



## ERIE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONFERENCE

355 Harlem Road • Building C, • West Seneca, NY 14224  
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### AD MEETING 11-1-2021

**10:30 AM Activity Board**

**11:30 AM Lunch**

12:00 PM Meeting

Erie 1 BOCES

Room A-2

### Opening Remarks:

*Rich Gray*

- **Division Breakouts: Track Alignment** – 4 or 5 Divisions? Voting to take place at end of meeting. Move to Athletic Council. Alignment of 4 or 5 divisions for track. If 5 divisions there are less league meets. If 4 divisions there will be more league meets. Track coaches may want the 5 divisions. What vote is best for school or coach or best for league.

Division I: Good with either one. Nice to have more league meets, but if you have 5 divisions and go for one year and see how it plays out.

Division II: Would like the 5 divisions.

Division III: Would like the 5 divisions

Division IV: Would like to try 4 divisions this year and trying for one year to see how it plays out.

- **New ECIC LOGO: Choice, ideas:** Jason has some ideas. Would like to move forward with ECIC Logo. Would like to have more social media presence. Would like to have a new logo. 3 different designs were sent to athletic directors. First 2 designs do not use original colors. Not sure where original colors originated from. New designs circulated. Question concerning removal of the EXCELLENCE/COMPETITION/CHARACTER/INTELLIGENCE in triangle type square. Today's branding does not have a lot of words. More of an image. No year also. Could add established 1952 in new design suggestions.

Vote for 1: 1

Vote for 2: 19

Vote for 3: 7

- **BEDS #:** Beds numbers provided by Jim Graczyk provided by Todd Nelson. Beds numbers are now official. Freshman class boys/girls; sophomore class boys/girls added together and the average of those 2 added to that becomes your number. Does not include Junior (11) class. Changed a few years ago.

- **Winter Transportation, Officials' shortage update:** Discussion about transportation previously especially for basketball. Schools working together with each other. Official shortages will be an issue. Moving games around will cause problems. Non-league games also

cause a problem with officials. League games will come first. Discussion about different options for officials, using 3 officials. Received responses from 7 or 8 schools. Discussion regarding suggestions discussed in office. Currently there are 2 officials scheduled for Varsity and if no officials available for JV we will be using 1 official. Currently 1 official scheduled for modified subject to availability.

**Question:** Any talk about having same 3 officials for Varsity and JV?

**Answer:** Round table meeting to take place on Wednesday. Agreement has to be reached to use 3 officials between Varsity and JV. Discussion regarding playing Varsity first if using 3 officials. JV official will also do the Varsity game, most likely, and add an additional official for Varsity game. Concern regarding 3 man rotation and no guideline or training for officials. Officials concerned about 3 man and need for training before 3 man in place. Discussion of full fee when not original schedule. Accept Varsity and then accept JV later it would be paid as full fee.

**Question:** Is the official membership trying to do anything to help with the lack of officials? If membership contract indicates we must pay full fee for Varsity and full fee for JV and they cannot supply what we are asking them to supply under contract, can they come up with something and agree to something to make it work such as a Memorandum of Agreement.

**Answer:** Always open for ideas to change and make better. Currently cannot do anything. Back to back modified games; 1 on JV; double on varsity; varsity first. We need more officials.

If they had a penalty they had to pay for not supplying what is under contract and there is no leverage there. We could waive the penalty. Lake Shore JV game without officials and 2 officials for varsity, contact both varsity officials to see if they are going to show up at JV game. Also will call them to see if they wish to do a 5:00 p.m. modified and also a 7:00 p.m. Varsity game.

Important what is in the contract. Every school has same issues. Jamestown does arbiter pay. If there is anything that is listed and not in the contract, business office will contact AD and question based upon auditing. Jamestown business will not pay if not in official contract.

- **Spring Alignments:** Spring alignments provided. Discussion to follow in activity board.

## **Athletic Council**

***Rich Gray***

- Next Meeting is Monday 11/8 @ E1B Room B-1

## **President's Report:**

***Rich Gray***

### ***Approval of Minutes from 10/4/2021 Meeting***

Motion to approve minutes

1<sup>st</sup> Marisa Dougherty (West Seneca)

2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Cauley (Hamburg)

Motion passed

- **Schedules:** Track spring alignment vote, goal is to get first draft of the Spring schedules provided on December 1. Goal is to have second draft to be returned on December 15, 2021. Final drafts ready after the new year.

- **NYSAAA Membership:** Included in ECIC budget to make payment for all schools in league. Members will receive an application to sign up and information will be relayed to ECIC for payment.

