NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

SECTION VI CONSTITUTION

SEPTEMBER, 1995

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> Section VI website: www.section6.e1b.org

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N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A Philosophy of Section VI

Mission Statement

It shall be the purpose of Section VI to formulate, adopt, and implement policies that will enable the Section to administer and govern interscholastic athletics in a safe and appropriate manner in accordance with the New York State Education Department, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section VI. Further, it is the Section's commitment to work collaboratively with all members and with a goal of inclusivity in all of the association's work.

Core Values that guide the decisions made by Section VI

* Interscholastic activities programming is part of the wider educational program. Educational programs are created to develop the learner. Athletics provide opportunities for students to participate in activities that assist in their development socially, intellectually, and emotionally.

* All students are important and deserve competitions that are a result of coordinated services that are safe, fair and inclusive. The Section VI program of offerings should be broad-based, well planned and designed to honor excellence.

*The Section will be organized in a manner that ensures a viable and fair system of representation with the goal of making sound educationally-centered decisions. Policy development, assessment, evaluation and future revisions must include opportunity for input from all leagues. Each league must consider a diverse group of representatives when filling committee or otherwise leadership positions.

Goals and Objectives

- To provide and promote safe and equitable participation opportunities.
- To offer championship programming that encourages and reinforces broad-based opportunities.
- To foster positive working relationships with all community partners.
- Maintain the standards of eligibility of the NYSPHSAA and State Education Department in an effort to maintain ethically and educationally sound programming
- To protect the fairness of competitions and ensure that all member schools are competing under the same rules and regulations.
- Provide the means to settle disputed athletic contests or violation of policies amicably and authoritatively
- To work with all leagues in Section VI to foster continuous professional development and support for all athletic administrators.
- To offer consistency in services, direction and support to our athletic administrators and to the Executive Directors of each league.
- To conduct athletic championship tournaments that emulate and honor excellence
- Adapt rules to cover sports contests and to support the rule changes creating safer environments for all student-athletes
- Coordinate and work collaboratively with all officials' organizations to enrich our athletes experience and better service member schools.

CONSTITUTION

Article 1 - Name

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be Section VI of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association, Incorporated.
- 1.2 All Athletic Council and Executive Committee meetings will be conducted using Roberts Rules of Order.

Article 2 - Purpose

- 2.1 The public high schools in Section VI will provide a central association through which schools will receive coordinated services, support and oversight with the following objectives:
 - 2.1.1 To promote a sound athletic program for secondary students and make recommendations in the interest of the general welfare of Section VI athletes.
 - 2.1.2 To recognize, strengthen and unify eligibility rules governing participation in inter-school athletics in each league of the Section.
 - 2.1.3 To plan for and conduct all sectional athletic activities through its appointed leaders and governing body and arrange for entrance into intersectional and statewide competition.
 - 2.1.4 To strengthen the educational goals of the public schools by fostering and promoting good sportsmanship and high ideals among contestants, teams, coaches, schools and spectators.
 - 2.1.5 To enforce the constitution, Bylaws, rules, regulations and game standards adopted by NYSPHSAA, Section VI, the State Education Department and the Leagues within the Section.

Article 3 - Membership

- 3.1 In Section VI, a public high school must be a member of Section VI in order to also be a member of the NYSPHSAA. Schools that are not yet members must apply through the Section VI Office and will require support from the Athletic Council in the form of a vote of membership.
- 3.2 Athletic Council Superintendents, High School and Middle School Principals, Athletic Directors of member schools are members of the Athletic Council of this Association. The Council may be convened at the pleasure of the President. Council members are eligible to serve on committees and can make recommendations to the Athletic Council on all matters pertaining to the oversight and functioning of interscholastic athletics.

- 3.3 Member schools of the Section agree to abide by the eligibility rules adopted by the NYSPHSAA Central Committee and State Education Department.
- 3.4 Any school or school personnel/representative violating the constitution, Bylaws, amendments, rules, regulations and game standards of the Section may be barred from participation in any of the interschool athletic activities for up to a period of one year by the Athletic Council, or the Executive Committee, when the Athletic Council is not in session. Additional penalties may be determined by the Athletic Council as deemed appropriate which may include but are not limited to financial penalties and / or suspension.
- 3.5 Membership shall require that each school pay applicable dues to Section VI Athletics, NYSPHSAA, Inc.
- 3.6 Each League is the basis of the organization and represents its member schools.

