

**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
MODIFIED COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Spring 2013 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM on Friday, April 12, 2013 by State Coordinator James Rose at the NYSPHSAA office in Latham, New York.

**I. Attendance**

State Coordinators

James Rose	Present
Judy Salerno	Present via conference call

Ex-Officio: Director and Assistant Director, NYSPHSAA

Robert Zayas, Executive Director	Present
Todd Nelson, Ass't Director	Present

Section Representatives

1	Rich Silverstein	Present
	Beth Staropoli	Present
2	James Schlegel	Present
	Michael Kardash	Absent
	Ron Racey	Proxy,
3	Chris Doroshenko	Present
	Barbara Felice	Present
4	Carl Koenig	Present
	Sue Franco	Present
5	Tom DeYoung	Present
	Ann Hosmer	Present
6	Adam Stoltman	Absent with notification
	Katie McGowan	Present
7	Matt Winslow	Absent with notification
	Victoria McMillan	Absent with notification
8	Jonathan Bloom	Present via conference call
	Denise Romanello	Absent with notification
9	Jeremy Weber	Present
	Helenanne Gillinder	Absent
10	Gary Tischler	Absent
	Lori Brewer	Present via conference call
11	Dan Robinson	Present
	Georgia McCarthy	Present

Boys' Sports Coordinators

Baseball:	Steve Nolan	Present
Basketball:	Robert Hummel	Present
Cross-Country:	Patrick Patterson	Absent
Football:	Steve Nolan	Present
Ice Hockey:	Dean Berardo	Absent with notification
Lacrosse:	Gordie Pollard	Present
Soccer:	Matt Wood	Absent with notification
Swimming:	Tom DeYoung	Present
Tennis:	<u>OPEN</u>	
Track & Field:	Teresa Lee	Absent with notification
Volleyball:	Mira Martincich	Present
Wrestling:	John Richard	Absent with notification

Girls' Sports Coordinators

Basketball:	Jim Miller	Present
Cross-Country:	Patrick Patterson	Absent
Field Hockey:	Barbara Felice	Present
Gymnastics:	<u>OPEN</u>	
Lacrosse:	Beth Staropoli	Present
Soccer:	Matt Wood	Absent with notification
Softball:	Micki Bedlington	Present
Swimming:	Tom DeYoung	Present
Tennis:	<u>OPEN</u>	
Track & Field:	Teresa Lee	Absent with notification
Volleyball:	Mira Martincich	Present

A welcome was extended to all. Jonathan Bloom (Section 8), Lori Brewer (Section 10), and Modified Committee co-chair Judy Salerno were on conference call. Jim Rose thanked the Modified Committee members who participated in two very successful modified athletics workshop sessions at the NYSAAA conference in March.

**II. Acceptance of Minutes of the October 5, 2012 Fall Modified Committee Meeting, Latham, New York**

Motion (Felice, McGowan) to approve the minutes unanimous.

**III. Executive Director's Report**

Robert Zayas extended his greetings and gratitude for the involvement and dedication of the Committee members. Robert is currently evaluating all aspects of the NYSPHSAA – finances, staff, handbook, and Committees. Initiatives in the coming year will include a new website design, the use of the NHF

concussion management course for NYS coaches, a long-term 10-year contract and commitment with Time Warner Cable to promote our athletes and events, and a “revenue share” with the sections to return money to the local level.

Todd Nelsen noted that we were able to approve the modified baseball/softball substitution rule action item via a successful e-mail vote in January, allowing implementation for this spring; three sections are currently using the concept. Todd reminded the members that change starts at the league/sectional level. Committee members should encourage their constituents to contact them with suggestions and desired changes.

#### **IV. Correspondence**

Requested agenda additions were included in the agenda for this meeting.

#### **V. Discussion Items**

##### **A. Forum for Modified & High School Sports Coordinators**

For better communication of issues between the high school and modified sport coordinators, Jim Rose suggested that we initiate a combined meeting. It was agreed that it would be difficult to release so many people from school, so perhaps a summer meeting date with sufficient prior notice would work. In the interim, modified sport coordinators should contact their high school colleagues to share e-mails and to encourage placement on sports committee mailing lists. It is also possible to telephone conference into the high school sports meetings. Robert Zayas noted that the proposed new NYSPHSAA website aims to have a “sport landing place” so that updated information per sport can be accessed easily.

