

SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
January 23, 2025 9:30am High Peaks Resort

MINUTES

1) Call to order and attendance

- a) Officers: J. Dann, J. Gardner, J. Harrica, J. Barnhart
- b) Staff: M. Walentuk
- c) MVAC: A. Gonyo, C. Husson, R. McAuliffe
- d) CVAC: J. Manchester, V. McMillan, G. Myers, W. Larrow
- e) Executive Committee: M. Graney, K. McCoy, J. Dann, J. Harrica
- f) Guests: L. Silvernail – MVAC, T. Nelson - NYSPHSAA-
- g) Absent Excused –S. Broadwell
- h)

2) Approval of October 11th Minutes – Harrica, Myers

APPROVED

3) Financial Report – Graney, Myers

APPROVED

- a) 24-25 Budget Update
 - i) In line with typical expenses. NYPHSAA insurance will be increasing.
- b) Review of Fall 2024 Sectionals
 - i) Overall we are not seeing the profits prior to going to 6 classifications. The changes made in October have assisted. Concern over the increased fees that Beekmantown charged for custodial overtime. Looking to reach out to BCS to have a conversation regarding this.

4) Conference reports/concerns

- a) CVAC
- b) MVAC

5) Executive Director Report

- a) Arbitersports acquired rschooltoday. Waiting on quote for cost. In asking other sections, they are either with arbiter or vantage sports as their scheduling software.
- b) I sat on the start date committee meeting last week. A proposal to start 2 Mondays prior to Labor Day, August 18th is coming up for discussion. As for the spring, there's a proposal to start on the 2nd Monday of March (beginning Spring 2026).
- c) We held our first wrestling team dual tournament on Wednesday, January 15th. A big thank you to Greg Myers and the wrestling coaches for making this happen and to Off the Field Sports for sponsoring the tournament.
- d) There will be a statewide Officials Recruitment Day at Dicks Sporting Goods across New York State at the beginning of April.

- e) I put forward a proposal to the schools without boundaries committee. If a non-public school makes it to a NYSPHSAA semifinal or higher, they automatically get bumped up a classification for the next year. The committee will meet Tuesday, 2/4 in Saratoga.
- f) Chip Cummings Field will be out of commission this year for baseball sectionals. They are going to be working on it once their college season ends.
- g) Our picture trophies should be ready for the winter championships, will look similar to the team dual wrestling trophy.
- h) A big thank you goes out to Greg Myers who took on my duties during my paternity leave. Greg did a great job coordinating sectionals and working with Randy on officials payments.
- i) We will be sending 8 student representatives to the NYSPHSAA Student Leadership Conference on Wednesday, 4/2 – Thursday, 4/3.

6) Informational Items

- a) 2024-25 BEDS Numbers & Classifications
- b) 2025 NYSPHSAA Student Leadership Conference

7) Action/Discussion Items

- a) Consider approval of Combining of schools:
- b) June Meeting date
 - i) Monday, June 16th – 9:30 AM – to be held virtually on MS Teams
- c) NSL Soccer By-laws – first reading
- d) Indoor Track Sectionals – allowing coordinator to identify areas to shorten length
- e) Basketball – Tournament of Champions
 - i) Motion to follow same pay structure as sectional championships (furthest school pays lower official, closer school pays next highest, Section pays all other).

(1) Myers, McMillan

APPROVED

- f) Sport Coordinator Vacancies
 - i) Track and Field – still looking
- g) Important Dates:
 - i) Thursday, January 23rd – Section VII Athletic Council – Lake Placid
 - ii) Wednesday, February 5th – NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting
 - iii) Wednesday, February 12th – CVAC AD's Meeting
 - iv) Wednesday, March 5th – CVAC AD's Meeting
 - v) Tuesday, March 11th – 7 PM- Preseason coaches meeting – AuSable Valley
 - vi) Wed 3/12-Fri 3/14 – NYSAAA Conference – Saratoga Hilton – nysaaa.org
 - vii) Monday, March 17th – Spring sports start date

8) NYSPHSAA report

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report
 - i) Regional Rotations: Reviewing and improving the structure of regional rotations to ensure fairness and efficiency for all schools.

