

**SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**New York State Public High School Athletic Association**  
**December 10, 2020 9:30am Video Conference**

**MINUTES**

**1) Call to order and attendance**

- a) Officers: B. Norcross, J. Barnhart, C. Mazzella, J. Dann
- b) Staff: M. Walentuk
- c) MVAC: M. Douglas, M. Mills, D. Snide, A. Gonyo
- d) CVAC: V. McMillan, W. Larrow, G. Myers, J. Manchester
- e) Executive Committee: J. Harrica, T. Farrell, M. Lawrence S. Broadwell,
- f) Guests: R. Zayas, T. Nelson, J. Altieri, K. Jadin – NYSPHSAA
  - 1. R. McAuliffe – MVAC Executive Secretary
  - 2. B. Denis – Sportsmanship Chairperson
  - 3. C. Staves – Championship Philosophy Committee/OCF
- g) Absent Excused – K. Lopez

**2) Approval of October 8, 2020 Minutes – Harrica, Myers** **APPROVED**

**3) Approval of October 26, 2020 Minutes – Harrica, Myers** **APPROVED**

**4) Financial Report – Walentuk – Harrica, Mills** **APPROVED**

- a) 2020-21 Budget to Date
  - i) Income non-existent right now until further notice
  - ii) Expenses, we paid \$7,810 in Insurance for the year. We will have a \$20 expense for the renewal of the Section7.org website.
  - iii) We should receive some NYSPHSAA revenue share in June.
- b) Finance Committee
  - i) Will meet prior to the January Athletic Council Meeting. The members were Chris, John McDonald and Steve. We will need to replace John on the committee.
  - ii) Motion to approve Josh Harrica to sit on the Finance Committee. – Myers, Mazzella **APPROVED**

**5) Conference reports/concerns**

- a. CVAC – Greg Myers
  - a. Bowling and Indoor Track Start date set for 12/8.
    - i. Willsboro, Peru and Beekmantown have started bowling.
    - ii. Moriah, Ticonderoga and Northeastern Clinton have opted out of bowling this season.
    - iii. There are 6 teams that plan on bowling this season.
    - iv. There is a 10 match bowling schedule.

- b. Many questions on the NOCSAE football helmet sticker. Schools are working with their vendors; any guidance on this will be appreciated.
- c. Question about how many CVAC schools would play basketball?
  - i. Travel is a concern for schools.
  - ii. It would probably fall along the same lines as it did for the Fall season in terms of which schools play and those that choose not to.
- b. MVAC - Rob McAuliffe
  - a. Did a straw poll of schools to see who would play basketball if there was state approval.
    - i. There were a lot of districts that did not think they would play.
    - ii. There would probably be very few schools that would participate.
  - b. There are schools that are still interested in the Fall Season 2 for soccer.
  - c. There is a concern about how many schools will participate in baseball and softball this Spring. Who will they play? How will they have a schedule? Concern about having a schedule full of non-league games.

**6) Executive Director Report – Walentuk**

- a) We will have to take a look in January at our potential seasons and try to limit overlap between them due to the large number of multi-sport athletes.
- b) Actions of the Appeals Committee
  - i) Approved hardship transfer requests for Lake Placid and Plattsburgh
- c) Fall Sports Recap
  - i) Cross Country schedule was a little difficult to construct due to travel restrictions for some schools. There was not a culminating tournament due to size limitations for one site at any given time.
  - ii) Many other Sections were mired with schools and teams getting shut down.
  - iii) This Fall we only lost 3 varsity contests due to quarantine orders.
  - iv) To the best of our knowledge, there was no known spread of Covid in our Fall sports.
  - v) We had the best fall season we could have. This is a testament to our schools following the recommendations.
- d) [NYSPHSAA Covid-19 Guidance](#)
  - i) This is an updated document for the Winter Season. They only have guidance for low and moderate risk sports. When/if authorization is given they will have guidance for high risk sports.
- e) Consider approval of Combining of Schools – Myers, Douglas **APPROVED**
  - Football (JV/Mod) – AuSable w/ Willsboro
  - Boys Hockey – Lake Placid and Saranac Lake (SLP)
  - Competitive Cheer – Peru w/ AuSable Valley
  - Baseball (all levels) – AuSable Valley w/ Adirondack Christian School
- f) Sponsorship Rights Sales Commission Agreement with TPG

