

ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING May 21, 2008 – Agenda item 9.6

Modified Committee Report

May 2008

Chairpersons: Adam Stoltman (Boys), Katie McGowan (Girls)

Re: Spring 2008 Meeting Report
NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics

The spring meeting of the State Committee for Modified Athletics took place on April 4, 2008 in Latham, New York. A synopsis of the meeting is as follows:

Items that will go to the Safety Committee:

- Wrestling Motion (page 4)
*“Modified Wrestling Condition #6 (b) (NYSPHSAA handbook, page 118) shall be edited to read:
There must be a 45 minute rest period between bouts.”*
- Editorial Changes to Modified Sports Standards Chart (page 6)
“The Modified Sports Standards Chart for Interschool Competition (NYSPHSAA handbook, pages 100-101) shall be edited. Each section has the option of accepting the suggested maximum number of contests played by its modified athletes.”

The edited chart will be included in the revision of the 2008-2010 NYSPHSAA handbook if it is approved by the NYSPHSAA Safety Committee and then the Executive Committee.

Items which will occur before the Fall 2008 Modified Committee meeting:

- Preparation of survey and data collection after Year 1 of Section III’s “mercy rule” experiment in softball and baseball. Section III is allowing a game to be ended after the 5th inning when a team at the end of the 15 run rule has completed their fifth at-bat.
- Inclusion of Subcommittee recommendations in revised 2008-2010 NYSPHSAA handbook:
 - Modified Athletics Code of Ethics
 - Modified Sports Standards Chart: increases in maximum number of contests. Our section will have the option of adding two more modified games to the maximum number of games permitted if our sectional Athletic Council approves.
- Sectional review of Subcommittee suggestions regarding changes in modified game rules and game conditions (Please see Addenda)
A subcommittee of the NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics met on two occasions over the past school year to address concerns raised consistently by parents, students, coaches and directors regarding current modified athletic standards and conditions. The goals of this committee were to discuss whether school programs are keeping pace with outside

athletic organizations, and whether changes should be made to better meet the needs of modified athletes while still remaining true to the modified athletics philosophy. The suggestions of the subcommittee were discussed at length at this state meeting, and are being presented to you in the attached Addenda for our discussion and review. Our input is requested and new ideas are welcome.

- Inclusion of Section VIII Extended Playing Time Program in revised NYSPHSAA “Modified Program Rules” pamphlet, and notation of its availability in revised 2008-2010 NYSPHSAA handbook
Section VIII has just completed a two-year modified athletics pilot program designed to provide more playing time to students in four and five periods of play. The pilot program’s instructions and rosters are worthy of examination and consideration as an option for use by all state sections. The pilot program will be printed and available in the revised 2008-2010 NYSPHSAA modified pamphlet and handbook.
- Editing of Modified Swimming and Diving Game Rules and Conditions wherever yardage is noted, adding the words “or meters” or the notation “/m “ . These editorial changes will address the measurements of statewide metric pools.
- There is a need to secure modified state sport coordinators for girls’ basketball, boys’ and girls’ gymnastics, and boys’ and girls’ tennis. If anyone from our section is interested in filling these important roles, we would welcome your interest and be happy to recommend you.
- The following fall and spring sports are scheduled for review at the Fall 2008 meeting: field hockey, football, gymnastics, lacrosse, soccer, softball and track and field

Discussion Items for Next Meeting

- A. Volleyball Motion: Libero Player
“Modified volleyball Game Rule #6 (NYSPHSAA handbook, page 117) shall be changed to read: ‘With sectional/league approval, the libero player may be used at the modified level.’ “
- B. Sectional Suggestions Regarding Changes in Modified Game Rules and Game Conditions (see Addenda)
A report of our sectional suggestions will be compiled and submitted at the Fall 2008 meeting of the NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics. We encourage your contributions.

Action Items for Next Meeting

If approved by the Safety Committee this spring:

Wrestling Motion:

“Modified Wrestling Condition #6 (b) (NYSPHSAA handbook, page 118) shall be edited to read:

There must be a 45 minute rest period between bouts.”

If passed by the NYSPHSAA Committee for Modified Athletics, our section will be able to use this reduced time between modified wrestling bouts during the 2008-09 season.

Information Items

1. Modified Football Pilot Program

Survey results from all sections participating in the first year of the two year modified football experiment, allowing the use of a wide receiver on each side of the formation, to a maximum of 10 yards outside the lineman, indicated strong support of the pilot. Survey findings showed no increase in injuries, no increases in penalties, and no loss of practice time due to the teaching required to implement the new formation. The only questions raised related to the use of a walk-away end on the split receiver side; state modified football coordinator Steve Nolan responded that with two wide receivers on offense, the defense can use the walk-away end on both sides of the formation. There was strong support to continue the experiment for the second year. Data will be collected again after the Fall 2008 modified football season.

