforts made by the Sections in developing proposals and expressed appreciation for their commitment. It was reiterated that while the committee makes recommendations, final decisions would need approval from the Executive/Central Committee.
2. **Previous Meeting Recap:** Adam provided an overview of the October meeting, where extensive discussions took place regarding the challenges faced by various sections.
3. **Section Proposals:** Several Sections presented proposals with varying approaches to addressing the concerns surrounding Schools Without Boundaries. All detailed proposals were included in the meeting packet distributed to the committee and Section Executive Directors for review prior to this meeting. The meeting packet with descriptions of all proposals can be found [here](#).

Section I Proposal: Addition of two postseason classifications for "Schools without Boundaries" in TEAM SPORTS as defined by NYSPHSAA

- Joe S. shared Section I's proposal, which included the establishment of an entirely separate postseason for Schools Without boundaries.
- The rationale was to maintain fairness by ensuring that public schools with geographic restrictions do not compete against schools that can draw students from a broader area in the post season.

Key Discussion Points:

- Questions were raised about whether public schools that accept tuition-paying students should be classified similarly to non-public schools.
- Concerns were voiced about potentially facing legal challenges, as separating schools could be seen as discriminatory against non-public/charter schools.
- Some attendees worried that this approach could lead to diluted competition and diminish the prestige of state championships.



Section III Proposal: Creating a formalized statewide Overnight Committee

- Dr. Sugar shared this committee would consistently evaluate classification/recruitment/undue influence/athletic shopping issues across Sections.

Key Discussion Points:

- Many attendees supported the need for oversight, particularly to bring consistency in how non-public schools are classified.
- Some questioned whether the committee would have real enforcement power or if its recommendations would be non-binding.

Section III Proposal: Creation of two or three postseason classification for Schools Without Boundaries in TEAM sports as defined by NYSPHSAA.

- Dr. Sugar presented this proposal and shared as a membership driven organization the debate as to why non-public schools participate in the NYSPHSAA championships continues to be magnified across the state.

Key Discussion Points:

- Some suggested that instead of focusing on separating schools, the committee should focus on enforcing existing rules against recruiting violations.

Section IV Proposal: Schools Without Boundaries will facilitate their own postseason events/championships

- Jeff shared Section IV discussed public schools have their own state championships, while non-public schools facilitate their own postseason competition.

Key Discussion Points:

- The proposal was seen as a radical departure from the current structure and faced skepticism regarding its feasibility.
- Some questioned who would be responsible for organizing the non-public championships, including securing venues, officials, and insurance.

Section VII Proposal: Automatic Escalation Criteria for Non-Public/Charter Schools

- Matt W. proposed a model in which schools that reach a Final Four would automatically be moved up a classification the following year.
- The approach was designed to remove political maneuvering and ensure that successful teams are consistently placed in higher classifications.

Key Discussion Points:

- Concerns were raised about teams that experience a high turnover of athletes (e.g., losing all seniors), potentially being placed at an unfair disadvantage the following year.
- Some questioned whether this approach would be effective at the highest classification levels, where no further promotion is possible.
- It was noted that sections already have the ability to move schools based on competitive success, raising the question of whether a statewide mandate was necessary.



Section XI Proposal: Final Classification Numbers subject to Formula consistent with the Combined Teams Formula

- Proposed a system where tuition-paying and transfer students count toward a school's classification numbers in the same way combined teams are managed.
- This approach aimed to create a more equitable system without explicitly targeting private or non-public schools.

Key Discussion Points:

- Some attendees saw this as a more neutral solution that avoids legal challenges, as it does not single out private schools.
- Questions arose about the logistics of tracking tuition students and ensuring accurate self-reporting by schools.
- A major concern was raised about potential abuse, where schools might underreport tuition students to avoid classification changes.

NYSPHSAA Proposals: 3A Football & 4A Basketball Classification

- Proposed the creation of additional classifications in football and basketball (e.g., AAA football and 4A basketball) to accommodate dominant non-public and charter school teams.
- Public schools that lose in sectional finals could also opt into these new divisions for additional competition opportunities.