- i) Teall Property Groups is a company that is working with 14 other State associations. They get sponsorships for the state associations and also guarantee a certain amount of money to the associations each year. Joe DeGuzman has started working at NYSPHSAA for TPG.
- ii) TPG is working with Sections to get sponsorships for Section VII and we would split the net profits from the sponsorships 50/50.
- iii) We don't know if there will be any opportunities this year, but the good part is this will not cost us anything.
- iv) This could potentially bring in some revenue for us.
- v) We have a t-shirt contract for Sectionals, but we do not have any sponsorships out there in the community.
- vi) This group has professionals trained in the business of obtaining sponsorships and they are willing to work with us.
- vii) **Motion to approve contract with TPG for 2020-21. Harrica, Mills APPROVED**
- g) Winter Sports Update
  - i) We do have recommendations for bowling this season. One big change is that spectators will not be allowed for contests or practices.
  - ii) For indoor track we are waiting to see if the Fieldhouse will be available to rent in the months of January and February. It is not available for the month of December. The current occupancy limit for the Fieldhouse is 30 people. If this stands we will only be able to have one school at a time use the Fieldhouse for "time trial" sessions. There is the option of hosting indoor track outdoors. We could run shot put and high jump in a gymnasium but the other events could be run outside on a track.
  - iii) Lake Placid has started skiing. Keene is going to start a club Nordic ski team beginning on Wednesday, 12/16.
  - iv) In boys swimming Plattsburgh and AuSable have not started up yet. We will use the same recommendations as we used for Girls Swim.
- h) Winter Sectionals
  - i) Will have to revisit this at the January meeting. Some other sections have stated that they will only provide awards for their sectionals and nothing else. If we cannot take a gate and have spectators we will not have any revenue.
  - ii) Last winter a committee of Chris Mazzella, Josh Harrica and Matt Walentuk met to discuss increasing Sectional entry fees. Coming out a pandemic, attendance will probably be lower and it will be prudent to approve the increase in fees that was discussed with this committee.
- i) 2019-2020 Participation Survey Results
  - i) Participation was down from 2018-2019 school year.
  - ii) There was no drastic decline in any sport.
  - iii) It's important that we fill this out as accurately as possible as NYSPHSAA uses this data to advocate for us.

- j) Motion to approve Butch Martin as Girls Ice Hockey Coordinator  
– Myers, Dann

**APPROVED**

- i) Butch is longtime coach and official. Outstanding individual
- k) Important Dates:
- December 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> – National Athletic Directors Conference (virtual)
  - December 22<sup>nd</sup> – CVAC AD's Meeting
  - January 4<sup>th</sup> – NYSPHSAA Winter High Risk Sports Start Date (Tentative)
  - January 15<sup>th</sup> – CVAC AD's Meeting
  - The NYSAAA conference will be virtual this year at the end of February.
- l) Other

## **7) NYSPHSAA Reports**

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report – R. Zayas
- i) Continue to wait on authorization from NYS officials when it comes to high risk sports.
  - ii) Continue to receive concerns from schools regarding high risk sports starting.
  - iii) The high-risk sports include: basketball, ice hockey, cheerleading and wrestling.
  - iv) Rob Mojica, Gov. Cuomo's budget director has said they are not inclined to authorize high risk sports when Covid cases are increasing.
  - v) High risk sports are on hold and NYSPHSAA is examining them.
  - vi) Finalizing discussions about high risk sports right now.
  - vii) As infection rates and hospitalization rates increase, the effects of the NYSPHSAA advocacy decreases.
  - viii) Low and moderate risk sports are still authorized to play.
  - ix) There has not been any discussions from the State officials on taking a regional approach to high risk sports.
  - x) Good possibility that we will be getting an update on high risk sports tomorrow. Schools need decisions on sports seasons at least 2-3 weeks in advance.
    1. Coaches need to be approved, equipment needs to be distributed, practice schedules need to be created, and game schedules need to be created.
  - xi) On pages 6-7 of the Return to Interscholastic Athletics document there is a section on Off-Season Conditioning in which you can work on the skills of a high-risk sport. Some considerations include:
    1. It's open to the whole student body
    2. It cannot be mandatory
    3. You have to abide the high-risk guidance by the NYSDOH that says there cannot be any contact between individuals.
  - xii) Update on NOCSAE football helmet recertifications.
    1. There has been confusion on whether you need 2021 sticker on your football helmets.