## **Executive Director's Report:**

*Jim Graczyk*

- **ATC availability for Championships:** Athletic trainers. ECIC always scrambling near end for trainers even if planning happens. If schools' athletic trainer from Excelsior, UB or private is willing to work, we are looking for trainers at championship meets in order to have a trainer available. Not always a trainer available for ECIC championships.

**Question:** Can we contract before championship as the Section does? Give them the dates and contract before season starts to insure coverage. Can we look at a yearly contract?

**Answer:** We could, but it would have to be part of the ECIC budget. Would need an MOA prior to season. Schedule athletic trainer at beginning of season.

- **Fall Championships:** no discussion, no comments
- **Office Communications/Procedure:** no discussion, no comments
- **Combining of Schools Winter/Spring:** WSE/WSW/Depew: Wrestling Mod & Varsity for later vote

- **Charter School Placement:** Future placement by Section. Decision between Buffalo and ECIC. If placed in ECIC, discussion with regard to placement procedure in ECIC. How many teams? What sports? 6 or 7 possibly. Not sure of the schools' charters play. Some JV, some Modified, mostly Varsity.

**Question:** Why only placed in ECIC or Buffalo? Why not NFL or NO?

**Answer:** Asked a number of leagues and were turned down by all leagues due to travel. CSAT only logical placement in NFL. Best place would be Buffalo. Not sure where Section will place charter schools. Concern about charter schools being placed in ECIC and not being ready. Integration of charter schools causes a situation for alignment and placement. Suggestion to put charter schools in their own division. Not enough for charter schools to play in own division due to lack of teams in division.

- **Boys Volleyball/ BPS to ECIC 4 teams:** Buffalo Public Schools is currently petitioning to bring 4 Varsity only teams to ECIC. Not official yet. Buffalo playing without their own league this year. Buffalo must then follow beds. ECIC has nothing in Constitution as to how many schools can combine to make a team. Section indicates only 5 schools and combine to make a team. Consider adding provision to Constitution By-Laws with regard to number of schools combining to create a team. City Honors, Hutchinson Tech, McKinley, and Frederick Law. Buffalo not combined for sport of volleyball. 4 schools have own volleyball program broken into 3 divisions. Not merged as of present. Volleyball smaller, only need 6 on court.
- **Start Dates:** No need to vote modified starting a week later. Just adjust at particular school starting modified a week later.

**JV/Varsity 11/15**

**Modified 11/22**

- **Unified Sports:** Some changes made trying to accomplish a less traveling distance for unified sports.

Bowling: ECIC B includes Holland, CCAA deletes Holland.

Basketball: ECIC A includes Orchard Park, ECIC B moves Iroquois to ECIC C, Tonawanda moves to ECIC B and CCAA deletes Eden and Eden moves to ECIC C.

- **Social Media Presence:**

Option 1: A few individuals can share login and password information

Option 2: Create a position for social media coordinator to start to update website, twitter, publication.

- **Sports Standards:** ECIC office to review and update sports standards during the month of November and December. Coordinating through Athletic Directors and chairperson of sport. Volleyball 3 way tie, nothing contained in standard to break tie. Currently if there was a 2 way tie, it was shared. Needed to complete season and tie would be counted. Nothing indicated for 3 way tie. 2 way tie written in baseball standards, but 2 way tie not written in volleyball standards. All standards should contain this written information about tie.

- **Update from DOH Meeting:** Section VI Executive Council met with the 5 counties in the DOH. No changes counties expected staff, chaperones, players, officials, coaches must wear a mask for the entire winter season. Not being enforced in section play. Opponent not wearing a mask.

**Question:** Is there a competitive advantage if one school not wearing masks?

**Answer:** Yes, there is a competitive advantage. If you wish to protect non-wearing of mask, protest. Section will not put mask police on the sideline. The home school higher seed supervision should be speaking to the other team and requesting the use of masks. Gail Burstein advised that if the wearing mask school wishes to report the non-wearing mask school the DOH will investigate it.

**Question:** What happens when it is official v official?

**Answer:** Officials are expected to wear the mask.

It was suggested that the sports be cancelled for the winter season due to the mandated mask wearing. 4 out of the 5 counties would like to take the status of mask wearing to the state to recommend wearing masks as tolerated. Gail Burstein (Erie County) would not agree and is not in support of wearing "as tolerated". Gail Burstein will not consider going to the state and that masks will be worn and if unable to tolerate mask, then high risk sports should be cancelled for the winter season. Information on the website regarding masks. Specific masks in the sport of wrestling. Specific masks in the sport of basketball that our leagues must be wearing.

**Question:** Currently all leagues are required to wear a mask per New York State DOH. The four (4) other leagues are approaching the state to try for a revision of "wearing masks" to as tolerated". Erie county has deferred to New York State DOH. What happens if Erie County follows the other counties with "wearing masks", policy?