2. Promotion Rule

Some aspects of the "Promotion Rule" are in need of clarification. Contestants may not be promoted to a higher classification within the modified program or to a junior varsity or varsity team after completion of 50% of their modified schedule. This rule holds within sections with shortened seasons. There is no Selection/Classification of modified athletes after 50% of the season has been completed; directors and coaches should plan ahead for superior athletes.

he promotion rule is not entirely waived for swimming. Only the meet organization was waived; allowing sections to choose to schedule modified swim meets in conjunction with high school swim meets. The events in these combined swim meets must be alternated, without combining modified and HS athletes, or adding modified athletes in "open lanes" to speed up the meets.

3. Modified Softball Pitching Distance

Consensus was that the 40 foot pitching distance is the recommended pitching distance for modified softball. Fair warning: the HS may be moving to 43 feet soon.

Committee Meetings – 2008-09 School Year

Committee meetings for the 2007-08 school year were established:

Fall Meeting – Friday, October 3, 2008	9:00 AM
Spring Meeting - Friday, April 3, 2009	9:00 AM

The meeting will take place at the NYSPHSAA office in Latham, New York.

ADDENDA - MODIFIED SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS 2007-08

The Modified Subcommittee met at the NYSPHSAA Office in Latham, New York on Monday, November 19, 2007 at 10:00 o'clock A.M. Committee members who were present: Brad Dates, Elaine Hage, Lloyd Mott, Vicki McMillan, James Rose and Judy Salerno. All of the discussions and suggestions made at this committee were sent to all subcommittee members. The input from all subcommittee members were part of a final subcommittee report.

MODIFIED PHILOSOPHY:

The committee began their work by discussing the Modified Philosophy. They reviewed the Code of Ethics (pages 86 and 99 in the NYSPHSAA 2006-2008 Handbook). Changes were suggested. A "Modified Sports Code of Ethics" was edited as follows:

MODIFIED ATHLETICS CODE OF ETHICS

IT IS THE DUTY OF ALL CONCERNED WITH THE MODIFIED PROGRAM OF ATHLETICS:

1. To provide as broad and varied an athletic program as is possible with an opportunity for competition on an equal basis for all students. A desirable **modified interscholastic program will encourage participation at several achievement levels. Interscholastic competition in a modified sports program should encourage participation for as many children as possible.**
2. To realize that the individual schools have the final responsibility to equalize competition and must administer the program so that no overmatching of teams or individuals shall be permitted.
3. To conduct the athletic program so that educational objectives shall be achieved; so that the highest ideals of sportsmanship are upheld; so that no single phase of the educational program is promoted at the expense of other equally important programs.
4. To realize that the athletic program **should be balanced** with all other activities essential to youth, including those which may be conducted by out-of-school groups, to avoid an excessive load for any student.
5. To administer the program in such a manner that participants are properly examined, approved, equipped, insured, selected, classified, instructed, and supervised so that as safe a program as is possible is conducted.
6. **To administer the educationally based athletic program in its proper perspective, with minimal loss of school time, limited publicity, competent officiating, and limited awards focused on participation.**
7. To provide **qualified leadership** that understands the teaching of sports to the age group, the objectives of this modified sports program, and the emphasis on safety procedures.
8. To cooperate with schools in the area in providing an **interscholastic athletics administrative organization within your section** that will achieve the objectives and will aid in the development of the highest type of cordial interschool relationships.
9. To conduct the program so that proper respect for authority is achieved. **All participants, coaches, parents, spectators and interested individuals will demonstrate appropriate conduct at all events.**
10. **To promote sportsmanship by competing** within the spirit of the rules, to give every opponent due credit and respect, and to win honorably and to lose graciously.
11. To finance the program through Board of Education approved funds.
12. To cooperate with the Sectional Athletic Council, **League or Conference** in its efforts to provide sound leadership for all **in the modified athletics program**. No sectional team or individual championships are to be conducted in **modified interscholastic athletics**.

OVERTIME:

The committee discussed the use of overtime in modified sports:

Modified Sports with NO overtime: Badminton, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Golf, Boys Gymnastics, Girls Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Girls' Lacrosse, Skiing, Swimming, Tennis, Track and Field (Outdoor and Winter), Volleyball and Wrestling.