##### **B. Combined Modified/JV Athletic Programs**

We have visited this topic before, and last year’s pilot program on this topic was not approved by the Executive Committee. However, modified athletic and JV programs continue to be cut, and some relief may be needed. The 7-8-9 Modified “A” program remains an option. Rich Silverstein (Section I) noted that if sports are being covered by community recreation leagues, schools are less worried about cuts. Other reps found this problematic, as different rules are being used in recreation programs, and the educational component is not prioritized; there is a disconnect sometimes. Recreational programs have “political leverage” in school districts and pressure schools for use of facilities. On the other hand, booster clubs and recreation leagues pitch in to help schools maintain programs by donating resources and equipment. Positive and active communications are key: interactions among school and recreation league coaches must be active; modified and high school athletics directors must work together and talk with the administrators of outside leagues. Modified standards and philosophy must be communicated. It is tough to compete with outside recreation leagues, but

the promotion and communications of modified procedures are crucial. Beth Staropoli (Section I) noted that we also need to continue to reach out to the parents of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students as their children become eligible for modified athletics; to encourage the high school athletics directors to stay actively involved in modified sports; and to include Middle School building administrators in all initiatives to promote the modified level of athletics.

Sue Franco (Section IV) reminded the Committee that we still have kids who do not participate at all; they are choosing video games. Perhaps we need to include the sports in our program that our students are interested in today, such as skateboarding and snowboarding, especially if some traditional sports are dying in our programs. The states of Kentucky and Illinois have introduced bass-fishing as a sport!

**C. Waiver of Promotion Rule for Modified Track and Field**

Todd Nelson noted that as a means of saving money, we have allowed swimming/diving to host simultaneous high school/modified meets at one site, alternating the events for the high school and modified levels. A league in Section IV was permitted to do so for track and field, and Todd further allowed any section to opt to do the same intermingling of high school/modified track and field for this spring 2013 season only. The NYSPHSAA constitution allows its officers, between meetings, to make such decisions. There was discussion about procedure, and whether this decision should have been made before it came to this Committee. We have successfully presented new or time-sensitive issues via the internet, and have had the sectional reps vote electronically. Todd noted that each section wants autonomy in decision-making, and that each section must give approval for the use of this waiver of the Promotion rule in its own section/league. The item was called for a vote:

Motion (Silverstein, Staropoli):

*“Promotion Regulation shall be waived for Boys’ and Girls’ outdoor track and field, permitting schools with section/league approval the option of running combined modified and varsity outdoor track and field meets, alternating events.” (see Track and Field, pages 153-154)*

**Passed** 16-0. This will be an Action Item at the Fall 2013 meeting of this Committee. In the interim, modified track and field sport coordinator Teresa Lee will develop an Order of Events for Combined Modified/Varsity Track Meets for pages 153-154 of the state handbook.

**D. Modified Soccer 68 Minute Game Time (two 30-minute halves and two four minute overtime periods.) – Modified soccer sport coordinator Matt Wood**

Because Matt Wood could not attend this meeting, there was no discussion or action. The item may be revisited at the Fall 2013 meeting.

**E. Flexibility with Student Transfers after Normal Try-Out Period**

The Committee discussed what happens when new modified transfer students enter a school during the third week of high school try-outs and wish to be promoted to the high school level of sports. Currently, after they are selection-classified, they are permitted to try out, but may NOT return to the modified level of play, because they have practiced/played with high school students beyond the two week allowance. We would have to keep them at the high school level. Should we be more flexible? Some Committee members felt that these modified students should stay at the modified level of play when they transfer in, and not be permitted to S/C; let them get acclimated to their new school. We do not yet know them or their talents, and a mistake could be bad. The suggestion was made that the item needs discussion at the sectional level, and the representatives were asked to take it back. We will discuss it again in the fall.

**F. Stick Checking in Modified Girls' Lacrosse & U15 Rules – Beth Staropoli, Modified Girls' Lacrosse Sport Coordinator**

Beth noted that the US Lacrosse Women's Rulebook has gone to new modified checking rules that do not correlate with the present rules in the NYSPHSAA handbook. The new rules are:

U-15- Regular checking. Any check to the head is an automatic red card.

