



## **ERIE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONFERENCE**

355 Harlem Road • Building C, • West Seneca, NY 14224

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### **Minutes 9/9/19**

#### **Athletic Council @BOCES RmA4**

#### **Minutes taken by Sharon Groden and recorded**

**Roll Call:** Doug Beetow, Steve Smith, Sandy Gauthier, Jeff Wheaton, Brian Hickson, Jason Przybysz, Bob Skoczylas, Matt Librock, Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty, Rich Gray, Pat Cauley, Matt Adams, Pete Tonsoline, Ben Drake, Mark Ostempowski, Kiel Illig, Daryl Besant, Brian Wild, Tim Klimtzak, Dave Hack, Bill Weidner, Joe DeMartino, Vinny Dell'Oso, Marissa Dauria, Ben Morton, Jim Graczyk, Nick Suchyna, Steve Ferenczy, Adam Erickson, Chris Mucica, Mark DiFilippo

#### **President's Report:**

#### **Doug Beetow**

President Beetow welcomed the New Athletic Directors and did quick intros of all in attendance. He reported that the ECIC office is moving in the right direction with the transition into the full time Director. The goal for the office is to be more transparent, efficient and planning ahead.

#### **Office Report**

#### **Mark DiFilippo**

Treasurer's Report presented by Mark from May through August.

#### **Received (Dell'Oso, Fallacaro-Dougherty)**

Mark presented an adjusted projected spending plan for 2019-20 and explained the dues structure. He explained that there was a total of a \$700 increase to everyone's office maintenance fees this year. Each school's dues and the budget were sent to all members. Let your business officials know that an adjustment will be made by BOCES soon so we can get the corrected amount put into the ECIC account.

#### **Motion to approve the updated expenditures (Hickson, Fallacaro-Dougherty) Approved 28-0**

Mark will contact Lumsden McCormick to begin the audit process. Once the audit is complete a report will be given to the Executive committee and Athletic Council.

#### **Activity Board**

#### **Marisa Fallacaro**

**Action Item – Approve new proposed winter modified alignment Attached (Przybysz, Klimtzak) Approved 28-0**

### **Old Business – informational only**

Fall combined teams - B. Volleyball EA/Holland

Winter combined teams - Wrestling Alden/Depew, B. Swim Jamestown/Falconer, B&G BBall

Springville/West Valley

### **New Business**

Fall ECIC Championships -

Tennis – Oct 11 and 12 @Miller

“B” Swim meet – Oct 12 @Maryvale

Golf – Oct 15 @Elma meadows

Diving -Oct 16 @Maryvale

Swim – Oct 17 and 18 @Clarence

Cross Country – Oct 26 @EAHS

Cheer -Nov 3 @Tonawanda

Cheektowaga will not have enough kids to field a Boys JV Soccer team. Those games will be removed immediately. Also Lackawanna girls modified soccer, Cheektowaga girls modified soccer and Eden boys modified volleyball will not have teams.

Modified Cross Country officials have been assigned to all league meets as approved at the Athletic director Meeting. Home school is responsible for payment of the official.

### **Section VI/NYSPHSAA**

#### **Marisa Fallacaro**

Marisa explained that we would need to go into Athletic Counsel at the October Athletic Directors meeting to vote on the attached NYSPHSAA items. **Please familiarize yourself and be ready to vote on these in October.**

### **Good of the Order**

Matt Librock wanted to make sure everyone was clear that the ECIC Cross Country meet was at East Aurora High School and their invitational was at Know farms.

## **NYSPHSAA DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **1. SWIMMING & DIVING – NUMBER OF JUDGES REQUIRED TO QUALIFY FOR THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN AN 11 DIVE DUAL MEET**

Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Peter Hugo, NYSPHSAA Boys Swimming & Diving State Coordinator

Diane Hicks-Hughes, NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming & Diving State Coordinator

**Proposal:** In an 11 Dive Dual Meet there must be a minimum of 5 judges in order for the scores to qualify the athlete for the State Championship.

**Effective Start Date:**

2019-2020 school year

**Rationale:** This allows the high and low scores to be dropped and the middle three scores to be used for qualifying for the State Championship. This is the current process for all 11 Dive Championship events.

**Proposal Originated:** Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving Committees

**Budgetary Impact:** If schools chose to do an 11 dive dual meet AND wanted the scores to count toward qualifying for the State Championship there would be a cost to add two more judges to the meet.

