

ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING March 24, 2010 – Agenda item 6.6

TO: NYSPHSAA Executive Committee
FROM: Robbie Greene, Handbook Committee
DATE: February 10, 2010
RE: Handbook Committee Minutes

Attendance: Robbie Greene, Ted Bondi, Carol Rog, Steve Broadwell, John Gallagher, Bonnie Smith, Trish Kocialski, Renee James, Nina VanErk. The meeting was held by telephone conference.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. **Appeal Panel** – The committee discussed whether there was a need to establish a flat fee for appeals that are heard by conference call. The intention was to minimize frivolous appeals and eliminate the sharing of cost. The committee felt a review of the number of appeals and the cost associated with the appeals be reviewed before a recommendation could be considered. Nina will provide the information prior to the next meeting of the Handbook Committee.

2. **Foreign Exchange and International Students** – The rule has been streamlined by removing the inconsistency and has been made to be more easily understood. The committee recommends the following change to the Foreign Students regulation. **ACTION REQUESTED**

FOREIGN EXCHANGE and INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The following criteria apply to all Foreign Exchange and International students:

1. *Students who have been graduated from the secondary school system in their country are ineligible for the interschool athletic program.*
2. *No member of the school's coaching staff or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.*
3. *There shall be no evidence that a student, school or other interested party has influenced the assignment of the foreign exchange or international student to a school for athletic purposes.*
4. *Students must possess the appropriate visa.*
5. *The foreign exchange and international student must comply with all other NYSPHSAA and NYSED eligibility requirements.*

In addition to the aforementioned criteria, the following applies to:

A. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS - All Foreign Exchange Students must be reported to the Section office using the appropriate form.

- a. *A bona fide Foreign Exchange student may be immediately eligible the first year in residence and **be limited to one year eligibility** provided the student (a) is a participant in an established foreign exchange program accepted for listing by the Council of Standards for International Travel (CSIET) and (b) complies with all State Education Department and NYSPHSAA, Inc. standards. Students that are not in an approved CSIET program are subject to the Transfer Rule. NOTE: CSIET list is available at www.nysphsaa.org*
- b. *There shall be no evidence that a student, school or other interested party has influenced the assignment of the Foreign Exchange student to a school for athletic purposes. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The Foreign Exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. School districts will be notified by NYSPHSAA if a student is considered to be a "Direct Placement" by CSIET standards. Those Foreign Exchange students who are Direct Placements are subject to the Transfer Rule. (p. --)*

B. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - When needed, International students, must receive a waiver of the Transfer Rule to be eligible to practice or compete. Schools must submit the required transfer form to the Section office. Athletes are not permitted to practice before the form has been submitted. Athletes are not permitted to compete without approval.

- a. All International students are considered to be transfer students. Eligibility is determined under the transfer rule. *NOTE: If an International student has participated in an organized sports program in a particular sport, equivalent to or on a higher level than our high school programs, he/she is ineligible to participate in that sport for one year.*
- b. There shall be no evidence that a student, school or other interested party has influenced the assignment of the International student to a school for athletic purposes.

NOTE: Noncompliance with one or more of the foregoing provisions shall render the Foreign Exchange or International student ineligible for interscholastic athletics at any high school which is a member of the NYSPHSAA.

3. **Conducting a Contest** – The committee recommends the following addition to the Handbook to help clarify how a regular season contest must be contested when held in conjunction with a fund raising event. **ACTION REQUESTED**

CONDUCTING A CONTEST – 2nd paragraph (page 86)

When a contest or game is held in conjunction with a fund raising effort the following criteria is required to be met:

1. *The host school is required to have the charity event approved by a school administrator and/or Board of Education.*
 2. *The sport specific game rules (NFHS, NCAA, etc) may not be altered.*
 3. *All NYSPHSAA and NYSED eligibility standards must be followed.*
 4. *Donations may not be made based on the outcome of student performance.*
 5. *If an outside agency or charity is directly involved in the administration, coordination, or organization of the contest, the event must be approved under the Outside Agency rule.*
 6. *League or conference schedules may not be altered unless mutually agreed upon.*
4. **Transgender Policy** – The sub-committee of Renee James, Carol Rog, Bonnie Smith, Julie Maney and Nina Van Erk will meet by conference call on February 25th at 10:30. Support materials have been distributed.
 5. **Scrimmages** – During the sport committee meetings, coordinators have discussed the definition of a scrimmage for their particular sport. The Handbook Committee reviewed recommendations from the following sports: boys and girls soccer, field hockey, wrestling, ice hockey, boys and girls lacrosse, girls golf , boys tennis and softball. The committee would like to the same sport use the same definition for a scrimmage and recommends that soccer incorporate their recommendations into one proposal. Nina will be sharing these recommendations with the Executive Directors to encourage discussion at the Section level prior to the April/May Executive Committee meeting.

FUTURE MEETING

April 8, 2010 - WEDNESDAY – 9:30 CONFERENCE CALL