U-13- Modified checking only (when the stick is below the shoulder)

U-11- No checking.

The old rules that are presently in the state handbook refer to Level FC (Full Checking), Level A (Modified Checking only) rules, and Levels B and C (No Checking) (*Reference: page 150, Game Rule #4*). In past US Lacrosse rulebooks, under Girls' Youth Rules, Level A ("Modified Checking) was used.

Beth's concern is that if we use the U-13 "Modified Checking" rule, there will be a number of 8<sup>th</sup> graders, who, at the age of 14, will be playing with checking. We are then asking them to forget about that part of the game when they are on our fields. Beth's recommendation is that we play with the U-15 rules for the girls' modified lacrosse program, and edit our handbook.

Motion (Staropoli, McGowan):

*"The following editorial changes will be made in the modified girls' lacrosse Game Rules and Game Conditions (Reference :NYSPHSAA handbook, page 150):*

*~~Delete existing Game Rule #4, which reads 'Modified stick-checking in modified girls' lacrosse, as outlined in the US Lacrosse Rulebook under the Girls' Youth Rules-Level A, may be used.'~~*

*Substitute the following as Game Rule #4: 'The US Lacrosse Rulebook U-15 checking rule will be used for the modified girls' lacrosse program: Regular stick checking. Any check to the head is an automatic red card.'*

**Passed** 16-0. This item will go to the NYSPHSAA Safety Committee, and, if passed, will be an Action Item at the fall 2013 meeting of this Committee.

### **G. Track and Field Shoes**

After discussion with modified track and field sport coordinator Teresa Lee, Todd Nelson noted that there are currently designs of track shoes that have an added plastic plate on the sole. This plastic plate has nubs on it that are unsafe, especially on tracks that are not all-weather, or are wet. Todd noted the importance of verifying Track and Field (Outdoor and Indoor) Game Rule #1. *Equipment - Only sneakers or shoes with molded rubber soles and molded cleats are permitted in the modified program.* (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 153).

## **VI. Action Item**

Motion: (Winslow, Schlegel)

*“With sectional/league approval, the modified program fall season starting date will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of August.”*

**Passed** 16-0. This item will go to the Executive Committee.

## **VII. Sectional Reports: Oral Summaries of Written Reports**

Sectional reports were distributed from Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11.

Additional discussion is noted as follows:

Section 1. Rich Silverstein noted that Section 1 is encouraging full use of season scheduling until the end of the season, when fields, gyms and officials are more available. Scrimmages are being encouraged as schools are eliminating modified teams and struggling. Communicating the value of the modified program is a goal. The section is also considering regional Selection/Classification testing.

Section 2. Jim Schlegel noted that there is now more merging of schools, with geographic grouping to save costs.

Section 3. Barb Felice noted that with increased concerns about concussions and heading in the sport of soccer, the section is considering becoming “more restrictive” and requiring the use of mouthpieces for all players in soccer. Chris Doroshenko noted that the section is looking at two, 3-quarter basketball games and splitting a team’s roster. Officials will be paid for 1½ games. It was pointed out that this is a breach of modified rules, as this would count as two games for the day for the team; the team would then very quickly reach its allowable maximum number of games in its season.

Section 4. Carl Koenig reported no new business.

Section 5. Ann Hosmer reported that Wayne County in their section will have an early October 21, 2013 start for their modified boys’ basketball winter season.

The section would also like to revisit the use of the 3-point shot in modified boys’ and girls’ basketball. Although this item was brought up previously and failed to pass the Executive Committee last fall due to their facility and technique concerns, several Committee members approved that each section/league should

have the option to use the 3-point shot. The item was deferred to “New Business” and is reflected later in these minutes.

Section 6. No new business was noted.

Section 7. Matt Winslow requested clarification of the new roster form that accompanies the new baseball/softball substitution rule. It was confirmed that the roster has to be filled out with two players in every batting slot before any slot is assigned three players.

Section 8. Jon Bloom reported on the baseball pitch count recommendations that have been developed in Section VIII. He will report the impact of these guidelines at our next meeting. The modified wrestling sudden victory overtime procedure will start next year in Section VIII.

