

April 2014

To: Modified Athletics Representatives
Section VIII Athletic Council

From:

Re: Spring 2014 Meeting Report
NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics

The spring meeting of the State Committee for Modified Athletics took place on April 4, 2014 in Latham, New York. A synopsis of the meeting is as follows:

I. Items that will go to the State Executive Committee:

A. Tryouts Rule Editorial Change

Motion:

"The following editorial changes will be made in the Modified General Eligibility TRYOUTS Rule #17. d.) (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 137)

d.) "The tryout period for a modified athlete shall be defined as participation in a maximum of three (3) out of five (5) consecutive practice days of the high school season. During the tryout period, the modified athlete may not return to the modified program until the athlete's tryout is complete."

The motion passed unanimously 19-0.

B. Promotion Rule Revision Proposal

Motion:

"Current Promotion Rule 13.2) (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 136), shall be amended to read:

2) In schools where no junior varsity program is provided in a specific sport, a ninth grade modified contestant may be promoted to the varsity team at any point in the season if he/she displays the skills and maturity to compete at the varsity level. A promoted ninth grade contestant is eligible to participate immediately upon promotion providing that he/she has completed the necessary number of required practices for that specific sport. The contestant may not exceed the total number of contests as outlined by the NYSPHSAA High School Sports Standards chart."

The motion passed unanimously 17-0.

C. Use of “*With section/league approval...*” Language

Motion

“Motions may continue to come from the NYSPHSAA Modified Committee with the language ‘With sectional, league approval’ language.”

The motion passed 16-0-1.

There has been discussion at the Executive level that the modified program should not allow section or league-specific variances in rules. The modified representatives felt that the modified program is unique in many ways: across the State, we have many small schools, with great diversity in size. Many sections have significant geographic distances between their schools, and disparities in athletic strength. We do not participate in post-season play, nor do we compete outside of our sections. Because we deal with younger, less-developed athletes, we should be allowed more discretion and less legislation in order to serve the needs of the children in our sections.

II. Items that will go to the State Safety Committee

A. Section IV Modified Football Pilot Program

(Please refer to Addendum attached to this report)

Eric Race from Section IV presented a modified football rules proposal, suggesting a 2-year pilot program to include implementation of revised modified football rules, and a required two-year health and safety study to track injuries and categorize them to determine if athletes are at a greater risk of injury by participating using the new rules.

The rationale for the pilot program is to teach and coach similar systems of offensive and defensive football schemes to all players in the football program at appropriate age and developmental levels; to create more consistency between modified and varsity levels in teaching techniques of individual positions, team philosophies, and overall schemes and language; to safely close the gap between modified football rules and the NFHS rules employed at the HS level; and to provide, step-wise, a natural progression for student-athletes in the game of football in NYS, beginning at the modified level and culminating at the varsity level.

It will be imperative that any sections/schools that wish to participate in the pilot program establish baseline information data on injuries from their 2013 football season. . They must submit their school report to their sectional modified football sport coordinator, to Todd Nelson at

NYSPHSAA, and to state modified football sport coordinator Steve Nolan. They must then track and report all injuries to players for the next two consecutive seasons in 2014 and 2015, and submit this information no later than December 1st of each year. The information will be collected, analyzed, collated and released to all vested parties.

Motion:

“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 motion passed unanimously 19-0. If passed, it will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

B. Reduction in Number of Practices Required Prior to First Contest in Modified Cross Country and Track & Field (page 10)

Motion

“The required number of practices required prior to the first contest in modified cross country (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 144 and Modified Sports Standards chart, page 140) shall be reduced from 13 to 11. The number of practices required prior to the first contest in modified Track and Field (Outdoor and Winter) (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 153 and Modified Sports Standards chart, page 141) shall be reduced from 15 to 13.”

The motion passed unanimously 17-0. It will be an Action Item at the Fall meeting of the Modified Committee. The input of the State Safety Committee was also requested at their April 10, 2014 meeting.

III Items which will occur before the Fall 2014 Modified Committee meeting:

- **IF** the proposed football pilot program is approved by the State Safety Committee and the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee: we must decide if our section wishes to participate. We must designate a member of our section to collect 2013 football baseline injury surveys, complete a 2014

and 2015 football post season injury survey annually, and assure we are communicating the rules and spirit of the pilot program.

