



**Athletic Council Meeting
November 18, 2020
MINUTES**

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2.1 **CARRIED:** Mark DiFilippo as Executive Director, Section VI
- 3.1 **CARRIED:** September 16, 2020 Athletic Council meeting minutes
- 4.12 **CARRIED:** Agenda item winter sports 2020-2021
- 5.1 **CARRIED:** Combining of Schools Applications, numbers (1) and (2)
- 6.3.1 **CARRIED:** Treasurer's Report
- 6.6.2 **CARRIED:** 2020-2021 school year only, with section/league approval, up to 100% of the maximum number of games permitted for each modified level sport may be designated as scrimmages.
- 10.1 **CARRIED:** Approval of the winter 2020-2021 pre-season reports (tabled Sept. 2020) with the exception of the seeding and tiebreaker recommendations from the Boys Basketball Committee and to table the Unified Bowling report
- 10.2 **CARRIED:** Approval of the spring 2021 pre-season reports with the exception of Boys Golf and the tiebreaker procedure for Girls Lacrosse
- 12.1 **CARRIED:** 2021-2022 Section VI Meeting Dates
- 12.2 **CARRIED:** Move the start date of low and moderate risk sports (bowling, rifle, skiing, swimming, and indoor track & field) from November 30, 2020 to December 14, 2020 and have the Executive Committee convene the week prior to that date to revisit the status and provide direction.



Athletic Council Meeting
November 18, 2020
MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER (Brett Banker)

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS (Brett Banker)

2.1 *Motion to approve Mark DiFilippo as Executive Director, Section VI*

CARRIED

Dell'Oso/Sukdolak

3.0 MINUTES (Brett Banker)

3.1 *Motion to approve of the September 16, 2020 Athletic Council meeting minutes*

CARRIED

Dell'Oso/Rabey

4.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Mark DiFilippo)

4.1 Male Representative

J. Graczyk's term in the position of male representative expires June 30, 2022. The application for the position will be placed on the Section VI website bulletin board following today's athletic council meeting. Approval of the candidate will be sought at the May 12, 2021 athletic council meeting. As approved at a prior athletic council meeting, the incumbent will shadow J. Graczyk during the last year of his term (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) and assume the role beginning July 1, 2022. If multiple individuals apply, interviews will be conducted by the Nominations Committee, which is chaired by President-Elect Maureen Donahue.

4.2 Whistleblower Policy

The Section's auditors recommended adopting a whistleblower policy. The draft of the Section VI Whistleblower Policy was modeled after Erie 1 BOCES policy and is attached for review in Appendix A. The Section VI Whistleblower Policy will be reviewed at the December 2020 Executive Committee meeting and an action item for approval at the January 2021 Athletic Council meeting.

4.3 NYSPHSAA Foundation

Section VI is looking for a volunteer to represent Section VI on the newly created NYSPHSAA Foundation. An athletic and financial background is preferred.

4.4 Conflict of Interest Survey

Annually, all members of the Executive Committee, Athletic Council, and office staff are required to sign Section VI's Conflict of Interest Policy. P. Turski will email all involved parties a link to the online document wherein they may place their signature and make their submission.

4.5 Section VI Coaches Meeting Update

With the delay in winter sports and the uncertainty due to the current circumstances surrounding COVID-19, a decision regarding winter coaches meetings will be made in the near future.

4.6 Fall Sports Chairs Renewals/Challengers

Fall sports chairs terms expire June 30, 2021. The next term is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. The sport chair renewal forms were emailed last week to fall sports incumbents and are due January 6, 2021. Approval of incumbents/candidates will be sought at the May 2021 athletic council meeting. The sport chair application will be posted on the Section VI Bulletin Board following this meeting for any challengers. If multiple individuals apply, interviews will be conducted by the Nominations Committee, which is Chaired by President-Elect Maureen Donahue.

*At the May 13, 2020 Athletic Council meeting, Pete Szymanski (Girls Cross Country) and Jay Sirianni (Football) were both approved to carry out remaining terms for former Girls Cross Country Chair Nancy Bennett and former Football Co-Chairman Adam Stoltman as well as full terms for 2021

through 2024. They do not need to fill out a renewal or be approved in May.

