



**SECTIONAL INTERSECTIONAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

October 13, 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

(The following recommendations will be action items at the November 16, 2022 Athletic Council meeting)

1.1 Recommendation to approve the 12-run mercy rule after 5 for sectional play in the sport of Softball proposal

(The following recommendations will be action items at the May 17, 2023 Athletic Council meeting)

2.2 Recommendation to approve Alpine Skiing, Girls Gymnastics, Rifle, and Girls Ice Hockey competition for a sectional championship (per Policy 220.1) and the sports that will not have a minimum of five (5) teams per classification (per Policy 220.2) for the 23-24 school year at the May 17, 2023 Athletic Council meeting

Committee Members: (*indicates present)

*M. DiFilippo, Chairman

D. Matos, Buffalo Representative

*B. Drake, CCAA Representative

*J. Przybysz, ECIC Representative

*B. Halgash, NFL Representative

J. Reed, NO Representative

*M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative

*J. Roth, Male Representative

1.0 Sports Concerns:

1.1 Softball Proposal – consider 12 run mercy rule after 5 for sectional play

This proposal was included in the Softball 2022 post season report and initially presented at the September 2022 Sectional Intersectional Committee meeting. Committee members were asked to discuss this proposal with their respective leagues and be prepared to make a recommendation at today's meeting.

Recommendation to approve the 12-run mercy rule after 5 for sectional play in the sport of Softball proposal

CARRIED

Fallacaro-Dougherty/Halgash

2.0 Section Concerns:

2.1 Girls Ice Hockey

There is concern about “shopping around” and building power houses in the sport of Girls Ice Hockey.

In the past, there has been an unwritten rule in that no more than 3 schools could combine. Then, 4 schools were allowed to combine when West Seneca was struggling with numbers. It was the consensus that with the low numbers of girls playing hockey in the area, it is the culture of girls ice hockey to have multiple schools in a combination.

2.2 Section VI Policy Manual Compliance

Per 220.1 of Sectional Activities Requirements of the Section VI Policy Manual; in order to have competition for a Sectional Championship, there must be a minimum of fifteen (15) member schools competing in that sport. All exceptions to the minimum number must be approved by the Athletic Council.

Section VI has not been obtaining yearly approval in the sports of Alpine Skiing, Girls Gymnastics, Rifle, and Girls Ice Hockey.

Per 220.2 of Sectional Activities Requirements of the Section VI Policy Manual; 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. With the 2023-2024 implementation of the 6 classifications, it was noted that sports such as Boys and Girls Soccer will be affected by this policy.

Recommendation to approve Alpine Skiing, Girls Gymnastics, Rifle, and Girls Ice Hockey competition for a sectional championship (per Policy 220.1) and the sports that will not have a minimum of five (5) teams per classification (per Policy 220.2) for the 23-24 school year at the May 17, 2023 Athletic Council meeting

CARRIED

Przybysz/Roth

Potential changes to these policies will be a discussion item at the November 16, 2022 Athletic Council meeting.

2.3 Soccer Semis

Currently, Boys and Girls Soccer semi-finals are held at neutral sites. M. DiFilippo expressed concern about the increasing difficulty of contracting neutral sites and administrative staff for these contests. The soccer chairmen are not in favor of changing to the higher seed. The consensus of the committee was to remain with neutral sites for semi-finals.

2.4 Policy 170

Per Section 170, Independent Status, of the Section VI Policy Manual; A school must request approval of a team's independent status from the Athletic Council on an annual basis. Committee members were asked to remind their respective leagues of this policy as the Section office recently discovered some independent teams from this fall 2022 season that were not approved.

2.5 Boys Ice Hockey

Per 12.3 of Article 12 of the Section VI Constitution: Schools must compete within their sectional classification numbers for all sports except Ice Hockey. In the sport of Ice Hockey, teams may move up from the small school division to the large school division. The Ice Hockey exemption will be reevaluated annually.

Prior to aligning by the BEDS numbers, Williamsville North and Niagara Wheatfield were placed in Division 1. When that changed, and alignments were generated by the BEDS, Williamsville North and Niagara Wheatfield were placed in Division 2. Williamsville North and Niagara Wheatfield would then, annually request approval of the athletic council, to move to Division 1. In the past three years, there has not been a request by either school, to move to Division 1. Niagara Wheatfield has elected to stay in Division 2 and Williamsville North's numbers were above the threshold, keeping them in Division 1. At the September 14, 2022 Athletic Council meeting, Williamsville North was approved to move to Division 1 for the 22-23 season.

