

SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
June 6, 2024 9:30am High Peaks Resort
MINUTES

1) Call to order and attendance

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

i) **Norcross, Larrow** **APPROVED**

2) Approval of April 19, 2024 Minutes – Myers, McMillan **APPROVED**

3) Financial Report – Myers, McMillan **APPROVED**

a) 23-24 Budget Update

- i) This could be the first year where we run a deficit. After the Spring sectionals are reconciled. The finance committee will look at options to help increase revenue and/or decrease expenses.

4) Conference reports/concerns

- a) CVAC – Spring 2025 a concern, flag football went well, still looking for NSL bylaws
- b) MVAC

5) Executive Director Report – Walentuk

- a) The 2024 Spring Season hosted all Sectional Regional championships in a two week span from May 20th – June 1st. A big thank you goes out to all our event staff and host sites.
 - i) Flag Football – AuSable Valley
 - ii) Baseball – Plattsburgh State and Plattsburgh HS
 - iii) Softball – Plattsburgh State
 - iv) Tennis – Beekmantown and Plattsburgh State
 - v) Track – Lake Placid and Saranac Lake
 - vi) Golf – North Country Golf Club
- b) Unified Basketball held another great season. Every school hosted an assembly game. We are going to work with coaches and ADs next year to review protocol and end of season events.
- c) The 1st Section VII Student Leadership Conference took place on June 5th at The Lodge at Schroon Lake. We had over 100 students from across Section VII attend.
- d) Working with the Hall of Fame Committee to finalize application and details for Section VII Hall of Fame.

- e) In consultation with Rob Miller from Proactive Coaching in setting up a coaches' professional development day (August/September).
- f) The new officials' contract goes into effect on July 1.
- g) Officials recruitment continues to be a major concern. I'm working to set up "recruitment fairs" to help spread the word and gain potential officials.
- h) The Spring championship brought some unexpected challenges in terms of scheduling. I will work with ADs to vet our sectional schedules in advance to minimize conflicts.
- i) Working with Elyse Loughlin from NYSED to have Section VII or CVES BOCES as an agency to teach NYSED coaching courses.

6) Action/Discussion Items

- a) Consider approval of Combining of Schools: - **Graney, Dann** **APPROVED**
 - i) Lake Pleasant and Wells – All sports (modified)
 - ii) Indian Lake and Long Lake – All sports (all levels)
- b) Dates of 2024-2025 Athletic Council Meetings – **Manchester, McMillan** **APPROVED**
 - i) Thursday, 9/12/24 (virtual)
 - ii) Friday, 10/11/24
 - iii) Thursday, 1/23/25
 - iv) Thursday, 5/1/25
 - v) *Virtual -TBD set at 1/23 meeting*
- c) New Business
 - i) NYSPHSAA Central Committee Member
 - (1) Motion for Kendra McCoy – **Graney, Dann** **APPROVED**
 - ii) 2024-2025 Start and End Dates – **McMillan, Dann** **APPROVED**
 - (1) Fall 2024: **Start:** 8/19-Football/ 8/26-All others - End: 12/7
 - (2) Winter 24-25: **Start:** 11/18/24 – **End:** 3/23/25
 - (3) Spring 2025: **Start:** 3/17/25 – **End:** 6/20/25
 - iii) Sport Coordinators for 2024-2025
 - (1) Boys Cross Country Coordinator - Brian Kiely
 - (2) Boys Soccer Coordinator - Rob McAuliffe
 - (3) Football Coordinator - Pat Keleher
 - (4) Girls Cross Country Coordinator - Kathy Champagne
 - (5) Girls Soccer Coordinator - Tim Mulligan
 - (6) Girls Swim Coordinator - Andy Johnson
 - (7) Gymnastics Coordinator - Janice Trudeau
 - (8) Volleyball Coordinator - Vickie McMillan
 - (9) Boys Bowling Coordinator - David Mendofik
 - (10) Boys Ice Hockey Coordinator - Robin Weeden
 - (11) Competitive Cheer Coordinator - Vicki Nephew
 - (12) Girls Indoor Track & Field - Sean Ganter
 - (13) Girls Basketball Coordinator - Greg Waters