- Efforts to secure modified sport coordinators for girls' gymnastics and boys' and girls' tennis
- Appropriate report presentations by fall and winter sports coordinators. The following sports are scheduled for review: baseball, cross country, field hockey, football, boys' and girls' lacrosse, boys' and girls' soccer, softball, boys' and girls' tennis, track and field and wrestling.

IV. Discussion Item

A. Waiver of Promotion Rule

Motion:

“In special cases, when a high school team is dissolved due to low participation numbers, the Promotion Rule may be waived for those modified athletes who were promoted to that team. The modified athlete may return to the modified program in that same season in that same sport if a waiver has been filed and approved by the NYSPHSAA office.”

The motion passed unanimously 17-0.

What does our section think of this item?

V. Action Items for Next Meeting

A. Sudden Victory in Modified Basketball

Motion:

“Existing Modified Boys' Basketball Game Rule #2 and Modified Girls' Basketball Game Rule #3 (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 143) shall be examined to determine if 'sudden victory' should continue, or the overtime duration time and/or number of overtime periods should be adapted.”

The motion passed unanimously 17-0.

What does our section think of this item? Should we continue to allow 'sudden victory' in modified basketball, should we increase the overtime to more minutes, or should we allow a second overtime?

B. Reduction in Number of Practices Required Prior to First Contest in Modified Cross Country and Track & Field

Motion (Staropoli, Koenig)

“The required number of practices required prior to the first contest in modified cross country (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 144 and Modified Sports Standards chart, page 140) shall be reduced from 13 to 11. The number of practices required prior to the first contest in modified Track and Field (Outdoor and Winter) (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 153 and Modified Sports Standards chart, page 141) shall be reduced from 15 to 13.”

The motion passed unanimously 17-0.

Does our section agree that the required number of practices should be reduced in these sports? Are we in agreement with the proposed 2 days reduction?

C. Modified Use of Girls’ Basketball 10-Second Rule

Motion (Romanello, Doroshenko)

“The 10-second rule shall not be used in modified girls’ basketball.”

The motion passed unanimously 17-0.

Do we agree that we should NOT use the 10 second rule in modified girls’ basketball?

VI. Information Items

1. **State Handbooks.** Starting with the 2014-2015 school year, there will no longer be hard copies of the NYSPHSAA or modified handbooks. The handbooks will be accessible on the NYSPHSAA website. The decision was made to keep the handbooks accurate and current; many changes were made in-between printings.
2. **Coaching Certification.** Coaching certification requirements are being streamlined in cooperation with the NYSED. We recognize that it has become difficult to get interested new coaches certified in a timely manner, resulting in a shortage of available coaches. We are hopeful that enough time will be allotted towards communicating new changes with the sections so that coaching courses aligned with new requirements can be made available in our section.

3. **Girls' Lacrosse.** Although using the girls' lacrosse U-15 stick-checking rule became available this year, in reality it has really not been possible to use the rule across the state due to an unavailability of officials. The US Lacrosse girls' rulebook requires that two officials be assigned to games, and one of these officials must be a "locally rated" (varsity) official to use the U -15 rule. There are not enough officials, and also not enough locally-certified varsity officials to allow for consistent U-15 rule application in modified games. Although philosophically many schools want to use regular stick checking, we're stuck with U-13 unless we can encourage our lacrosse officials' association to get and certify more officials.
4. **Need for Modified Gymnastics and Tennis Sports Coordinators.** We continue to be in need of a NYS modified sport coordinator for girls' gymnastics, and a boys' and girls' tennis sport coordinator. If you have interest in filling one of these roles, please let us know; your participation on the State Committee would be welcome!
5. **NYSPHSAA Modified Committee Meetings for 2014-2015**
Committee meeting dates for the 2014-2015 school year were established.

Fall Meeting -	Friday, September 26, 2014	9:30 AM
Spring Meeting	Friday, March 27, 2015	9:30 AM

If you wish to have us bring items from our section to the State meetings for consideration, please speak up at our local meetings, or put your thoughts in writing for discussion. Contact your modified sectional representatives if you have suggestions, concerns or good ideas. Change starts at the local level; we encourage and welcome your input and participation.