Modified Sports with overtime: Baseball, Boys' Basketball, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Lacrosse, Boys' and Girls' Soccer, Softball

The committee posed several questions/concerns regarding overtime:

- If we feel winning is not important in modified sports, then why do we have an overtime play?
- If we do not have championships, why do we have to have a winner in each contest?
- Can a league/section decide to NOT play overtime?
- If a 5 period game is played, NO overtime period should be played.

Since we do currently use overtime in some modified sports, we felt that there is a need for information from each sports coordinator regarding overtime. We felt that there should be consistency in the rules. Overtime should be educationally sound, and maintain the safety of the players. The committee developed the following statement: "Overtime may occur according to the rules of each sport, with the following parameters: No "sudden victory", A cap on scoring, Two periods maximum."

The sports coordinators will be asked to get their feedback.

DRAFT: MODIFIED RULES AND GAME CONDITIONS TO BE REVIEWED:

Please see these suggestions made by the subcommittee:

Badminton:

- Contests should consist of 4 singles and 4 doubles matches, unless agreed upon prior to the contest.
- A player may either play **a single or a double match**, but cannot play both in any one interschool contest.

Baseball:

- Designated hitter will not be allowed.
- Discuss use of extra player. (Review Game Rule #4, NYSPHSAA handbook, page 103).

Boys' Basketball:

- Sections may adopt the use of a small ball.
- The 3 point shot is not allowed.

Football:

(Review rules 1, 2 and 3 under Game Conditions on page 105)

Boys' Gymnastics:

A gymnast may enter 3 events with the exception of two team members whose entries may be unlimited. **SUGGESTION: Perhaps same as Girls' ?**

Girls' Gymnastics:

A gymnast may enter 3 events per meet; 2 team members are permitted to enter all events.

SUGGESTION: Perhaps same as Boys'????

Ice Hockey:

No overtime periods shall be permitted.

Tennis:

A player may either play a singles or a doubles match, but cannot play both in any one interschool contest. **SUGGESTION: Make statement same as Badminton.**

Volleyball:

The libero player **may** be used at the modified level.

Wrestling:

There shall be no competition between wrestlers with an age difference of more than 24 months. **SUGGESTION: OMIT this statement.**

There will be a 1 hour rest period between bouts. **SUGGESTION: 45 minutes.**

Once a wrestler is established in a weight class, weight reduction and participation in a lower weight class is permitted only under a doctor's authorization and with the parent's permission.

Scoring: Use regular scoring teams receiving zero points for tied bouts or count number of bouts won or a combination of both.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS:

The committee agreed that the Modified Philosophy is to teach fundamentals. The number of contests was originally developed to allow for teaching. Many modified sections in the state have three sports seasons. If we were to increase the maximum number of contests in modified sports, this would give those sections with three seasons more game opportunities. Sections using four seasons, or sections maintaining three modified seasons, can still be more stringent and establish the maximum number of contests. The list follows:

MODIFIED SPORTS STANDARDS CHART FOR INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL MAXIMUM</u>		<u>NUMBER OF CONTESTS</u>
	<u>Now</u>	<u>Suggested</u>	<u>HS Now</u>
Badminton	14	16	---
Baseball	14	16	24
Basketball	14	16	20
Bowling	14	16	24
Cross Country	10	10	18
Field Hockey	12	14	18
Football	7	7	10
Golf	14	16	20
Gymnastics	10	12	18
Ice Hockey	14	16	24
Lacrosse – Boys'	12	14	18
Lacrosse – Girls'	12	14	18
Skiing	12	14	18
Soccer	12	14	18
Softball	14	16	24
Swimming	14	14	18
Tennis	14	16	20
Outdoor Track	10	12	18
Winter Track	10	12	18
Volleyball	14	16	24
Wrestling	12 points	14 points	22 points

OTHER TOPICS:

- It was felt that the NYSPHSAA Document "Frequently Asked Questions" would be a good place to include the Modified Philosophy. This information will be on line, and is updated often.
- The Modified Sports Standards Chart (NYSPHSAA handbook page 100-101) should include an additional column that lists overtime information.
- We talked about having the opportunity for more discussions at the State Modified Meetings. Rather than the evening before, perhaps an optional 8:30-9:30 AM breakfast get together could be established. A specific topic would be designated for discussion. This will be something that needs input from the State Modified Committee.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW:

- Discussion on overtime requires input from State Modified Sports Coordinators and the State Modified Committee.
- Maximum Number of Contests requires much discussion.
- This is an ongoing process that requires much time and discussion at the Committee and sectional levels. This information will be distributed to the modified sectional representatives and sports coordinators for input, suggested modifications and new ideas.