Article 4 - Membership Voting-Representation

4.1 Each league has four voting representatives on the Athletic Council; a Boys' Representative, Girls' Representative, Principals' Representative and Superintendents' Representative.

The Buffalo Public School's may have the Assistant Superintendent for Athletics or their Superintendent of Schools serve in the position of Superintendent's Rep for their group of schools (league).

Each league will choose alternates for each position noted. The Section Office will be notified of these designations by July 1st of each school year and within fifteen (15) days of any change.

It is the expectation of all council members that they communicate action items and the results of said items, to their constituents.

- 4.2 When determined necessary by the Executive Committee or Athletic Council, member districts may be called upon to vote by postcard ballot. Ballots will be sent to the Superintendent of Schools. Voting privileges will be based on membership from June 30-July 1 of the current year. Each district will have one (1) vote on any single proposition. A simple majority of districts voting is required to pass a resolution.
- 4.3 Financial matters requiring local Board of Education approval must be <u>brought</u> to a postcard ballot of all member **schools.** A majority vote of districts voting is required to pass a resolution.
- 4.4 All Section VI committees will be made up of one voting member from each league. The Chair only votes in cases of ties. Assistant Chairs and Co-Chairs do not have any voting privileges.

The representation clause applies to all committees and is not limited to; sports, standing, ad-hoc and selection

4.5 BOCES Superintendent Representation: One Superintendent Representative from each BOCES located within the Section will be a member of the Athletic Council.

<u> Article 5 – Athletic Council</u>

5.1 The Athletic Council of Section VI will elect a President and President-Elect. They will be elected at the Annual May Meeting and take office on July 1. NOTE: The nominating committee will whenever possible have nominations for the above offices on a geographical rotation plan. The President and President–Elect should be from two of the three regions in sequential rotation if feasible; North, South and Central, in this order. Additionally, consideration should be given to a rotation between leagues in each region on an alternating basis

North: Niagara Frontier League and Niagara Orleans League South: Chautauqua Cattaraugus Athletic Association Central: Buffalo Public Schools and Erie County Interscholastic Conference

5.1.1 PRESIDENT

5.1.1.1 Any member of a professional staff of a member school in good standing, who has served in some capacity on the Athletic Council or who has served as President or President-Elect prior to the election, may serve.

5.1.1.2 Term of office - two (2) years.

5.1.1.3 Presides at all meetings and performs such duties as assigned to the Office of President, which will include providing oversight in developing an agenda to the members of the Athletic Council at least one week in advance of each meeting.

5.1.1.4 Has a voice and a vote on all issues.

5.1.1.5 Succeeds to the Presidency from the position of President-Elect.

5.1.1.6 In the event that the President-Elect is unable to serve as President, a special election of the Athletic Council will be held to elect a President.

5.1.1.7 Special Meetings - The President may call special meetings of committees, committee chairs, the Executive Committee or the Athletic Council for the purpose of considering the policies and procedures of leagues, federations, the Section or the State Association.

5.1.2 PRESIDENT-ELECT

5.1.2.1 Any member of a professional staff of a member school in good standing who is League endorsed and has served in some capacity at the Athletic Council level prior to their election may serve.

5.1.2.2 Term of office - two (2) years.

5.1.2.3 Succeeds the President at the expiration of the two-year term.

5.1.2.4 Presides at all meetings in the absence of the President.

NOTE: In the event that both President and President-Elect are absent, a member of the Central Committee, designated by the President, may serve as Chairperson.

5.1.2.5 Elected by voting members of the Athletic Council. Has a voice and a vote on all issues.

In the event that the position of President-Elect is vacated, a special election by the Athletic Council will be held.

- 5.1.3 Executive Director
 - 5.1.3.1 This person will report to the Executive Committee of Section VI which is comprised of the following positions:
 - *President
 - *President Elect
 - *Past President

*Superintendent's Representative to the NYSPHSAA Central Committee *Principal's Representative to the NYSPHSAA Central Committee *Boy's Representative to the NYSPHSAA Central Committee *Girl's Representative to the NYSPHSAA Central Committee The job description of the Executive Director and duties are listed in the Bylaws.

