

SECTIONAL / INTERSECTIONAL COMMITTEE
April 24th, 2014 REPORT
Chairperson: Timm Slade

Action Items for the Athletic Council

- 2.3 *Recommendation to require scheduling opt-out dates as close to the seeding meetings as possible. Opt-out requests must be submitted in writing (mailed, faxed, and e-mailed documents will all be accepted) from the teams' athletic director, principal, and/or superintendent.*
- 4.1 *Recommendation to follow the Section VI Policy Manual. (Boys Gymnastics)*
- 4.1 *Recommendation to accept the 2014 fall pre-season reports (excluding Boys Gymnastics) with the following*
EXCEPTION:
 - Boys and Girls Volleyball sectional pre-quarters, semi-finals, and finals dates as presented**ADDITION:*
 - A Boys Volleyball NFL at large representative*

SECTIONAL/INTERSECTIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES April 24th, 2014

Attendance (* indicates present)

T. Slade* (Chairman), A. Lloyd (Buffalo), B. Drake* (CCAA), J. Graczyk*(ECIC), P. Burke*(NFL),
D. Carson* (NO), C. Bullis* (Girls Rep.), D. Scholla* (Boys Rep.)

1.0 **Sports Concerns:**

1.1 **WNYSO Contract / Fact Finding Update**

T. Slade and R. Breidenstein, Superintendent at Salamanca, represented Section VI at the March 28th, 2014 fact finding session in Albany, New York. The fact finding report is due to the Section office by May 12th, 2014. T. Slade to update the committee as information becomes available.

2.0 **Section Concerns:**

2.1 **Cross Country Litigation Update**

Section VI has been named in the lawsuit involving the Section XI athlete who collapsed at and passed away soon after the 2012 state cross country championships. T. Slade and J. Zubler (Section VI Girls Cross Country Chairman) met with the Section attorney (assigned by the NYSPHSAA) on Monday, March 3rd at 3:00pm. T. Slade submitted ambulance information to the attorney (at his request). The attorney has made no other contact at present. T. Slade to update the committee as the proceedings move forward.

2.2 **Boys Ice Hockey Update**

- a) T. Slade is awaiting a response from M. DiFilippo regarding a possible recommendation to move Williamsville North and Niagara Wheatfield up a classification
- b) Note: M. DiFilippo has not re-applied for the Section VI boys ice hockey chairman position.

2.3 **Opt-Out Regulations Update**

Recent issues have prompted concerns regarding the inconsistency of opt-out regulations across all sports. The process has become cumbersome for the Section office as schools are trying to opt-out after the date given. As recommended at the February 2014 sectional intersectional committee meeting, T. Slade has met with a number of Section chairpersons, who were agreeable to moving the opt-out dates closer to the seeding meeting dates.

Recommendation to require scheduling opt-out dates as close to the seeding meetings as possible. Opt-out requests must be submitted in writing (mailed, faxed, and e-mailed documents will all be accepted) from the teams' athletic director, principal, and/or superintendent.

2.4 **Administration at Higher Seed Basketball Games**

Concern was raised regarding the qualifications of student scorekeepers, announcers, etc. at basketball games. T. Slade to speak with the league representative of the schools involved to attempt to rectify the situation as the concern seems to stem from an isolated incident.

3.0 **NYSPHSAA Concerns:**

3.1 **Transfer Rule Potential Changes**

The transfer and handbook committees, at the state level, reviewed the transfer rule. A proposal for two potential changes, the requirement of a legally binding separation decree from a court of competent jurisdiction and the elimination of academic advantage as one of the waivers of the NYSPHSAA transfer rule, are listed on the May 2nd, 2014 state executive committee meeting agenda. The Section VI Executive Committee (*meeting was held Wednesday, April 23rd, 2014*), directed D. Scholla (Section VI Boys Representative) and C. Bullis (Section VI Girls Representative) to request these agenda items be tabled for further review at the section level. If these items are not tabled, D. Scholla and C. Bullis are directed to support the requirement of a legally binding separation decree from a court of competent jurisdiction and to not support the elimination of academic advantage as one of the waivers of the NYSPHSAA transfer rule.

3.2 Fiscal Reductions Proposal

The following proposals (Section III) are items on the May 2nd, 2014 state executive committee meeting agenda:

Section III: "To balance the number of varsity sport team contests offered during the winter regular sport season to a maximum of 20 contests, starting with the 2014-2015 school year, by increasing the number of varsity basketball games from 18-20.

