

**NEPSGBA Coaches' Handbook
New England Preparatory Schools Girls' Basketball Association
2022-2023 Season**

Prepared by the NEPSGBA Executive Board:

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I. Basketball Rules

NEPSAC Girls' Basketball games follow National Federation High School rules with the following exceptions:

1. We are using a 10 second backcourt count.
2. A 30-second shot clock is used. If a reset for a kick violation occurs and the shot clock is under 15 seconds, the shot clock gets reset to 15 only. If the shot clock is 15 or over and a kickball violation occurs, the shot clock stays as is with no reset.
3. Three 60-second timeouts and two 30-second timeouts per game. One additional full timeout for each overtime period.
4. Games are 32 minutes in length, played in four 8 minute quarters. Overtime periods are 4-minutes in length.
5. Teams will shoot two shots on the 5th foul of each quarter. Fouls will reset at the conclusion of each quarter. There is NO one-and-one.
6. The coaches may use the new 38-foot hash mark to the end line. Coaches are not required to sit if a T is assessed to them.
7. 5-second count when a player is closely guarded holding the basketball.
8. The game clock will stop after a goal is successful in the last 59.9 seconds of the fourth quarter and the last 59.9 seconds of all extra periods.
9. A team may opt to advance to front court following a timeout after a made basket in the last 59.9 seconds of the fourth quarter after securing the ball from a rebound/change of possession if they have not already advanced the ball with a pass or dribble. The ball will be inbounded from the 28 foot mark on the scorer's table side of the court.
10. Free throws-players in marked lane spaces may enter the lane to rebound on the release of the attempt; the low block is empty for attempts. Free throw shooter and those outside the arc/free throw line extended must wait until the ball hits.
11. The home team wears dark uniforms, the visiting team wears light.
12. Uniform Rules - Sleeves/Tights/Compression Shorts 3-5-3: Arm sleeves, knee sleeves, lower leg sleeves, compression shorts and tights are permissible. • Anything worn on the arm and/or leg is a sleeve, except a knee brace, and must meet the color restrictions. • Sleeves/tights, compression shorts shall be black, white, beige or the predominant color of the jersey and the same color sleeves/tights must be worn by teammates. • All sleeves/tights, compression shorts must be the same solid color and must be the same color as any headband or wristband worn. • Sleeves/tights and compression shorts must meet the logo requirements. See NFHS Rule 3-6. • Note: A brace is defined as anything worn for a medical purpose to increase stability. In general, it is made of neoprene or elastic knit with an insert embedded to support the joint. It may or may not have a hinge and/or straps or an opening over the knee cap.
13. Rule 1-26.7 Hair adornments, including beads, may be worn provided they are secured and do not present a safety hazard to the player, teammates, or opponent(s). (May 2022) It remains the responsibility of the head coach to ensure players are legally equipped before the competition begins.
 - a. Hair must be in a "tight ponytail or bun."
 - b. Below the shoulder blade is not acceptable.
 - c. Hair is not allowed to swing around.
 - d. Hair must be secured close to player's head.
14. The home team is expected to provide the game & practice balls for both teams.

II. Classification

The members of the NEPSGBA Executive Board review all NEPSAC schools individually. In keeping with the criteria outlined by the NEPSAC Executive Board, schools were classified on the basis of enrollment. Female enrollment with these ranges considered for purposes of classification:

Class AA: Opt-in

Class A: 221 and above

Class B: 161-220

Class C: 101-160

Class D: 100 and below

Schools may appeal their classification to the NEPSGBA Executive Board. If the NEPSGBA board denies their appeal, the appeal moves to the NEPSAC Executive Board for a final decision and that appeal is required to the Executive Board by 10/15/22. As noted in the NEPSAC handbook, all teams must be classified by 12/01/22.

