

SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
October 7, 2021 9:30am Mountain Pass Lodge, Mt. Van Hoevenberg

MINUTES

1) Call to order and attendance

- a) Officers: B. Norcross, J. Barnhart, J. Dann, C. Mazzella
- b) Staff: M. Walentuk
- c) MVAC: M. Douglas, M. Mills, D. Snide, A. Gonyo
- d) CVAC: W. Larrow, G. Myers, V. McMillan, J. Manchester
- e) Executive Committee: J. Harrica, M. Lawrence, M. Graney, J. Dann, S. Broadwell
- f) Guests: J. Altieri – NYSPHSAA,
- g) Absent Excused – K. Lopez
- h) Proxies: R. McAuliffe for M. Douglas
– Myers, Harrica

2) Approval of June 3, 2021 Minutes (pg. 6-11) – Harrica, Mills

3) Corporate Meeting (pg.12-14) – Mazzella, Lawrence

4) Regular Meeting – Myers, Harrica

5) Financial Report – Walentuk – Mazzella and Harrica

- a) Review of 2019-20 End of Year Budget (**pg. 16**)
 - i) Purchased awards for 21-22 with some of the budget.
 - ii) We had some spring sectional expenses.
- b) Review 2020-21 Budget (**pg. 17**)
 - i) Have some income from Cross Country Invitational
 - ii) We will not receive as much Spalding Ball Adoption Money
 - iii) Joe DeGuzman is putting together a pitch to the Della Auto Group.
 - iv) Ordered the Awards for the year.

6) Conference reports/concerns

- a. CVAC
 - a. Nothing at this time.
- b. MVAC
 - a. Concern about the potential number of baseball teams.
 - b. Modified Soccer Goalie mouthguards. This is still a NYSPHSAA requirement.
 - i. Is this still necessary? This will go to the leagues.
 - c. Question about 35 minute halves for modified soccer.
 - i. Is anyone is anyone interested in 40 minute halves?

APPROVED
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- ii. Our contract has officials' raises each year. We do not have different rates for levels or sports. They are the same as consistent.
- iii. Modified Soccer uniforms. There are some schools with one and it is an issue when both teams wear the same colors and that makes one school wear pinnies. The key is that we need communicate.
- iv. CVAC – would have concern about a Section wide baseball/softball schedule. The CVAC would accommodate if they have notice.
- v. We will take it back to the league whether there is interest in a Sectional committee.

7) Executive Director Report – Walentuk (pg. 18)

a. Actions of the Executive Committee

- Approved the Following Coordinators for the 2021-22 School Year
 - Boys Indoor Track – Bill Peer
 - Boys Outdoor Track – Chris Verkey
 - Boys Ice Hockey – Mark Farmer & Chris Hartmann
- Approved Lakeshore Christian NYSPHSAA Application
- Approved combing of teams:
 - Indian Lake & Long Lake – Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball – All levels
 - Lake Pleasant & Wells – Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball – Modified
 - Minerva & Johnsburg – Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball – All levels
 - Beekmantown (host) & Saranac – Gymnastics
 - Peru (host) & AuSable Valley – Gymnastics
 - AuSable Valley (host) & Adirondack Christian School – Boys Soccer (all levels)
 - Schroon Lake & Newcomb – Boys & Girls Soccer (all levels)
 - Saranac (host) & Northern Adirondack – Football (all levels)
 - Boquet Valley & Moriah – Cross Country (mod & varsity)

b. Actions of the Appeal Committee

- Approved Mixed Competition Request from Beekmantown

c. Fall Sports Update

- Net set of protocols and regulations.
- Student-athletes are playing sports.
- We are on track to play all of our Fall Sectionals.
- Concerns about participation across all sports. We had several schools drop levels once the Fall season started.
- Some of the small schools do not know if they have enough until day one of practice and another issue with bigger squads “pounding” the smaller teams.
- We are sending 3 singles and 3 doubles to the Girls Tennis tournament at Sportime in Schenectady.

d. Sectionals Update (**pg. 19-21**)

- i. Utilizing digital tickets henceforth
 - 1. Updating the gofan.co website with the times.