- (14) Girls Bowling Coordinator - Mary LaDuke
- (15) Girls Ice Hockey Coordinator - Butch Martin
- (16) Skiing Coordinator - Linda Brousseau
- (17) Boys Wrestling Coordinator - Gary Edwards
- (18) Girls Wrestling Coordinator - Rob Witkiewicz
- (19) Baseball Coordinator - Jim Manchester
- (20) Boys Track & Field Coordinator - Chris Verkey
- (21) Boys Track & Field Coordinator - Brittany Schwartz
- (22) Girls Track & Field Coordinator - Nancy Rich
- (23) Boys Golf Coordinator - John Glinski
- (24) Girls Golf Coordinator - Calvin Hamel
- (25) Girls Flag Football Coordinator - Brent Denis
- (26) Softball Coordinator - Caleb Castine
- (27) Unified Basketball Coordinator - Bob Sutphen
- (28) Boys Tennis Coordinator - Tyler Chase
- (29) Girls Tennis Coordinator - Seth Spoor
- (a) Fall Coordinators - **Myers, Manchester** **APPROVED**
- (b) Winter Coordinators – **Norcross, Larrow** **APPROVED**
- (c) Spring Coordinators – **Myers, McCoy** **APPROVED**
- d) Old Business:
 - i) Section VII rep for the NYSPHSAA Foundation
 - ii) Coordinators –Basketball, Boys Swimming
 - iii) 2nd Vice President – Josh Harrica – only applicant
 - (1) Motion to approve: **Myers, Dann** **APPROVED**
- e) Important Dates:
 - i) Monday, June 10th – MVAC AD’s Meeting – Pitkin’s Restaurant
 - ii) Friday, June 14th – CVAC AD’s Meeting – North Country Golf Club
 - iii) Sunday, June 30th – School of Distinction/Excellence Deadline
 - iv) Monday, 7/29-Thursday 8/1 – NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting
 - v) NYSPHSAA Mandatory Workshop – 9/16/24

7) NYSPHSAA report

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report
 - i) NYSED Proposed Amendments:
 - (1) NYSPHSAA continues to work with NYSED staff to address concerns with the proposed amendments related to mixed competition and the athletic placement process. NYSED staff have discussed potential revisions to the proposed amendments, which include removing the requirement for team selection criteria to be publicly posted on the school district website and only allowing 7th and 8th grade students to try out for the high school team if invited by the high school.

- (2) Robert Zayas continues to work with NYSPHSAA member schools to identify concerns with the removal of “significant adverse effect.” NYSPHSAA member schools are concerned providing unrestrictive access for boys to participate on female teams, when a school does not offer a male equivalent sport (i.e., field hockey, volleyball, gymnastics, flag football) will negatively impact participation opportunities for female students. NYSPHSAA’s focus is maintaining the integrity of female sports. NYSPHSAA member schools are highly encouraged to submit public comment to NYSED pertaining to this topic.

ii) Central Committee Meeting:

- (1) The NYSPHSAA Central Committee will meet in regular session in late July in Riverhead, NY. The Central Committee meeting packet and agenda are currently being developed and will be released in early July.

iii) Flag Football Success:

- (1) The first ever NYSPHSAA Flag Football Championships were hosted last weekend in Cortland. NYSPHSAA had 185 schools participate in Flag Football this season. The momentum and growth is encouraging as thousands of female students are being afforded the opportunity to participate in the fastest growing sport in the country.

iv) Football Start Date (Fall 2024):

- (1) As a reminder, the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee revised the Football start date for the Fall 2024 season to August 19th. NYSPHSAA staff is working with NYSED staff to determine if a 16-week will be provided beyond the 2024 season.

b) Central Committee Report

c) Committee Reports

i) Safety

ii) Sportsmanship

iii) Transfer

iv) CAC

v) SAAC

- (1) Held the Student Leadership Conference yesterday. It was a great success.
(2) The application for the Section VII SAAC is up now and will close in August.

d) Upcoming Executive Committee Action Items

- i) Consider approval of a \$.50 increase in NYSPHSAA ticket prices beginning in the 2024-25 school year.
ii) Consider approval to add the following to the note for the Maximum Number of Contests in the NYSPHSAA Handbook, “Exception: In the sport of Football, when a team receives a forfeit win, the forfeit win will not count towards the maximum

number of contests. The team who accepts the forfeit can reschedule a game that will count towards the maximum number of contests.”