4.7 Girls Wrestling

NYSPPHSAA continues to work with USA Wrestling and in particular the Girls Wrestling Committee from USA Wrestling. Kyra Barry is the chairperson for this committee and is interested in meeting with the athletic council to update and answer any questions regarding the promotion of Girls Wrestling, which she will be invited to do so at the at the January 2021 athletic council meeting.

4.8 Boys Golf Chairman Vacancy Update

The Boys Golf Chairperson position is still vacant.

4.9 Boys Ice Hockey Vacancy Update

The Boys Ice Hockey Chairperson position is still vacant.

4.10 Officials Negotiations Update

Matt McKenna (Niagara Wheatfield), Vinny Dell'Oso (Starpoint), and Bob Breidenstein (Salamanca) are individuals interested in serving on the Section VI Negotiations Team. M. DiFilippo to seek a representative from the Niagara Orleans League and Buffalo Public Schools to round out the team. The current officials contract expires at the end of this school year. The WNYSO were asked to extend the current contract out 1 more year. They are anticipated to provide a response to this request in December.

4.11 Cross Country Sectionals

M. DiFilippo shared positive feedback, considering the challenging circumstances, in the handling of the Cross Country Sectionals by the respective chairpersons.

4.12 ***Motion to approve agenda item winter sports 2020-2021***

CARRIED

Jon Roth/Fallacaro-Dougherty

5.0 COMMUNICATIONS (Mark DiFilippo)

5.1 ***Motion to approve of Combining of Schools applications, numbers (1) and (2)***

1) Indoor Track B/G, Allegany Limestone, Olean, Portville, Franklinville, V, 746 D1

2) Basketball G, Silver Creek, Forestville, V, 242 Class C

CARRIED

Jeff Roth/House

6.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Combining of Schools Committee (Jeff Rabey)

Nothing to report

6.2 Charter Schools Classification Committee (Jeff Rabey)

6.2.1 Health Sciences Boys Basketball 2020-2021 Classification Appeal

This morning, the Executive committee heard an appeal regarding Health Sciences Charter Schools. The committee will make a decision and will notify Health Sciences within 5 days.

6.3 Finance Committee (Don Scholla)

6.3.1 ***Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report (Appendix B)***

CARRIED

Bradley/Donahue

6.3.2 Section VI 2021-2022 Proposed Budget (Appendix C)

The athletic council was asked to review the proposed budget with their respective Leagues as it will be an action item for approval at the January 2021 athletic council meeting.

6.4 Sectional/Intersectional Committee (Mark DiFilippo)

6.4.1 Boys & Girls Basketball Proposal

Per the September 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes: *The Boys Basketball Committee will be asked to run their seeding proposal with last year's data and this year's data and present it in their 19-20 post season report in order for the Athletic Council to vote on approval for the 2020-2021 season.* This data has yet to be submitted to the Executive Committee. In addition, the Boys and Girls Basketball Chairs are requesting approval (20-21 pre-season reports) to change the tiebreaker procedure.

The Executive Committee decided not to entertain policy changes for this school year due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

M. DiFilippo was directed to ask the basketball chairs for the data regarding the seeding proposal as well as to inquire with the other Section sports chairs regarding the requested policy changes.

The Boys Basketball report can be acted on in item 10.1 with the exception of the basketball committee's recommended seeding and tiebreaker changes.

6.5 Safety (Brian Wild)

Nothing to report

6.6 Modified Report (Matt Librock & Julie Arnold)

6.6.1 Update from the Modified State Committee Meeting (held October 2020)

It was noted that for this past fall season, 4 sections have moved modified sports to fall season 2, some sections decided not to play modified sports, and some altered their season; all as a result of the circumstances surrounding COVID-19

6.6.2 ***Motion to approve for the 2020-2021 school year only, with section/league approval, up to 100% of the maximum number of games permitted for each modified level sport may be designated as scrimmages.***

CARRIED

Arnold/Sukdolak

6.7 State Executive Committee /Central Committee

a) Superintendent (Jeff Rabey)

Nothing to report

b) Principal (Al Gens)

Nothing to report

c) Female Rep. / Male Rep. (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty / J. Graczyk)

The following items were acted on at the October 2020 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.

