

## State Modified Spring Report

Todd Nelson and Jim Rose reviewed the following modified athletics items:

All of the following items from the fall meeting that went to the Executive Committee and Safety Committee were approved. Resultant editorial changes to the NYSPHSAA handbook are noted:

- Baseball/Softball Re-Entry Rule

*“In the spirit of modified athletics, in the sports of baseball/softball, the re-entry rule may be waived only if an injured player must be replaced and all eligible substitutes have been used.” APPROVED*

This ruling will result in the following editorial changes (*Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, pages 137 and 145*): the addition of a new modified Baseball Game Rule #5, and an addition to existing modified softball Game Rule # 3.

Sectional representatives were asked to be sure that this rule change is communicated to their constituents and in effect for this Spring 2010 season.

- New Softball Pilot Program

*“With sectional/league approval, a two year pilot program in modified softball may be implemented, that shall allow innings 1-6 to be completed at five runs or three outs. The 7<sup>th</sup> inning shall be played as a normal inning, with three outs and no run restrictions for that inning.” APPROVED*

Modified softball coordinator Micki Bedlington will develop a survey for this new approved softball pilot program. It will be posted soon. Sections 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, and 11 intend to participate in this new pilot program to date; Sections 1, 4, 6, 9 and 10 do not.

Please note that this is a second softball pilot program and survey, distinct from the “mercy rule” baseball/softball pilot program currently under evaluation. The “mercy rule” survey is already on the website.

- Badminton/Tennis Match Limitations/Day

*“For the purpose of ensuring that every eligible badminton/tennis player has the opportunity to play in a match, each player may play one additional singles or doubles match per day. The individual limitations/day for badminton and tennis (*Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, pages 134-6*) shall be increased to two matches per day, provided that every individual eligible player play once before any player plays twice.” APPROVED*

This ruling will result in the following editorial changes (*Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, pages 134-136 and page 146*). The Modified Sports Standards Chart for badminton and tennis “Individual Limitations Per Day” will be changed to “2 matches” with the notation *See details in Game Rules Section*. The item above will be the edited Modified Badminton Game Rule #3 (*page 136*) and the edited Modified Tennis Game Rule #4 (*page 146*).

Sectional representatives were asked to be sure that this rule change is communicated to their constituents and in effect for this Spring 2010 season.

## New Business

### A. Football Pilot Program Recommendation

Motion (Nolan, Devincenzi):

*“Two wide receivers will be utilized in modified football. Offensive formations may include the use of a two wide receiver formation.”*

Approved 16-0. Since this item was developed after a three-year pilot program, it will go directly to the Executive Committee. If passed, this ruling will result in the following editorial change (*Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 139 and Modified Football booklet*): Football Game Rule #2, sentence one, will be replaced with *“Team offensive formations are limited to standard formations including the use of two wide receivers.”*

### B. Wrestling Pilot Program Recommendation

Motion (Richard, Devincenzi):

*“With sectional/league approval, modified wrestlers who compete in two or three bouts in a contest will wrestle using the time period for bouts of ‘Program 2’: 1<sup>st</sup> Period – 1 minute  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Periods – 1 and ½ minutes.”*

Approved 16-0. Since this item was developed after a two-year pilot program, it will go directly to the Executive Committee. If passed, this ruling will result in the following editorial change (*Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 148*) Wrestling Game Condition 6.b) will be replaced with the motion above. The statement “There must be a 45 minute rest period between bouts.” remains in Game Condition 6. b)

### C. Wrestling Overtime Period

Motion (Richard, Stoltman)

*“With sectional approval, an additional ‘sudden victory’ overtime period shall be permitted in modified wrestling. Wrestlers must start in the standing position, and the period shall not exceed 30 seconds.”*

Approved 13-3. This motion will go to the Safety Committee in April, and if approved, will be directed immediately to the Executive Committee in May.

### D. Requests for Early Fall Starting Dates

Motion (Stoltman, Devincenzi)

*“The following sections have declared earlier fall 2010 modified starting dates: Section 5 – August 27 for football*

*Section 6 – August 23 for football*

*Section 7 – August 25 for all sports.”*

Approved 16-0. This item will go directly to the Executive Committee.

### E. Baseball/Softball Catcher Rule

Motion (Hosmer, Hage)

*“With sectional/league approval, when the team at bat has two outs with the catcher on base, a pinch runner may be used to allow the catcher to get his/her gear on prior to the third out. The pinch runner is a player who is a substitute, or in the case that all substitutes have been used, a player off the bench who is not currently in the lineup. This rule does not change the normal substitution rules and does not overshadow the need to get all players in the lineup; it allows for cutting time off the transition between innings.”*

Approved 16-0. This item need not go to the Safety Committee, as it is a modification of an existing HS rule. It will be presented at the Executive Committee as an “Action Item” for their information, allowing time for the modified representatives to take this concept back to

their constituents now for their consideration. If approved, it will go directly to the Executive Committee in August for its inclusion in the new NYSPHSAA handbook. If passed, this ruling will result in the following editorial change (*Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 145*): the motion above will become new Softball Game #5.

F. Budget Options and Considerations

Todd Nelson encouraged Committee members to consider options for athletic administrators and school administrators in response to the current fiscal crisis facing NYS schools. Proactive ways to preserve modified programs are necessary.

The Committee voiced its strong desire and commitment to preserve and encourage the integrity of the modified athletic program as an integral part of students' educational growth. We are very concerned about current trends towards reducing or eliminating modified athletics. We would like to be sure that districts are aware of the existing modified level structural changes that have already been made over the past few years that are cost-cutting designs. These options should be examined first:

- 2 or more contests per day are permitted in some modified sports
- Multi-school matches are permitted in many modified sports
- Doubleheaders may be played in baseball and softball
- Sections/schools may increase the number of scrimmages that they utilize to 3
- Sections may reduce a specific percentage of the NYSPHSAA maximum number of contests permitted in a season
- Sections have been examining geographic proximity in scheduling games, and avoiding longer distance cross-sectional competition
- Sections have been realigning schedules to combine teams on one bus to a site (*i.e.* sending multiple teams of the same sport, sending two sports to the same site, having boys' teams traveling with girls' teams)

After discussion, the following cost-cutting option was also developed for use during the next two school years:

Motion (Rose, Martincich)

*“Due to current fiscal concerns in New York State, with sectional/league approval, up to 50% of the maximum number of games permitted for each modified level sport may be designated as scrimmages during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years.”*

Approved 16-0. This item will be presented at the next Executive Committee meeting as an “Action Item” for their information, allowing time for the modified representatives to take this concept back to their constituents now for their consideration. If approved, it will go directly to the Executive Committee in August.