**Notes:** Schools have the choice to either have a 6 dive dual meet or an 11 dive dual meet. An athlete cannot qualify for the State Championship with a 6 dive dual meet.

### **2. BOYS SOCCER – NEW 6-YEAR REGIONAL ROTATION 2020-2025**

Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Mike Andrew, NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer State Coordinator

**Proposal:** The NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer Committee is seeking approval of a new regional rotation for six years beginning in the fall of 2020 and ending with the 2025 fall soccer season.

**Effective Start Date:** Fall 2020

**Rationale:** Approval of this proposal would allow us to extend the previous six-year rotation with no significant change for the next six years. We have in the past adjusted and corrected any and all problems as they have arisen, generally caused by the occasional typo.

**Proposal Originated:** NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer Committee February 2019

**Budgetary Impact:** None

**Notes:** The committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal during their winter meeting.

### **3. WRESTLING – ELIMINATE 99LB WEIGHT CLASS IN DUAL MEETS, TOURNAMENTS, AND STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Marty Sherman, NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Coordinator

**Proposal:** The NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee is seeking approval to eliminate the 99lb weight class for all Dual Meet and Dual Meet Tournaments, including the Dual Meet State Championship. This will be a 2-year experiment.

**Effective Start Date:** Winter 2020 - 2021

**Rationale:** Each year there are a considerable number of forfeits in dual meet events because one team or neither team has a 99lb competitor. This proposal will address the lack of competitors in this weight class and forfeits that have become frequent in dual meets.

**Proposal Originated:** NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee May 2019

**Budgetary Impact:** None

**Notes:** The Wrestling Committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal.

### **4. WRESTLING – CONDUCT ONE NYSPHSAA/FEDERATION WRESTLING TOURNAMENT**

Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Marty Sherman, NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Coordinator

**Proposal:** The NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee is seeking approval to conduct the NYSPHSAA/Federation Wrestling Tournament as one tournament. In this proposal, eight places in all weight classes would be recognized with medals.

**Effective Start Date:** Winter 2019 – 2020

**Rationale:** Presently, the event is considered two tournaments in one and administrators, coaches and athletes feel strongly that this feels like one tournament and have expressed this to the wrestling committee. Approval of this proposal would create just one tournament for all competitors and eliminate confusion in the awards presentation, which now is two presentations for each weight class. The rationale for increasing awarding eight places is because we currently wrestle back to eight places in several weight classes to accommodate the Federation tournament. It would be consistent and uniform to recognize eight places for all weight classes in this new proposal.

**Proposal Originated:** NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee May 2019

**Budgetary Impact:** Both the NYSPHSAA and Federations will share in the cost of the medals. A new medal would be designed with recognition of all four associations participating in the event.

**Notes:** The Wrestling Committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal

## **5. WRESTLING – WAIVER FOR FIVE-BOUT NFHS RULE IN POSTSEASON**

  X   Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Marty Sherman, NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Coordinator

**Proposal:** The NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee is seeking approval for a waiver for the NFHS five-bout rule in the postseason. This would allow competitors to wrestle in a sixth bout during individual postseason tournaments.

**Effective Start Date:** Winter 2019 – 2020

**Rationale:** Currently, sections are conducting two-day tournaments to determine placements of wrestlers. This proposal would eliminate a two-day tournament and allow sections to conduct only a one-day tournament, thus saving a significant amount of money on officials, venue rental, travel and more. Furthermore, a wrestler has the potential to compete for a maximum of 30 minutes in a dual meet tournament. This proposal would allow for potentially just two additional minutes of wrestling.

**Proposal Originated:** NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee May 2019

**Budgetary Impact:** A significant savings to sections and schools on officials, venue rental, travel, and more.

**Notes:** The Wrestling Committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal. This proposal will go to Safety Committee in the fall of 2019.

## **6. WRESTLING – USE OF INBODY SCALE FOR THE NYSPHSAA WEIGHT**

### **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Marty Sherman, NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Coordinator

**Proposal:** To require all Sections to use the InBody Scale for the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Weight Certification Program.

**Effective Start Date:** 2020-2021 season

#### **Rationale:**

To provide a consistent method of measurement for all wrestlers in NYS. The current form of measurement of skin folds is subject to the assessor ability and consistency of taking these measurements. The InBody scale would eliminate the inconsistencies in the current process.