**Answer:** DOH (Erie County) could become more restrictive in the "wearing mask" policy and not less restrictive. Not receiving support from Gail Burstein of Erie County to wear masks "as tolerated." Other counties going forward to remove restriction of wearing masks all the time to as tolerated.

Discussion at state meeting. Other sections indicated they were wearing masks last year and there were no issues in doing so in certain sports such as basketball, wrestling, and indoor track. Section 1, 8, 11, were the only sections in agreement with Section 6.

Robert Zayas does not have enough section support from all eleven (11) sections to force the issue indicating he is receiving a lot of pressure in order to change the policy.

Long Island and Westchester, Nassau, indicate they are wearing masks and not pushing back. It was accomplished last year, not a problem.

### **Activity Board:**

*Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty*

- **Spring Alignments: Drafts provided to membership**

#### **VARSAITY/JV:**

**Softball/Baseball JV/Varsity:** Eden Varsity only for softball and baseball Division III and IV for softball and baseball Varsity and JV, Alden only team with a JV softball/baseball team. Schedule to be completed for Division III JV as for Varsity. Division III teams not having a JV will be replaced with Alden. When Maryvale plays East Aurora, East Aurora will be replaced with Alden. Divisions I and II will be completed as is for Varsity and JV. For Alden to complete schedule, contact other schools to schedule non-league games. When possible, Maryvale/Alden softball to play Maryvale/Alden baseball on same day for travel purposes.

**Track vote:** 4/5 Alignment contains 5 divisions.

4 division version

Division I: (7) Lancaster, Clarence, Williamsville North, Orchard Park, Frontier, WSW, Hamburg.

Division II: (7) Sweet Home, Williamsville East, Starpoint, Williamsville South, Amherst, WSE, Iroquois

Division III: (7) Cheektowaga, Pioneer, East Aurora, Maryvale, Lake Shore, Eden/North Collins, Depew

Division IV: (7) Springville, Tonawanda, Lackawanna, Alden, Cleveland Hill, JFK, Holland.

**MODIFIED SOFTBALL/BASEBALL:** Pioneer now 7/8/9 in softball. Due to the number of softball/baseball 7/8/9 schools, suggesting that there is no longer a separate division for 7/8 and 7/8/9 and the division is based upon JV/Varsity. Schools such as Maryvale, Lake Shore and Alden any concerns playing a 7/8/9? No objection.

**Golf: Boys Alignment:** Golf coaches with concerns about certain alignments during the fall season. This was a one (1) year alignment. This will return to a regular alignment for next year for concern of team playing a brand new team.

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

-Update from October State Meeting: Jim Graczyk and Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty attended the state meeting. Little discussion, except for the bed's numbers and classifications concerns about right or wrong to change. What sports does it involve? Concern for individuals not reviewing information based upon bigger picture. There are 2 proposals. Changing to 6 classifications and if so then there would be the breakdown of your top 100/bottom 75 and then even in the middle.

**Question:** Are spectators allowed for indoor track

**Answer:** Depends on venue. Tennis did not allow spectators. Some concern about Glens Falls that no mask required indoors for spectators. Athletes must wear masks but spectators no masks.

Any individual sports where section or state covers the rooms, they are still booking four (4) in a room. If your school does not wish to put four (4) individuals in a room, it is up to the school to bear the cost. Erie County follows state mandates for state sports. Must wear a mask. Club sports has no mandate. Gail Burstein indicates she does not oversee club sports.

**Question:** Ice hockey, all girls, and boys no matter where playing, if a high school game, they are expected to wear a mask 100% of the time. Federated, wrestling.

**Answer:** Yes, Federated, wrestling. Basketball here, must wear mask at all times. Traveling to X-Gen Elite, no mask required.

- Committee Reports

**Sectional/Intersectional**

**Jason Przybysz**

Spring-track and field, last year a unique year with Covid. There were 6 classifications. Returning to 5 classifications. That was a one (1) year deal last year. Girls' lacrosse lengthy discussion. Alignments to be finalized and will provide more information at a later date. Required to be included in post-season report.

**Modified**

**Daryl Besant**

No report

**Safety**

**Eric Rupp**

No report

**Chemical Awareness**

**Eric Rupp**

No report

**Finance**

**Vinny Dell'Oso**

Met a couple of weeks ago with the auditors.

**Sportsmanship**

**Sandy Gauthier**

Experience of issues with fans. Possibility of implementing something for parents regarding behavior and request to leave. If requested to leave parent obligated to take the NFHS course. If school puts a ban on parent, in order to return, parent will have to

review the NFHS course. Some schools advise parents to watch the NFHS course at the beginning of the year.