- iii) Consider approval to require the use of the NYSPHSAA Transfer Form for waivers and exemptions only.
 - iv) Consider approval of the NYSPHSAA Officials Contract.
 - v) Consider approval to allow Cheerleading programs to start practice on the Wednesday of Week #7 to align with the football start date.
 - vi) Consider approval to update the additional required coaching course to reflect the replacement of the AACCA Safety course and the new NFHS Cheerleading Rules course.
 - vii) Regional Rotations for all fall team sports.
 - viii) Consider approval of pool play at the NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Championships.
 - ix) Consider approval of Football regional rotations.
 - x) Consider approval of a revision to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty for Football to be, “Any player disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike behavior or flagrant foul will be ineligible for the next two consecutive halves.” **No**
 - xi) Consider approval to move the 8-Man Football Regional Championship to Week #22 at Dome and Regional Rotations.
 - xii) Consider approval of Webster Aquatic Center as the host of the Girls Swimming & Diving Championships for _____.
 - xiii) Consider approval of early certification date in Boys Wrestling.
 - xiv) Consider approval of automatic qualifiers for the 2025 Girls Wrestling States
 - xv) Consider approval of amending the representation rule for Girls Wrestling to “In the sport of Girls Wrestling, if a school does have a team for both genders the female wrestlers may choose to compete in either the boys post season or the girls post season but not both.”
 - xvi) Consider approval to continue the waiver of the 6 max tournament rule in Girls Wrestling.
 - xvii) Consider approval to waive the NFHS 1.5% weight loss plan for Girls Wrestling.
 - xviii) Consider approval to use the USA Wrestling Junior Rules for Freestyle wrestling in Girls Wrestling.
 - xix) Consider approval of removing the language in the NYSPHSAA Handbook for Boys Ice Hockey under 14.10 #10 which states, “If, in the judgement of the official, he feels that a goaltender’s warm-up has been made to give his team a stoppage of play or rest period, the official may assess a minor penalty for delay of game.”
 - xx) Consider approval to change regular season overtime procedure when a winner is necessary.
 - xxi) Consider approval of adding a second division to both boys and girls Composite Bowling Championships.
 - xxii) Consider approval 6-man format for School Divisions in B/G Bowling.
 - xxiii) Consider approval of Classification Cut-off Numbers for Outdoor Track/Field
- (1) **Has implications on our Sectionals/Qualifiers**

8) Officials Report

- a) The Spring sports season is easily the hardest season to assign for a number of reasons:
 - i) Field Conditions
 - ii) Weather
 - iii) Lack of number of officials
 - iv) Reschedules
 - v) Nicer weather
 - vi) The list goes on....
 - b) Baseball/softball
 - i) With work from AD's and coaches, to my knowledge, only one varsity SB/BB game had only one umpire and that was due to a last minute sickness by the umpire.
 - ii) We covered the vast majority of JV games.
 - iii) I would ask that both leagues look at either a per inning run rule and/or a time limit for an inning to start (2 hrs 15 min) no inning starts after that... we had multiple 3 hour contests and it's weighing on umpires, esp if they have to do them alone.
 - iv) I will continue to stress we need to do better at collaborating our CVAC and MVAC schedules for gender specific schedules.
 - v) This will maximize our officials better. Some nights we have 6-10 softball umpires home and very few softball contests but conversely both CVAC and MVAC are playing baseball... more importantly, softball, as we have less number of umpires.
 - vi) Sectionals went off very smoothly, Regionals - umpires had a good showing overall.
 - c) Track and Field- with two officials resigning just after the season started we had to make due... four varsity meets were ran with one official, the remainder had two.
 - i) I strongly advise to move Sectionals and Qualifiers to a weekend, esp if being held in SL or LP.
 - d) Unified Basketball was covered by two officials for all of their contests. I would like to see an end of season wrap up / culmination event
 - e) Flag Football, all but one game had a full crew, I again urge not to schedule all the contests on the same days, we made it work with the help of Section 2, but would prefer to keep it all in house.
 - f) I respectfully request that you at least talk about the above suggestions as I think it maximizes the experience for all.
- 9) Other – Question came up with the status of girls ice hockey for the 24-25 season. As of right now, no change in the number of teams.

10) Adjournment – Myers, McMillan

APPROVED

NEXT MEETING Thursday, September 12TH, 2024 (Virtual)