

NEPSGSA Meeting Minutes: 9/15/2024, 9:30am – 10:15am

1. Introduction of NEPSGSA Board: Kim Bohlin Healy, President (Lawrence Academy), Susanna Donahue, Immediate Past President (Rivers School), Erin Fisher, Tournament Director (Pomfret School), Lisa Joel, Treasurer and AD liaison (Phillips Academy Andover)
2. NEPSGSA Handbook & Rules > located on our [NEPSGSA Coaches Association](#) webpage
 - Our handbook is updated each year to reflect important dates, links and school classifications.
 - Once the meeting concludes we will make final updates (tournament location) and it will go live on the NEPSGSA Coaches Association webpage within the week of 9/16/24
 - We suggest taking a look through it each year as it outlines our rules (NCAA with some modifications), the tournament selection process, including the recommended formula we use as a starting point for tournament selection. Many people have stated they do not know what formula we use – this has always been outlined in our handbook. (see more information about tournament selection and formula)
3. [NEPSGSA Score Report Sheet 2024](#)
 - Similar to last year, we ask that schools update our google sheet with game results. This helps us pull together accurate information for the tournament committee meetings.
 - Each Class (A, B, C & D) has its own sheet.
 - Please also check the Contact Information sheet and make sure your AD and Head Coach contact information is correct.
4. Tournament Information
 - We need tournament volunteers! Either fill in [THIS FORM](#) to indicate you would like to volunteer or you may email Erin Fisher (efisher@pomfret.org) directly
 - We typically have around 4 coaches per committee (A, B, C, D).
 - Coaches may not sit on the committee for their own class.
 - Tournament Selection Meeting Date & Time: The tournament committee meeting will take place on Saturday, November 9, 2024 beginning in the 5:00-6:00pm timeframe.
 - Tournament Selection Meeting Location: Hybrid (likely at Worcester Academy with the ability to sign on to your meeting through Zoom).
 - Reason for change to hybrid: Prior to Covid meetings were always held in person at Worcester Academy. This made it difficult to get a range of coaches from different areas. Post-Covid we moved to a virtual meeting model which allowed us to be more inclusive of coaches who are further away or had later games scheduled on that Saturday. The selection has been incredibly tight the last couple years and we feel allowing for an in person double and triple check of each committee's work can ensure the best accuracy.
5. Tournament Game Locations:

- Quarterfinal & Semifinal Round Locations: We clarified that the quarterfinal round is held at the higher seed unless the distance is greater than 2 hours & 45 minutes at which point the tournament director will help find a neutral site. The semifinal game is always held at the higher seed regardless of distance.
 - Finals Location: It moves back to the East this year. The Executive Board put out the option of FC Stars Complex in Lancaster, MA. Our budget can afford renting all four fields (2 for 4 X Finals games, 1 for 2 X Junior All Star Games, and 1 for a warm-up space prior to the 1:00pm Finals games). We have run into so many weather-related issues the past few years, we feel we have to plan for snow. As we explored options for schools with turf field availability, we found that most schools do not provide or allow plowing their turf. FC Stars will plow, they have lights (if necessary), and they have ample parking.
 - Everyone on the meeting seemed to give this the green light so we have gone ahead and reserved the fields for Sunday, November 17, 2024.
6. Junior All-Star Game: 2 games held on Sunday, Nov 17 at the Finals location
- We started the Junior All-Star games over a decade ago. Huge thank you's to the many coaches who have volunteered over the years to help organize and coach – Lisa Joel, Linda Hathorn, Jen Marino and Jason Braga have been instrumental over the years in helping to organize the games.
 - There is no sugar coating it – it is an immense amount of work to organize, but it is incredibly worthwhile and the kids who play in it love it and feel incredibly honored.
 - **WE NEED:** 1 or 2 coaches to take on the overall organization of the games. Past organizers will share what has been done to organize and manage the event.
 - **WE NEED:** 4 coaches (minimum) to coach the teams on the day of (Nov 17)
7. Tournament Selection Formula:
- As long as I have been coaching in NEPSAC (16 years) someone at our opening meeting has brought up changing the formula we use as a base factor for the tournament selection/seeding. Each year we have said we are happy to explore other formulas. In some years we have gone ahead with connecting coaches into groups who would like to work on this.
 - Unfortunately, it has not gone any further than people expressing frustration with the current formula and a desire to look at new formulas.
 - As a Board, we would really like this group to consider another or other formulas. Even if it is an exercise in seeing what is out there, we feel strongly that exploring other options will help us find the best fit, recognizing that no formula will be perfect and whatever we do use is only a starting point in the tournament selection.
 - What needs to be done to consider another formula: Using the new formula we would run the past 3 years' worth of data and see how the outcome stacks up to our ultimate tournament selection and seeding. The committee would present the data to the NEPSGSA group, and we would vote on any proposed change.
 - Coaches should indicate their interest in volunteering on the [MICROSOFT FORM](#).
8. Update from Treasurer:

- It is really important that teams/their AD's [pay dues online by Oct 15](#). Our Association fee is \$45.
- We have a healthy budget heading into this year. We can withstand paying for the FC Stars fields for the Finals and will purchase new numbered pinnies for the Junior All-Stars game.
- We will still have a healthy balance coming out of this season even with the proposed expenses.

Final Pleas:

- Fill in the [MICROSOFT FORM](#) which allows you to volunteer for the tournament selection committee, the junior all-star games, and/or the tournament selection/seeding formula review.
- Update scores during the season in the [NEPSGSA Score Report Sheet 2024](#)