2. Robert talked with Mike Oliver, Executive Director of NOCSAE. There were 16 states that did not play football this fall.
  3. Robert has asked for some national consensus on this.
  4. Bob Colgate from NFHS is working on this.
  5. This came from a CVAC concern where reconditioners were saying that they will recondition the reconditioned helmets that were not used in the Fall of 2020.
- xiii) Todd and Robert have been talking to legal counsel as it applies to the Ed Law 2D with Track wrestling and the In-Body software.
- xiv) Requested that NYSED look at extending the 2-year window for pre-participation physicals for the winter and potential spring seasons.
- b) Central Committee Report
- i) NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting in October.
    1. Was a good first experience for Josh and Margaret.
    2. The team tennis championship proposal was approved. We will be in a regional prior to states so we supported this.
    3. Spoke with Justin Frechette our hockey coordinator and he was on board with the HarborCenter to be approved for the Boys Ice Hockey State Championships.
    4. The Cohort proposal for reporting enrollment numbers will be going forward as a discussion item in February and an action item in May. Section 3 feels that this is a more accurate reflection.
      - (a) NYSPHSAA cannot obtain the Cohort information from NYSED.
      - (b) This would have to be reported from the schools to the Section.
      - (c) This was the way we used to submit the BEDS numbers.
        - (i) Steve remembers doing it this way. It was more cumbersome than the way we do it now.
      - (d) The other concern is because the school is reporting it, can it be manipulated? There is a reporting date in the middle of August in which they are required to certify their data. Once a school certifies their data it cannot be changed.
      - (e) If this is approved we may need to potentially change all cutoff numbers across all sports.
- c) Committee Reports
- i) Modified Committee Report – McMillan
    1. Nothing
  - ii) CAC Report – Curry, Broadwell
    1. Meets first week of January
  - iii) SAAC Report – Douglas
    1. Nothing
- d) October 21, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting: Embassy Suites, Saratoga Springs
- i) **Action Items**

1. [Consideration approval of 5 classifications following 20% recommendation.](#)
  - (a) The proposal is coming forward for the February Executive Committee Meeting.
  - (b) The 2021-2022 school enrollment numbers have been approved.
  - (c) Todd always breaks it down to the 20% thresholds each year.
  - (d) There is some concern about the AA's with sizes. There is concern with D's as well.
  - (e) These classifications don't take into account mergers.
  - (f) Many of the Class D schools are merged schools. There about 25-30 D schools that cannot support their own programs.
  - (g) This motion came after the school enrollment numbers were approved.
  - (h) The last time the cutoffs were brought up, Carl Normandin spent a lot of time and actually took into account mergers to give us more accurate numbers.
  - (i) This proposal would make Plattsburgh an A school and AuSable Valley a B school next year.
  - (j) Would like to get feedback from both conferences on this.
  - (k) We do not have to decide on this until January.
2. [Consider approval of D1/D2 Classifications as 34.37%\(D1\) and 65.62% \(D2\)](#)
  - (a) The philosophy has been to be about 65%/35% for cutoffs because the D1 schools typically have more athletes.
  - (b) We are talking about the sports of wrestling, bowling, tennis and outdoor track and field.
    - (i) The individual sport committees are discussing these cutoffs.
  - (c) The change to the D1/D2 cutoffs would not affect our schools.
  - (d) We do not have to decide on this until January.
3. Consideration of approval to remove merged team requirement from the School of Distinction and Excellence applications.
  - (a) Concern that a merged school can knock a school out of contention for these awards.
  - (b) The SADC is not in support of this.
4. Consideration of approval to modify the current appeals procedure used in NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Championships (Dual & Individual)
5. Consideration of approval to add "No racial or non-discriminatory comments or slurs" to the Sportsmanship Official's card that is read at the beginning of each NYSPHSAA contest.

ii) **Discussion Items**

1. TBA

**8) Officials Report – Walentuk**

- a) This was the first season in which we used the central assignor. Randy Lozier proved a synopsis of the season.

- i) There were many cancellations
- ii) Officials often turned-back or declined.
- iii) There was a smaller pool of officials.
- b) Stressing to the leagues that the rschooltoday schedules are accurate. Also it is the responsibility of the host school ADs to notify officials if there is a cancellation on the day of the game.
- c) We set a record with the most red cards in soccer. Chalking this up to the pandemic this year.

**9) Fall Post-Season Reports:**

- a) Boys Soccer
- b) Girls Soccer
  - i) Rob and Tim did a great job with the pod tournaments. We almost made it through without a cancellation. The tournaments were successful.
- c) Gymnastics
  - i) Only had to cancel their last meet of the year.
- d) Girls Swimming
  - i) Ran their whole schedule this season.
- e) Cross Country
  - i) Ran their whole schedule this season.

**10) Other**

- a) Kudos to Greg Myers and Matt Walentuk working to get the bowling season off the ground.

**11) Adjournment – Harrica, Myers**

**APPROVED**

**NEXT MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2020**