Key Discussion Points:

- This was seen as a more flexible approach that does not force separation but allows for a competitive balance.
- Concerns were raised about whether enough schools would participate to make these classifications viable.
- The potential logistical burden on state athletic associations to manage these additional tournaments was also discussed.

4. Beyond the specific proposals, broader concerns emerged during discussions:

- a. Defining "Schools Without Boundaries":
 - i. Several participants noted that many public schools, particularly magnet and tuition-accepting schools, function similarly to private schools in terms of student enrollment.
 - ii. Some advocated for dropping the term "Schools Without Boundaries" and focusing instead on more inclusive terminology.
- b. Legal Challenges:
 - i. There was considerable discussion about potential lawsuits if non-public schools felt they were being unfairly targeted.
 - ii. The possibility of discrimination claims, particularly against religious or minority-heavy institutions, was a major concern.
- c. Parental Influence and Recruiting:
 - i. Many attendees expressed frustration with "sports-focused parents" who manipulate school choices to maximize athletic opportunities for their children.
 - ii. Some argued that stricter enforcement against recruiting violations would be more effective than classification changes.
- d. Impact of NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) and Transfer Trends:



- i. A growing issue was the possibility that high school athletes might soon leverage NIL deals, further complicating the competitive balance.
- ii. Concerns were raised about national trends, particularly in states like Florida, where open transfers have drastically altered high school athletics.

5. Defining "Schools Without Boundaries"

- a. **Concerns Over Arbitrary Separation:** Several attendees opposed proposals that appeared to single out non-public schools without objective success-based criteria. One key argument was that some private and charter schools have never won championships and should not be forced into a separate category based on their status alone. It was noted the non-public/charter schools are not in favor separation.
- b. **Potential Survey for Additional Data:** A suggestion was made to pause immediate action and survey all school districts to determine:
 - i. How many currently allow tuition-paying students?
 - ii. What policies exist regarding staff members enrolling their children?
 - iii. How these factors impact athletic competitiveness?

6. Revisiting the Section Proposals

- a. Dr. Sugar made the motion to expand the investigation into Section I proposal and NYSPHSAA #1 proposal as a potential option to merge them together. Second - Dr. Irving. Discussion ensued. There were many questions regarding the motion. The motion was rescinded and the second was rescinded.
- b. **The Role of Oversight and Competitive Balance Enforcement:** Many attendees voiced concerns that existing oversight mechanisms lack the authority to regulate competitive balance effectively. Several members proposed revamping or expanding an oversight committee with real decision-making power. The oversight committee could intervene if a school was dominating at a specific classification and ensure that sections fairly move teams up when warranted. Some felt this was a preferable alternative to creating entirely separate divisions for non-public schools.

7. Final Action Items/Next Steps

- a. Conduct a survey to gather data on public schools that accept tuition-paying students.
- b. Refine and analyze the Section I and Class 3A Football & Class 4A Basketball proposals to explore a possible compromise.
- c. Revisit the creation of a state-level oversight committee to ensure classification adjustments are based on objective criteria.

- 8. Conclusion:** The committee will reconvene after collecting feedback from Sections for Section I proposal, Section III Oversight Committee proposal, and NYSPHSAA's Class 3A Football & Class 4A Basketball.

Future Items/Meeting:

1. Next meeting: May 2025

Section 9 Bowling 2025-2026 Changes

We are requesting the following changes for 2025-2026 Section 9 Bowling Season

It is the request of Section 9 Bowling to adjust its team in their respective Divisions. We would like the Division to reflect the following changes. These changes are so that travel time would be shortened so that school have adequate time to finish matches,

Division 1- Kingston, Saugerties, Highland, FDR, Marlboro

Division 2- Monroe-Woodbury, Beacon, NFA, Middletown, O'Neill, Port Jervis

We also request a schedule adjustment so that each school plays 2x within their division and 1x out of their Division giving each school a total of 14 matches.

We finally request that the last regular season contest not be scheduled past 2/2/2026 so that the Sectional Tournament can be completed to prepare for NYS Bowling Championships.