

This is always an exciting time of the year. The weather is turning a bit warmer, graduation caps and gowns are being prepared and summer vacation plans are underway.

The NYSPHSAA staff is busy working with sport coordinators and tournament directors to ensure the 2013 Spring Championships are well organized for the students who have an opportunity to participate. I am hopeful everyone has a chance to attend one of the upcoming events to show support for our exemplary student-athletes who have dedicated so much to this season. I wish everyone the best of luck as we prepare to conclude another successful school year.

Robert Zayas
 NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Football Variation Numbers:



On May 3 the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved the following football variation numbers for the 2014-2015 school year.

Class	Cut-off	Schools	Percentage
AA	930 – up	88 schools	19.73%
A	570 – 929	89 schools	19.95%
B	365 – 569	91 schools	20.40%
C	240 – 364	87 schools	19.50%
D	0 – 239	91 schools	20.40%

NYSPHSAA Website Redesign:

Upon receiving approval from the Executive Committee on January 29, 2013, the NYSPHSAA staff has begun working with Spire Interactive to redesign the NYSPHSAA website. The anticipated launch will be late July in preparation for the NYSPHSAA summer meeting in Rochester and the 2013-2014 school year.

NYSPHSAA is excited to be incorporating design technology regarding user navigation not available on any other State Association website in the country.

The image to the right represents the initial layout and design of the site with much more work to be done.



NYSPHSAA 2013-2014 BUDGET:

On May 3 the Executive Committee approved the Budget/ Audit Committee's proposed budget for the 2013-2014 school year. Some of items included in next year's budget will be scholar athlete pins for any team receiving a 90 GPA or better, over \$42,000 to be shared with Sections as part of a new revenue share initiative, and funding to begin an operational reserve account.



Unified Sports/Special Olympics pilot program:



In February the Federal Department of Education issued a reminder that schools must be making accommodations to allow students with disabilities the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities, as part of the 504 Law. The NYSPHSAA has approved many special accommodation requests over the past two decades to allow students with special needs to participate in interscholastic athletics. NYSPHSAA has been approached by Special Olympics New York to discuss a partnership.

The NYSPHSAA and Special Olympics New York would like to partner on a project entitled Unified Sports. A pilot program is being designed for the Spring of 2014 with schools in Section 2 (Capital Area) in the sport of basketball. Unified Sports brings regular education students and students with intellectual disabilities together to compete on one team. More information will be distributed over the course of the next few months regarding this important program.

NYSPHSAA Media Content Coordinator:

The NYSPHSAA will conduct interviews on May 16-17 for the position of Media Content Coordinator. The position, which will begin in mid-June, will be responsible for all media content on the NYSPHSAA website and social media, along with special projects to highlight and promote NYSPHSAA events and student-athletes.



Some of the major responsibilities will include:

- Manage and post content on NYSPHSAA website utilizing CMS (Content Management System). Information will include, but not limited to State Championship information (brackets, schedules, results, maps, ticket information), Committee Directories, Committee reports/ minutes, Individual sport information (rule changes, uniform requirements, game limitations, equipment notifications) Sectional specific information and highlights.
- Manage all social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) to highlight and promote student-athletes and NYSPHSAA events.
- Travel to State Championship events to provide in-depth coverage and promotion of student-athletes and events.
- Aggregate and create original content for website.
- State Championship previews and recaps, interviews (video/ print) with student-athletes, coaches and fans.

CHAMPIONSHIP SOUVENIRS AND PROGRAMS:

An RFP for championship souvenirs and programs has been distributed to more than 100 individuals including vendors, sport coordinators, tournament directors and section executive directors. The RFP seeks to secure one vendor to handle souvenir sales and program development and sales for all 32 championships for a minimum of three years for an annual guaranteed rights fee.



NAIA 5 Star Leadership Program:

The NYSPHSAA has been approached about a possible partnership with the NAIA. The NAIA has developed a 5 Star Leadership Program. NYSPHSAA is exploring the opportunity to partner with the NAIA and offer this 5 Star Program to its member schools. NYSPHSAA member schools would have to participate in the Community Service Award program, attendance at the NYSAAA conference, complete the Sportsmanship Survey, have head coaches complete an on-line Champions of Character course, and show one video per year to parents, students, and coaches. Each school that completes the 5 stars will receive a 5 Star Leadership Program Banner to display in their school. The NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Committee has reviewed the documents and supports moving forward with this initiative.



2013-2014 EXECUTIVE/ CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

In an effort to provide greater communication to the NYSPHSAA membership regarding the Central and Executive Committee meetings, the NYSPHSAA is committed to releasing the 2013-2014 meeting packets and agendas in advance of each meeting date. The following represents next year's meeting and packet release dates:

Executive Committee

Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2013
Friday, January 31, 2014
Friday, May 2, 2014

Packet Released

Monday, October 7, 2013
Monday, January 13, 2014
Monday, April 14, 2014

Central Committee

Meeting

Tuesday- Thursday, July 29-31

Packet Released

Friday, July 11, 2014

LOOKING AHEAD:

May 30-June 1	Boys Tennis Championships
June 1	Boys Golf Championships
June 5	Boys East/ West Lacrosse Semifinals
June 7-8	Girls/ Boys Track & Field Championships
June 7-8	Girls Lacrosse Championships
June 8-9	Girls Golf Championships
June 8	Boys Lacrosse Championships
June 8	Boys Baseball Championships
June 8	Girls Softball Championships
July 30-31	NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting (Woodcliff Resort- Rochester)



QUOTE TO REMEMBER:



*"Do not go where the path may lead,
go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson