

SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
January 21, 2021 9:30am Video Conference
9:00 AM Finance Committee Meeting

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
- g) Absent Excused – K. Lopez
- h) Proxies: J. Knight for W. Larrow – **Harrica, Douglas**

APPROVED

2) Approval of December 10TH Minutes – Mills, Manchester

APPROVED

3) Financial Report – Walentuk – Myers, Douglas

APPROVED

a) 2020-21 Budget to Date

- i) Our only income was \$.40 in interest in our checking account.
- ii) Our only expense was roughly \$17 to renew our Section7.org website.

b) Finance Committee

- i) Met at 9:00 AM and discussed the lack of revenue for the year. Concerning if the pandemic lasts into next year. The good news is that we will still get our Spalding Ball Adoption money soon and we will get our normal amount this year. A reduction will come next year. We will get the same Spectrum revenue as well.
- ii) We anticipate a reduction in attendance at Sectional events once we get through the pandemic. We recommend increasing the fees for Sectional and Regional events.

1) Conference reports/concerns

a) CVAC

- i) Concern regarding gymnastics. At the time of the season, the gymnasts were competing under the impression that their combined scores would identify those State Qualifiers. Their season was completed prior to the cancellation of the Winter State Championships in which Gymnastics is part of. The concern is being brought to the Section as this is a Sectional issue.
 - 1. It's important to identify who the State Qualifiers are. It will be important to give those athletes their patch and perhaps a press release.

2. Motion was made to recognize and give the gymnasts a blue/green patch. –
Myers, Harrica

APPROVED

b) MVAC

- i) Going to have an MVAC meeting soon.
- ii) Concerns about baseball/softball season.
- iii) May have some schools interested in the Fall Season 2 Soccer season.

4) **Executive Director Report – Walentuk**

a. [NYSPHSAA Covid-19 Guidance](#)

- No high-risk sports allowed at this point

b. Consider approval of Combining of Schools – Myers, Dann

APPROVED

- Girls Hockey – Beekmantown w/ Chazy, NCCS
- Boys Bowling – AuSable w/ Adirondack Christian School
- Boys Swimming – AuSable w/ Peru, Saranac Lake

c. Winter Sports Update

- Schools that are in remote learning model paused practicing which has affected bowling.
- Saranac Lake and Lake Placid are slated to host their first Nordic Skiing race on Wednesday 1/27. There are 6 races scheduled, one per week between Dewey, Mt. VanHo and the VIC.
- Alpine Ski is a little behind but looking to schedule races at Mt. Pisgah.
- Bowling is waiting to start back up, but has more flexibility in scheduling later due to the cancellation of the NYSPHSAA Winter State Championships.

d. Winter Sectionals

- Do we host Winter Sectionals with the knowledge that there will not be any NYSPHSAA Winter State Championships? Discussion:
 - i. CVAC ADs feel that when there is not State Championships, there is no need to have a Sectional representative. CVAC feels that they can run a culminating event or tournament at the end of the season if there is a completed season.
 - ii. Concern about the blanket statement that the point of Sectionals is to pick a representative for State Competition. There is something to be said for Sectional playoff and championship even when there are no states.
 - iii. Another concern is that when not all schools compete due to the pandemic, is it a true Sectional tournament?
 - iv. We can run end of season/culminating events and let the NFHS network broadcast these events.
 - v. Financial concern for the Sectionals, the cost of those would be put on the schools.

- Motion to Cancel all Winter Sectional Championships for the 2020-21 Season. – Manchester, Myers **APPROVED 14-1**
 - i. The MVAC has not discussed this.
- e. Section VII Representative to NYSPHSAA Foundation
 - Jessica Barnhart – Farrell, McMillan **APPROVED**
- f. 3 in 30
 - Weekly series that is the brainchild of a conversation with Steve Broadwell. Concern over the mental health of student-athletes. This will be a weekly series with guest speakers designed to give our student-athletes 3 takeaways in 30 minutes. This will be hosted in a live format.
 - The first session will be with Scott Cutaia on Monday, 1/25 and the second will be Mike Blaine.
 - Chris Mazzella works with a Coaches Corner series as well with the CFES program.
- g. Discussion Items
 - Proposal to Increase Sectional Prices for 2021-2022
 - i. Proposal was brought to the January 2020 meeting. It was not implemented due to the pandemic.
 - ii. Concern over potential decrease in attendance and increased costs.
 - iii. Additional discussion about an additional fee when renting a college or a venue with a high rental fee.
 - iv. There could be more people coming out to Sectionals when things get back to “normal.”
 - v. Potential possibility of a flat “family rate”.
 - vi. Want to push cashless transactions via GoFan digital ticketing and credit card reader.
 - vii. We will reconvene the ad hoc committee from last year composed of Josh, Chris and Matt and come to the next meeting with a proposal.
- h. Important Dates:
 - February 3rd – NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting
 - February 10th – CVAC AD’s Meeting
 - February 22nd-25th – NYSAAA Virtual Conference
 - March 1st – Fall Season 2 Start Date
 - i. Only Soccer permitted at this point unless the Governor comes out with new guidance.
- i. Other