Section IV: "To balance the number of varsity contests offered during the winter regular sports season to a maximum of 20 contests, by increasing the number of varsity (only) basketball games from 18-19 during the 2014-15 school year and by increasing the number of varsity (only) games from 19-20 for the 2015-16 school year.

A vote regarding fiscal concerns is anticipated at the August state executive meeting. Please note, if a motion pertaining to the fiscal concerns is not approved, the number of contests will revert back to the maximum allowable.

3.3 Modified Football Proposal

The following proposal made by the state modified committee will be a discussion item at the May 2nd, state executive committee meeting:

"Section IV shall be permitted to adopt a two-year pilot program in modified football that will allow implementation of revised modified football rules. Each school participating shall be required to provide injury data from its 2013 modified football season practices and games, to serve as a baseline of information prior to its participation in the pilot program. The injury report must be completed again after the 2014 and 2015 seasons, and submitted to the local sections, and to Todd Nelson at NYSPHSAA, and state modified football coordinator Steve Nolan. With sectional approval, other sections may participate in this pilot program, contingent upon submission of baseline data prior to participation in the program, and completion of annual injury reports."

The state safety committee is in favor of this recommendation. Therefore, discussion should continue at the section level as possible action will be taken in July or September 2014.

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

4.1 2014 Fall Pre-Season Reports

a) *Boys Gymnastics-*

The Section VI Policy Manual (220.2) states the following:

In order to have classification matches, meets, or tournaments, there must be a minimum of five (5) teams per classification. All exceptions to the minimum number must be approved by the Athletic Council.

Currently, only 4 schools (Hamburg, Williamsville North, Williamsville South, & Williamsville East) are reporting to have a participating team for the 2014 fall season.

- There are no regional or state championships for boys gymnastics.
- Although minimal, there is a cost to the Section (ticket takers, awards, officials, etc.).
- The boys gymnastics committee is requesting that the number of sectional competitions be changed from 6 to 4 as they have no other team(s) to compete against.

Recommendation to follow the Section VI Policy Manual.

T. Slade to contact C. Amo, ECIC Secretary/Treasurer regarding an ECIC Boys Gymnastics Championship.

b) *Boys & Girls Soccer*

- C. Durr (Girls Soccer Chairman) and T. Marquardt (Boys Soccer Chairman) are in the process of coordinating/finalizing the A1 and A2 finals venues. In addition, they are in discussions with Pioneer to host the Boys and Girls Soccer C and D finals.
- The chairmen expressed concern regarding the website requirements. However, T. Slade shared with the chairman that there will be no recourse for coaches who do not

enter individual statistics as per approval from the Section VI Athletic Council (March 19th, 2014). C. Durr requested that T. Slade meet with all Section VI chairmen, whose sport have a website, to compose common and consistent language pertaining to website requirements.

Note: T. Slade to share with all Section VI chairmen that they are to make contact with the league representative and athletic director of the school(s) whose coach(es) are not entering individual statistics and encourage them to do so.

