



SECTIONAL INTERSECTIONAL COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 30, 2024
9am

Committee Members: (*indicates present)

- *M. DiFilippo, Chairman
- *A. Lloyd, 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 Winter 23-24 Post-Season Reports (Appendix A)

- a) Alpine Skiing
No concerns

b) Boys Basketball

- Discussions within the Boys Basketball Committee about Health Sciences class placement for 24-25. A recommendation from the Boys Basketball Committee is expected within their pre-season report.
- The Boys Basketball Committee expressed concern about outlying schools being assigned the same officials over and over. This is an agenda item for discussion at the next leagues heads meeting.
- Sectional Seeding Tiebreakers – Boys and Girls Basketball 2-Year Tiebreaker Pilot (approved AC Sept 2022) ended this 23-24 year
The current criteria of league wins and league losses is not appropriate. The Boys Basketball Committee proposes the following:
 1. *League winning percentage (already in place)*
 2. *Head to head in league (already in place)*
 3. *Overall winning % WITHIN YOUR CLASS (new) - so if team A played 11 games is Class A, and team B played 14, the team with the higher winning % would be the higher seeds. This would allow teams to play difficult schedules against larger schools without being "punished"*
 4. *Overall winning % of ALL 20 GAMES (new)*

The S/I Committee discussed changing "head to head in league" to "head to head" within the proposal and switch the order of #3 and #4.

This proposal is excluded from the recommendation to approve the boys basketball 23-24 post season report because the S/I Committee is in ongoing discussions to establish a tiebreaker framework for all sports.

- The Boys Basketball Committee recommends to not continue with the split class pilot (approved November 2023 AC for 23-24 & 24-25). In this specific situation, having the boys different from the girls is okay. The boys historically have less than 3 teams opt-out as opposed to the girls who have several teams opt-out annually. The consensus from the S/I Committee is if it isn't working, the Boys Basketball Committee must make a proposal to be removed from the pilot and be informed they cannot return to this format in the future.

Concern over inequity was expressed, questioning where to draw the line drawn between autonomy and consistency. Historical data, however, supports the rationale for a different procedure in regards to opting out for boys and girls basketball. It was noted that boys and girls basketball have seeded differently for sectionals, but the number of opt outs would not be different even if the girls seeded same as the boys.

Recommendation to remove Boys Basketball from the 2nd year, 24-25, of the split Classification pilot

- The dates on the Boys Basketball report are incorrect. The chair will be asked to make correction.

c) Girls Basketball

- M. DiFilippo met with University at Buffalo about hosting Girls Basketball semi-finals. UB stated it would not be feasible to hold the games there for a full week straight and inquired if Section VI is willing to do 2 full days, similar to a tournament format. This would mean athletes would miss classes for the earlier games start times. The financial impact is unknown at this time.
- As stated earlier under agenda item 1.2 b) - Boys and Girls Basketball 2-Year Tiebreaker Pilot (approved AC Sept 2022) ended this 23-24 year

d) Cheerleading

- Proposal 1: Section VI will only approve member school competitions in the fall to have game day divisions only.

The Cheerleading Committee found not all schools are participating in fall season game day cheer. However, competitions included game day classes as well competitive cheer classes. Thus, schools were competing in competitive cheer, gaining an advantage. This proposal would allow for competition to only include game day cheer. Schools may choose to not participate in game day cheer, but would not be able to participate in any competitive cheer competitions in the fall.

Recommendation to move this proposal forward for approval within the cheer post season report

- Proposal 2: Section VI will use Leagues as qualifiers to advance to Sectionals. If the division is under 6 teams, then all teams would qualify through their league to attend Sectionals.

With the current procedure for scoring, it is hard to properly judge. Scoring is conducted after the completion of all routines. With a significant number of teams, it is difficult to recall specifics of a team's routine and score accurately.

Concern was expressed about eliminating teams from participating in sectionals as well as a negative financial impact for the Section.

S/I is opposed to the proposal as currently written. Recommendation to exclude this proposal from the action item to approve this report at the June 12, 2024 athletic council meeting.

e) Bowling

The recommended championship dates for 24-25 are based on NYPSHAA's new approved 6-man format, otherwise there are no concerns.

f) Boys Ice Hockey

The Boys Ice Hockey Committee reported issues with software program they use. They are working through those issues and will continue to use that program.

It was noted that the Finance Committee approved \$5000 as the 24-25 participation fee for Boys Ice Hockey. This will be added to their report.

The 24-25 proposed divisions are the same as 23-24.

g) Girls Ice Hockey
The Girls Ice Hockey Committee expressed concern about the time of games, getting the student-athletes to 4pm starts. Athletic directors are not in favor of 4pm starts because of transportation issues. Coaches are in favor of 4pm starts to accommodate travel games.

h) Rifle
No concerns.

i) Boys Swimming

- Patches are given for class meets, but not for the qualifier, which is opposite of what track and wrestling do. Again, a concern of inequity.
- Classification Proposal
The Boys Swim Committee recommends that schools are assigned to three divisions based on BEDS. 100% of the BEDS numbers would be used for the 24.25 school year for combined teams since swimming is technically a one-classification sport. This will have very minimal impact on classification organization.

*This proposal only affects the class meets.

