



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 20, 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 **CARRIED:** June 14, 2023 Section VI Executive Committee meeting minutes

### ATHLETIC COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- 3.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the May 17, 2023 Section VI Athletic Council meeting minutes
- 4.3 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of West Valley/Franklinville to compete independently in the sport of Girls Volleyball (Fall 2023)
- 4.5 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Williamsville North and Clarence to play in Division 1 Boys Ice Hockey for the 23-24 season
- 5.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Combining of Schools Applications
- 5.3 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Outside Agency Contest Applications
- 6.2.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Place Health Sciences Charter School from Class B to Class AA in the sport of Boys Basketball for the 2023-2024 season.
- 6.3.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Treasurer's report
- 6.3.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval to bill member schools, MMAA, and affiliated sports officials organizations the contracted rate to keep the officials recruitment and retention fund account in safe standing for the 23-24 school year.
- 6.7c1 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Combining of Teams, Increase in percentages
- 6.7c2 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support criteria for adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> division (Philosophy Committee)
- 6.7c3 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support criteria for adding a 5<sup>th</sup> class (Philosophy Committee)
- 6.7c4 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support changes to scoring/deduction sheets (Competitive & Game Day Cheering)

- 6.7c5 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Freestyle Wrestling in the sport of Girls Wrestling
- 6.7c6 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support rule change to transition to Freestyle in the sport of Girls Wrestling
- 6.7c7 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support revised qualifying standards in the sport of Indoor Track
- 6.7c8 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support new regional rotations with six (6) classes for 2024-2028 in the sport of Girls Basketball
- 6.7c9 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support new regional rotations with six (6) classes for 2024-2028 in the sport of Boys Basketball
- 6.7c10 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support new regional rotations with six (6) classes for 2024-2025 in the sport of Softball
- 6.7c11 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support moving to 3 singles, 4 doubles (3-4 format) in Division I Team Championships in the sport of Boys Tennis
- 6.7c12 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support moving to 2 singles, 3 doubles (2-3 format) in Division II Team Championships in the sport of Boys Tennis
- 6.7c13 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support adopting seeding of team state tournament final four in the sports of Boys & Girls Tennis
- 6.7c14 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support 2 timeouts per half in the sport of Girls Flag Football
- 6.7c15 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support stopping clock during running time in the sport of Girls Flag Football
- 6.7c16 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support live punts in the sport of Girls Flag Football
- 6.7c17 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support implementing battery week (pitchers/catchers) in the sport of baseball starting in 2024
- 6.7c18 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support rescinding the pound allowance for dual meet championship in the sport of wrestling
- 10.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the following Spring 2023 post-season reports: Baseball, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Flag Football, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Unified Basketball, Boys Tennis, Track & Field. (Appendix G)
- 10.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the following Winter 23-24 pre-season reports: Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Wrestling, Boys Swimming, Unified Bowling, Bowling, Alpine Skiing, Cheerleading, Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey, Indoor Track, Rifle, and Girls Basketball with the exception of the Classes A & B Opt out proposal (Appendix H)

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Attendance: (\*indicates present)

- \*M. Donahue, President
- \*D. Lilleck, President-Elect
- \*B. Banker, Past President
- \*J. Sortisio, Superintendents' Representative
- \*C. Alvarez, Principals' Representative
- \*M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative
- \*J. Roth, Male Representative
- \*M. DiFilippo, Executive Director

## 1.0 CALL TO ORDER (M. Donahue)

8:37am Commenced

## 3.0 MINUTES (M. Donahue)

### 3.1 *Motion to approve of the June 14, 2023 Section VI Executive Committee meeting minutes*

**CARRIED**

**Fallacaro-Dougherty/Lilleck**

## 4.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (M. DiFilippo)

### 4.1 Conflict of Interest

This mandatory, annual acknowledgement will be sent via email following today's meeting and is to be completed via google survey by all athletic council members.

### 4.2 Annual June Athletic Council Meeting (Zoom)

At their June 14, 2023 meeting, the Executive Committee decided to implement an annual June athletic council meeting. The rationale for the additional meeting stems from the timeline of NYSPHSAA summer meeting actions items and the process of discussion and action by the Section. This year's Zoom meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2024 at 11:30am. If there are no action items, the zoom meeting will be cancelled.

### 4.3 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of West Valley/Franklinville to compete independently in the sport of Girls Volleyball (Fall 2023)

West Valley and Franklinville decided to combine in the sport of Girls Volleyball after the CCAA created their schedules. The CCAA did not want to disrupt their schedules, so the combination will run independent and 100% of their schedule will be used for seeding.

### 4.4 Proposed 2024-2025 North & South Timelines (Appendix A)

This is a standard, annual item to approve the assigning formula. The timelines will be an action item for approval at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting.