III. Score Reporting

After each game, coaches **MUST** complete the score reporting and all-star voting Google Form [HERE](#) so that John Monagan/Ayo Hart can access. **Scores should be submitted by the morning after the game is played. All weekend scores must be submitted no later than 9AM Sunday morning to ensure that the results are in that week's Saylor Standings. Season Schedules need to be in by 11/29/22.**

IV. NEPSGBA All-Star Selection

After each game, coaches are required to nominate players from ***THEIR OPPONENT'S TEAM*** and encouraged to nominate players from their own team for the NEPSGBA All-Star Game at the end of the season. The maximum number of nominations after a game is 6 (no more than 3 per team). Voting will take place via the same [Google Form](#) when submitting scores. Both the winning and losing coaches have the opportunity to nominate All-Stars. **There are 10 All-Star teams: AA (two teams), A East, A West, B East, B West, C East, C West, D East, and D West.**

An All-Star Committee will be formed to select all 10 All-Star teams. The final All-Star rosters take into account that ideally no team should have more than two players represented (n.b. there may be exceptions of up to 3), top teams (according to the power ranking) may have more than one, upperclassmen are preferred, and a team's success is balanced against the number of votes a player receives. **Prior to the NEPSGBA All-Star meeting, coaches will be invited to send their players' statistics for consideration by the committee.**

Roughly twenty players will ultimately be chosen to participate in each game, acknowledging up to 8 may not play if their school is in the classification finals. Coaches should be consulted prior to official notification.

V. All-NEPSAC Selections

All-NEPSAC selections are separate from NEPSGBA all-star selections. There will be an All-NEPSAC team selected for each class, which will consist of a Class MVP and roughly 8 - 12 additional student-athletes based on a team's success. In addition to the All-NEPSAC team, each school that is above .500 will receive one All NEPSAC Honorable Mention recognition.

There will be a Coach of the Year in each class as well. Coaches will be nominated by other coaches towards the end of the season and all coaches will have an opportunity to vote for the COY recognition.

We will also recognize a Defensive Player of the Year. Neither the Coach of the Year nor the Defensive Player of the Year will be recognized by NEPSAC, but our association will continue to vote and recognize both.

VI. Tournament Seeding

For the purpose of selection and seeding for the NEPSAC Tournament, NEPSGBA uses the Saylor Ranking System alongside RPI, strength of schedule, wins against power 40, and Head to head wins against teams in class in consideration as a guide to seeding. Please see the Section X on page 6 for an explanation of the system. The tournament committees will meet to finalize seeding based on the system rankings.

VII. NEPSAC Tournament

The application for the tournament can be found on page 12 of this handbook. There will be two committees this year: a AA committee and a committee for classes A-D. The tournament committees consist of one Tournament Chair and 8-10 coaches from across New England and across various classes. The Tournament Chair strives to form a committee that represents all NEPSAC districts. These committees will begin their work in January and update with data weekly until selections are made the last weekend of the regular season.

The application for the tournament will be sent at least four weeks prior to the tournament. **The deadline for the Tournament application is the Thursday three weeks before the first round. This season, the date will be Thursday February 9, 2022.**

Each classification (AA, A, B, C, D) has its own postseason tournament, and 8 teams are selected for each tournament (there may be years where less than 8 apply or qualify). To be eligible for consideration for the tournament, a team must have at least a .500 NEPSGBA record or a .500 record against teams in their class. **Also, a team must have scheduled a minimum of 14 games against NEPSGBA opponents.**

To be eligible for tournament consideration, a school must be a member in good standing with the organization. **To be a member in good standing, the school must pay its NEPSGBA dues (\$40.00), the school MUST report its scores and all-star votes regularly, and a coach MUST attend the coaches' meetings each year.** The first and

second round games are hosted at the higher seed. However, if the schools are **over 2 hours and 45 minutes apart (determined by school addresses set to Google Maps on date and time of seeding)**, the game will be played at a neutral site. The final site is predetermined, rotating yearly between East/West. Tourney dates will be the Wed/Sat/Sun after the final regular season games. **The dates in 2023 will be March 1, 4, and 5, 2023 with Super Sunday being held at Loomis Chaffee.**

VII. Membership in Good Standing

As previously noted, **to be a member in good standing, the school MUST pay its NEPSGBA dues (\$40.00), the school MUST report its scores and all-star votes regularly, and a coach MUST attend the preseason and Super Sunday meeting and respond to all queries.**

If a school fails to report scores and all-star votes or pay its dues by the (newly established) October deadline, a member of the NEPSGBA board will make a second request for the payment of dues and/or reporting of scores. If a school does not comply by the second request, a formal letter will be sent to the school with a final deadline for the paying of dues and reporting any missing scores. Failure to respond to this final letter will make the school in question ineligible for the NEPSAC Tournament and All-Star Game.