1. With Section approval, provide the opportunity to begin the Fall Season II on February 22, 2021. **MOVED TO ACTION ITEM: DEFEATED 10-11-2** *NYSPHSAA President voted not to approve

2. Change the Modified Scrimmage rule to 100% for the Winter, Fall Season II, and Spring sports seasons. MOVED TO ACTION ITEM; APPROVED 18-4
3. 2021-2022 school enrollment numbers.
APPROVED 22-0
4. 5 classifications following 20% recommendation be an action item at the February NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting.
APPROVED 22-0
5. General D1/D2 Classifications as 34.37% (D1), 65.62% (D2) recommendation be an action item at the February NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting.
APPROVED 22-0
6. (A) Consider approval of waivers of the representation rule for various Sections.
APPROVED 22-0
7. Patti Perone as the Girls Volleyball State Coordinator for a 1-year term.
APPROVED 22-0
8. Change designation from individual to team/individual and adopt the NYSPHSAA Girls and Boys Tennis State Team Championship in addition to the state (individual) championship format already in place – to begin in Fall 2021 (girls) and Spring 2022 (boys).
APPROVED 20-2
9. Utilize NCAA Rule for two libero system in Boys Volleyball.
APPROVED 22-0
10. Advance ALL 2020 Fall regional and state tournament rotations to 2021 for all fall team sports, plus girls tennis (which uses at-large rotations to fill byes).
APPROVED 22-0
11. Extend bid terms for ALL 2020 Fall State Championships for an additional year as a result of the cancelation of these state championships.
APPROVED 22-0
12. Implement a two-year pilot program to change from the current At-Large Procedure for the NYSPHSAA Championship to an Automatic Qualifying Procedure effective for the 2020-2021 season.
APPROVED 22-0
13. Rebid the 2022-2024 NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Championships.
APPROVED 22-0
14. Add additional value parts for the Uneven Bars to the current NYSPHSAA Gymnastics Technical Handbook.
APPROVED 22-0
15. Permanently adopt the 2018 pilot that established a structure, training and scoring format for the NYSPHSAA Competitive Cheerleading Championships.
APPROVED 22-0
16. Modifications to the scoring areas of the State Scoresheet for Competitive Cheerleading.
APPROVED 22-0
17. Implement Game Day Cheer Regional Competitions in the fall of 2021 to be held during week #17 on the NYSPHSAA calendar.
APPROVED 22-0
18. LECOM Harbor Center as the host of the 2022-2024 NYSPHSAA Boys Ice Hockey State Championships.
APPROVED 22-0

The following item was tabled at the October 2020 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.

19. Permitted to annually approve sites to host Boys Ice Hockey regional contests.
*Boys Ice Hockey requests this item be tabled for further discussion.
TABLED 22-0

The following item is for discussion at the February 2021 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting. (Appendix D)

20. Fall Season II Start Date

The following items are to be reviewed by member Leagues in preparation to provide J. Graczyk, Male Representative, and M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, direction at the January 2021 Athletic Council meeting on how to vote at the February 2021 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting. (Appendix E)

21. 2 - division classification cut-off proposal

22. 5 - sport classification cut-off proposal

**Items 21 & 22 are extremely important as school placements will be dramatically affected if approved.*

23. Cohort numbers for NYSPHSAA Classifications proposal – *This item no longer requires direction for the male and female representatives at the January 2021 athletic council meeting. Further discussion regarding this item will take place at the state level in February.*

24. School of Distinction/Excellence merged team requirement proposal

25. Sportsmanship Official's Card proposal – Add "including racial or discriminatory comments or slurs"

26. Wrestling – modify the current appeal procedure used for the State Championship (Duals and Individual) proposal

6.8 Extended Eligibility (Mark DiFilippo)

Nothing to report

6.9 Chemical Awareness (John Grzymala)

Nothing to report

6.10 Transfer/ Foreign Student (Mark DiFilippo)

Reports were emailed to the Executive Committee

6.11 Sportsmanship (Jim Graczyk & Doug Ames)

A reminder was given indicating coaching nominations are requested at the end of each season for the annual Section VI Coaches Recognition Dinner.

