

SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
April 28, 2020 9:30am Videoconference

AGENDA

1. Call to order and attendance
 - a. Officers: J. McDonald, B. Norcross, J. Barnhart, C. Mazzella
 - b. Staff: M. Walentuk
 - c. MVAC: M. Douglas, M. Mills, D. Snide, M. Lawrence
 - d. CVAC: V. McMillan, W. Larrow, G. Myers, J. Manchester
 - e. Executive Committee: J. Harrica, T. Farrell, P. Curry, S. Broadwell, K. Lopez
 - f. Guests: R. McAuliffe – MVAC Executive Secretary
 R. Zayas – NYSPHSAA Executive Director
2. Approval of January 30, 2020 Minutes - Harrica, Norcross **APPROVED**
3. **Financial Report** – Walentuk – Harrica, Myers **APPROVED**
 - a. Review of Winter Championship Report
 - Hosted the Girls Ice Hockey Regional Championships
 - Wrestling hosted at BCS, they did a great job hosting.
 - Boys Swim hosted at Maxcy Hall at SUNY Potsdam
 - Bowling hosted at North Bowl. The Munson family does a great job hosting.
 - Track and Field runs a loss due to lower participation numbers and the cost of Finish Right Timing.
 - Competitive Cheer hosted at SUNY Plattsburgh. It was a great event and it looks like it can break even in the future.
 - Boys Ice Hockey brings in the biggest profit per event. Recommend hosting Regionals at Stafford Arena henceforth. Had to move venues in 1.5 days due to selling out Saranac Lake Civic Center in less than 20 minutes.
 - b. 2019-20 Budget to Date
 - We are on pace to have a small profit for the year with not that many expenses coming up.
 - Spring Assignors/Coordinators
 - i. How to pay Spring Assignors, this will be discussed at June meeting.
 - c. Proposed 2020-21 Budget
 - Remaining the same as 2019-20 budget due to many unknowns going forward due to COVID crisis.
 - Steve Broadwell recommending Pixellot camera to broadcast events especially in this
4. **Conference reports/concerns**
 - a. CVAC

- Conversation regarding Class B Soccer Semifinals. The B schools would like to play on field turf.
- Concern about field condition given the North Country weather.
- Issue with playing on different surfaces between finals regionals.
- Question about where the games go. Is Plattsburgh State a viable option? They sometimes have schedule conflicts.
- Would you want a rotation of fields between B schools?

b. MVAC

- Concern about the future of baseball/softball in the MVAC

5. **Executive Director Report** – Walentuk

a. Update on Athletic Activities during COVID-19 outbreak

- 70% of Section VII schools were in favor of NYSPHSAA Spring Championships.
- 52% of Section VII schools support cancelling the spring regular season if schools are not reopened on May 18th.
- 26% of Section VII schools supported cancelling the regular season on Monday, 4/27.
- 22% of Section VII schools supported waiting as long as possible before cancelling the spring regular season.
- It will be difficult to put an athletic schedule given the consequences.
- Much discussion on the feasibility of playing if schools were able to go back.
- We are waiting on the actions of the Governor

b. Actions of Section VII Executive Committee

- Approved the following combining of teams:
 - Modified Boys Lacrosse – Peru (host) w/ Beekmantown, AuSable, PHS, and Willsboro
 - Varsity Boys Track & Field – Saranac (host) w/ NAC
 - Varsity Boys/Girls Track & Field – NCCS (host) w/ Chazy (Plattsburgh dissolved their merger w/ Chazy prior)
- Suspended all athletic activities until further notice.
- Approved Keith Lobdell as coordinator for Girls Golf

c. Discussion Items from January 30th

- Girls Representative to the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee
 - Margaret Lawrence from Bolton submitted a letter of interest.
- Mandated AD Workshop – Monday, September 21st

d. Consider 2020-21 Season Start Dates: - Harrica, Douglas

APPROVED

- Fall – Monday, August 24, 2020
- Winter – Monday, November 15, 2020
- Spring – Monday, March 15, 2020

