

ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING November 18, 2009 – Agenda item 9.6 (a)

**Modified Committee
State Report
November 2009
Chairpersons: Adam Stoltman (Boys), Katie McGowan (Girls)**

The following is a report from the NYS Modified Committee meeting held in October. Our Section Six Committee meeting will be held on November 13, 2009 at 11:00 at BOCES. During this meeting we will decide on recommendations and forward them to the Executive secretary.

Items that will go to the State Executive Committee

A. Baseball/Softball Re-Entry Rule Motion

The Section XI baseball request for a re-entry rule that would allow a coach to replace an injured player if the coach has already utilized all of his/her substitutions was discussed. The Committee members felt it was not a bad idea, if used respecting the spirit of modified athletics, and would be useful for softball as well. The concept is going directly to the Executive Committee and if passed, it can begin to be used in the spring.

"In the spirit of modified athletics, in the sports of baseball/softball, the re-entry rule may be waived only if an injured player must be replaced and all eligible substitutions have been used."

B. Softball Pilot Program

"With sectional/league approval, a two year pilot program in modified softball may be implemented that shall allow innings 1-6 to be completed at five runs or three outs. The 7th inning shall be played as a normal inning, with three outs and no run restrictions for that inning."

Our section will need to decide if we will participate in this new pilot program.

C. Badminton/Tennis Motion

Currently, when a smaller team plays a larger team, it is not permitted to recycle tennis or badminton players in a match to give each opposing player an opportunity to play. Modified State sport standards limit the number of matches a modified player can play. This motion allows a variance:

"For the purpose of ensuring that every eligible badminton/tennis player has the opportunity to play in a match, each player may play one additional singles or doubles match per day. The individual limitations/day for badminton and tennis (Reference: Modified Sports Standards Chart, NYSPHSAA handbook, pages 134-5) shall be increased to two matches per day, provided that every individual eligible player plays once before any player plays twice."

D. Appointment of New Modified Softball Coordinator

"Micki Bedlington (Section I) shall be appointed as the NYSPHSAA girls' modified softball sport coordinator."

Discussion and Information Items

A. Pilot Programs

Our section presently has decided to participate in the (EDIT HERE *football, baseball/softball mercy rule, volleyball libero player, wrestling bout times and/or track hurdle height*) pilot programs. We decided NOT to participate in the (EDIT HERE *football, baseball/softball mercy rule, volleyball libero player, wrestling bout times and/or track hurdle height*) pilot programs.

We continue to need your cooperation and survey input for **each** of the following pilot programs we chose to participate in:

- Football

"The use of a wide receiver on each side of the offensive formation shall be allowed, to a maximum of 10 yards outside the lineman."

This pilot began in 2007 and continued into 2009. NYS sections were very supportive. The last phase of the survey will be done after this fall 2009 modified football season. If your school participated, the survey is on the NYSPHSAA website and must be filled out after the fall season is completed.

- Volleyball Libero Player Motion

"Modified volleyball Game Rule #6 (NYSPHSAA handbook, page 148) shall be changed to read: 'With sectional/league approval, the libero player may be used at the modified level.' "

This pilot program is in effect this school year for boys' and girls' volleyball. If your school participated, the survey is on the NYSPHSAA website and must be filled out after the season is completed.

- "Mercy Rule" Experiment in Softball and Baseball Motion

"With sectional/league approval, a 'mercy rule' experiment in modified baseball and softball will be permitted, allowing a game to end after the fifth inning when a team at the short end of the 15 run rule has completed their fifth at-bat."

This pilot began in Spring 2009 and continues through this school year. If your school participated, the survey is on the NYSPHSAA website and must be filled out after the seasons are completed. You may still enter Spring 2009 data.

- Wrestling Motion

"With sectional/league approval, a two year pilot program in modified wrestling may be implemented that allows modified wrestlers who compete in two or three bouts in a contest to wrestle using the time periods for bouts of 'Program 2': 1st Period – 1 minute, 2nd and 3rd Periods: 1 and ½ minutes."

