

MODIFIED COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM THE FALL 2011 MEETING

Actions of the Executive and Central Committees since our spring meeting included **approval** of the following items:

- The volleyball service line may be moved into the court at a distance not to exceed two meters from the regulation service line.
- Optional wrestling weight classes may be 74, 165 (instead of 158), and unlimited classes with contestants competing within 10 pounds of each other. A minimum weight class of 67 pounds will be required to compete in the optional 74 pound weight class.
- “An editorial change was made to the modified Extended Playing Time Rule (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 131, beneath chart) as follows: ‘In boys’ and girls’ lacrosse and in girls’ field hockey, if a team has only one goal keeper, that goal keeper may play in all periods of 4 Quarter Extended Play or in all periods of 5 Period Play. Except for the goal keeper, the “time” allocated for the game will not be extended. All players except for the goal keeper will follow the 4 quarter or 5 period extended playing time format and are therefore only eligible to play 3 periods.
- With sectional/league approval, the modified softball pitching distance may be established at 40’ or 43’.
- The requirement of the soccer helmet in modified boys’ and girls’ soccer was eliminated.

Discussion Items

Classification Methods for Modified Competition

- Motion
“*Modified General Eligibility Rule #1 shall be edited to include the word ‘geography’ among the criteria for organization of competition:*”
- “*Schools, leagues and sections may organize Modified Program competition by age, grade, geography and/or ability levels within the limitations of the NYSPHSAA Eligibility Rules to ensure safe and equitable competition.*” (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 130).
- **Approved 17-0.** This item will go to the Executive and Handbook Committees.
- Each section has to choose the criteria it will use, and may choose to declare a combination, such as geography, grade AND ability. Historically, 9th graders did not play at the modified level, but Todd suggested that the more options we can offer our districts/schools, the more modified programs we may save. If 7-8-9 vs. 7-8 competition within a section/league is deemed “safe and equitable”, it is permissible.
- Committee members expressed some concerns: schedules and divisions are set up well before a season begins, and we may not know or be able to predict accurately, year-to-year, the ability of our athletes. 7th graders may have less

opportunity to play if 9th graders are included in the mix of candidates for teams. Athletic directors must prioritize “safe and equitable competition” as they schedule, sort and divide teams into leagues. Rich Silverstein noted that in Section I’s alternative 7-8-9 modified football program, Team A might be a stronger grouping of grades 8-9 athletes playing in two quarters, and Team B might be a group of grades 7-8 athletes, playing in the other two quarters. It is a good, safe way to combine Grades 7-8-9.

- It was decided that the direction is moving towards mixed 7-8-9 competition in some sections, and this trend may escalate next year. Representatives were asked to initiate a discussion regarding the criteria for sectional competition with their constituents. We will continue discussion in the spring.

Action Item

Three Point Shot in Basketball **Defeated 7-10.**

New Business

Scrimmage Guidelines

Because modified scrimmage guidelines do not exist, Committee members should follow the existing sport-specific high school level Scrimmage Guidelines, which were distributed to all members. Since scrimmages are practices, Todd Nelson reminded the Committee that our modified guidelines limit practices to two hours (120 minutes), so look at the proposed scrimmage period times carefully. It was noted that the sport of cross-country is not included in the scrimmage guidelines, and should be. Todd will check that for us.

Proposed Reduction in Minimum Number of Practice Days

Rich Silverstein proposed a two-day reduction in the required minimum number of practice days before a contest for the battery in baseball, and in the sports of track and field and cross-country.

Motion

“The minimum number of practice days before a contest for the battery in modified baseball, and in the sports of track and field and cross-country shall be reduced as follows:

For the battery in baseball: from 15 days to 13 days

For track and field, from 15 days to 13 days

For cross-country, from 13 days to 11 days.”

This item was not approved at the Safety Committee meeting on October 17, 2011. The Safety Committee will not cut practice days requirements for scrimmages or games. In fact, they almost increased the required number of days. This decision may have been triggered by the recent football death upstate.

There is no further action.

Basketball 3-Point Shot

Motion

“With sectional/league approval, a two-year pilot program in modified boys’ and girls’ basketball will be used, allowing the use of the 3-point shot, and waiving Modified Boys’ Basketball Game Rule #4 and Modified Girls’ Basketball Game Rule #5 (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook pages 141-142.)”

Approved 13-0-4.

This item will be a “Discussion Item” in the spring. A survey will be developed with the assistance of modified basketball sports coordinators Bob Hummel and Jim Miller, along with Section I representatives.

Football

Motion

“With sectional/league approval, a two-year pilot program in modified football will be used, allowing use of the kick-off at the 35 yard line, and waiving Modified Football Game Rule #3 (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 144): ‘No kick-off – start play from own 35 yard line.’

The rationale for this proposed change is as follows:

- a. Students play competitive football at all age levels, and use live kick-offs.
- b. Kick-offs and kick-off returns are an important part of the game and will allow modified coaches to be able to teach those concepts. Kicking and returning kick-offs are important skills to learn prior to the high school level of play.
- c. It will permit coaches to potentially play more modified athletes.

In discussion, the Committee felt that we were open to limitations, such as designating another distance where the kickoff should start from, and where players should line up. The input of the Safety Committee was requested now for guidance. If passed, this motion will become an Action Item at the next Modified Committee meeting, and the pilot program will begin implementation during the Fall 2012 season. A survey will be developed with modified football sport coordinator Steve Nolan to examine the use of the kick-off and to collect data regarding safety concerns.