The Executive Committee has charged the Sectional Intersectional Committee with review of this Article and make a recommendation on how to move forward, operate as is or remove Boys Ice Hockey as an exception and be consistent across all sports. Committee members were asked to discuss this item with their respective leagues. M. DiFilippo will speak with the sport chairs. Reports on discussions will be shared at the January 2023 Sectional Intersectional Committee meeting.

3.0 **NYSPHSAA Concerns** (J. Graczyk/M. Fallacaro-Dougherty):

3.1 NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee Motions 22-23 season (Appendix A)

The NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee proposals, detailed within appendix A, are action items for approval at the October 19, 2022 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting. The Section VI Athletic Council gave M. Fallacaro-Dougherty and J. Roth direction to vote in favor of these proposals.

4.0 **Next Athletic Council Actions Items:** (informational only)

4.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the September 21, 2022, Section VI Athletic Council meeting minutes

4.2 ACTION ITEM: Approval of the proposed 2023-2024 North & South Timelines - Schedules/Assignment of Officials

4.3 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Combining of Schools applications

4.4 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Treasurer's report

4.5 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Spring 2023 pre-season reports

5.0 Old Business:

5.1 Boys Tennis – Team Championships & Participating Schools

Boys Tennis is planning to mimic what the girls did, 2 matches a day to get down to the semis in the large and small. Concern was expressed about how to cut down the number of teams participating in team championships. It was recommended to see how things go this year with the Saturday “cut-down” model, but to ask the chairman for 2 to 3 sites, in the north and south, one for large schools and one or two small schools. M. DiFilippo was asked to inquire what other sections how they conduct their post season.

5.2 Spring 2023 Post Season Calendar (*to be shared via with the Committee via Google Drive)

Baseball and Softball are more aligned than last year, there is a not a week separation between them this year. No concerns were raised with the Spring 2023 post season calendar.

5.3 Unified Basketball Philosophy Committee

At the last Sectional Intersectional meeting, there was discussion regarding the differing Unified Basketball philosophies across the Section - competitive vs. participation and inclusive.

At the September 14, 2022 Athletic Council meeting, T. Nelson explained that NYSPHSAA is competitive, not recreational.

Committee members were asked to discuss this item with their respective leagues and provide direction on how the Section should proceed. Some questions to ask include, but are not limited to - would keeping score, but not playing in a cutthroat manner fulfill the definition of competitive? If that is the case and the Section divides into 2 groups (one that keeps score and one with the intent to participate in championships), does that pose travel concerns for contests?

5.4 Flag Football –Sect/Int Committee members to report on discussions with Leagues regarding emerging concerns

Currently, there are 24 schools committed to participating in the 2023 season. M. DiFilippo asked M. Dauria to make sure her committee has representation from all the Leagues and to discuss the following items:

- Run as federated or league?
- How should the divisions be aligned? (2022 was by BEDS)
- How many games should be played in the regular season?

6.0 New Business:

6.1 Sportsmanship

The following items were decided at the September 14, 2022 Athletic Council meeting:

6.7c4.2 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support adding Spectator Sportsmanship expectations to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Rule.

6.7c4.3 **DEFEATED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support adding a Spectator Sportsmanship Regulation to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Rule.

Committee members were asked to continue discussions at league meetings about ideas to enforce the Spectator Sportsmanship Regulation.

6.2 Alpine Skiing Chairperson Vacancy

K. Frederickson stepped down from the Alpine Skiing Chairperson position. The application is posted on the Section VI website, on the Bulletin Board page.

6.0 Good of the Order:

6.1 2023 Spring Pre-Season Reports

Committee members were reminded that they will have a short turn-around to review the 2023 spring pre-season Reports. The reports are due November 1 and they are an action item for approval at the November 16 athletic council meeting. The Sectional Intersectional Committee may convene prior to the athletic council meeting if there are any item(s) of concern. The deadlines for pre and post season reports are outlined within the Section VI Policy Manual and will be a discussion item at the next Sectional Intersectional Committee meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fadeley

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Recording Secretary