Section 9. Jeremy Weber reported no new business.

Section 10. Lori Brewer reported that her section will not be using the new baseball/softball substitution rule this spring season. Another plan for substitutions in these sports will be reported at our fall meeting.

Section 11. Dan Robinson reported that although the official Section XI starting date for next fall is Tuesday, September 3, 2013, Section XI is opting for a Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> modified starting start due to the Jewish holidays. Dan asked if there are any sections talking about or collecting data about the amount of contacts/hits/play counts for any level of football during the practice week before a game? The sections are not doing so, but Todd Nelson is considering doing so.

## **VIII. Sports Coordinators’ Reports**

At this meeting, the following sports were scheduled for review: boys’ and girls’ basketball, cross country, ice hockey, boys’ and girls’ swimming, boys’ and girls’ tennis, boys’ and girls’ track and field, boys’ and girls’ volleyball, and wrestling. A girls’ lacrosse report was distributed by Beth Staropoli, previously discussed in these minutes.

Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball. Bob Hummel and Jim Miller are glad that further discussion on the use of the 3-point shot for boys and girls was back on the table.

Cross-Country. Modified sport coordinator Patrick Patterson was absent from this meeting.

Ice Hockey. Dean Berardo was absent from this meeting, but reported that all is well with ice hockey.

Boys’ and Girls’ Swimming. Tom DeYoung reported that combined high school/modified meets are working according to the established rules. Obtaining sufficient officials is still a challenge.

Boys’ and Girls’ Track and Field. Teresa Lee was absent from this meeting. Discussion on track and field issues was reported earlier in these minutes.

Boys’ and Girls’ Tennis. We are still in need of a modified tennis sport coordinator!

Boys' and Girls' Volleyball. Mira Martincich reported that all is well with modified volleyball.

Wrestling. John Richard was absent from this meeting, but reported that there was no new modified wrestling business.

## **IX Old Business**

None at this time.

## **X New Business**

### **A. Selection/Classification**

Todd Nelson and Robert Zayas reported that S/C will now be known as the Interscholastic Athletic Placement Process (IAPP). It remains a State Education Department procedure, overseen by our new state representative, Darryl Daily. Each school's athletic director must approve whether his/her student will go through the placement process, not the parent or coach. The fitness test standard will be the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of the student's age on the Presidential Fitness Test. It is understood that the Presidential Fitness test is being phased out in favor of the NYS Fitnessgram, but the Presidential test will still be used for IAPP. The process may still be used to move an athlete down to the modified level of competition. NYS is still hoping to find a university that will compile fitness data and look at revised standards. The legal counsel of the State is concerned with the appeal waiver; all appeals will be turned back to the medical director of each school district, who ultimately is responsible for his/her own students.

The date of implementation of the IAPP is still unclear. Committee members expressed hope that it would start at the beginning of a school year, as opposed to midyear, or a January 1 date. It would be messy otherwise.

### **B. 3-Point Shot in Modified Basketball**

#### **Motion (Hosmer, McGowan)**

*"With sectional/league approval, the 3-point shot may be used in modified boys' and girls' basketball."*

**Passed** 16-0. This item will be an Action Item at the fall meeting of this Committee.



**C. Need for Modified Gymnastics and Tennis Sports Coordinators**

We continue to be in need of a modified sport coordinator for girls' gymnastics, and a boys' and girls' tennis coordinator. The assistance of sectional representatives and current sports coordinators was requested in finding people to fill these roles.

**XI. Committee Meetings for the 2013-2014 School Year**

The following meeting dates were established for the 2013-2014 school year:

**Fall Meeting:           Friday, October 11, 2013 at 9:30 AM**  
**Spring Meeting:       Friday, April 4, 2014 at 9:30 AM**

The meeting will take place at the NYSPHSAA office in Latham, NY.

Motion to adjourn (McCarthy, Schlegel) approved at 12:10 PM.