UPDATE: At the October 17, 2011 Safety Committee meeting, the following suggestions were given to the Modified Committee regarding this proposed football pilot program: there will be no run back; the ball is dead after the catch or when it stops, and the educational component would be teaching the athletes how to run in the lane and block.

This will be an Action Item at the Spring 2012 meeting of the Committee.

Awards in Multi-School Contests/Tournament Competition

Motion

“Modified General Eligibility Rule #10 (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 132) shall be edited to allow multi-school contests/invitationals/tournaments to award place ribbons and order of finish items to the top competitors.”

This will be a Discussion Item at the Spring 2012 meeting. Sectional representatives were asked to initiate discussion of this item at their sectional meetings.

ITEMS GOING TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Softball

Motion

“With section/league approval, innings 1-6 may be completed at five (5) runs or three (3) outs. The seventh inning shall be played as a normal inning with three outs and no run restrictions for that inning.”

Approved 16-1.

The softball pilot program has been completed with a positive response from the sections after two years of study. The Committee passed this option, and will include it within the softball game rules. This item will go to the Executive Committee.

Track and Field

Hurdle Height Motion

“With sectional/league approval, the height of the hurdle in the 55m modified boys’ hurdle may be increased from 30 inches to 33 inches.”

Approved 13-2-4. This item will go to the Executive Committee.

Shot Put Motion

“With sectional/league approval, a six (6) pound shot put may be used for modified girls’ track and field, rather than the 4K shot put.”

Approved 13-0-4. This item will go directly to the Executive Committee.

Classification Methods for Modified Competition

Motion:

“Modified General Eligibility Rule #1 shall be edited to include the word ‘geography’ among the criteria for organization of competition:

“Schools, leagues and sections may organize Modified Program competition by age, grade, geography and/or ability levels within the limitations of the NYSPHSAA

Eligibility Rules to ensure safe and equitable competition' (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 130)."

Discussion Items for Next Meeting: Our input is requested on the following:

Pitch Count for Modified Baseball Pitchers

Should the Modified Committee propose that we examine a pitch count, rather than limit the number of innings that a modified pitcher may pitch? (*Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 143, Baseball Game Rule #2: "A pitcher may pitch no more than 12 full innings in any one calendar week and no more than 7 innings in any one game. After pitching 4 or more full innings in any one game, there must be at least 2 nights of rest before pitching again..."*)

The Committee agreed that this item could go to the Safety Committee for input.

UPDATE: At their October 17, 2011 meeting, the Safety Committee advised that it would be good to go to a pitch count rather than innings limitations in modified baseball. It was felt that there should be a maximum pitch count range, such as 80-90. Another inning cannot be pitched if the pitch count hits 80. If the pitch count hits 90, the pitcher must stop at that time.

Do we want to count pitches instead of limit the number of innings for modified baseball pitchers? What concerns/limitations would we suggest?

Modified/JV Program Pilot Proposal

A Modified/JV program pilot program draft was drafted by Jim Rose and presented to the Modified Committee for consideration. A subcommittee was established for further discussion. The objective of the proposal is to limit the number of students who, due to the fiscal crisis and elimination of programs, will not have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. This program seeks to make the transition easier from the modified to the varsity level, and will only be used when a JV program does not exist in a school district. The following requirements were proposed:

Grade Levels: 7-8-9

Season starting dates: the modified start dates

Minimum practices: HS grid, page 108 of NYSPHSAA handbook

Maximum number of games: HS grid

Nights rest: HS grid

Games per day: HS grid
Game length: Modified rules
Overtime: Modified rules

Sport Rules: Modified rules in handbook, as agreed upon in each section. Maximum 3 games per week will be waived, providing that one game is on a day in which there is no school the next day.

The subcommittee requested that this proposal be taken to the Safety Committee for their input at this time for their input.

UPDATE: At their October 17, 2011 meeting, the Safety Committee did not feel there were any safety concerns regarding this pilot program. Therefore, the subcommittee members will continue their discussion on this issue, make any revisions they feel are necessary, and present this proposal for consideration by the Modified Committee at our Spring 2012 meeting.

The direction that some sections are taking is combining 7-8-9 in the modified program. There is fear that the 2012-2013 budgets will result in further cuts in modified sports. What are we proposing regarding the criteria for sectional competition?

Awards in Multi-School Contests/Tournament Competition

Motion:

“Modified General Eligibility Rule #10 (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 132) shall be edited to allow multi-school contests/invitationals/tournaments to award place ribbons and order of finish items to the top competitors.”

Do we believe that modified athletes should be receiving award ribbons or order of finish items? Is it happening in our section’s schools?

Basketball 3-Point Shot

Motion:

“With sectional/league approval, a two-year pilot program in modified boys’ and girls’ basketball will be used, allowing the use of the 3-point shot, and waiving Modified Boys’ Basketball Game Rule #4 and Modified Girls’ Basketball Game Rule #5 (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook pages 141-2.)”

Do we wish to participate in this pilot program and survey our results?

Action Item for Next Meeting

Football

Motion:

“With sectional/league approval, a two-year pilot program in modified football will be used, allowing use of the kick off at the 35 yard line, and waiving Modified Football Game Rule #3 (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 144): ‘No kick-off – start play from own 35 yard line.’ “

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Do we wish to participate in this pilot program and survey our results?