5.1.3.2 Has a voice on all issues but has no vote.

Article 6 - Athletic Council

- 6.1 The governing body of the Section VI New York State Public High School Athletic Association will be the Athletic Council.
 - 6.1.1 LEAGUE OFFICERS The officers of the Athletic Council from each league will be the same as those elected to office of this Association (Section VI).
 - 6.1.2 MEMBERS The Athletic Council will consist of:
 - 6.1.2.1 President
 - 6.1.2.2 President-Elect
 - 6.1.2.3 Past President
 - 6.1.2.4 Four (4) Central Committee Members
 - 6.1.2.5 League/BOCES Representatives (22)
 - 6.1.2.5.1 Member Schools in Section VI will be represented on a League/BOCES basis as follows, subject to any change approved by the Athletic Council:
 - 6.1.2.5.1.1 Buffalo Public League
 - 6.1.2.5.1.2 Chautauqua Cattaraugus Athletic Association

- 6.1.2.5.1.3 Erie County Interscholastic Conference
- 6.1.2.5.1.4 Niagara Frontier League
- 6.1.2.5.1.5 Niagara Orleans League
- 6.1.2.5.1.6 Superintendent Representative from each BOCES (4)
- 6.1.2.5.2 New Schools Schools entering Section VI after September 1, 1976 will be assigned to an appropriate league by the Athletic Council at the first meeting following acceptance by the member schools.
- 6.1.2.5.3 Number of Representatives There will be four (4) representatives from each of the leagues selected by the member schools in each league.
- 6.1.2.5.4 Election of League Representatives
 - 6.1.2.5.4.1 Representatives will be elected to four (4) year terms and will include the following:
 - 6.1.2.5.4.1.1 Boys Rep of Athletics
 - 6.1.2.5.4.1.2 Girls Rep of Athletics
 - 6.1.2.5.4.1.3 Principals Rep
 - 6.1.2.5.4.1.4 Superintendent Rep
 - 6.1.2.5.4.2 The Superintendent Rep and Girls Rep will be elected in the even years and the Boys Rep and Principals Rep will be elected in the odd years.
 - 6.1.2.5.4.3 Superintendents Reps will be appointed by the District Superintendents' respective BOCES and serve a four-year term
 - 6.1.2.5.4.4 It is the expectation of the Athletic Council and Executive Committee that leagues MUST assign a female to the role of Girls Representative, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Those circumstances must be submitted annually to the Executive Director.
- 6.1.2.4.5 Direct Access Each of the representatives will be a member of his/her respective group and therefore, would become ineligible to complete the terms of office if job status changes.
- 6.1.2.4.6 Alternates Each League/BOCES will submit to the Athletic Council President the name of an alternate for each representative who would function as the representative in the event the duly elected representative is unable to attend a meeting of the Athletic Council. This alternate will possess the same qualifications and voting rights as the representative.

- 6.1.3 Past President The immediate past-president of this Association will have full voting privileges.
- 6.1.4 Duties The Section VI Athletic Council will:
 - 6.1.4.1 Supervise and formulate policies for sectional athletic activities.
 - 6.1.4.2 Review member infractions as brought forth by the appropriate committee
 - 6.1.4.3 Approve the annual budget submitted by the Finance Committee.
 - 6.1.4.4 Have the power to act upon all matters not covered in the Constitution and Bylaws
- 6.1.5 <u>Superintendent Advisory Council Meetings</u> Advisory Council meetings of only Superintendents and the Executive Committee may be called at any time by the President but should meet prior to the November meeting of the Athletic Council for the purpose of presenting recommendations and/or concerns for future consideration to the Athletic Council. No action can be taken or voted on at these Advisory Council Meetings.
- 6.1.6 Quorum and Voting Procedures for the Athletic Council Meeting
 - 6.1.6.1 Regular Business may be conducted with fifty (50) percent of the League/BOCES representatives present including Executive Committee And
 - 6.1.6.2 For business to occur, four (4) of the five (5) Leagues must be represented by two or more of their four representatives.
 - 6.1.6.3 A simple majority vote is required for action.
- 6.1.7 Each member of the Athletic Council who has voting power will have only one vote on any proposition. Voting in absentia is not allowed.

Article 7 - Section VI Sport Chairperson

7.1 The rotation and appointment of Sport Chairpersons will be as follows and will be the duty of the Executive Director to establish and maintain the rotation for the Athletic Council. <u>For Fall:</u> Sport chairpersons in football, cross country (B&G), soccer (B&G), field hockey, gymnastics (B&G), volleyball (B&G), swimming (G) and tennis (G) are elected for a three year term.