5) NYSPHSAA Reports

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report

- i) Continue to wait for authorization from State Officials. A lot of people are asking why we do not have authorization. We have to abide by NYSDOH guidance.
- ii) NYSPHSAA continues to advocate and work with governmental affairs consulting firm.
- iii) Question is Fall Season 2 locked in?
 - 1. The Sections can adjust seasons, but can't start any earlier than the NYSPHSAA start dates with those seasons.
- iv) NYSPHSAA sent out an email asking about what Sections are planning to do at this point, in terms of cancelling/moving sports. Additionally, what Sections are planning on attending State Championships. Trying to get a snapchat from the Sections for planning purposes.
 - 1. The Section would like autonomy
 - 2. Transportation is a concern
- b) Central Committee Report
 - i) Nothing at this time.
- c) Committee Reports
 - i) Modified Committee Report – McMillan
 - 1. Nothing at this time.
 - ii) CAC Report – Curry, Broadwell
 - 1. Everything was approved. Items coming up for action.
 - iii) Handbook Committee Report – Walentuk
 - iv) SAAC Report – Douglas
 - 1. NYSPHSAA sent out a registration link to all athletic directors for a student leadership conference. The deadline is February 5th, two student athletes can be registered.
- d) October 21, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting: Embassy Suites, Saratoga Springs
 - i) Action Items**
 - 1. 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. – **Yes**
 - 2. Consideration of approval of John Stiso as the Modified Boys Lacrosse Coordinator. – **Yes**
 - 3. Consider approval of adding Kristen Jadin, as a signor on the NYSPHSAA bank account and give her the authority to approve vouchers. – **Yes**
 - 4. Consider waivers of the representation rule for various Sections.
 - (a) Will be need a waiver if it’s a post-season event, but not Sectionals.
 - 5. Consideration approval of 5 classifications following 20% recommendation. - **No**
 - 6. Consider approval of D1/D2 Classifications as 34.37%(D1) and 65.62% (D2) – **No**
 - (a) A NYSPHSAA Ad Hoc Committee will likely be formed with items 5 & 6.

7. Consideration of approval to remove merged team requirement from the School of Distinction and Excellence applications. - **No**
8. Consider approval of Veterans Memorial Arena, Binghamton as the host of 2021-2023 Game Day Cheerleading West Regional Championships. - **Yes**
9. Consider approval of Arlington HS (Section 1), as the host of 2021-2023 Game Day Cheerleading East Regional Championships. - **Yes**
10. Consider approval of a re-bid for NYSPHSAA Girls/Boys Tennis Team Championships. - **Yes**
11. Consideration of approval to modify the current appeals procedure used in NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Championships (Dual & Individual). **Yes**
12. Consider approval of Times Union Center, Albany as the host of the 2023-2025 NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championships (Individual). - **Yes**
13. Consider approval of Gore (2022), Bristol (2023) and Whiteface/Mt. VanHoevenberg 2024) as the hosts of the 2022-2024 NYSPHSAA Skiing Championships. - **Yes**
14. Consider approval of Veterans Memorial Arena, Binghamton as the host of the 2022-2024 NYSPHSAA Competitive Cheerleading Championships. - **Yes**
15. Consider approval of extending 2021 winter championship venues for one additional year. - **Yes**
16. Consider approval of extensions to regional rotations. - **Yes**

ii) **Discussion Items**

1. Consideration of approval to remove the NYSPHSAA “P/DH Rule” and utilize the NFHS Player/DH Rule. – We would support.
 - (a) Allows more flexibility than the previous rule.
2. Consideration of approval to request date change for Girls Golf State Championship.
 - (a) This would mirror that of the boys golf championship. There will be a logistical issue for coaches that have both a girl and boy qualify for states.
3. Consideration of approval of a change to the selection of State Sport Coordinator process.
 - (a) Cleans up and formalizes the process.
4. Consideration of approval to eliminate “or a private school within that district’s boundaries” from the NYSPHSAA Transfer Rule.
 - (a) This was not recommended by the Handbook nor Transfer Committee.
 - (b) Creates a one-way scenario back to public-school. The rule was created due to litigation.

6) **Officials Report - Walentuk**

7) **Other**

8) **Adjournment – Harrica, Mills**

APPROVED

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 29TH, 2020