The Action/Discussion Items Summary is included on the following pages.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mira Martincich*

Mira Martincich, Secretary

**Action/Discussion Items Summary**  
 (Minutes reference pages are noted beside each item)

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

**Modified Fall Season Starting Date**

Motion: (page 6)

*“With sectional/league approval, the modified program fall season starting date will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of August.”*

**II. Item that will go to the State Safety Committee**

**Modified Girls’ Lacrosse Editorial Changes**

Motion: (pages 5-6)

*”The following editorial changes will be made in the modified girls’ lacrosse Game Rules and Game Conditions (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 150):*

*Delete existing Game Rule #4, which reads ‘Modified stick-checking in modified girls’ lacrosse, as outlined in the US Lacrosse Rulebook under the Girls’ Youth Rules-Level A, may be used.’*

*Substitute the following as Game Rule #4: ‘The US Lacrosse Rulebook U-15 checking rule will be used for the modified girls’ lacrosse program: Regular stick checking. Any check to the head is an automatic red card.’*

If passed, this item will become an Action Item at the Fall 2013 Committee meeting.

**III Items which will occur before the Fall 2013 Modified Committee meeting:**

- Modified sports coordinators are encouraged to contact their respective high school sports coordinators to improve communications (page 3)
- Modified track and field sport coordinator Teresa Lee will develop an Order of Events for Combined Modified/Varsity Track Meets for pages 153-154 of the state handbook. This will assist the sections in understanding the design of the combined track meet. The Order will be forwarded to the sections prior to the Fall 2013 meeting (page 5).
- Efforts to secure modified sport coordinators for girls’ gymnastics and boys’ and girls’ tennis (pages 7, 9)
- Appropriate report presentations by fall and spring 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**

Should there be Flexibility with Student Transfers after Normal Try-Out Period?  
(page 5)

**V. Action Items for Next Meeting**

**A. Combined Modified/Varsity Track Meets**

**Motion:** (page 4)

*“Promotion Regulation shall be waived for Boys’ and Girls’ outdoor track and field, permitting schools with section/league approval the option of running combined modified and varsity outdoor track and field meets, alternating events.” (see Track and Field, pages 153-154)*

In the interim, modified track and field sport coordinator Teresa Lee will develop an Order of Events for Combined Modified/Varsity Track Meets for pages 153-154 of the state handbook. This will assist the sections in understanding the design of the combined track meet. The Order will be forwarded to the sections prior to the Fall 2013 meeting.

**B. 3-Point Shot in Modified Basketball**

**Motion:** (page 8)

*“With sectional/league approval, the 3-point shot may be used in modified boys’ and girls’ basketball.”*

April 2013

To: Sectional Representatives  
From: Mira Martincich  
Re: Synopsis of Spring 2013 Meeting  
NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics

The following synopsis may be helpful to you.

I've summarized the Spring 2013 meeting to a few pages, in hopes that it will be useful to you when you report to your constituents in your section. Just write your names in, and edit if you wish.

Have a happy and healthy rest of school year and summer! See you in the fall!

April 2013

To: Modified Athletics Representatives  
Section VIII Athletic Council

From:

Re: Spring 2013 Meeting Report  
NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics

The spring meeting of the State Committee for Modified Athletics took place on April 12, 2013 in Latham, New York. A synopsis of the meeting is as follows:

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

**Modified Fall Season Starting Date**

Motion:

*“With sectional/league approval, the modified program fall season starting date will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of August.”*

**II. Item that will go to the State Safety Committee**

**Modified Girls’ Lacrosse Editorial Changes**

Motion:

*”The following editorial changes will be made in the modified girls’ lacrosse Game Rules and Game Conditions (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 150):*

*Delete existing Game Rule #4, which reads ‘Modified stick-checking in modified girls’ lacrosse, as outlined in the US Lacrosse Rulebook under the Girls’ Youth Rules-Level A, may be used.’*

*Substitute the following as Game Rule #4: ‘The US Lacrosse Rulebook U-15 checking rule will be used for the modified girls’ lacrosse program: Regular stick checking. Any check to the head is an automatic red card.’*

If passed, this item will become an Action Item at the Fall 2013 Committee meeting.

**III Items which will occur before the Fall 2013 Modified Committee meeting:**

- Modified sports coordinators are encouraged to contact their respective high school sports coordinators to improve communications
- Efforts to secure modified sport coordinators for girls’ gymnastics and boys’ and girls’ tennis
- Appropriate report presentations by fall and spring 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

Should there be Flexibility with Student Transfers after Normal Try-Out Period?