For Winter: Sport chairpersons in basketball (B&G), bowling (B&G), (B&G) ice hockey, indoor track (B&G), rifle, swimming (B) and wrestling are elected for a three term.

For Spring: Sport chairpersons in baseball, softball, track (B&G), tennis (B), lacrosse (B&G), golf (B&G) and girls flag football are elected for a three-year term.

- 7.2 The Sport Chairperson will be appointed to a three (3) year term by the Athletic Council from applicants. The President Elect on the Athletic Council serves as Nominations Chair and will convene interviews for Sports Chair positions. One-third of the Sport Chairpersons will be appointed annually according to the following rotation:
 - 1. Fall Sport Chairpersons
 - 2. Winter Sport Chairpersons
 - 3. Spring Sport Chairpersons
- 7.3 Any member in good standing, active or retired, of the professional staff of a member school may serve as a Sport Chairperson.
- 7.4 There will be one Sport Chairperson for each sport (Boys and Girls) and committees may have an assistant Chairperson approved by the Athletic Council.
- 7.5 Each Sports Committee will have a representative from each participating league.
- 7.6 The representative members on each sport committee will be appointed by each league and have only one vote per league. Other non-voting members may be selected by the Sport Chairperson.

Federated sport representative members that are appointed by their division, league or school will have only one vote. The Sport Chairs of Federated Sports that have divisions will verify that among division representatives each participating league is represented.

The Sport Chair may only vote when the vote is tied. A Sport Chair who also represents a league can serve in both capacities but will have only one vote.

- 7.7 Each Sport Chairperson and his representatives are responsible for the organization of their sport and will report to the Executive Director and be subject to review by the Athletic Council. The Chairperson must follow the approved sport rules, rules of the Commissioner of Education and the NYSPHSAA.
- 7.8 Each sport chairperson will organize and conduct a post-season tournament and enforce the policies and the rules governing each sport as authorized by the Athletic Council. All such rules will be incorporated in the Bylaws of Section VI. Any sport changes must be approved by the Athletic Council.
- 7.9 Each sport chairperson will prepare a written report of their sport and forward a copy to the Executive Director and State Sport Chairperson of that particular sport not later than twenty (20) days following Section VI playoffs.
- 7.10 Each sport chairperson will report to the Athletic Council at designated meeting(s). The Sport Chairperson may request placement on the agenda via the Sectional-Intersectional Committee.

- 7.11 Each sport chairperson will prepare a sports policy booklet which will be updated annually. These policies will be submitted to the Executive Director and Sectional Intersectional Committee for review and forwarded to the Athletic Council for approval.
- 7.12 The Athletic Council will fill an unexpired term of a sport chairperson.
- 7.13 Participation in intersectional and statewide contests must be approved by the Athletic Council.
- 7.14 The sport chairperson will be the official sectional representative of their sport and will make decisions relative to the sport in the best interests of the Section, subject to review by the Athletic Council.
- 7.15 Each sport chairperson will prepare and present a budget for the following year to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will distribute the proposed budget to the Athletic Council at the November meeting with a vote on the proposed budget for the following year to be held at the January meeting.
- 7.16 Each sport chairperson will develop a description and timeline of their duties which will be given to a subsequent chairperson of that sport. A retiring chairperson will be expected to act in an ex-officio capacity for one year.
- 7.17 The Sport Chairperson will be responsible for securing appropriate and safe venues for sectional competition which are prepared according to the sport rule book. Sports Chairs must do everything they can in the planning stage to help ensure the environment is safe and the facility is appropriate. They will be expected to contact the Executive Director if concerns are warranted.
- 7.18 Each sport chairperson will have a games committee for each sectional contest. This committee is authorized to act as a protest committee. Protest procedures must be written and followed.

