

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

MINUTES

- 1) Call to order and attendance – Harrica, Barnhart** **APPROVED**
 - a) Officers: J. Gardner, J. Barnhart, J. Harrica
 - b) Staff: M. Walentuk, R. Lozier
 - c) MVAC: A. Gonyo, C. Husson, B. Norcross, L. Silvernail
 - d) CVAC: V. McMillan, G. Myers, W. Larrow, M. Berry
 - e) Executive Committee: M. Graney, K. McCoy, J. Harrica, F. Morgan
 - f) Absent Excused –S. Broadwell, R. McAuliffe, J. Dann
 - g) L. Silvernail proxy for R. McAuliffe, F. Morgan proxy for J. Dann
- 2) Approval of September 12, 2025 Minutes – Graney, Myers** **APPROVED**
- 3) Financial Report – Harrica, Myers** **APPROVED**
 - a) Review of Spring Sectionals
 - b) Review of 24-25 End of Year
 - i) Budget deficit caused by increased State Championships, new sports and coordinators, increase in coordinator stipend, increase in game workers, increase in officials fees.
 - c) 25-26 Budget Update
- 4) Conference reports/concerns**
 - a) CVAC
 - i) Purchased banners and will make a point to celebrate league championship teams.
 - b) MVAC
 - i) Looking to other options outside of the NFHS Network pixellot cameras to live stream events. Hoping to take a collective approach for other vendors such as Hudl.
 - ii) Frustrated with the issues arising on Leagueminder/Digital sports with merged sports programs.
 - iii) Disappointed with the folding of Seton’s girls varsity soccer team. Would like more notice to ensure ability to schedule games.
 - iv) Want to ensure AD’s know of maximum game number for athletes going up/down between JV and Varsity
- 5) Executive Director Report**
 - a) Scheduling/Assigning Software – Ongoing discussions w/ Austin at Vantage to work through challenges and issues with Leagueminder/DigitalSports. Addressing standings issues w/ Sectionvii.org.

- b) NFHS Network – Encourage schools to check to see when their contracts expire. Our contract expires 7/2028.
- c) Fall Sectional/Regional Schedules are being finalized. Regional sites will be locked down as soon as possible.
- d) Attended the Girls Tennis qualifier on October, 5th. We had a small tournament, but some great matches.
- e) Held the first Student Athlete Advisory Committee meeting on Sunday, 9/28. Experiencing some issues perhaps w/ the school email addresses.
- f) Gymnastics starts the beginning of the Fall Sectional Season (10/25), Followed by Soccer (10/29 – 11/1), Volleyball (11/6), Cross Country (11/7), Football (11/7 & 11/8) and Swim (11/8).
- g) Brought up the possibility of a time limit to modified baseball and softball games in the MVAC September 25th meeting. No action was taken by them.
- h) Steve Peters – Adirondack Coast Events - will be timing the CVAC and Sectional Cross Country Championships.
- i) Met with Pat Keleher and Football Athletic Directors to set Football Finals schedule. With straight championships in the B's and D's, higher seed hosts through finals, with backup sites determined if grass fields are not playable.
- j) Looking ahead to Winter Sectional Dates and working to secure facilities and add contingencies for large scale events (cheer, indoor track, track & field)

6) Informational Items

- a) Important Dates:
 - i) **Wednesday, 10/15** – CVAC AD's Meeting, Peru HS
 - ii) **Tuesday, 10/21** – NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting, Albany
 - iii) **Thursday, 11/13** – Preseason Coaches Meeting, Peru HS 7 PM
 - iv) **Wednesday, 11/19** – CVAC AD's Meeting, Peru HS
 - v) **Tuesday, 12/2** – MVAC AD's Meeting, Pitkins Restaurant, Schroon Lake

7) Action/Discussion Items

- a) Sport Coordinators
- b) Consider creating a procedure for the At large Determination
 - i) Motion: **Myers, Barnhart** **APPROVED**
- c) Consider \$.50 ticket price increase beginning Fall 2025 (prices for consumer)
 - i) \$8 for Sectionals w/ no facility use fee
 - ii) \$9 for Sectionals w/ facility fee
 - iii) \$10 for Regionals
 - iv) Motion: **Myers, Graney** **APPROVED**
- d) Consider \$100 entry fee per school for Cross Country Sectionals
 - i) Motion: **Graney, Norcross** **APPROVED**