e. Nominating Committee for the 2020-21 officers of the Athletic Council

- John McDonald will be taking a job out of state. This will create a vacancy in The Central Committee position vacated by John will go out to member schools.
 - Nominating Committee for slate of officers
 - Greg Myers
 - Brian Norcross
 - Josh Harrica
 - Mike Douglas
- f. Coaches DASA Training
- Our training was cancelled due to the Covid situation.
 - Trainings now available via video conference
- g. Sport Coordinator Vacancies
- Pat Keleher is stepping down as Football Coordinator
 - Trying to come up with some potential candidates
 - Motion to award Pat a plaque for his service. Harrica, Larrow - **APPROVED**
- h. Section VII Assignor Position Update
- Waiting on Civil Service and CVES Business Office.
 - CVES will post the job.
 - Committee to work with the hiring committee
 - Steve Broadwell
 - Josh Harrica
 - Chris Mazzella
 - Vickie McMillan
- i. Other
- j. Important Dates:
- Wednesday, May 27th - NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting
 - Tuesday-Wednesday July 30-31st – NYSPHSAA Central Committee Mtg.
 - Monday, June 1st – NYSPHSAA Participation Survey due
 - Thursday, June 4 – Section VII Athletic Council Meeting
6. **NYSPHSAA Reports**
- a. NYSPHSAA Office Report – Robert Zayas
- NYSPHSAA Cancelled Spring State Championships
 - Seeming less likely to occur given time constraints
 - Kids need to be in school to participate in athletics. That is necessary.
 - There's discussion that the governor will make a decision on the status of the school year by the end of the week (Friday 5/1).
 - Paul Harrica, NYSPHSAA president will appoint members of Ad Hoc Committee to present guidance and recommendations to member schools related to the Covid pandemic.

- Seeking guidance from NYSED regarding pre-participation physicals.
 - Robert is serving on the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. They have a statement that has been given to all States.
 - Working with NYSED on CPR/1st Aid Certification
 - Working with NYSED on extended eligibility. Can kids repeat senior year and gain an extension of eligibility.
 - There were 38 other states that cancelled their entire Spring Seasons.
 - Question what happens when students meet the academic requirements but want to come back next year.
 - Should not be able to get the extension.
 - What happens when students/parents choose to repeat?
 - Going to reach out
 - Question about keeping regional rotations the same next year for those that we were not able to host for the 2020 lost championships.
 - Many sports will bring forth discussion items for the May 27th Executive Committee Meeting
 - NYSPHSAA working to bring forth the best information they can.
- b. Highlights of February 7, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting – Curry/Walentuk
- Defeated to allow individual Sections to determine their spring start date to either Week #36 or #37 for Boys Lacrosse
 - Defeated in Section VII and X1 to move the start date for Football from Week #8 to Week #7 and end on Week #21
 - Approved Middletown for 2021 & 2023 and Cicero-North Syracuse for 2022 Spring State Championships.
- d. CAC Report – Curry/Broadwell
- Next meeting on Tuesday 5/5/20
- d. May 27th Executive Committee Meeting: Embassy Suites - Saratoga Springs
- **Action Items:**
 - Consider approval of Tim Mullins as NYSPHSAA 2nd Vice President
 - Consider approval of 2020-2021 NYSPHSAA budget
 - i. Reduced \$138,000 in projected budget
 - ii. Staff seeking pay freeze
 - iii. Sport Coordinator meetings held virtually
 - iv. Postponing of next strategic plan
 - Consider approval of NYSPHSAA Officiating Championship Fees and Policies
 - Consider approval of standard regional rotation for 5 classification sports
 - Consider approval to clarify language in NYSPHSAA handbook related to shared services.