**Charter Schools**

**Jeff Wheaton**

No report

**Combining of Schools**

**Daryl Besant**

No report

**Recruitment of Officials**

**Brian Hickson**

No report

**Old Business:**

**-Modified (7,8,9) Tennis Proposal Schools Interested:** What position is anyone taking. Where are we at? Hamburg, Sweet Home, Amherst, Tonawanda, East Aurora, Maryvale.

**-Discussion needed on State Classification cutoff proposal –Feb.’22 vote:** Will remain on every agenda until voted on. Vote on January 31, 2022.

**New Business:**

**-ECIC By-Laws:** New directors. Review of all ECIC rules. Broken links on website. Pulled up standards. Bowling standards 6 page document, basketball has ½ sheet with 6 bullet points. Some consistent changes should be made to be consistent. Article III of the Constitution is from 2008, 2009 and represents leadership. Does not represent what we are now. Good for new people to have a reboot of ECIC By-Laws. Develop an Ad Hoc Committee to review. Pat Cauley, Jason Lehmbeck, Jeff Wheaton, Carrie Vetter.

**-Social Media Presence:** Voted on new logo look. Looking for an ECIC twitter page. Maintain ECIC champions for every sport. Nice place to honor some of the coaches on social media page. Approval to move forward with Face Book which is connected to Twitter.

**-Championship hosting:**

Track	2022	Pioneer
	2023	Alden
	2024	Depew
	2025	Hamburg
	2026	Jamestown
Cross-Country	2021	Alden (East Aurora switch)
	2022	Alden
	2023	East Aurora
	2024	East Aurora
Girls’ Swimming		Clarence
Boys Swimming		Sweet Home
		(2021 Alden ECIC boys swim, remove from SH)
Diving		Maryvale

Cheerleading	2022	Winter Sweet Home/Clarence removed
	2022	Fall Amherst
	2023	Winter (none currently)
	2023	Fall (none currently)
	2024	Winter Starpoint
Tennis (Boys)	2022	Lancaster
	2023	Sweet Home
	2024	Lancaster
Wrestling	2022	Lackawanna
	2023	Starpoint
	2024	Starpoint
	2025	(none currently)

**-Tie Breaker for basketball:** This was a section proposal. Did not pass. Not voted in. Currently stays as is. Olean 10/0. Orchard Park 12/0 Olean cannot get any better due to unable to play any more games. Olean raked 2<sup>nd</sup> as opposed to being ranked 1<sup>st</sup>.

**-Bowling:** 3v3 vs. 4v4: Last year agreement made for 3v3 because of Covid. Sweet Home coach advised that this continues this year. No remembrance of discussion on continuing 3v3. State meeting voted on bowling possibly as virtual. 3v3 bowling and in addition virtual bowling due to transportation.

Virtual Bowling: Committee for state discussed a proposal and requested that based upon section approval if approval for virtual bowling due to the amount of transportation issues. Section VI voted against virtual bowling. Do not agree. Fee that virtual is one step away from Wii Bowling and the chairpersons of Section VI are against virtual bowling.

3v3 bowling: Belief that this was only a one (1) year approval. Reverts back to regular bowling 4v4.

No proposal to continue 3v3 at section level. Cannot bowl 3v3 in ECIC when NFL is bowling 4v4. Request would go to the section and not the league. ECIC league coaches proposing 3v3. Do we decide from league perspective and then take as ECIC league to the section? Council meeting next week. Speak to coaches and vote as a league next Monday gives time before bowling official commences to propose to section. Add to Monday, November 8, 2021, Athletic Council agenda to vote on 3v3, 4v4.

***Motion to adjourn Athletic Directors meeting***

1<sup>st</sup> Pat Cauley (Hamburg)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vinny Dell'Oso (Starpoint)

Motion passed

***Motion to enter Athletic Council***

1<sup>st</sup> Sandy Gauthier (Alden)

2<sup>nd</sup> Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty (West Seneca)

Motion passed



## **Athletic Council**

**Rich Gray**

Vote needed for track 4/5 Divisions for alignment

4 divisions (7) 5 divisions (22)

Division alignment for track remains at 5 divisions no change

## **Good of the Order:**

- **Indoor track-** if you have an athlete qualify for the state meet, they must be vaccinated and so must your coach. Indoor track travel to Staten Island. No exceptions. This will be announced at the track meeting. Tennis-East Aurora and Orchard Park traveled and it was required. The state not looking to change venues. No one will change venues as currently set. Possibility that SUNY Buffalo State College is requiring vaccines. Section no information as to Buff State requiring vaccines. Indication that this is a campus policy. Must abide by the rules of the venue.

## **Next Meeting Dates:**

*Athletic Directors – Monday 12/6 Room B2A @E1B*

*Athletic Council – 11/8/2021 @ E1B*