### 4.5 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Williamsville North and Clarence to play in Division 1 Boys Ice Hockey for the 23-24 season

A post card ballot was conducted May 2023 to remove the exception for Boys Ice Hockey within 12.3 of Article 12 Classification of the Section VI Constitution. The 2/3rd minimum in favor required to initiate the constitutional change was not met. Therefore, the exception remains within 12.3 of Article 12 Classification.

### 4.6 Small Claims

The recent small claims case was dismissed because Section VI staff were named as defendants instead of the organization. The claimant has since filed the same suit naming Section VI. M. DiFilippo will represent Section VI at court in December 2023.

#### 4.7 Scheduling Conflicts

The originally scheduled December 13, 2023 executive committee meeting is rescheduled to December 11, 2023 at 11am. The originally scheduled February 14, 2024 executive committee meeting is rescheduled to February 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

#### 4.8 Implicit Bias Course

J. Sortisio, C. Alvarez, M. Dougherty, and J. Roth are required to take a 20-minute implicit bias course. A portion of the January 2024 mandatory athletic director meeting will include onboarding training and DEA training with implicit bias.

The link to the implicit bias course will be email after today's athletic council meeting. The athletic council will be asked to complete this course prior to the January 17, 2024 athletic council meeting.

### 5.0 COMMUNICATIONS (M. DiFilippo)

#### 5.1 Fall COS Emergency approvals (listed for your information)

1. Cheer GameDay, **Franklinville**, Ellicottville, V, 7/8, 174 , 8/17/23 Exec Comm email
2. Cheer GameDay, **Portville**, Cuba-Rushford, V, JV, 7/8, 316, 8/17/23 Exec Comm email
3. Cross Country B/G, **Fredonia**, Westfield, V, 384 C, 7/11/23 Exec Comm email
4. Field Hockey, **Wilson**, Royalton-Hartland, 7-8-9 ONLY, Na, 9/6/23 Exec Comm email
5. Gym G, **Williamsville East**, Sweet Home, V, 1500, 8/3/23 Exec Comm email
6. Soccer B, **Ellicottville**, Franklinville, 7/8/9 ONLY, 180 C, 8/3/23 Exec Comm email
7. Soccer G, **West Seneca West**, West Seneca East, JV ONLY, 1387 AAA, 8/30/23 Exec Comm email
8. Swim G, **Fredonia**, Pine Valley, Forestville, ADD DUNKIRK , V, 1092 D1, 8/3/23 Exec Comm email
9. Demerge Girls Cross Country V ONLY, **Silver Creek**, Forestville, 267 C, 7/11/23 Exec Comm email

#### 5.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Combining of Schools Applications

##### Winter 2023-2024

1. Basketball G, **Springville GI**, West Valley, V 415 A
2. Bowl BG, **Allegheny-Limestone**, Olean, Portville, V, 635 D1
3. Bowl Unified BG, **Williamsville Schools**, TBA, V, NA
4. Indoor Track B/G, **Allegheny-Limestone**, Olean, Portville ~~Remove Franklinville~~, V, 1088
5. Indoor Track B/G, **Fredonia**, Westfield, V, 400
6. Indoor Track B/G, **Falconer**, Frewsburg, Randolph Add Maple Grove, V, 506
7. Indoor Track B/G, **Springville GI**, West Valley, V, 420
8. Swim B, **Dunkirk**, Fredonia, Forestville, V, 642
9. Wrestling, **East Aurora**, Holland, V, 7/8 449 D2
10. Wrestling, **Fredonia**, Forestville, Silver Creek, V, 477 D2
11. Wrestling, **Portville**, Cuba-Rushford, V, 332 D2
12. Wrestling - Female, **Fredonia**, Forestville, Silver Creek, V, 684 One Div
13. Wrestling - Female, **Niagara Wheatfield**, Niagara Falls, V, 2419 One Div

##### Spring 2024

14. Unified Basketball, **West Seneca West**, West Seneca East, V, 1387
15. Unified Basketball, **Williamsville Schools**, ? pending application, V, tba
16. Baseball, **Burgard**, Bflo Performing Arts, V, 705 AA
17. Baseball, **Emerson**, Buffalo Culinary, V, 684 A
18. Baseball, **I-Prep**, DaVinci, V, 728 AA
19. Baseball, **MEC**, Research Lab, LJ Bennett, Alt Acad, V, 782 AA
20. Baseball, **MST**, Pathways, East, V, 370 B
21. Flag Football, **Chautauqua Lake**, Westfield, Brocton, V, Pending state classification
22. Flag Football, **West Seneca West**, West Seneca East, V, Pending state classification
23. Golf B, **Chautauqua Lake**, Westfield, V, 328
24. Golf B, **Panama**, Clymer & Sherman, V, 296
25. Golf G, **Cassadaga Valley**, Maple Grove, V, 369
26. Golf G, **Olean**, Allegheny Limestone, V, 687
27. Lacrosse BG, **City Honors**, All BPS, V, JV, 7115 A
28. Lacrosse BG, **Eden**, North Collins, V, JV, 7/8, 319 D
29. Lacrosse BG, **Kenmore East**, Kenmore West, V, JV, 1080 A
30. Lacrosse BG, **Lake Shore**, Silver Creek, V, 7/8, 582 C
31. Softball, **DaVinci**, I-Prep, Lafayette, V, 1013 AA
32. Softball, **Emerson**, Buffalo Culinary, V, 684 A