- i. Student eligible in only one school per school year
- Consider approval to clarify the NYSPHSAA Transfer Rule
 - i. Period of ineligibility begins with the date of registration at the student's new school
- Consider approval of waivers of the representation rule for various Sections.
- Consider approval of Friends & Neighbors and new member schools.
- Consider approval Sections intent to participate in 2020-2021 NYSPHSAA State Championships.
- Consider approval to amend NYSPHSAA Football Rule 10.08.1
 - i. Give schools the ability to play a game instead of a scrimmage at the beginning of the season
- Consider approval to remove the USA Heads up Football certification endorsement from the NYSPHSAA Handbook as a result of the certification no longer being offered.
- Consider approval to amend Bowling Rule #9 in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.
- Consider approval of Strike N' Spare as the host of the 2021-2023 NYSPHSAA Bowling State Championships.
- Consider approval to add an additional year to venues that lost 2020 championships.
- **Discussion Items:**
 - Discussion items were not addressed at the meeting as many sports were meeting after the date of our Athletic Council Meeting.

7. **Officials Report** – Walentuk

- a. Spring Assignors

8. **Winter Post Season Reports:**

- a. Girls Basketball

- a. THE SECTION 7 BASKETBALL COMMITTEE CONDUCTED A VERY SUCCESSFUL PRE-SEASON/FALL COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDED BY ALL MEMBERS IN WESTPORT. AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDED 2020 RULE CHANGES, THE STATE & SECTIONAL TOURNAMENTS, AND SECTION 7 HOST VENUES FOR EACH LEVEL OF SECTIONAL & STATE PLAY.
- b. CLASS B GIRLS & BOYS SECTIONAL SEMI FINAL GAMES FOR THE 2019-'20 SEASON WERE CONDUCTED AT CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE. THE VENUE PROVED TO BE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE. THE CCC STAFF WAS OUTSTANDING, AND THE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN UPGRADED. GAMES WERE WELL ATTENDED. CLINTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS A FACILITY WE SHOULD USE IN THE FUTURE FOR SECTIONAL PLAY.
- c. THE SECTION 7 BASKETBALL COMMITTEE HAD A POST SEASON MEETING IN FEBRUARY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SECTIONAL SEEDING FOR THE 2019-'20 SEASON. ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WERE IN ATTENDANCE. AGENDA

ITEMS INCLUDED THE RECENTLY COMPLETED SEASON FOR THE CVAC AND MVAC, UPCOMING SECTIONAL/STATE PLAY, AND RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCERNS FOR THE 2020-'21 BASKETBALL SEASON.

- d. A SECTION 7 BASKETBALL COMMITTEE PRE-SEASON/FALL MEETING FOR THE 2020-'21 SEASON WILL BE HELD IN WESTPORT AT THE END OF OCTOBER AT A DATE/TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED.
 - b. Boys Basketball
 - c. Indoor Track/Field
 - a. The heat in the Fieldhouse is sometimes an issue.
 - b. There needs to be more hurdles provided
 - c. The cart for the runway mat is insufficient
 - d. Wrestling
 - a. Concern over ability to compete at the same level with the current points system.
 - e. Boys Swim
 - a. Boys Swimming is improving in Section VII
 - b. The site for the dual Section VII & X meet should continue to be held at Maxcy Hall.
 - f. Boys Ice Hockey
 - a. Recommendation that Regional Hockey games hosted by Section VII be held at Stafford Arena for planning, capacity, parking and event management reasons.
 - g. Girls Ice Hockey
 - a. Recommend continuation of Franklin Academy as a Section VII participant to give Section VII 4 teams.
 - h. Competitive Cheer
 - i. Alpine/Nordic Ski
 - a. With declining numbers, the potential of one Section VII Alpine team is being discussed.
 - j. Gymnastics
 - k. Bowling
 - l. Other
- 9. Spring Pre Season Reports:**
- **Not completed due to the COVID Crisis.**
 - a. Baseball
 - b. Golf
 - c. Softball
 - d. B & G Tennis
 - e. B & G Track & Field

10. Other

11. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY JUNE 4TH, 2020