It is imperative that the coach/AD contact a NEPSGBA Board Member if they cannot attend Super Sunday. If there is no contact made/no attendance, the school's standing would be subject to review.

VIII. NEPSGBA Contacts

Co- President:	Charlie Kelly coachk25@hotmail.com	781-956-4270
Co - President	Ayo Hart harta@cshct.org	914-924-6508
Vice President A-D Tournament Chair	Kristen Campopiano kcampopiano@dextersouthfield.org	508-241-2809
Secretary/Treasurer:	Tara Brisson, Tilton School tbrisson@tiltonschool.org	603-286-1715
AA Tournament Chair	Brett Benzio bbenzio@academy.edu	772-631-7146
Send schedules and rosters	Jon Monagan, Ethel Walker School nepsacscores@gmail.com	860-408-4290
Scores and All Star votes	<u>Click here to report scores and votes</u>	

****Please do not send scores or votes via email****

IX. Important Dates

- 10/24/22 Deadline for NEPSGBA dues & Classifications appeals due to NEPSGBA Board
- 11/28/22 Handbook and Classifications Email distributed
- 12/01/22 Deadline for all Classifications.
- 2/9/23 **Deadline for Tournament Applications****
- 2/16/23 All-Star Meeting/Conference
- 2/20/23 All-Stars Announced
- 2/26/23 Tournament Committee Meetings; Seedings Announced
- 2/27/23 Deadline for NEPSAC Tournament Dues
- 3/1/23 NEPSAC Quarterfinals (@ higher seeds)
- 3/4/23 NEPSAC Semifinals (@ higher seeds)
- 3/5/23 Super Sunday (@ Loomis Chaffee—Windsor, CT)

Championship Games (all games in)

- 11:30 a.m. Class D Final**
- 1:15 p.m. Class C Final**
- 3:00 p.m. Class B Final**
- 4:45 p.m. Class A Final**
- 6:30 p.m. Class AA Final**

All-Star Games (all games in)

- 11:00 a.m. Class A All-Star Game**
- 12:30 p.m. Class AA All-Star Game**
- 2:00 p.m. Class B All-Star Game**
- 3:30 p.m. Class D All-Star Game**
- 5:00 p.m. Class C All-Star Game**

NEPSGBA Coaches' Meeting: @ 12 p.m

X. Tournament Seeding System Explained

Saylor Ranking System

The following represents the point system assigned to each win and loss relative to the category of the team you played. Each time the ranking is calculated a point value is given to the win/loss based on the category of the team you played. The category of the team you played is recalculated each time the rankings are calculated. For example, a category II team in December (Class B Zilo School who starts out 4 – 0) might become a category IV team by late January (Class B Zilo School who is now 6 – 7). The sum of the point values is then averaged for your ranking score.

The categories, definition of categories and point system are as follows:

Category	Definition of Category
I	a) A team in a class above yours with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 75\%$ b) A team two classes above yours.
II <75%	a) A team in a class above yours with a win/loss percentage $\geq 50\%$ but b) A team in your class with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 75\%$
III <50%	a) A team in a class above yours with a win/loss percentage $\geq 25\%$ but b) A team in your class with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 50\%$ but $<75\%$
IV	c) A team in a class below yours with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 75\%$ a) A team in a class above yours with a win/loss percentage $<25\%$ b) A team in your class with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 25\%$ but $<50\%$ c) A team in a class below yours with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 50\%$ but <75%
V	d) A team two classes below yours with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 75\%$ a) A team in your class with a win/loss percentage of $<25\%$ b) A team in a class below yours with a win/loss percentage of $\geq 25\%$ but <50%
<75%	c) A team two classes below yours with a win/loss percentage $\geq 50\%$ but <75%
VI	a) A team in a class below yours with a win/loss percentage of $<25\%$ b) A team two classes below yours with a win/loss percentage $\geq 25\%$ but <50%
<50%	VII a) A team two classes below yours with a win/loss percentage of $<25\%$