The Committee discussed what happens when new modified transfer students enter a school during the third week of high school try-outs and wish to be promoted to the high school level of sports. Currently, after they are selection-classified, they are permitted to try out, but may NOT return to the modified level of play, because they have practiced/played with high school students beyond the two-week allowance. We would have to keep them at the high school level. Should we be more flexible? Some Committee members felt that these modified students should stay at the modified level of play when they transfer in, and not be permitted to S/C; let them get acclimated to their new school. We do not yet know them or their talents, and a mistake could be bad. The suggestion was made that the item needs discussion at the sectional level, and the representatives were asked to take it back.

What does this Section think?

#### V. Action Items for Next Meeting

##### A. Combined Modified/Varsity Track Meets

###### Motion :

*“Promotion Regulation shall be waived for Boys’ and Girls’ outdoor track and field, permitting schools with section/league approval the option of running combined modified and varsity outdoor track and field meets, alternating events.” (see Track and Field, pages 153-154)*

In the interim, modified track and field sport coordinator Teresa Lee will develop an Order of Events for Combined Modified/Varsity Track Meets for pages 153-154 of the state handbook. This will assist the sections in understanding the design of the combined track meet. The Order will be forwarded to the sections prior to the Fall 2013 meeting.

What does this Section think of the use of a combined Modified/Varsity Track meet design? It is already been approved and is in effect for Swimming and Diving in the State.

Would we use it in our section? Should other sections be allowed to do so as a cost-saving option?

## B. 3-Point Shot in Modified Basketball

### Motion

*“With sectional/league approval, the 3-point shot may be used in modified boys’ and girls’ basketball.”*

This concept was introduced last year and failed to pass at the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee level because of facility and technique concerns. It is being revisited, with the approval of the modified boys’ and girls’ basketball sport coordinators.

What does our section think of allowing modified athletes to use the 3-point shot?

## IV. Information Items

1. Many sections in New York State reported that continued cuts are occurring at both the modified and JV levels. The Committee for Modified Athletics is supporting designs that will help us to maintain, save and support participation while keeping costs down.
2. Selection Classification will now be known as the Interscholastic Athletic Placement Process (IAPP). It remains a State Education Department procedure, overseen by our new state representative, Darryl Daily. Each school’s athletic director must approve whether his/her student will go through the placement process, not the parent or coach. The fitness test standard will be the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of the student’s age on the Presidential Fitness Test. It is understood that the Presidential Fitness test is being phased out in favor of the NYS Fitnessgram, but the Presidential test will still be used for IAPP. The process may still be used to move a high school aged athlete down to the modified level of competition, if a student-athlete would be better served competing with younger athletes at the modified level. NYS is still hoping to find a university that will compile fitness data and look at revised fitness standards. The legal counsel of the State is concerned with the appeal waiver; all appeals will be turned back to the medical director of each school district, who ultimately is responsible for his/her own students.

The date of implementation of the IAPP is still unclear; it is unlikely that it will be used before 2014. We hope that it would start at the beginning of a school year, as opposed to midyear, or a January 1 date. It would be messy otherwise. Of course, it is the decision of each school district to determine if they will allow their student-athletes to be moved up or down at all. In addition, the use of regional fitness testing with unbiased examiners is still being talked about; it has merit as probably the most honest method of testing.

3. The new baseball/softball substitution rule was passed at the state level this winter and is available for our use at the sectional or league level. It is a good way to increase participation. The option is currently in use in four sections in the State this spring.
4. There are currently designs of track shoes that have an added plastic plate on the sole. This plastic plate has nubs on it that are unsafe, especially on tracks that are not all-weather, or are wet. Be cautious of what your track athletes are wearing. Track and Field (Outdoor and Indoor) Game Rule #1. Equipment states that *'Only sneakers or shoes with molded rubber soles and molded cleats are permitted in the modified program.'* (Reference: NYSPHSAA handbook, page 153).
5. 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!

#### **NYSPHSAA Modified Committee Meetings for 2013-2014**

The following meeting dates were established for the 2013-2014 school year:

<b>Fall Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, October 11, 2013</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Spring Meeting</b>	<b>Friday, April 4, 2014</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>

The meetings will take place at the NYSPHSAA office in Latham, NY.

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.