Article 8 Executive Committee

- 8.1 The Executive Committee will consist of the President, President-Elect, the four (4) Central Committee Members, the Executive Director. The Executive Director will be exofficio and have no vote. The officers and Central Committee members are authorized to vote on all matters of the Athletic Council.
- 8.2 The Executive Committee will have general management of Section affairs during the interval between meetings of the Athletic Council. It will have the jurisdiction in all matters not covered by the Constitution or Bylaws, appeals, protests and questions of eligibility when the Athletic Council is not in session.
- 8.3 A majority of the committee constitutes a quorum

- 8.4 The Executive Committee will meet 11 times each year and at special meetings that may be called by the President or requested by a majority of member districts.
- 8.5 Each league will have representation on the Executive Committee. If a league is not represented within the confines of the seven positions included in the Committee, that league will be asked to recommend to the members of the Executive Committee, a person to sit in an At-Large position. The At-Large representatives will have full voting privileges while serving on the Executive Committee. At-Large terms are for one year.

If at any point, a league does, through election or appointment, have a person join the Executive Committee, the At-Large position will be vacated immediately.

Article 9 - Central Committee Representatives

- 9.1 The Central Committee representatives will be elected by the Athletic Council for fouryear terms and will include a Superintendent, Secondary School Principal, Boys Rep of Athletics and Girls Rep of Athletics.
- 9.2 The Central Committee Members will have a voice on all issues at the Athletic Council meetings and voting privileges. (9/21/77)
- 9.3 Per N.Y.S.P.H.S.A.A. Handbook Note: persons retiring from active public education employment, currently serving on the NYSPHSAA Central and/or Executive Committee, will be permitted to continue for the duration of their tenure and also be permitted to serve in that capacity for one more term if elected by the Athletic Council.

Article 10 - Amendment Procedure

10.1 The <u>Constitution</u> may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the member districts voting.

10.2 Process

- 10.2.1 An amendment must be in writing to the Executive Director by January 1. A copy will be provided for each Athletic Council member.
- 10.2.2 An amendment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Athletic Council members voting after it has been presented to the Athletic Council and considered for at least one Council meeting and each league has the opportunity to discuss.
- 10.2.3 The Executive Director after an approval of an amendment by the Athletic Council, must notify all member districts of the proposed amendment.
- 10.2.4 Each member district will submit a vote on a signed ballot. The ballot will be distributed by the Executive Director. A voting district must return the ballot within thirty (30) days from the date of mailing. In rare cases and due to circumstances the Executive Director may shorten the voting response time.
- 10.2.5 Approved amendments will take effect at the indicated effective date.

- 10.3 The <u>Bylaws</u> may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Athletic Council members voting.
- 10.4 Process
 - 10.4.1 An amendment to the ByLaws must be in writing to the Executive Director by January 1.
 - 10.4.2 An amendment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Athletic Council members voting after it has been presented to the Athletic Council and considered for at least one Council meeting and each league has the opportunity to discuss.
 - 10.4.3 The Executive Director, after an approval of an amendment by the Athletic Council, must notify all schools of the amendment.
 - 10.4.4 Approved amendments will take effect at the indicated effective date.

Article 11 - Grievance/Appeal Procedure

- 11.1 <u>PURPOSE</u> The purpose of these procedures is to provide a means for systematic and prompt resolution of differences and to assure equitable and proper treatment of grievants in accordance with the term of this Grievance/Appeal Procedure. Every effort to resolve the grievance/appeal should be made at the earliest possible stage.
- 11.2 <u>DEFINITIONS</u>
 - 11.2.1 State Association -The New York State Public High School Athletic Association
 - 11.2.2 Athletic Council The Section VI Athletic Council
 - 11.2.3 Central Committee members Four members elected by the Athletic Council consisting of a Superintendent, Principal, Girls Rep of Athletics and Boys Rep of Athletics.
 - 11.2.4 Days Calendar days
 - 11.2.5 Executive Committee The Executive Committee will consist of the President, President-Elect and the four (4) Central Committee Members. The Executive Director will be ex-officio.
 - 11.2.6 League A group of schools who join together for the purpose of administering athletic competition and other educational activities within their respective league.

11.2.7 Federation - A group of member schools that join together for the purpose of administering athletic competition and other related educational activities outside the jurisdiction of a league.

Jurisdiction and governance of all federated interscholastic athletic activities will be the direct and sole responsibility of Section VI.

A federated interscholastic sport may include, for competition purposes, nonmember schools, but their status remains as non-member schools of the Section.

Non-member schools planning to participate must seek and be granted written approval by their respective State Organizations.

