



ERIE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONFERENCE

355 Harlem Road • Building C, • West Seneca, NY 14224
Phone: (716) 821-7262 • Fax: (716) 821-7291

Athletic Directors –1/5/21

Webex/Teleconference

12:00 PM

Minutes taken by Sharon Groden

Opening Remarks:

Vinny Dell'Oso

Welcome back everyone. Happy New Year. Hope everyone had a restful break and was able to stay healthy and enjoy their holidays.

President's Report:

Vinny Dell'Oso

Approval of Minutes from 12/8/20

Motion to approve minutes

1st Pat Cauley, Hamburg

2nd Jason Przybysz-Cleve-Hill

Motion Passed

Executive Director's Report:

Kiel Illg

- ***Winter Schedules Update***

Currently on schedule for the 1/18/2021 for moderate and low risk sports which include bowling, swimming, and rifle. Section will supply information regarding end dates for swimming and bowling. Upon receipt of league end date, we will begin completion of schedules for swimming and bowling. Mark DiFilippo will advise of league end dates sometime this week, hopefully tomorrow. Upon receipt of end dates, information will be provided to ECIC office as well as to the athletic directors. Athletic directors to communicate with bowling coaches to make sure lanes and dates are currently complying with schedules. Any changes should be sent to ECIC office for completion of the bowling and swimming schedules.

Make sure athletic directors/coaches/secretaries reach out to school district bowling alleys to make sure they are available and able to accommodate the specific schedule. If a bowling alley is not available for a particular school in their area, an alternate alley may be necessary. Also, if the school district alley is not available, an additional option may be to have to travel to an opposing school, twice, in order for competition to take place. Some schools would like to start earlier or later.

The schedule may be adapted to fit the needs of schools with regard to time, transportation, alley availability, change of date, etc., if agreed to between home/opponent and availability of alleys. Due to decrease of one bowler, this may help with concerns of times and travel.

Schools wishing to continue with virtual swim meets should follow same as during fall for virtual and have athletic directors/schools deal directly with each other.

A discussion will take place at the Athletic Council meeting on 1/12/2021 regarding the playing of modified sports. The discussion for this meeting will be who will or will not have the opportunity to play modified sports due to recommendation of superintendent or unable to field a team.

- ***Fall II Schedules***

ECIC to begin commencement of Fall II schedules. Suggestion to schedule volleyball similar to basketball due to the fact that it is under the high-risk category. Comment to see how schedule will work before applying to a different sport.

- ***Spring Schedules***

ECIC to begin commencement of Spring schedules as if we can participate and start on the dates that the section has provided to start similar to past practice. As in the past, the schools have the opportunity to review schedules in anticipation of moving forward in order to have schedules for the start of the spring sports seasons. If we are able to start on timeline, then we will proceed accordingly, if not we will continue procedure as in the past and cancel, if necessary.

- ***Executive Director Update***

Kiel Ilig, President met with Executive Board for ECIC. An interim person will be appointed. The board has agreed to move forward with Jim Graczyk to help on an interim basis. Jim Graczyk is scheduled to start on January 13, 2021, as an interim. Plan is to post for the Executive Director position again in spring, which will allow more time to try to receive applicable and qualifying candidates looking for a July 1, 2021 start date. Jim Graczyk must be approved by Board of Education through Erie 1 Boces on January 12, 2021; he will start as interim director on January 13, 2021.

Current structure with dues and budget is coming to fruition and are a voting item for January. This will be a discussion point. Interim saves ECIC funds also with President, Kiel Ilig filing in role, ECIC is saving monies which question as to apply the monies to the NYSAAA. This will be a discussion for budget.

Activity Board:***Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty***

- Low Risk Sports – Starting on January 18, 2021. Section to supply end date in order to begin building schedules. Should receive end dates from Section by end of week. Section IV sending out email regarding end date to all Athletic Directors.
- High Risk Sports – No new update as of this meeting.
- 2021-2022 Alignments
 - What is the rotation we are following for the sports that are uneven?
 - Alignments to be forwarded by the end of week. Received confirmation on how rotation is per agreements and votes pursuant to previous year. There were no ties this year, so the uneven divisions will revert to division I for most sports.
- Tennis Coaches Proposal
 - Subject to discussion on later date
- Field Hockey Proposal
 - Subject to discussion on later date
- Basketball Schedules-Waiting further direction from Section/Governor
- Bowling-schedules to begin upon receipt of end date

Section VI/NYSPHSAA report:***Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty, Vinny Dell'Oso, and Dave Hack***

- **State Meeting Report** *Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty*
No Report
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Sectional/Intersectional** *Jason Przybysz*
No Report
 - **Modified** *Daryl Besant*
No Report
 - **Safety** *Brian Wild*
No Report
 - **Chemical Awareness** *Brian Wild*
No Report
 - **Finance** *Vinny Dell'Oso*
Meeting in 2 weeks

- **Sportsmanship** *Sandy Gauthier*
No Report
- **Charter Schools** *Jeff Wheaton*
No Report
- **Combining of Schools** *Daryl Besant*
No Report
- **Recruitment of Officials** *Brian Hickson*
No Report

Old Business:

- **2021-2022 Budget**

Email forwarded showing proposed budget. Same budget provided in December. Budget to be completed by end of week with up-to-date information received from Erie 1 Boces with current rates and what anticipated rates will be with an interim up to and including June. Budget will be updated also with regard to dues. Due to Covid-19 league championships have decreased meaning revenue decreases. Badge/credentials have helped offset cost. Dues will be increased two (2) years from now. We will be voting on this at January A/C meeting.

