



## **ERIE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONFERENCE**

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

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Minutes - 9/4/19

Athletic Directors 12:00 BOCES Room B2A

Minutes taken by Sharon Groden and recorded.

Absent: Matt Librock (EA)

### **Welcome New Athletic Directors:** Introduction and welcome to new Athletic Directors.

President Dell'Oso explained that the newest members of our group were set up with mentors this summer. He introduced the Mentors to introduce their mentee.

Brian Hickson from Cheektowaga Central introduced Jeff Wheaton new AD at Amherst.

Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty from Eden introduced Bob Skoczylas new AD at Depew.

Pat Cauley from Hamburg introduced Marissa Dauria new AD at Sweet Home.

Steve Ferenczy from Williamsville North introduced Nicholas Suchyna new AD at Williamsville East.

Dave Hack from Orchard Park introduced Jason Lehmbeck new AD at Clarence.

Introductions by Attendees present at meeting.

### **Division Meetings:**

Divisions break off into groups to discuss future meetings at Illios vs BOCES and whether or not the League should pay for NYSAAA Dues.

Division I: Dave Hack- ILIOS for meetings and continue paying for dues, **keep status quo.**

Division II: Pat Cauley-BOCES for meetings to save money and look for a different means for NYSAA Dues.

Division III: BOCES to save money and to research a different way to pay dues. The only concern that was brought up was the Illios has done a lot for ECIC and wrestling

Division IV: Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty- ILIOS for meetings. League to pay the dues.

It was requested that we get more info in the cost breakdown between Illios and BOCES. We do not want to burn bridges with all that Dennis does for the League, and Section. People agree it is hard to hear at Illios and they do not have the technology for meetings and presentations.

NYSAAA dues if not paid by the league membership will decrease. Want to encourage all to register and be members. Those that have it in their administrative contract can get it paid by their district, but some schools do not have that.

**President's Report:****Vinny Dell'Oso**

President Dell'Oso explained we had some open positions on Section VI Committees to fill. Brian Hickson has filled the newly formed Recruitment of Officials position. Daryl Besant will be on the Combining of schools committee and Jeff Wheaton will be on the Charter School Ad Hoc Committee. The AD Liaison positions were filled, and Mark will follow up with a complete list. Still looking for sport chairs for boys' and girls' modified soccer, baseball, boys' basketball, boys' bowling. If you have a coach interested, please let Mark know ASAP.

**Executive Director's Report****Mark DiFilippo**

Mark gave an update on the office and summer meetings with the AD's. Chuck and Larry's IEA run out at the conclusion of the month. Sharon has a good handle on all of the changes, schedules and arbiter issues. Mark's direct line with voice mail is 821-7069. Fall Sports Meetings – issues that came out of the fall sport meetings

JV/Modified Tennis – Tennis coaches are looking to add/create a modified and/or JV tennis program. Mark explained we need 5 schools to make a schedule. Coaches were instructed to speak directly with their AD's about this.

FH schedule – some issues with the gaps in Varsity FH schedule before and during sectionals. Mark and Pete Tonsoline will discuss at the conclusion of the year to correct for next fall. Also concern from modified FH about playing teams 3 times. We tried to give those kids as many games as possible, but coaches didn't like seeing a team 3 times.

Fall sports standards – All Fall sports standards are now updated. Were handed out to coaches at the coaches' meetings. Have been put on the ECIC website as well in the google share folder

Website – still a work in progress. Moving forward minutes will be sent to you via email then put on the site for you. Any suggestions of improvements or changes let Mark know.

Google share folder-hopefully by now everyone has been able to view and access it. All APP/Sports standards are in there. Fall coaches' meetings attendance. Check the contacts section out. You all have editing rights to the coaches lists. Let's try to keep them up to date.

Fall schedules – making changes/arbiter – All scrimmages will have officials on them unless you specifically tell us no. Please stress with your secretaries NOT to make any changes in The Arbiter. What you do affects the other schools account. All changes please send to Sharon in as timely of a fashion as possible. Please note there are dates that we have uncovered modified games.

Winter schedules – Sept 18 round table – winter JV/Varsity schedules are out. Please have your changes/non-leagues into Sharon by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Mark will be meeting with the other leagues on the 18<sup>th</sup> to look into the shortage of Basketball officials' situation.

**Activity Board:**

Fall Modified coaches' meeting Tuesday September 5<sup>th</sup> at Cheektowaga High School 6:00 PM. Modified Cross Country, Boys' and girls' soccer, boys' and girls' volleyball and field hockey should all be in attendance.

**Section VI/NYSPHSAA report:** Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty, Vinny Dell'Oso, Dave Hack Modified rule changes – all the modified standards have been updated to reflect the NYSPHSAA rule changes from July. The changes were made to try to get modified sports more “in line” with high school sports. Length of time played, nights rest between, games, practice requirements and loosened playing rules.  
Modified Soccer – approved to move from quarters to halves. We cannot play the New max time because of the officials' contracts but we can play 2, 30-minute halves. Marisa discussed the attached NYSPHSAA items that we have to discuss further in October. Make yourself familiar with those items so you are prepared to Vote in October.

**Old Business:**

For informational purposes these were teams that combined over the summer and on the agenda for September Section VI approval.

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:**

Winter modified alignments – Frontier will be having 2 modified boys basketball teams please review alignments that were sent. Action item for Monday's AC meeting Approval for 2019- 20 expenditures – Action Item for Athletic Council – Mark will be presenting updated budget on Monday

Jamestown Soccer – Ben explained that numbers for their boys' soccer program have been down. He is looking for approval for a senior to play on the JV. This senior will give him 13 on the JV. There was discussion about the precedent of allowing seniors to play JV. It was discussed that NYSPHSAA does not differentiate between JV and Varsity and that is allowed at the State/Section level. This is a League policy that we need to approve to allow a senior to play JV.

Modified Cross country – currently there are no officials on modified meets. The coaches have requested the addition of an official to make it more legit to kids and parents. It is a nominal cost to add 1 official to our 7 league meets. Agreed by all that the ECIC office will assign one official to all modified cross country meets. The home school will be responsible for payment of that official.

Fall ECIC Championships – please make note of the following

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 @EA  
Cheer -Nov 3 @Tonawanda

*Motion to go into Athletic Council (Fallacaro-Dougherty, Illig)*

*Motion to play 2, 30-minute halves for boys and girls modified soccer for the Fall 2019 season. (Fallacaro-Dougherty, Adams) Approved 29-0*

*Motion to allow Jamestown's senior boy to play JV soccer for this fall (Ferenczy, Graczyk) approved 28-1*

*Motion to leave Athletic council (Illig, Besant)*

**Good of the Order:**

Ben Drake asked if anyone has discussed or shown any interest in E-sports. Jamestown is looking to try to pilot something for the second semester. There was much discussion about the pros and cons of adding E-sports to the Athletic Departments.

Brian Wild updated us on his safety committee conference call. The topic of overuse injuries and specialization is something that was discussed. Looking into research and educating coaches, parents and kids.

Submitted by Mark DiFilippo

## **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**

X 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**

X 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