Saylor Points

For defeating a category I team 600 Pts

For losing to a category I team 200 Pts

For defeating a category II team 500 Pts

For losing to a category II team 150 Pts

For defeating a category III team 400 Pts

For losing to a category III team 100 Pts

For defeating a category IV team 300 Pts
For losing to a category IV team 50 Pts

For defeating a category V team 200 Pts
For losing to a category V team 0 Pts

For defeating a category VI team 100 Pts
For losing to a category VI team 0 Pts

For defeating a category VII team 50 Pts
For losing to a category VII team 0 Pts

RPI Calculations System

RPI weighs winning %, opponents' winning % and opponents' opponents' winning %. It does not take into account the class of any teams. Therefore, teams are not hurt by playing good teams in classes below them nor are they boosted by playing weak teams in higher classes.

The Big Picture

Saylors and RPI are then combined with Head to Head, games against top 40 teams, and wins against top 40 as outlined below.

- **RPI:** This number is weighted as is (*1) This number does not take class into consideration.
- **Saylors:** Each team's Saylors number is multiplied by .001 to make it a similar format to RPI. This number works really well with RPI, because it takes class into consideration.
- **Head to Head:** Wins against all "teams in consideration" in class (ie all teams .500 or higher in good standing). This number is multiplied by .8
- **Games against top 40 teams in RPI:** This number reflects the strength of your schedule. The number of games is multiplied *.02
- **Wins against teams in top 40 RPI:** This number reflects wins against the top 40 teams. The number of wins is multiplied *.04

This system takes away common opponents and the individual head to head, which, based on our conversation last year, really held us up. It takes away how much we consider 1 game, when we know there are variables (home vs away, missing players, etc...) that matter but we can't consider. This formula includes the value of head to head and common opponents, but takes a broader approach. You will receive weekly RPI rankings which will include Saylors, and at the end of the season, you will see the full data as outlined below.

Team Name	Tabor		Team Name	Tilton		Team Name	Nobles	
RPI	0.6461	0.6461	RPI	0.6275	0.6275	RPI	0.6035	0.6035
Saylors	268	0.268	Saylors	209	0.209	Saylors	222	0.222
Head to Head wins vs teams in class contention	10	0.8	Head to Head wins vs teams in class contention	7	0.56	Head to Head wins vs teams in class contention	7	0.56
Games vs Top 40	16	0.32	Games vs Top 40	15	0.3	Games vs Top 40	17	0.34
Wins vs Top 40	14	0.56	Wins vs Top 40	13	0.52	Wins vs Top 40	11	0.44
Total	2.5941		Total	2.2165		Total	2.1655	

*Based on 21-22

XI. List of Teams by Classification for the 2022-23 Season
Based on aforementioned criteria and enrollment numbers acquired as of October 1, 2022 and approved by NEPSAC Executive Board.

