

**SECTIONAL / INTERSECTIONAL COMMITTEE**  
**September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Report**  
**Chairperson: Timm Slade**

**Action Items for the Athletic Council**

# SECTIONAL/INTERSECTIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES September 17th, 2014

Attendance (\* indicates present)

T. Slade\* (Chairman)

A. Lloyd (Buffalo)

B. Drake (CCAA Representative)

G. Kaszubski\* (ECIC Representative)

P. Burke\* (NFL Representative)

D. Ames (NO Representative),

C. Bullis\* (Girls Representative)

J. Graczyk\* (Boys Representative)

Guests:

C. Durr, Girls Basketball Chair

T. Marquardt, Boys Soccer Chair

M. Ziegler, Cheerleading Chair

## 1.0 **Sports Concerns:**

### 1.1 WNYSO Contract / Fact Finding Update

Section VI accepted the Fact Finding report. The WNYSO did not accept the Fact Finding report. Arbitration is scheduled for Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Albany.

### 1.2 Officials Recruitment

An internal recruitment was conducted with existing Section VI sports officials for girls lacrosse and girls field hockey. After compiling the data, approximately 75 individuals expressed interest in officiating girls lacrosse and 50 individuals expressed interest in officiating girls field hockey. The names and contact information of those interested were given to the assigning agents of the field hockey and girls lacrosse organizations to continue the process. Considering the significant need for officials in these two sports, the Section may absorb some of the associated costs (organization dues, etc.). In addition, a corporate partner is being sought to assist with these fees.

### 1.3 Reduction of contests for post season participation in Section VI gymnastics

*No discussion.*

## 2.0 **Section Concerns:**

### 2.1 Cheerleading

NYSPHSAA approved competitive cheerleading starting winter 2014-2015. Prior to that, teams need to try-out for the winter season. The cheerleading committee will send out a form to Section VI member schools to indicate their status - competitive or traditional cheer.

- A team is considered competitive if they stunt or tumble.
- NYS regulations (mixed competition, selective classification, certification for coaches, sanctioning etc.) are to be voted on and finalized at the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 NYSPHSAA meeting.
- All information can be found on the [state website](#).
- The Section does not oversee club teams. However, a member schools' cheerleading team will be considered competitive if they perform stunts and tumbling.

### 2.2 Boys & Girls Soccer and Girls Basketball Chairmen / Website

T. Marquardt and C. Durr asked for Section support to institute consequences for member (currently 5% of Section VI) schools that do not adhere to the website statistical information requirement as stipulated within the boys and girls soccer and girls basketball handbooks. However, on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Section VI Athletic Council approved "entering individual statistics on sports websites when requested by the chairmen, but to not institute consequences for failing to do so" (6.2.1). Therefore, T. Slade will contact the Athletic Directors of the schools' that are not in compliance. Monitoring of this requirement will continue and will be revisited at a following meeting if necessary.

2.3 Return of games – Varsity Basketball, beginning 14-15 with Section approval  
The NYSPHSAA approved increasing the maximum number of Varsity Basketball games from 18-19, both boys and girls, for the 2014-2015 winter season with section approval. In order to allow time for member schools' scheduling and budgeting needs, this will be an action item at the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Section VI Athletic Council meeting.

2.4 Cross Country Litigation Update

Section VI is one of the parties named in the suit regarding the student-athlete from Long Island who passed away at the 2012 NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships held at Elma Meadows. Most recently, Section VI was notified that litigation was moved out of Erie County to Suffolk County. T. Slade to update the committee as more information becomes available.

2.5 Wrestling Recommendations – Waiver/Shower

Currently, Section VI has two litigations pending. The NYSPHSAA attorney recommended that even though physicians are on sight for wrestling competitions, Section VI should continue being proactive in preventing the spread of contagious skin infections. T. Slade to speak with M. DeBarbieri and I. Martinez (Section VI Wrestling Co-Chairmen) regarding possible recommendations – mandating showers after every bout and a student signed waiver acknowledging their potential for contracting a skin infection by participating in the sport of wrestling and agreeing to not hold Section VI liable if such an instance occurs.

3.0 **NYSPHSAA Concerns:**

3.1 Revision of the modified 9th Grade Promotion Rule

A 9<sup>th</sup> grader, on a 7/8/9<sup>th</sup> grade team, may be promoted to the HS level at any time, up to and including the end of the season, as long as they do not exceed the maximum number of contests.

3.2 Revision of the modified tryout rule to include only transfer students, medical condition, and overlapping seasons

The "first 3 of 5 days" is now changed to "3 of 5 days" of practice pertaining to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders that are selectively classified.

3.3 Transgendered Student Eligibility

Guidelines are being established by the NYSPHSAA. Contact T. Nelson at the state office if there are any questions or concerns.

3.4 Mixed Competition

As of July 2014, the NYSPHSAA Central Committee approved a set of guidelines to assist schools, superintendents, and sections when interpreting "significant adverse effect" in terms of mixed competition requests.