This pilot began last winter and continues through this school year. Surveys received to date indicate approval of the pilot program. If your school participated, the survey is on the NYSPHSAA website and must be filled out after 2009-2010 season is completed.

- Track Pilot Program Motion

"With sectional/league approval, a two year pilot program in modified track and field may be implemented that would increase the height of the hurdle in the 55m modified boys' event from 30 inches to 33 inches."

This pilot began in Spring 2009 and continues through this school year. . Surveys received to date indicate that the variation has worked successfully, allowing for a better transition to the varsity boys' hurdle height. If your school participated, the survey is on the NYSPHSAA website and must be filled out after the 2010 track season is completed. You may still enter Spring 2009 data.

B. Status of Combined HS/Modified Track Meets.

Combined meets are not happening in the State; some sections indicated their opposition to the concept, fearing that this could become a financial decision that could compromise modified athletes. Track sport coordinator Teresa Lee noted that this design might be considered by smaller schools, but the longer time factor makes it less applicable for larger schools.

C. Modified Baseball Bats.

The current differential of length and weight in bats may not be greater than -3. This is a problem for smaller athletes because there are few bats manufactured that are less than 30-31" in length, and bats are too heavy. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that there is a need for more data regarding this item, and the item was referred to the NYSPHSAA Safety Committee.

D. Softball Regulations for Extra Innings.

There is a limit of two extra innings in the event of ties when playing doubleheaders (*Reference: Baseball Modified Game Condition #2.d, NYSPHSAA handbook, page 136*). Some would like to see additional innings made available to end games with a win. In the spirit of modified athletics, it was agreed that overtime is not always necessary, other sports end without a winner, and ties are not a bad thing. There was no action.

E. Fiscal Concerns

The budget crisis is facing every section of the state and some modified programs across the state are in jeopardy. Ideas to preserve modified programs were shared by the Committee members, including: examining geographic proximity in scheduling games and avoiding longer distance cross-sectional competition; reducing the number of modified contests; and adding scrimmages, jamborees and playdays. We were encouraged to increase communications with our superintendents and the Athletic Council of our section to get the message out to promote the educational merits of modified athletics. Athletics is an extension of the academic program, does not focus on games and win/loss records, and should not be linked with the objectives of outside leagues. We should continue to use opportunities such as the NYSA conference, Middle School principals' conferences, and superintendents' conferences to promote our modified program goals.

Items which will occur before the Spring 2010 Modified Committee meeting:

- Continued collection of data after Year 3 of modified football pilot program. Please enter your data online if you have not yet done so.
- Continued collection of data after Year 1 of "mercy rule" experiment in softball and baseball. Please enter your Spring 2009 data online if you have not already done so.
- Continued collection of data after Year 2 of modified wrestling pilot program regarding wrestling bout times. Please enter your Winter 2009 data online if you have not already done so.
- Continued collection of data after Year 1 of modified track and field pilot program regarding boys' hurdle height. Please enter your Spring 2009 data online if you have not already done so.
- Collection of data of Year 1 of modified volleyball pilot program regarding use of libero player. Please do the surveys after your volleyball season(s) this school year.
- Design of survey for new pilot program for softball
- Efforts to secure modified sport coordinators for boys' and girls' gymnastics and girls' lacrosse. We would welcome a volunteer from our section; please notify us if you are interested in this role.
- Preparation of field hockey and tennis informational surveys and submission of surveys to NYSPHSAA website for data collection
- Appropriate report preparation from winter sports coordinators. The following sports are scheduled for review: basketball, ice hockey, swimming, tennis, volleyball, wrestling

Discussion Item for Next Meeting

New Wrestling Motion:

"With sectional/league approval, an additional 'sudden victory' overtime period shall be permitted in modified wrestling.. Wrestlers must start in the standing position, and the period shall not exceed 30 seconds."

Our section's input is required for this item.

Action Items for Next Meeting

None at this time.