The Combining of Schools Committee has been charged with reviewing and making recommendation regarding this proposal for Boys Swim as well as Girls Swim and Indoor Track as those sports committee are in favor of this proposal as well. The CCAA and BPS not in favor of this proposal, the NO is not in favor, and there has yet to be a response from the ECIC and NFL

Recommendation to act on this proposal for Boys Swim, Girls Swim, and Indoor Track at the June 12, 2024 athletic council meeting. M. DiFilippo to confirm recommendations for each league with their respective league head.

j) Boys Wrestling

- Some coaches have inquired if the decision to pause class meets can be overturned. There is a divide between coaches who are in favor of the class meets and those who are not. Section VI recognizes the section team champion in the duals, not in the class meet. That is the reason, philosophically, for the divide and interest in additional opportunities to compete and earn patches.
- The Wrestling committee is in favor of the current NYSPHSAA action item (July 2024) Want to move up the start date of the weight certification.
- Buffalo State is being considered as the venue for the 24-25 Sectional Meet. Buffalo State quoted \$14,680.00 to host. This would be a significant financial impact and is not budgeted for the 24-25 season. M. DiFilippo and I. Martinez to continue their investigation of this venue.

k) Indoor Track

- A notice of claim was submitted to Section 6 (informational)
- Within the Indoor Track Committee's recommendations for 24-25, they noted a possible need to remove the catholic schools if more public schools add programs. Their reason is to ensure space for the public schools within the current format.

Recommendation to exclude the recommendation to remove catholic schools if more public schools add Indoor Track programs from the action item to approve this report at the June 12, 2024 athletic council meeting. S/I members were directed to discuss this item with their respective leagues.

l) Girls Wrestling (DiFilippo)

- M. DiFilippo to confirm the Section VI representative for the state tournament.

- The Girls Wrestling Committee recommends adding a dual championship for 24-25. This would have a financial impact that is not budgeted for 24-25. S/I recommends to acquire more data to make an informed recommendation.

Recommendation to exclude the proposal to add the dual championship for 24-25 from the action item to approve this report at the June 12, 2024 athletic council meeting.

m) Unified Bowling (DiFilippo)

- The bowling alley expressed concerns about the amount of outside food coming into the culminating activity. If the Section expects to be welcomed back, teams should be ordering food from the bowling alley.
- Concern was expressed about the lack of wheelchair accessible lanes
- The S/I Committee does not have a concern with starting a week earlier
- The Unified Bowling Committee recommends schools with large roster to consider a 2nd BOE approved team.

Recommendation to approve the winter 23-24 post season reports with the exception of the Boys Basketball tiebreaker, the cheerleading proposal to use leagues as qualifiers, the Indoor Track proposal to remove catholic teams if more public schools add programs, and the Girls Wrestling 24-25 dual championship meet.

CARRIED

Reed/LLoyd

2.0 Section Concerns:

Nothing to report

3.0 NYSPPHSAA Concerns (J. Roth/M. Fallacaro-Dougherty):

3.1 The following items are to provide direction to M. Fallacaro-Dougherty and J. Roth on how to vote at the July 2024 NYSPPHSAA meeting. (Appendix B)

- AC ACTION ITEM: Ticket Prices
- AC ACTION ITEM: Handbook – Forfeit Exception for Football
- AC ACTION ITEM: NYSPPHSAA Transfer Form for Waivers and Exceptions
- AC ACTION ITEM: Cheerleading: Fall Start Date
- AC ACTION ITEM: Cheerleading: Update Required Coaching Course
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Team Tennis: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028 Using Guiding Principles
- AC ACTION ITEM: Boys Soccer: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028 Using Guiding Principles
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Soccer: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028 Using Guiding Principles
- AC ACTION ITEM: Field Hockey: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028 Using Guiding Principles
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Volleyball: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028 Using Guiding Principles
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Volleyball: Revise State Tournament Format Back to Pool Play
- AC ACTION ITEM: Football: Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2029 Using Guiding Principles
- AC ACTION ITEM: Football: Move 8-Man Regional Championship to week #22 and conduct it at JMA Dome during 11-Man Finals; establish regional rotation
- AC ACTION ITEM: Football: Revision to NYSPPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty
- AC ACTION ITEM: Boys Wrestling: Early Weight Certification Date
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Wrestling: Automatic Qualifiers
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Wrestling: Representation Rule
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the Maximum Number of Tournaments
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the NFHS 1.5% Weight Loss Plan
- AC ACTION ITEM: Girls Wrestling: Adopting the USA Junior Rules
- AC ACTION ITEM: Boys Ice Hockey: Revision to Goalie Warm-up
- AC ACTION ITEM: Boys Ice Hockey: OT During Regulation Season
- AC ACTION ITEM: Boys/Girls Bowling: Split Composite Division into Division 1 & 2
- AC ACTION ITEM: Boys/Girls Bowling: Modify D1/D2 School Team Division to use 6-man format
- AC ACTION ITEM: Outdoor Track & Field: Establish Classification Cut-Off Numbers for 2025
- AC ACTION ITEM: Unified Sports: Sports Offering/Rules Modifications

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

4.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Winter 23-24 post season reports: Boys Wrestling, Girls Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming, Indoor Track & Field, Alpine Skiing, Bowling, Cheerleading, Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey, Rifle, Unified Bowling

4.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the proposed Section VI Bylaws

4.3 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of candidates for Indoor Track and Girls Wrestling Chairperson positions

4.4 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to bring forth the Foreign Exchange Policy concern at the July 2024 NYSPHSAA meeting.

5.0 **Old Business**

5.1 2024 Forfeits – Baseball (Informational)

Two baseball teams forfeited after the 2024 sectional brackets were released. Per 211.1 of the Section VI Policy Manual:

A school team that does not show or refuses to play in a Sectional contest after the seeding meeting, spoils the integrity of the tournament. Schools shall declare their intent to play or not play prior to sectional seeding. (See sectional sport handbook) Schools failing to fulfill their tournament commitment shall be subject to the following sanction: "Ineligibility for sectional play in that sport during the next season. An appeal of this sanction must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of Section VI within sixty (60) days of the competition of sectional play."

One of the involved schools is anticipated to appeal this decision.

6.0 **Good of the Order:**

6.2 Next meeting date – September 12, 2024, via Zoom