3.5 The number of competitions for Swimming & Diving to equal Outdoor and Indoor Track & Field

The maximum number of contests for Swimming & Diving is now labeled as 16+. This allows divers to compete individually without affecting the maximum number of contests for the school team.

3.6 Weight throw added to the Indoor Track & Field Championships

The Section VI weight throw championship will be held at Lancaster. T. Slade to request specific details from P. Szymanski and B. Lombardo (Section VI Indoor Track and Field Chairmen).

3.7 Wrestling Penalty

The penalty for a wrestler who exceeds the 20 allotted points or 6 allotted tournaments now includes an additional minimum penalty on the coach to be suspended for the next regularly scheduled contest

3.8 NYSPHSAA Technical Handbook for Girls' Girls Gymnastics

There is a new Girls Gymnastics handbook. The NYSPHSAA will be selling hard copies out of their office.

### 3.9 Transfer Rule Update

The NYSPHSAA Transfer Committee met Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The following items are being considered for potential changes to the Transfer Rule.

- Elimination of academic advantage
- Require "legal separation"
- Institute ways to prohibit "athletic shopping"

Any proposals will be presented at the October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.

Concerns within Section VI:

- The Education Commissioner of the State of New York mandated that Buffalo students will be allowed to transfer with no effect on participation in athletics

### 3.10 Unified Sports – Official Program of NYSPHSAA

Four Section VI member schools have expressed interest to participate in Unified Sports. T. Slade to send an additional notice asking if any other member schools are interested.

## 4.0 AC Action Items for the next athletic council meeting to date include:

### 4.1 Sports' reports

#### a) 13-14 Spring Post Season Reports

- This past Spring the Section incurred considerable expenses at Niagara Falls and Lewiston Porter. Therefore, future Baseball venues will be investigated for cost savings.

#### b) 14-15 Winter Pre-Season Reports

*No discussion.*

### 4.2 Approvals: Combining of Schools

The Section will continue to be flexible with combining of schools applications.

### 4.3 Approval of the Section VI Boys Modified Representative Candidate

The nominations committee will seek approval of Matt Librock (Alden) for the Section VI Boys Modified Representative position.

### 4.4 Approval of the Section VI Superintendents' Representative Candidate

The nominations committee will seek approval of Dr. Michael Wendt for the Section VI Superintendents' Representative position.

### 4.5 Approval of the 2015-2016 Section VI meeting dates

4.5.1 Sectional/Intersectional (Thurs. 9am Teleconference): Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup>

*No discussion.*

## 5.0 Old Business:

### 5.1 Cheerleading – Section VI Invitational

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Section VI Cheerleading Invitational will be held at Buffalo State on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

### 5.2 Section VI Wall of Fame update

- On September 24<sup>th</sup>, J. Dunnigan (Chairman), B. Banker (Assistant Chairman), and K. Stoldt (Section VI Football Chairman) are scheduled to meet with Buffalo Bills representatives to confirm use and placement of cameras for the induction ceremony.
- Committee members have been recommended, representing each league along with Stu Boyer as a news media representative.
- Inductees of the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Section VI Hall of Fame will be selected from current inductees of the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame. An application form for subsequent years, beginning with 2015-2016, will be sent to member schools in the near future.

## 6.0 New Business:

### 6.1 Section VI 2015-2016 Starting Dates

The proposed format includes bumping the starting dates back one week in November and March. Representatives are asked to review the proposed calendar with their respective leagues as it will be an action item at the November 2014 athletic council meeting.

### 6.2 Skin Infection Form

In the sport of wrestling, a second visit to the diagnosing physician is required for a student-athlete with a skin infection to be cleared before they may be released for competition.

6.3 O'Hara Girls Basketball

The Girls Basketball coach for O'Hara also coaches for AAU. Allegedly, four players on his AAU team are from Section VI member schools. T. Slade to update the committee as more information becomes available.

6.4 City Honors 14-15 Independent Schedules – Softball & Volleyball

Buffalo Public Schools notified Section VI that City Honors will have an independent schedule for the 2014-2015 season in the sports of Softball and Volleyball.

6.5 Section 6 to pilot revised rules in Modified Football for the 2014 and 2015 Modified Football Seasons

The Niagara Frontier League (NFL) has adopted the modified football revised rules pilot program for the 2014-2015 season. Football officials and the NFL member schools have been sent the rules and regulations.

7.0 Good of the Order

7.1 Sports Websites

T. Slade to investigate advertisements for and overseeing all sports websites.

7.2 Sponsors

T. Slade investigating G&G Fitness as a potential corporate partner.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Fadeley  
Administrative Assistant

<p><b>Dates for 2014-15 teleconference meetings 9:00am- noon: (Thursdays):</b> <b>Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 8th, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 23<sup>rd</sup></b></p>
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