- c) *Boys Volleyball* – T. Slade met with W. Stefani (chairman) to discuss ongoing concerns.
- More satisfactory sites for sectional semi-finals and finals (Lackawanna and Sweet Home) were investigated and presented.
 - The All-WNY selection committee meeting processes were reviewed regarding the individuals to be notified and the manner in which the meeting is to be conducted. T. Slade to contact NFL league representatives regarding their lack of attendance.
 - In the near future, the state committee will be present a motion to change the numbers for boys volleyball beginning with the 2015-2016 season.
 - Boys and Girls Volleyball sectional pre-quarters, semi-finals, and finals dates conflict. Section chairs will be contacted to alter dates.
 - A request was made to appoint an NFL at large representative as they currently do not have one, and ECIC has two.
- d) *Girls Volleyball*
- The request for lines people was removed from the pre-season report as it was previously voted on and opposed by the Section VI Athletic Council.
 - D. Schrufer to be contacted regarding remaining TBAs.
- e) *Girls Field Hockey*
- Class A and C finals will be held at Amherst. Class B will be held at Orchard Park.
 - J. Otto (chair) to get clarification regarding overtime rules.
 - The following proposal from the state field hockey committee is an action item on the May 2nd, 2014 state executive committee meeting agenda:
“The field hockey committee is requesting for a waiver of the uniform rule 1-5-1, section K and 1-5-1 section L which pertains to the side inserts only for the 2015-2017 seasons.”
If approved, schools will not have to purchase new uniforms to meet the established requirements.
- f) *Football*
- As a result of the 2014-2015 Buffalo Bills schedule, Section VI will have to schedule sectional finals on Thursday and Friday at Ralph Wilson Stadium. T. Slade to ask K. Stoldt (chairman) to investigate if a late game start on that Thursday can be avoided.
 - The USA Football clinic is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 at Depew High School. A number of reminders have been e-mailed to athletic directors.
- g) *Girls Gymnastics*
- Section VI was approved to host the 2014-2015 state championships at Kenmore West High School.
- h) *Girls Tennis*
- The 2014 sectional championships will be hosted at The Village Glen.
- i) *Cross Country*
- As a result of the litigation involving the 2012 State Cross Country Championships, Elma Meadows and other locations within Erie County are not options for the 2014 Section VI Cross Country Championships. J. Zubler (Section VI Girls Cross Country Chairman) and M. Janisch (Section VI Boys Cross Country Chairman) are trying to find a venue that is centrally located, but the pending site is Long Point State Park.

Recommendation to accept the 2014 fall pre-season reports (excluding Boys Gymnastics) with the following

EXCEPTION:

- **Boys and Girls Volleyball sectional pre-quarters, semi-finals, and finals dates**

ADDITION:

- **A Boys Volleyball NFL at large representative**

5.0 **Old Business:**

5.1 **Section VI Wall of Fame Update**

B. Banker (Section VI Wall of Fame Chairman) and J. Dunnigan (Section VI Wall of Fame Assistant Chairman) are scheduled to meet with T. Slade and K. Stoldt (Section VI Football Chairman) on April 29th, 2014 to discuss the format of the induction ceremony as it will be held at Ralph Wilson Stadium.

5.2 **Section VI Winter Sports Chairpersons Positions Update**

Winter sports chairs applications were due March 14th, 2014. All incumbents, except M. DiFilippo (Boys Ice Hockey), have submitted their application to the Section office. Note: There are challengers to some positions.

5.3 **Section VI Boys Representative, NYSPHSAA**

J. Graczyk will be recommended for the Section VI Boys Representative position at the May 14th, 2014 Section VI Athletic Council meeting. Moving forward, the executive committee requests that the notification process include a formal letter from the Section VI Executive Director to the candidates who were interviewed.

5.4 **Safe Sport Zone**

On Monday, April 7th, 2014, Section VI and the New York State Athletic Administrators Association offered a Safe Sport Zone seminar to all Section VI athletic directors. The seminar, presented by Jay Hammes, provided safety training to assure safer environments for activities occurring after regular school hours. T. Slade to contact B. Banker (NYSAAA) about instituting staff development for Section VI Athletic Directors on an annual basis.

5.5 **Assigning Software Update**

Aspects of ArbiterSports conversion and ongoing programming issues have caused significant concern with managing the Section's sports schedules and the assignment of officials within the software system. Section office staff is continuing to review Sportspak MVP as an alternative option.

6.0 **New Business:**

6.1 **Fall Sports Handbooks**

Section VI office staff are currently working on updates to the fall sports' handbooks for the 2014 season.

6.2 **Central Payment of Officials – Erie 1 BOCES**

During a recent meeting conducted at Erie 1 BOCES, a number of school business officials are pursuing the payment of officials through Erie 1 BOCES. They requested for Erie 1 BOCES to further investigate the costs involved and to prepare a report for the fall meeting.

6.3 **Section VI Finance Committee Meeting**

Note – the following will be discussed at the April 24th finance committee meeting: Girls and boys basketball pre-quarter and quarter finals, where administrative costs are paid by the Section, will be reviewed as an overall loss was recorded for the 2013-2014 season. Payment of administrative expenses by the host school for boys and girls basketball pre-quarter and quarter finals may be a more sensible option.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Fadeley
Administrative Assistant

<p>Dates for 2013-14 teleconference meetings 9:00am- noon: (Thursdays): Sept. 12th, Oct. 31st, Jan. 13th, Feb. 27th, Apr. 24th</p>