2. All Sectional finals and Regionals will utilize the digital tickets.
 - ii. Neutral site semifinals \$5
 - iii. Section VII finals \$6 - \$7 if there is a rental fee
 - iv. Regional contests - \$8
 - v. Children 10 & under – no admission fee
- e. NYSDOH/NYSPHSAA Memos – September 22, 2021
 - **Facemasks (pg. 22-23)**
 - i. At this time there is no “as tolerated” language in the NYSDOH guidance.
 - ii. If you are playing a NYSPHSAA sport indoors, a facemask must be worn.
 - **Officials as “Contractors” (pg. 24)**
 - i. Officials are considered “contractors” therefore they need to be tested weekly or opt-out by showing proof of vaccination.
 - ii. Concerns that the language says schools will provide the testing to officials. Not all schools will want or be able to provide testing.
- f. NYSAAA Strategic Plan **(pg. 25)**
 - One of their goals is to get every Athletic Director to become a member of NYSAAA.
 - This organization is here to train Athletic directors to help them grow in knowledge and understanding of how to coordinate and administer interscholastic athletics.
- g. Site Supervision at Sporting events
 - Issues with spectators at sporting events, in terms of coming on the field, berating officials/coaches and arguing with each other in the stands.
 - We need to stress the importance of supervision at the athletic events proactively to hopefully minimize or deescalate these issues.
 - We strongly encourage supervision at sporting events.
- h. NYSPHSAA Covid-19 Protocol for State Championships **(pg. 26-27)**
 - Plan created for Regional/State competition.
 - Goal is to replace a team if necessary.
 - Any Venue Covid restrictions will be included in the Championships Operations Packet
 - Currently restrictions in place for Team Tennis (Queens) and Indoor Track (Staten Island)
 - The guidance states that masks are to be worn indoors, which covers the State Football Championships.
 - Section VII does not have a protocol in place, but will make it clear that if teams enter Sectionals the intent is for our champions to advance to regionals.

- Discussion whether or not we want to follow a procedure similar to NYSPHSAA's or to not have a policy.
- i. Consider approval of Combining of Schools – **Myers, Harrica** **APPROVED**
 - Boys Hockey – Beekmantown w/ Chazy and AuSable
- j. Mandatory AD Meeting – Took place 9/21
 - Took place at the Mountain Pass Lodge
 - Every AD and Superintendent received their complimentary pass
- k. Important Dates:
 - Wednesday, October 20th – NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting
 - Thursday, October 28th – First day of NYSPHSAA Girls Tennis Championships
 - November 15th – Appeals Committee Meeting
 - November 15th – Winter Sports Start Date
- l. Other

8) NYSPHSAA Reports (pg. 28)

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report
 - i) Working with venues on finalizing procedures for championships.
 - ii) Girls tennis – several Section coordinators felt that Section VII should have to “play-in” to the tournament as to not upset their rotations of filling out byes.
- b) Central Committee Report (pg. 29-30)
 - i) Pretty smooth meeting
 - ii) The decisions on classifications was pushed to the February meeting.
- c) Committee Reports
 - i) CAC Report (pg. 31-33)
 - 1. The only thing of note is the increase to Ice Hockey officials. Section 3 is not in favor.
 - 2. Much discussion of the classification proposals
 - ii) Modified Committee Report – McMillan
 - 1. In flux with many new members. Big zoom meeting going to occur this Spring.
 - iii) SAAC Report – Douglas
 - iv) Handbook Committee – Walentuk (pg. 34-50)
 - 1. **NIL** – Name, Image, Likeness
 - (a) Sets forth guidelines for student-athletes to use their NIL but not while in their school uniforms, logo, Section logos or NYSPHSAA logos.
 - v) Safety Committee – Drucker (pg. 51-52)
 - 1. Nothing to report
 - vi) Sportsmanship Committee – Denis (pg. 53-55)
 - 1. Should there be “due-process” when an athlete or coach contacts an official. We ran into issues last year with this and would support a more defined process.