8) NYSPHSAA report

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report

- i) Boys Basketball 5-second closely guarded – would like the rule to stay the same, thus immediate action is required.
 - ii) Seeking feedback as we progress through the year with the 3-Region Concept.
 - iii) DEI Committee met and Big 5 will be pursuing legislation to get on the NYSPHSAA Central/Executive Committee
 - iv) Boys Swimming team championship item will not make it on the October Executive Committee agenda.
- b) SAAC Committee Report
 - i) Held first meeting 9/28. Encouraging students to use non-school email addresses to avoid school filter issues w/ virtual meetings.
- c) CAC Report
 - i) Discussed outdoor track qualifying standards and bowling team numbers. All passed unanimously
- d) Modified Committee Report
 - i) Promotion Rule – was approved by the modified committee and will come forward as discussion in October
- e) Handbook Committee Report
 - i) Section 6 has a proposal to change the Robert's rules of order because they feel their membership is not able to give them feedback on some proposals.
- f) Championship Philosophy Committee Report
 - i) Is the 5-8% standard of student-athletes participating in State Championships a good standard? It's 25 years old and the committee is seeking feedback on this.
- g) Upcoming Action Items**
 - i) Consider approval to change letter a, under "Senior All-Star Contest" to "These contests must be approved and recorded by the Section in which they are held.
 - ii) Consider approval to change #2, under "Combining of Teams" to "Sections must keep records of approvals."
 - iii) Consider approval to establish Sectional Criteria for classifying nonpublic/charter schools and an appeal procedure to the NYSPHSAA Oversight Committee.
 - iv) Consider approval to adopt the use of the backstroke ledges for Girls & Boys Swimming beginning in Fall 2026.
 - v) Consider approval to break the current Competitive score sheets into 3, rather than 2.
 - vi) Consider approval to revise the current NYSPHSAA Representation Rule for female wrestlers to participate in both male and female events during the regular season and then choose to participate in the female NYSPSHAA Championship. - NO**
 - vii) Consider approval girls be allowed to wrestle in a maximum of 7 matches per day.
 - viii) Consider approval of adding the language to the NYSPHSAA Handbook under Girls Wrestling for multi-school meets.

- ix) Consider approval of an expansion of the appeal procedure by coaches to include all rounds of the NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championships.
- x) Consider approval to revise the current NYSPHSAA Appeals Procedure to allow “Officials Only” the ability to review video replay to determine if a scoring situation occurred after time had expired at the end of a period.
- xi) Consider approval to expand the current NYSPHSAA Appeals Procedure to allow the Appeals Committee to review video during the Blood and Placement Rounds.
- xii) Consider approval to revise the current penalty for getting caught on the hydration test, which is part of the NYSPHSAA Weight Management Program. The revised penalty would be ineligibility to participate in a match until after January 1st and all post season events.
- xiii) Consider approval to revise the current penalty for going over the maximum number of tournaments in a season. The revised penalty would mirror the current penalty of going over the maximum number of points/games in a season for all sports.
- xiv) Consider approval of the following penalty for a team that does not provide a Track Wrestling Weigh-In Sheet at a dual meet. “The team without the Track Wrestling Weigh-In Sheet will forfeit the dual meet. The host school will make every effort to provide the school without the weigh-in sheet to print one.”
- xv) Informational:
- xvi) Consider approval of a Team Championship in the Boys/Girls Swimming/Diving State Championships. – **Is not on agenda**

h) Upcoming Discussion Items

- i) Consider approval 5-second call for a player being closely guarded when dribbling or standing still.” The Boys Basketball Committee would like to request immediate action if possible. – **In support if brought forward as an action item.**
- ii) Bowling roster needs to have 5 individuals
- iii) Consider approval to revise the current NYSPHSAA Representation Rule for female wrestlers to participate in both male and female events during the regular season and then choose to participate in the female NYSPSHAA Championship.
- iv) Consider approval to adopt the NFHS Rules for Flag Football with waivers.
- v) Consider approval to add language to the NFHS Rules to require dead ball flag checks.
- vi) Consider approval of an onside play option.
- vii) Consider approval to set in place when using the super standard to qualify for the Outdoor Track/Field State Championship meet, an athlete must finish in the top five in the state qualifier met, effective 2026.
- viii) Consider approval to not count performances using the super standards obtained after the state meet toward the entry into the Outdoor Track/Field State Championship meet.

- ix) Consider approval to utilize the three-year average for the formula for Outdoor Track/Field qualifying standards using the seed performances.
- x) Consider approval of making it optional to utilize a double first base for the 2026 season (regular and postseason).

9) Spring Post-Season Reports

- a) **Boys Tennis** – Looking to consider additional tie-breaker criteria for crowning team champion
- b) **Girls Tennis** – Liked the separate championships were able to complete tourney in 2 days.
- c) **Baseball** – Best of 3 series in the A, B, C's was a success.
- d) **Flag Football** – Would like to see start times of 4:30 and 7:00 PM
- e) **Girls Golf** – Would like to see the sport contested in the Fall in Section VII.
- f) **Boys Golf** – Would like Section VII golf shirts for States
- g) **Unified Basketball** – Encouraging all coaches to attend YAC summit in the spring

10) Fall Pre-Season Plans

- a) Dates/times locations updated on Sectional Schedules at sectionvii.org

11) Officials' Report

- a) We have more officials in the fall this year than last.
- b) The Southern soccer and northern soccer board are combined now as one board.
- c) Would like to see site coordinators introduce themselves to officials prior to the game starting.
- d) Following contractual language when it comes to subsequent arrest reports.

12) Other

13) Adjournment - Myers, Harrica

APPROVED

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29th, 2026 9:30 AM