6.12 Veterans (Jim Trampert)

Nothing to report

6.13 Mixed Competition (AI Gens)

6.13.1 Student-Athlete -GFH (Kenmore)

6.13.2 Student-Athlete – GGYM (Hamburg)

6.13.3 Student-Athlete – GGYM (Ken-Ton UFSD)

**The above mixed competition applications were identified as being approved*

6.14 Nominations (Maureen Donahue)

Nothing to report

6.15 Corporate Partner (Mark DiFilippo)

Nothing to report

6.16 Hall of Fame (Jim Dunnigan)

The Hall of Fame was paused in light of the circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

6.17 Unified Sports (Doug Ames)

7.0 SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 All WNY Scholar Athlete (Jeff Roth)

7.1.1 Fall nomination forms are open; due by December 7th

7.2 Charter Schools (Mark DiFilippo)

See item 6.2

8.0 STATE & SECTION SPORT COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report

9.0 GUEST REPORTS

9.1 NYSPHSAA Report (Robert Zayas)

The high-risk winter sports start date of January 4, 2021 contingent upon authorization from state officials. The decision to move high risk winter sports to January 4, which is a target date, was due to a significant increase in the COVID-19 infection rate as well as not having authorization from state officials to conduct high-risk sports at this time.

9.2 NYSAAA Report (Jeff Roth)

9.2.1 Chairperson

With the approval of M. DiFilippo as Executive Director, Jeff Roth will take over as NYSAAA Chairperson.

9.2.2 NYSAAA Conference

The NYSAAA Conference will be held virtually, February 22-25, 2021

10.0 SPORTS REPORTS

10.1 ***Motion to approve of the winter 2020-2021 pre-season reports (tabled Sept. 2020) (Appendix F) with the exception of the seeding and tiebreaker recommendations from the Boys Basketball Committee and to table the Unified Bowling report***

CARRIED

C. Ginestre/M. Ginestre

Stemming from health and safety concerns, the State Unified Bowling Chairpersons made the recommendation to move the Unified Bowling start date to March 1st as listed in the Section VI Unified Bowling pre-season report. Traditionally, Unified Bowling begins mid/late January. Concern was expressed about confirming a change in start date too early, singling out one winter sport and the overlapping in seasons would cause with Unified Basketball.

10.2 **Motion to approve of the spring 2021 pre-season reports with the exception of Boys Golf and the tiebreaker procedure for Girls Lacrosse** (Appendix G)

CARRIED

Graczyk/Stoltman

The Girls Lacrosse Committee is recommending a procedure change for tiebreakers as listed in their 2021 pre-season report:

When ranking teams for playoffs we had some divisional ties. The tie-breaker was a coin toss.

Head-to-head goal differential: This year, in the event there is a tie between teams, there should be a goal differential between teams to determine standings. (I.e. Team A beats team B 5-3 the first time they play then Team B beats team A in the 2nd game they play 5-4. Team A is plus 1, they finish 1st.)

In the event there is still a tie, Goals Against head to head: least amount of goals given up

In the event there is still a tie, Goals For head to head: most goals scored

In the event there is still a tie, Coin Toss

As with the Boys and Girls Basketball proposal (agenda item 6.4.1), the Executive Committee decided not to entertain policy changes for this upcoming school year due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

11.0 OLD BUSINESS

11.1 Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee has not been acted on at this point due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19.

12.0 NEW BUSINESS

12.1 **Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Section VI Meeting Dates**

- Sectional/Intersectional (Thurs. 9am Teleconference): Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Apr. 7
- Finance (Thurs.12pm Teleconference): Sept. 9, Oct 14 (@ Section VI), Jan. 13, Feb. 10, Apr. 7
- Athletic Council: Sept. 15, Nov. 17, Jan. 19, Mar. 23, May 18
- Executive Committee: above AC dates plus (Teleconference) Oct. 6, Dec. 15, Feb. 16, Apr. 20, June 15

CARRIED

Rabey/DeKay

12.2 Winter Sports 2020-2021

With an impending announcement from the Governor regarding COVID-19 zone designations, an uptick in infection rates, and schools transitioning to remote instruction coupled with athletic scheduling issues as a result, the Executive Committee recommended to move the start date of low and moderate risk sports (bowling, rifle, skiing, swimming, and indoor track & field) from November 30 to December 14 and have the Executive Committee convene the week prior to that date to revisit the status and provide direction.

Motion to move the start date of low and moderate risk sports (bowling, rifle, skiing, swimming, and indoor track & field) from November 30, 2020 to December 14, 2020 and have the Executive Committee convene the week prior to that date to revisit the status and provide direction.

CARRIED

Rabey/Donahue

****A press release will be emailed Section-wide and to the media following this meeting.***

13.0 GOOD OF THE ADJOURNMENT

13.1 *Motion to adjourn*
CARRIED
Jeff Roth/Jon Roth

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beth Fadeley".

Beth Fadeley
Recording Secretary