d) October 20, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting: Embassy Suites, Saratoga Springs

i) Action Items

1. **(A)** Consider approval to freeze NYSPHSAA Membership Dues and NYSPHSAA Championship Ticket Prices for the 2022-2023 school year. **(57) Yes**
*Dr. Robert Zayas,
NYSPHSAA Executive
Director*

2. **(A)** Consider approval of waivers of the Representation Rule for various sections. **(58)**
 - Indoor Track, Skiing – will request waivers because of lack of facility and potential weather issues.

3. **(A)** Consider approval of Friend & Neighbor and new member schools. **(59)**
- St. Mary's school will be a Friend and Neighbor
*Dr. Robert Zayas,
NYSPHSAA Executive
Director*

4. **(A)** Consider approval of 2022-2023 school enrollment numbers. **(60-61)**
- Changes for next year. 5-sport – AV is a B, NCCS a C, Lake Placid a D
*Todd Nelson,
NYSPHSAA Assistant
Director*

5. **(A)** Consider approval to revise the NYSPHSAA Amateur Rule. **(62-63)**
Yes
*Dr. Robert Zayas,
NYSPHSAA Executive
Director*

Sports Action/Discussion Items

FALL

5. **(A)** Consider approval to adopt a five (5) year At-Large Rotation for individual Girls Tennis Championships to fill the tournament byes/draw (2021-2026). **(64-65) Yes**
Girls Tennis Committee

6. **(A)** Consider approval of Girls Tennis Team Regional Rotations for 2021-2026. **(66) Yes**
Girls Tennis Committee

7. **(A)** Consider approval of Girls Volleyball Regional Assignments for 2022-2025. **(67-68) Yes -we prefer not to go to Section 3 for a sub-regional**
*Girls Volleyball
Committee*

8. **(A)** Consider approval of Boys Volleyball Regional Rotations for 2022-2024. **Yes**
*Boys Volleyball
Committee*

9. **(A)** Consider approval to allow schools to enter relay teams without individual athlete names in Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving. **(69) Yes**
*Girls & Boys Swimming
& Diving Committees*

10. **(A)** Consider approval of mandating all high school tennis players to claim their profile in the UTR system prior to the season and also require schools to submit their match results in a timely manner. **(70) Yes, get some feedback from other Sections. Our coordinators are in favor.**
*Boys & Girls Tennis
Committees*

WINTER

11. (A) Consider approval to increase the minimum number of required contests from 2 to 3 for Competitive Cheerleading. **(71) Yes – we can request a Section waiver if necessary**

*Cheerleading
Committee*

SPRING

12. (A) Consider approval of Boys Tennis Team Regional Rotations for 2022-2027. **(72) Yes**

Boys Tennis Committee

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. (D) Consider approval to amend the Officials fees for Boys Ice Hockey. **(73) Not in favor of setting this precedent.**
2. (D) Consider approval to establish a timeline, process, and criteria for the classification cut off numbers for non-variation five, four, and three classification sports and two division sports pending the approval of Championship Philosophy Committee proposal. **(38-50) – Offers a yearly “mechanism”**
3. Consider approval of establishing criteria for the creation of a sixth classification for sports with 501 or more teams competing in the NYSPHSAA State Championships. **(36-37) This will offer those sports the opportunity to crown more teams as champions/state champions. This falls in line with other states.**
4. Consider approval of Kurt Ehrensbeck as the Modified Girls Basketball Coordinator.

9) Officials Report

- a) Paid multiple officials for their Spring Sectionals and will split the voucher and invoice both schools for half the fees. All schools were supposed to split vouchers last year.
- b) Payment of officials may be coming from CVES next year. Most schools are on board.

10) Spring Coordinators Reports

11) Fall Coordinators Reports

12) Other

13) Adjournment

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2021