- 11.2.8 Section Section VI
- 11.2.9 State Executive Committee Twenty-two members of the Central Committee, ex-officio members and the officers of the State Association.
- 11.2.10 Grievance An undesirable competitive situation or an appeal of decision at any stage of the Grievance Procedure.
- 11.2.11 State Central Committee The legislative body of the State Association which consists of four members elected by the Athletic Council of each Section, including a Superintendent, Principal, Girls Rep of Athletics, Boys Rep of Athletics and elected officers and ex-officio members.

11.3 GRIEVANCE/APPEAL FORMS

11.4 <u>STAGE 1:</u>

If the opinion of school administration personnel (Superintendent, Principal, and Athletic Director) is that an undesirable competitive situation exists, a grievance may be presented for review to the league involved. Cases of eligibility and differences between schools may be referred to the League President. The League President will be guided by the Constitution, Bylaws, rules, regulations and sport standards of the league, Section and State Association.

- 11.4.1 In the case where a school does not belong to a league, it may present its grievance for review and decision to the Section President.
- 11.4.2 In the case where a grievance involves a sectional activity, it may be taken directly to Stage 2.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Any and all questions and/or protests as to game/meet rules or to the conduct of the game/meet, will be heard and decided by the game/meet committee established by the Section. Their decision will be final.

11.5 <u>STAGE 2:</u>

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Stage 1, an appeal may be made within fourteen (14) days (after receipt of Stage 1 decision) to the Section Appeals Committee which will review the evidence, hear arguments and have the power to affirm, reverse or modify the decision of the League or Section President or Executive Director.

- 11.5.1 All such appeals must be submitted in writing and signed by the Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director and must be submitted to the Section Executive Committee via the Executive Director.
- 11.5.2 All such appeals must be accompanied by a certified or school district check, in the amount of \$300. This check will be returned to the school district only if the original decision is overturned.

11.6 <u>STAGE 3</u>:

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Stage 2, a further appeal may be made within fourteen (14) days (after receipt of Stage 2 decision) to the Athletic Council which may hear arguments and has the power to affirm, reverse or modify the decision of the Appeals Committee.

- 11.6.1 This stage must be submitted in writing and signed by the Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director and sent to the Athletic Council via the Executive Director.
- 11.6.2 All such appeals must be accompanied by a certified or school district check, in the amount of \$300. This check will be returned to the school district only if the original decision is overturned.

11.7 <u>STAGE 4</u>:

If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved at Stage 3, a final appeal may be made to the Appeal Panel of the NYSPHSAA in accordance with the provisions of the State Handbook under Appeal Procedures.

Executive Committee/ Athletic Council Appeal Panel Format

1. Introduction / Review Format

Reminder: The Appeal Panel will not reverse or modify decision unless it finds that:

- a) The decision is contrary to the evidence presented.
- b) The facts presented constitute a violation of the Association's Constitution, standards or rules, Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.
- c) A procedural error affected the reliability of the information that was utilized to support the finding.

2. Oral Presentations *

- a) Appellant (15 minutes)
- b) Respondent (15 minutes)
- 3. Questions by Panel
- 4. <u>Closing Oral Summations</u> (5 Minutes)

5. <u>Deliberation by Panel</u>

A written decision will be rendered within five school days of the hearing.

*Oral presentations will only be heard from the designated Appellant/ Respondent representatives. Oral and written presentations will be limited to that presenting during the initial appeal.

11.8 Any school or league which institutes an unsuccessful legal action or appeal to the courts or the Commissioner of Education to overturn, stay or enjoin any decision, ruling or rule or rules of the Section or the NYSPHSAA will be liable for costs and attorney's fees incurred by the Section in defending against such action. Further, should the Section be forced to initiate legal action to collect the aforementioned costs and attorney's fees, the member school or league shall be additionally liable for the Section's reasonable cost and attorney's fees resulting from the collection.

Article 12 - Classification

- 12.1 Starting with the school year 1979-80, member schools will follow New York State Public High School Athletic Association attendance reporting method procedure to determine their classification for sectional competition.
- 12.2 Classifications for post-seasonal competition will be established by the NYSPHSAA
- 12.3 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-
- 12.4 No school may be a member of more than one State Athletic Association.
- 12.5 Enrollment figures distributed by the NYSPHSAA will be used for State Classification each year.
- 12.6 Classification will be based on enrollment procedures established by the NYSPHSAA.
- 12.7 Sections may have more than one local classification division per state classification dependent on number of schools but for state competition purposes must submit one team per state classification.