33. Softball, **MEC**, Research Lab, LJ Bennett, Alt Acad, V, 782 AA
34. Softball, **MST**, Burgard, Pathways, East, V, 914 AA
35. Tennis B, **Buffalo Culinary**, Emerson, V, 491 D2
36. Tennis B, **East**, Pathways, V, 246 D2
37. Tennis B, **Eden**, North Collins, V, 331 D2
38. Tennis B, **LJ Bennett**, Alt Acad, V, 342 D2
39. Tennis B, **West Seneca West**, West Seneca East, V, 1387 D1
40. Track & Field BG, **Buffalo Culinary**, Emerson, V, 491 D2
41. Track & Field BG, **Chautauqua Lake**, Westfield, Brocton, V, 293 D2
42. Track & Field BG, **East**, Pathways, V, 246 D2
43. Track & Field BG, **Eden**, North Collins, V, 331 D2
44. Track & Field BG, **Falconer**, Cassadaga Valley, V, 358 D2
45. Track & Field BG, **Franklinville**, Ellicottville, V, 193 D1
46. Track & Field BG, **LJ Bennett**, Alt Acad, V, 342 D2

Prior to the start of the athletic council meeting, a motion to add the following combined teams applications will be requested to add to action item 5.2

Boys JV Soccer – Newfane and Akron

Boys JV Soccer – MEC, Bennett, Research Lab, South Park, Culinary, East, Emerson

### 5.3 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Outside Agency Contest Applications

- a) Girls Volleyball V & JV Scrimmage Tournament on 8/29/23 at Niagara Frontier Volleyball Center, hosted by Niagara Frontier Volleyball Center & West Seneca West High School
- b) Cheerleading - Fredonia Cheer & Dance Competition on 1/21/24 at SUNY Fredonia hosted by Dunkirk High School and Fredonia SUNY
- c) Boys Basketball Cataract City Classic on 12/1/23 & 12/2/23 at Niagara Falls High School hosted by Niagara Falls High School & Niagara Falls Education Foundation

## 6.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 6.1 Combining of Schools Committee (J. Sortisio)

6.1 2023 Spring COS EOS – No Concerns

### 6.2 Charter Schools Classification Committee (J. Sortisio)

6.2.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Place Health Sciences Charter School from Class B to Class AA in the sport of Boys Basketball for the 2023-2024 season.

It was noted that Health Sciences participated in Class AA during the 2022-2023 school year.

### 6.3 Finance Committee

6.3.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Treasurer's report (Appendix B)

The fund balance was noted to be good standing. No issues or concerns were presented.

6.3.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval to bill member schools, MMAA, and affiliated sports officials organizations

The contracted rate to keep the officials recruitment and retention fund account in safe standing for the 23-24 school year.

Per the 2022-2027 WNYSO/Section VI contract, *In year's where the fund balance drops below \$5,000, schools will be billed \$200 and officials' groups will be billed \$100 to keep the account in safe standing.* The Section is close to breaching the \$5,000 threshold with the start of the 2023-2024 school year and it is forecasted that reimbursements are on course to exceed the current fund balance during the school year. Therefore, it is recommended to bill the contracted rate now.

### 6.3.3 Travel Pay Update (S. Penhollow)

At present, the Finance Committee has not agreed to a proposal for equitable distribution of travel fees. The committee plans to formulate a recommendation at its October 12, 2023 Finance Committee meeting, which would then be a discussion item at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting and an action item at the January 17, 2024 athletic council meeting.

### 6.3.4 NYSPHSAA Foundation Board – Section VI Representative

## 6.4 Sectional/Intersectional (M. DiFilippo)

### 6.4.1 Wrestling Proposals (2024-2025) (Appendix C)

The Sectional Intersectional Committee is recommending the Wrestling Committee's proposal for a vote at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting – a 2-year pause (24-25 and 25-26) on class meets and institute an open sectional tournament in their place. Some of the rationale is listed in the proposal. One issue with class meets is teams not filling all weight classes. Also, teams would like to have a week off to practice in advance of the state tournament. M. DiFilippo will invite I. Martinez and M. DeBarbieri to the October league meetings to answer any questions. Council members were asked to be prepared to vote on this proposal at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting.

