



**ORANGE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, January 18, 2024 - 9:30 AM**

**MINUTES**

All members present except: Mr. Bill Spanjer, Jr., Chapel Field  
Mr. George St. Lawrence, Goshen  
Mr. Rich Steger, Valley Central

Guests Present: Mr. Greg Ransom, Section IX Executive Director  
Mr. James Osborne, Section IX Secretary  
Ms. Linda Trapani, Section IX Treasurer  
Mr. Dennis Burkett, MHAL Coordinator

The meeting began at 9:34 am via ZOOM.

1. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (December 12, 2023)  
*Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. David Coates (Middletown) and seconded by Mr. David Eggleton (Livingston Manor/Roscoe). All in favor. Motion carried.*
2. Section IX – Mr. Greg Ransom
  - a. NYSPHSAA Guiding Principles for Regional Rotations  
This is a discussion item for the January NYSPHSAA Meeting. A Special Meeting will be held in February. Mr. Coates (Middletown) added clarity to the principles.
  - b. CAC Meeting Recap  
In favor of:
    - i. Adding 3<sup>rd</sup> Class to Outdoor Track
    - ii. Two Bowling Proposals
    - iii. Volleyball 3-day Tournament
    - iv. 2024-25 Boys Lacrosse
    - v. Changing Format for B/G Tennis
    - vi. Football 6<sup>th</sup> Official at Semi-finals and Finals
3. OCIAA President's Report – Filling in for Mike Bellarosa, Vice President Ms. Suzanne Lenzian
  - a. NYSAAA Awards
    - i. Athletic Administrator – Tom Cassata
    - ii. Distinguished Service – Heather Walsh
    - iii. Community Service – BSN Sports
    - iv. Judith Martens Secretarial – Christina Oliveras
    - v. Liam Frawley Athletic Administrator – Joe DiMattina

b. Section IX Team Tennis

Chairpeople stress that there many hurdles to overcome to keep Team Tennis a viable opportunity for Section IX Schools. It makes the already short season even more condensed. The regular season is difficult as it is to complete to get clear team representation. Despite the drawbacks which could hinder the future of team tennis, both coordinators agree the experience for teams is a great one. A letter from Urvashi Gupta, Section IX Co-Coordinator, detailing the issues that plague team tennis was included in the materials for review. The MHAL voted to approve keeping team tennis going for Section IX to send representatives to NYSPHSAA Championships.

*Motion to approve keeping Boys/Girls Team Tennis going for Section IX made by Mr. Jason Semo (Cornwall) and seconded by Mr. John Giametta (Beacon). Four (4) in favor; twenty (20) opposed; three (3) absent. Motion defeated.*

c. Field Hockey – Regular season overtime rule – proposed by MHAL. 2 sudden victory periods. Mr. Dennis Burkett discussed the need for this and potential of additional pay for officials for expended contest time.

*Motion to approve made by Mr. Rich Silverstein (Kingston) and seconded by Mr. Mike Doucette (Chester). All in favor. Motion carried.*

4. OCIAA Athletic Coordinator’s Report – Mr. Christopher Mayo  
Items of Concern:

a. Section IX Football – Mr. David Coates

- i. Scheduling forms returned and alignments sent to the Chairpeople.
- ii. NYSCA – February 29-March 2 – request to hold off schedule to add games from other sections.

b. NYSPHSAA Guiding Principles for Regional Rotation – Mr. David Coates  
See proposal in meeting materials. Vote will take place in February.

c. Fall 2024 schedules discussion

- i. Scheduling Committee will meet and vote will occur at February or March meeting.
- ii. Mr. Semo (Cornwall) requested communication regarding numbers of participants from other schools, especially for Cross Country. Mr. Mayo emphasized the importance of ADs communicating with each other regarding these type of details.

d. OCIAA Calendar 2024-2025

The first draft was included in the materials and discussed. Mr. Mayo is waiting for the official school calendar to be approved by the Superintendents before finalizing league calendars.

e. Scholar Athlete Awards – June 6<sup>th</sup> at Otterkill Country Club.  
Submission Forms will be distributed at the next meeting.

f. Combining of Teams – Mr. Tim Bult

SPORT	LEVEL	HOST SCHOOL	COMB SCHOOL #1	RECO	RATIONALE	IS #	Year
Girls Lacrosse	Varsity	FDR	Spackenkil	Yes - Class B	FDR-15/Spack-5	Team	Spring 2023-24
Girls Lacrosse	Modified	FDR	Spackenkil	Yes	FDR-13/Spack-2	Team	Spring 2023-24
Boys Lacrosse	Varsity	FDR	Spackenkil	Yes - Class B	FDR-20/Spack-1	Team	Spring 2023-24
Boys Lacrosse	Varsity	Red Hook	Rhinebeck/Pine Plains	Yes-Class C	Rhine-6/PP-3	Team	Spring 2023-24

OCIAA Approve	1/18/2024
MHAL Approve	12/13/2024
S9 Approve	3/12/2024 or email

Softball	Varsity	Webutuck	Millbrook	Yes	Web-10/Millb-3	Team	Spring 2023-24
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OCIAA Approve	1/18/2024
MHAL Approve	1/17/2024
S9 Approve	3/12/2024 or email

*Motion to approve made by Mr. Bult (Minisink) and seconded by Mr. Semo (Cornwall). All in favor. Motion carried.*

- g. NYSAAA – Mr. Christian Hodge  
The Conference is March 12-15 this year. Early Bird ends on February 29, 2024.
- h. Championship Dates and Sites are included in your materials.

5. Old Business

- a. Mr. Semo (Cornwall) – Cheerleading: Mr. Jason Semo, Cornwall, led a discussion regarding a problem with a Cheerleading Judge working contests within Section IX after scoring irregularities were discovered at the last two Sectional Championship events. Mr. Semo, requested the Athletic Directors adopt a league wide non-preferred status for the individual in question. Mr. Mayo stated that due to contractual issues and regulations, that it is not an actionable request and the league cannot and will not act on this request. Mr. James Osborne discussed the history of the issue and potential contractual issues as well, and advised against taking any action. Discussion ensued. No action was taken.
- b. Ms. Lenzian (Washingtonville) – NYSPHSAA Leadership Conference on April 11.
- c. Orange County Youth BCANY events – Mr. Mayo asked schools to review the emails being sent regarding OC Youth Bureau awards / events. There are a lot of opportunities for Student athletes that are not being taken advantage of.
- d. Mr. Kurt Buddenhagen (Sullivan West) – Discussed attendance issues regarding Doctors notes with the group. Please contact him with any information.

6. New Business

- a. Ms. Amanda Stevens (Fallsburg) – drop Boys Varsity Tennis
- b. Mr. Coates (Middletown) – Assistant AD posting will distribute by ROIA

7. Next Athletic Directors Workshop – **Thursday, February 15, 2024**, at 9:30 am  
At Orange Ulster BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C

Next Section IX Meeting – Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 9:30 am via Zoom

8. Adjourn

*Motion to approve made by Mr. Bult (Minisink) and seconded by Ms. Stevens (Fallsburg). All in favor. Motion carried.*