AA (14)	A (22) 221+	B (27)220-161	C (19) 160-100	D (32) 100-0	
NMH	318 Andover	568 Westminster	216 Cushing	168 Wooster	113
Tabor	266 Exeter	547 Greenwich Country Da	215 Westover	160 Kent's Hill	99
Worcester	250 Choate	447 Pingree	214 Millbrook	160 Forman	95
Nobles	248 Loomis	381 Berkshire	209 Cheshire	156 Chapel Hill	93
Dexter Southfield	198 Milton	359 Middlesex	206 Canterbury	153 Bancroft	92
Rivers	183 Greenwich Academy	349 Rye CD	206 Brewster	152 Dublin School	88
Marianapolis	142 Dana Hall	341 Concord	203 Kimball Union	150 Stoneleigh	86
New Hampton	132 Miss Porters	335 Governors	191 CATs Academy	146 Newman	81
Winchendon	100 Austin Prep	325 St. George's	191 Holderness	143 Gould	79
Tilton	95 Deerfield	317 Suffield	187 Frederick Gunn	139 Brimmer & May	78
Storm King	71 Hotchkiss	304 Lawrence	186 Montrose	136 Boston Trinity	78
Hoosac	71 Sacred Heart	297 St. Luke's	182 Gann (21-22 enrollment)	135 Eagle Hill	76
MacDuffie	65 Taft	289 St. Mark's	182 Berwick	134 Christian Heritage	74
St. Andrew's	63 Hopkins	280 Beaver CD	181 Harvey	134 Vermont	72
	Winsor	270 Williston	180 King	133 Watkinson	68
	St. Paul's	267 Miss Hall's	180 Hamden Hall	132 Boston Commonwealth	68
	BB&N	263 Green Farms	179 Wilbraham & Monson	120 Covenant Christian	65
	Thayer	261 Groton	178 BU Academy	107 International School Boston	61
	Masters NY	258 Proctor	177 Landmark	102 Rocky Hill	58
	Holy Child	254 Ethel Walker	174 Lexington Christian	102 Waring????	53
	Kent	254 Cambridge School	170	Williams	48
	Newton CD	230 Pomfret	167	Marvelwood	45
		Wheeler	165	Bradford Christian (V)	40
		Brooks	165	Hyde (ME)	40
		Portsmouth	163 Associate Member:	Darrow	36
		Kingswood	159 Redemption Christian Academy	Woodward	31
				Marie Philip	29
				NYMA	24
				Masters CT	13
		Associate Member:			
First year over enrollment		King's Edgehill School			
				Oakwood Friends??	
				Associate Member:	
				American School of the Deaf	

XII. NEPSGBA Dues Invoice

NEPSGBA 2022-23 DUES INVOICE

Member Dues: \$40.00

Please pay online

https://nepsac.cr3.rschoolday.com/public/getclass/category_id/13/program_id/2

Contact Tara Brisson, NEPSGBA Treasurer with any questions:
tbrisson@tiltonschool.org

Payment must be received by November 20, 2022**

N.B.--We are aware this is "sooner" than before and we are in transition to this date after many years of 12/1. NEPSAC Exec Board decision to unify all sports and dates so please address asap and note for future seasons!*

XIII. NEPSGBA Tournament Invoice (to be paid by teams accepted into the tournament)

NEPSGBA 2022-2023 TOURNAMENT INVOICE

Tournament Cost: \$325.00

Please make checks payable to NEPSGBA and send them to the following address with your school info, and Coach/AD names and emails.

Tara Brisson
Tilton School Athletics
30 School St.
Tilton, NH 03276

Payment must be received by March 4, 2023.

XIV. Tournament Application

2023 NEW ENGLAND GIRLS' PREP SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

APPLICATION FORM

School Name _____

Our school would like to be considered for participation in the 2023 NEPSAC Girls' Basketball Tournament.

Attached is our team roster (name, grade, number, position & hometown). By signing this form, we confirm that we are a member in good standing & will contact Jon Monagan with any score updates from now to the end of the season. Also, by applying, we agree to offer our school, if needed, as a neutral site in the NEPSAC Tournament.

Coach: _____ Work Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Athletic Director: _____ Work Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

All information needs to be emailed to Tournament Chairperson:

Class AA please send to Brett Benzio: bbenzio@lacademy.edu

Classes A - D please send to Kristen Campopiano:

kcampopiano@dextersouthfield.org

INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11:59 PM ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023—NO EXCEPTIONS!

XV. By-Laws/Policies for NEPSGBA/NEPSAC

Article I – Name and Purpose

A. This organization shall be known as the New England Preparatory Girls' Basketball Association, hereafter referred to as NEPSGBA.

B. The purpose of this Association shall be to promote and develop the sport of basketball for the mutual benefit of our players and our schools.

Article II – Membership in NEPSGBA

A. Charter membership, which will hold only honorary status, will include all schools that pay the Association dues in the 2022-23 season.

B. Membership for a particular season will be granted to all NEPSAC member schools with a girls' basketball team who pay the NEPSGBA dues by mid-October in that school year.