## 6.7 State Executive Committee/Central Committee

### a) Superintendent (J. Sortisio)

*Nothing to report*

### b) Principal (C. Alvarez)

*Nothing to report*

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

***The following are action items to provide direction for M. Fallacaro-Dougherty (Female Representative) and J. Roth (Male Representative) to vote at the October 2023 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting (Appendix D):***

6.7c1 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Combining of Teams, Increase in percentages.

6.7c2 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support criteria for adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> division (Philosophy Committee)

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New information regarding adding at large bids was added to this item. Concerns were raised about this not following the process, first moving through the NYSPHSAA Regional Rotation Committee. In addition, again, an item is expected to be voted on without enough notification for discussions at the section and league levels. M. Fallacaro-Dougherty and J. Roth will recommend that the athletic council not support this item because the process is not being followed.
- 6.7c11 AC ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support moving to 3 singles, 4 doubles (3-4 format) in Division I Team Championships in the sport of Boys Tennis
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***The following are discussion items at the October 2023 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting (Appendix E):***

- 6.7c19 Girls Wrestling – NYSPHSAA State Championship
 

T. Nelson and R. Zayas are scheduled to propose approval of week 34 at next week's NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee meeting. If opposed, week 33 will be requested for approval.
- 6.7c20 Handbook Committee – League Tournaments
 

The handbook committee is looking for feedback on semi-and finals not counting toward total number of games allowed.

6.8 Extended Eligibility (M. DiFilippo)

6.8.1 Three (3) applications received; 1 approved, 2 denied

6.10 Transfer/Foreign Student (M. DiFilippo)

*Reports were emailed to the Executive Committee*

6.13 Mixed Competition (C. Alvarez)

6.13.1 Wilson, Field Hockey, Fall 2023

6.13.2 Hamburg, Girls Gymnastics, Fall 2023

6.13.3 Brocton, Volleyball, Fall 2023

Past practice has dictated that the Principals' Representative also takes on the role of the Mixed Competition Chairperson and the Executive Director approves or denies applications. Mixed Competition is evolving and becoming more complex. As such, the Principals' Representative will continue as the Mixed Competition Chairperson, but a committee will be formed. Until a committee is established, the Executive Committee will render decisions.

6.14 Nominations (D. Lilleck)

6.14.1 Principals' Representative Position, term expires June 2024

6.14.2 President-Elect Position, term July 2024 – June 2026

The process to confirm candidates for 6.14.1 and 6.14.2 will begin in February/March and approval at the May 2023 athletic council meeting.

6.14.3 Boys Golf Chairperson Vacancy (remaining term, through June 30, 2025)

C. Shields stepped down from the position. The vacancy will be posted on the Section VI website following today's meeting.

6.15 Corporate Partners (M. DiFilippo)

6.15.1 M. DiFilippo announced a confirmed, 3-year partnership with Under Armor.

6.17 Unified Sports (D. Ames)

6.17.1 New School Reminder

6.17.2 League Scheduling

Leagues will move forward with league scheduling for the 23-24 school year.

8.0 **STATE COMMITTEE REPORTS** (Appendix F)  
(informational only)

- Boys & Girls Swimming & Diving, May 9, 2023
- Baseball, June 9, 2023
- Outdoor Track, June 8, 2023
- Championship Philosophy Committee, June 12, 2023
- Indoor Track, June 14, 2023
- Championship Advisory Committee, June 21, 2023



- Cross Country, August 10, 2023
- Football, August 14, 2023
- Indoor Track, August 29, 2023

## 10.0 SPORTS REPORTS

10.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the following Spring 2023 post-season reports: Baseball, Boys Golf, Girls Golf, Flag Football, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Unified Basketball, Boys Tennis, Track & Field. (Appendix G)

\*The Softball report was excluded for further review by the Sectional Intersectional Committee.

10.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the following Winter 23-24 pre-season reports: Boys Basketball, Wrestling, Girls Wrestling, Boys Swimming, Unified Bowling, Bowling, Alpine Skiing, Cheerleading, Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey, Indoor Track, Rifle, and Girls Basketball with the exception of the Classes A & B Opt out proposal (Appendix H)

## 11.0 OLD BUSINESS

11.1 Constitution/ByLaws/Policy Manual (CBP) Committee Update (B. Banker)

The proposed revisions to the Constitution were reviewed. They will be an action item at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting. The revised Bylaws are scheduled to be presented at the January 17, 2023 athletic council meeting and voted on at the March 20, 2023 athletic council meeting. The revised Policy Manual is scheduled to be presented at the March 20, 2023 athletic council meeting and voted on at the May 15, 2023 athletic council meeting.

## 12.0 NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Starting V/JV football on August 19 (D. Hack)

## 13.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT

13.1 *Motion to adjourn*

**CARRIED**

**Fallacaro-Dougherty/Lilleck**