**Proposal Originated:** NYSPHSAA Wrestling and Wrestling Advisory Committees

**Budgetary Impact:** Each Section would have to provide an InBody Scale at each Centralized Assessment Sites. The current cost of the Scale is \$1500.00.

**Notes:** The Wrestling Committee, Wrestling Advisory Committee, and Section Executive Directors took part in a presentation by the NWCA on the use and function of the InBody Scale.

## **7. SOFTBALL – ELIMINATION OF THE EXISTING WAIVER BANNING METAL CLEATS**

Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Cathy Allen, NYSPHSAA Softball State Coordinator

**Proposal:** The elimination of the waiver banning metal cleats for High School Softball players.

**Effective Start Date:** Spring 2020

**Rationale:** After much discussion, it is evident that more coaches and administrators feel that the rules held by the NFHS and USA Softball permitting the use of metal cleats should be followed and that there is not sufficient data to prove that molded cleats offer a safer

option. As a caveat to this proposal, the committee recommends maintaining the waiver for Modified Softball.

**Proposal Originated:** It was brought to the committee's attention in 2018 that an Office of Civil Rights complaint had been filed by a travel coach in western New York. The committee, at that time, voted to continue with the waiver pending surveys of coaches and administrators in their specific sections. Upon returning to the table in June 2019, the committee was informed that there was a viable complaint and that the OCR was taking aggressive action against the NYSPHSAA. Again, after a heated debate, the committee shared their individual survey results and subsequently voted unanimously to void the waiver and recommend the use of metal cleats at the High School level only and to continue to accept the waiver on metal cleats for Modified Softball.

**Budgetary Impact:** There is no perceived budgetary impact to the NYSPHSAA, Sections or schools. The purchase of metal cleats is the choice and responsibility of the parent or guardian.

## **8. SOFTBALL – ELIMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL TIEBREAKER FOR REGIONAL CONTESTS**

X Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Cathy Allen, NYSPHSAA Softball State Coordinator

**Proposal:** The Softball Committee is seeking approval to eliminate the International Tie Breaker Rule for all Regional contests permanently starting with the 2020 season. This was previously a two-year experiment for the 2018 and 2019 spring seasons.

**Effective Start Date:** Spring 2020

**Rationale:** The same International Tie Breaker Rule waiver is in place for State Semifinals and Finals. This proposal would be extended to Regional play while allowing Sections to keep it in their Sectional championships. In spite of the one outlier this season (20 innings), there is no way to assume that the ITR would have ended the game earlier, therefore, Section chairs would be directed to allow sufficient time to complete contests, anticipating extended games. (Recommend 2 ½ to 3 hours). The ITR was instituted to halt the pitcher-dominated games in the 1980's and was done at a time where the pitching rubber was at 40' and the equipment limited ball flight and EVO. With the move to a 43' mound and the addition of composite bats, the game has changed dramatically, and the offense is in the forefront. In fact, we have added a mercy rule in recent years as a means to control games that get out of hand on one side. Therefore, the game should be played as it was meant to be without adding artificial offense.

**Proposal Originated:** NYSPHSAA Softball Committee in June 2017

**Budget Impact:** None

**Notes:** NYSPHSAA Softball Committee unanimously voted in favor of this

## **9. BASEBALL – ADOPT GAME ENDING PROCEDURE RUN RULE**

X Discussion Item

**Presenter:** Al Roy, NYSPHSAA Baseball State Coordinator

**Proposal:** The NYSPHSAA Baseball Committee is seeking approval for State adoption, with section & league approval, a game ending procedure run rule. This run rule was in place for a two-year experiment and would continue as stated that the game will end when there is a run differential of 10 runs after 5 innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning).

**Effective Start Date:** Spring 2020

**Rationale:** Currently, NYSPHSAA hasn't permanently adopted a game ending procedure. The NFHS rule, Section 2 Article 4 states ..."by mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the umpire-in-chief, any remaining play may be shortened or the game terminated." The game ending run rule procedure being proposed will provide consistency when a game can end. This run rule will save on pitch counts and the number of pitchers that are used in games when there is a lack of competitiveness. A run rule will improve the quality of high school baseball. This rule was approved as a two-year trial for the 2018 and 2019 spring seasons. At the Baseball Committee meeting held on June 14, 2019 the rule was discussed and voted 9-2 in favor of keeping it.

**Proposal Originated:** NYSPHSAA State Baseball Committee, June 2019