- ii) Conference of the Big 5 Representation: Making sure our largest districts have strong representation and their voices are heard.
 - iii) Non-Public School Situation: Working toward solutions that create equity and inclusivity for all schools while maintaining a fair playing field.
 - iv) Future of Officials' Structure: Strengthening how we recruit, retain, and support officials—an essential part of what we do.
 - v) Rising Facility Costs: Finding ways to manage and reduce these expenses to keep opportunities accessible for everyone.
- b) SAAC Committee Report**
 - c) CAC Report**
 - d) Modified Committee Report**
 - i) Promotion Rule – Will be bringing forward our proposal to do away with the 50 percent rule.
 - e) Handbook Committee Report**
 - f) Upcoming Executive Committee Action Items**
 - i) Consider approval to add the following language to the NYSPHSAA Handbook, under 9. 2. In regard to the Foreign Exchange Policy, "This only applies to students participating at the Varsity Level. Those students that play at the sub-varsity level are not held to this regulation." **Yes**
 - ii) (A) Consider approval for all Fall sports to start on the Monday of Week #7 for the Fall 2025 season. **Yes**
 - iii) Consider approval of waivers of the Representation Rule for various sections.
 - (1) Skiing/Indoor Track 6-4 **Yes**
 - iv) Consider approval to allow Section III to start the rotation for the at-large teams in Division 1 and Division 2 in 2025, then establish the remaining rotation after the 2025 Boys/Girls Bowling State tournament. **Yes**
 - v) Consider approval of MVP Arena for the Boys and Girls Wrestling State Championships 2026-2028. **Yes**
 - vi) Consider approval for a set of Super and At-Large Standards for the Outdoor Track & Field Championships. **Yes**
 - vii) Consider approval for a new regional rotation in the sport of Boys Tennis 2025-30. **Yes**
 - viii) Consider approval for a new at-large rotation to fill byes for 26-30 in Boys Team Tennis. **Yes**
 - ix) Consider approval to add language to the current rules identifying a minimum belt length that reads: "Flag length is 14 inch minimum from the bottom of the belt (including the clip) to the bottom of the flag as a measuring point." **Yes**
 - x) Consider approval of changing the flag football rule from, "The ball is potted where the ball was when the player is deflagged" to "The ball will be spotted where the flag is pulled." **Yes**
 - xi) Consider approval to change the spot of the ball to the 14-yard line after the following:
 - xii) The visiting team will have the choice before the toss – heads or tails.
 - xiii) The team who wins the coin toss has the option to defer, select offense (a 20-yard line start) – Change to 14-Yard lined start).

- xiv) After a touchdown, touchback or safety – any play that results in a team starting at the first possession line (14 Yard line). **Yes**
- xv) Consider approval for a new regional rotation in the sport of Boys Lacrosse for 2025-2030 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee. **Yes**
- xvi) Consider approval for a new regional rotation in the sport of Girls Lacrosse for 2025-29 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee. **Yes**
- xvii) Consider approval of CNS 2027 and Icahn Stadium (NYC) 2028 for B/G Outdoor Track & Field Championships for 2027-28. **Yes – No bids for 2026 yet.**

g) Upcoming Executive Committee Discussion Items

- i) (D) Consider approval NYSPHSAA DEI Definitions to be included in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.
- ii) (D) Consider approval of NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address representation on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as NYSPHSAA Sport Committees.
- iii) Consider approval to create a consistent approach to championship awards for NYSPHSAA Championship events, enhancing clarity, equity, and recognition across all sports.
- iv) (D) Consider approval to align the start date for all fall sports to two weeks prior to Labor Day, with football beginning on the Monday of Week #7 when the start date falls on the Monday of Week #8.
- v) (D) Consider approval to align the start date for all spring sports to the second Monday in March.
- vi) Football 8-Man on Thanksgiving weekend – during Football semifinals.
- vii) (D) Consider approval of prohibiting artificial noise makers from Girls Lacrosse Regional and State Championships.
- viii) (D) Consider approval of allowing baseball to scrimmage after the 6th practice.
- ix) (D) Softball Waivers/Rules adoption

9) Fall Post-Season Reports

- a) Timing Issues at Cross Country Sectionals
- b) Halloween next year will be Friday, 10/31
- c) Low numbers and lack of teams for modified girls swim
- d)

10) Winter Pre-Season Plans

11) Officials' Report

12) Other

13) Adjournment – Harrica, Myers

APPROVED

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST, 2025