C. Opportunity to play in the NEPSAC tournament is part of membership as long as at least 14 games are scheduled vs. NEPSAC teams. A waiver is possible if at least half the schedule is composed of NEPSAC opponents.

Article III – Officers of the Association

A. Elections shall be held biennially, if needed, to fill the positions of: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and at-large Executive Committee members.

B. The President shall be elected biennially at the Annual Meeting of NEPSGBA, and serve a two-year term. The President may be from any NEPSAC district but may not succeed oneself, and may not be succeeded by a President from the same district. The President's duties are to preside at meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee, and to coordinate and direct the organization during her/his term of office. The President shall also oversee the NEPSAC tournament and appoint a Tournament Committee of at least 2 members from each class representing East and West.

C. The Vice-President shall be elected biennially at the Annual Meeting of NEPSGBA, and serve a two-year term. The Vice-President preferably will be from a different district from the President but that is not mandatory. The Vice-President shall assist the President in all of his/her aspects, and is expected to step in and perform all of the duties of the President should the president be unavailable or leave the position before the term is up.

D. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected biennially at the Annual Meeting of NEPSGBA, and serve a two-year term. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and send the minutes to all member schools prior to the next meeting. In addition, the Secretary shall submit reports of the Association's activities to members as deemed necessary. By November 1st of each year, the Treasurer shall send a dual notice to the Coach and Athletic Director of all NEPSAC schools informing them of

the amount of the dues and of the October 29 deadline. If dues are not paid within a month, the Treasurer shall send a dual reminder.

E. The Tournament Chairperson, appointed by NEPSAC, shall oversee the running of the NEPSGBA Tournaments. He/she shall appoint a Tournament Committee consisting of two members from each class representing all districts whenever possible.

F. There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the above named officers and one at-large member from each district not already represented on the Executive Committee – to be elected at the Annual Meeting. In addition, the President Emeritus and Secretary/Treasurer Emeritus shall be members of the Executive Committee.

G. The Executive Committee has the power to conduct the business of the Association in the event that a quorum is not present at meetings. The Executive Committee will appoint the positions of at large members in the event that these positions are vacated between Annual Meetings. The Executive Committee will be responsible for any disciplinary action necessitated by the non-compliance of the Association by-laws. The Executive Committee has the power to act on any Association business when a full meeting is not feasible. Every attempt, however, shall be made by the Executive Committee member from each district to canvas the constituency of that district regarding potentially controversial issues that must be decided.

Article IV – Governing Procedures

A. There shall be an annual meeting of NEPSGBA on Super Sunday.

B. An informational report (usually email form) will be sent out mid-October. This report will include all information regarding classification, rules changes, important dates, and any other pertinent information for the upcoming season. All schools are required to confirm receipt of said report to help guarantee proper distribution/reading.

C. The by-laws of NEPSGBA can be changed by a two-thirds majority of those present at the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall take a members' roll call at the start of each meeting and only member schools that are present may cast one vote.

D. A quorum for all usual business shall be a simple majority of the members present. The President's vote may be cast to break a tie.

Article V – Governing Policies

A. There shall be an annual dues payment of \$40.00 from each member school due by the first Saturday in December of that season, in order to be considered in "good standing." A grace period, until the second Saturday in December, may be granted. These dues include the annual membership & all fees associated with the All-Star game & NEPSGBA.

B. Membership, in good standing, of NEPSGBA is a requirement for participation in post-season activities such as championship tournaments and all-star games.

C. Member schools are required to respond to all NEPSGBA/NEPSAC communication aimed at information gathering (i.e. schedules, roster, game result, and all-star balloting).

D. Noncompliance with NEPSGBA by-laws and NEPSAC code of conduct shall render a school subject to disciplinary actions, enforced by the Executive Committee. Infractions may result in actions ranging from a letter of censure to suspension from all NEPSGBA privileges and even to suspension of NEPSGBA membership for the following season. Notice of all disciplinary action will be sent to the coach, athletic director, and head of the member school. All disciplinary action taken by NEPSGBA's Executive Committee may be appealed to NEPSAC's Executive Committee by the school in question.