New Business:

- **NYSPHSAA Classification BEDS Proposal**

Schools such as Hamburg have been a “bubble” school from AA to A for a long time. They have always honored the request of the league as to where everyone felt it was appropriate for these schools to be placed. This proposal would put these schools in a position to be in a league that is essentially an A league and then go up for the Section and State playoffs into AA, which is of concern and the other way when the schools are in an AA league and come back to where they are appropriately placed in A, the playoffs have never been an issue. Of significance, many schools approve every year usually provide a proposal that is the even split breakdown. This year, is the first year in a long time, they have approached it differently. Many individuals do not really read these items as well and just go a heard and approve it. So the key is to pay attention because it is going to hurt a significant amount of schools in Section IV. Other sections had similar concerns with the proposal. Schools in our league are adamantly against this or feel that it would hurt their school with the 2 classification proposal. Some concern over both proposals. Proposals may not be good across state. Proposals many have originated from an area that is dominated by one certain classification and there were no concerns for the D’s the AA’s and so forth. The proposal and the 20% possibly originated from Section III and not Section VI.

Subject to vote as a league to give direction for January Section VI A/C meeting

- **NYSPPHSAA School of Distinction/Excellence Merged Team Requirement**

Currently there is a merged team requirement and there is a proposal on the table to remove the merged team requirement from the school distinction and school of excellence applications. This will provide other schools with an opportunity to win these plaques, because now if you are a merged team and your school is doing really well, but the team you are merged with is not you do not qualify. This requires further direction.

If school A has the required number of students with the academic record necessary and they merge with school B then neither school is recognized at all, is that correct? In a similar situation school A met the requirements and school B did not meet requirements and there are some differences between the 2 schools' academic eligibility and different things, being a factor, why not have an opportunity to recognize these athletes?

- **NYSPPHSAA Wrestling-Modify the Current Appeal Procedure used for the State Championship (Duals and Individual)**

The wrestling chairs are in favor of this and it just provides a little bit more clarification when it comes to appeals. The championship committee was also in favor. State representative can ask more questions and email athletic directors if anyone has specific question. This seems like most wrestling individuals were in favor. The wrestling committee voted in favor of this proposal.

- **NYSPPHSAA Sportsmanship Officials' Card – Add “including racial or discriminatory comments or slurs”**

Consideration to add language to the sportsmanship official card and the language they are looking to include is “including racial or discriminatory comments or slurs”. Section VI brought this forward effective to start in spring 20-21 to have included on the cards that the officials are reading prior to game. This was considered due to what happened this summer as well as what has been dealt with in Lacrosse. It also is due to the fact that a committee for diversity is being formed in Section VI and well received across the state. The sportsmanship committee was looking at something similar as well.

Section VI diversity committee is looking at an additional representative from ECIC. Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty is currently one representative from ECIC. If it is something you are interested in being a part of this committee, Don Scholla is captain of this committee and welcomes more members. If you are interested, send Vinny Dell'Oso an email who will forward your name to Don.

The focus of the committee was discussed a little over a year ago. There was a presentation with boys/girls Lacrosse and the Seneca Nation. When the issue came about regarding allowing Buffalo in to our league to play football and we were being accused of racial slurs, etc., the section started looking into what we could do to improve relations. What we could do to educate not only ourselves, but our students our coaches and others. Now that we have a better relationship with the City of Buffalo and individuals from the city are attending our

section meetings, we hope to change these situations by forming this committee. The committee will be looking for ideas. This was successful when dealing with the Seneca Nation and our Lacrosse teams by bringing them together. This will go a long way in educating our student athletes, our coaches on diversity training from both ends.

Good of the Order:

Just a reminder combining of schools' forms need to be turned into the ECIC athletic office for all fall sports to be voted on at our athletic council.

Seasonal conditioning. Have any of the schools started some type of off season conditioning or training with any of your teams on campus, in gym, in weight room that are currently waiting for their season to begin? No schools have started any training due to the circumstances surrounding Covid. Coaches unable to allow athlete to train in schools due to hybrid and completion of remote learning under orange and yellow zones. Many athletes are going to XGEN Elite, BNCC, etc. Some using private camps. Other schools exploring other options.

Next meeting Date:

ECIC Athletic Council – January 12, 2021

Athletic Directors - February 2, 2021