E. Ad-Hoc Committees may be appointed by the President to study any issue and make recommendations for consideration by NEPSGBA member schools. The life of these Committees coincides with the term of the President. If the issue has not been resolved, the succeeding President may appoint a new Ad-Hoc Committee.

XVI. Classification of Schools for NEPSAC Invitational Tournaments

Public school leagues/classes are usually dictated, at least initially, by enrollment, and a school's schedule of games is then constructed around that information, along with issues such as geographical location. In independent schools, additional factors can influence the placement of a school in a particular sport. For example, not being bound by any rule prohibiting more than four years of varsity competition, schools may have students who repeat grades creating a roster made up of older, more experienced players.

In 2001, since most athletic directors believed that no finite standards for classification by enrollment was completely fair, NEPSAC President Joe Gill informed all schools that henceforth a new policy would be instituted. What followed was a lengthy process in which each school was given the opportunity to declare what level of play it felt was appropriate for its team in each sport that hosted invitational tournaments. A sub-committee of the NEPSAC Executive Board then considered all requests and forwarded the data to the designated coaches association for confirmation and use in the tournament selection process. Where there was disagreement between the coaches group and a school as to placement, the NEPSAC Executive Board would hear all the arguments and make final decisions. In effect, that procedure is still in effect today. It was assumed that most schools would be comfortable in their classification and wish to remain in it for future years. If, however, a school wishes to reclassify itself in a sport, they must make a 3-year commitment to the new classification.

In addition to enrollment and geography, amongst the factors that determine a school's classification are the strength of their schedule and the success they have playing that schedule, league affiliation, the number of players who have repeated a year (including post-graduates), their record against other NEPSAC schools (overall and in their league and/or class), the history of their program in recent years, and various other measurements (e.g. Saylor System).

In order to expedite such a plan, deadlines for classification had to be implemented to allow time for a school to appeal its placement (by the coaches association) to NEPSAC for a binding decision. Therefore, by season, schools were to be classified for the winter by the latest date of December 1st.

XVII. NEPSAC Position on Scheduled Games and Forfeits

NEPSAC supports the position that member schools should make every reasonable effort to play scheduled games. This includes making a concerted effort to reschedule postponed games knowing that a multitude of variables (distance, academic obligations, etc) must be considered by athletic directors when rescheduling contests. If the two competing athletic directors agree that a scheduled contest cannot be played for a mutually agreed upon reason, then the game stands as a non-contest. If there is a disagreement, then the final determination will be made by a committee that includes the NEPSGBA president, the NEPSAC President, and the NEPSAC Tournament Advisor. The circumstances that would deem a contest a forfeit should be considered unusual and would certainly include one school's inability to play the contest due to exceptional reasons (shortage of players due to injury, disciplinary situation, etc.)

XVIII. NEPSAC Policy on Practices

Winter sport practices in NEPSAC schools will not be conducted before the second Saturday in November in Districts II, III, and IV, and not before the first Saturday in November in District I. Teams that start practice prior to these dates will not be eligible for NEPSAC championships.

NEPSAC prohibits institutional support for out-of-season practices during the school year with more than three players or members of the basketball program. Institutional support includes some combination of facility use, transportation, coaching, equipment, uniforms, release time or credit.

XIX. NEPSAC Policy on Recruiting

Secondary school coaches should refrain, for the purpose of recruiting, from directly contacting a student-athlete at a NEPSAC pre-preparatory school prior to that student's final year. Likewise, secondary coaches should refrain, for the purposes of recruiting, from contacting directly a student-athlete who is enrolled at another NEPSAC secondary school unless the student and/or parent has initiated contact with the school in question.

NEPSAC schools should refrain from allowing a candidate for admissions to practice or 'tryout' for a particular team. Those schools and/or coaches who violate the spirit of the above should be reported to the NEPSAC Executive Board for further action.

XX. NEPSAC Policy on Scouting

Although verbal contact between schools is allowed, in-person scouting of future opponents without the permission of all the athletic directors involved is prohibited. Any materials found on public domain (livestreams, Twitter etc) are outside the scouting policy and thus okay to view