



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

**Thursday, February 15, 2024 - 9:30 AM**

**MINUTES**

All members present except: Mr. Adam Kless, Burke Catholic  
Mr. Bill Spanjer, Jr., Chapel Field  
Mr. Jason Semo, Cornwall  
Mr. Rich Silverstein, Kingston  
Mr. Dave Coates, Middletown  
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  
Ms. Rachel Wilson, Orange County Youth Bureau

The meeting began at 9:44 am via ZOOM.

1. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (December 12, 2023)  
*Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. John Giametta (Beacon) and seconded by Mr. David Eggleton (Livingston Manor/Roscoe). All in favor. Motion carried.*
2. Orange County Youth Bureau – Ms. Rachel Wilson  
Ms. Wilson provided materials and reviewed free services and resources for students in an effort to connect Orange County Schools with the County.
3. Section IX – Mr. Greg Ransom / Mr. James Osborne
  - a. NYSPHSAA Highlights  
Mr. Osborne reviewed the highlights included in your materials.
  - b. NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Votes  
Mr. Osborne highlighted the important Action Items from the Voting Items included as an attachment with this minutes.
  - c. Review of Voting Items  
Mr. Ransom reviewed the summary, which was included in your materials.
  - d. Reminder of Point Card System online  
Make sure your coaches are filling this information out online.
  - e. Cheerleading  
Mr. Ransom has reviewed the process and the assignments for all who are working at this event.

#### 4. OCIAA President's Report – Mr. Mike Bellarosa

- a. Proactive approach to Racist, vulgar, or inappropriate language and conduct by fans and players.

Mr. Bellarosa and Mr. Mayo discussed an incident that occurred in a Section 1 basketball game in which a game was halted due to racist comments from the stands. ADs were advised to take a proactive approach to this type of nonsense. Mr. Mayo stated this is intolerable and has no place in our contests. ADs should take immediate action against anyone using racist language, making racist noises or overtures and disrespectful language or actions from the stands or on the court. Mr. Bellarosa stated that perhaps a training session for school personnel and or game supervisors or security would be a good way to teach them how to deal with this type of behavior.

- b. Section IX / NYSPHSAA Voting Items:

##### Information Items:

- Structural Growth and Membership Dues
- NYSPHSAA Friend and Neighbor Fee

##### Discussion Items - Vote:

- Football – permanently continued use of the Standby Official at the Semi-Final and Final games as an On-Field working Official
- Drone Policy – Law Enforcement
- Appeal Procedure – Protest Committees & use of Video
- Sportsmanship Rule – Clarification
- NYSPHSAA SAAC – Add SAAC student to ALL NYSPHSAA Standing Committees
- Hall of Fame Program – Revisions to Procedures
- Football- Modify the Combined Practice Requirements
- Girls Volleyball- Adopt a Three-Day Tournament for 2024
- Skiing- Waiver for a Permanent Representation Rule 6-3
- Girls/Boys Bowling- Allow Bowlers to compete in both Team & Composite Events 2025
- Girls Ice Hockey- Adopt New Regional Rotation for 2024
- Boys Lacrosse- Classification Cut-Off Numbers for 2025
- Girls & Boys Tennis- Designate the National Tennis Center as Host of All NYSPHSAA Tennis Events

*Motion to approve all items above made by Mr. Greg Sirico (Warwick) and seconded by Mr. Tim Bult (Minisink). All in favor. Motion carried.*

- Spring Sports – Adopt earlier start date of Monday of Week #36 starting 2025  
*Motion to approve made by Mr. Sirico (Warwick) and seconded by Mr. Giametta (Beacon). All opposed. Motion defeated.*
- Regional Rotation- Guiding Principles  
*Motion to approve made by Mr. Sirico (Warwick) and seconded by Mr. Eggleton (Livingston Manor/Roscoe). All in favor. Motion carried.*
- Football – Request to start practice on Wednesday of Week #7  
*Motion to approve made by Mr. Bult (Minisink) and seconded by Mr. Giametta (Beacon). All in favor. Motion carried.*
- Girls/Boys Bowling- Permit use of Rotating At-Large Berths  
*Motion to approve made by Mr. Giametta (Beacon) and seconded by Mr. Eggleton (Livingston Manor/Roscoe). Discussion occurred. Motion withdrawn.*

*New Motion to approve for At-Large but no limitation of 10 teams made by Mr. Giametta (Beacon) and seconded by Mr. Eggleton (Livingston Manor/Roscoe). All in favor. Motion carried.*

- Softball- Adopt NFHS Rules starting in 2025  
*This proposal has been tabled until more information is received and reviewed. It is expected to be voted on at the next AD meeting.*

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

- a. OCIAA Scholar Athlete Awards – June 6, 2024, @ Otterkill CC
  - i. Guideline memo included in your materials
  - ii. Google form link will be sent out shortly
  - iii. Deadline for submissions is Friday, April 19, 2024
  - iv. Speaker is needed
- b. Tyler Muise Award  
The application for this award will be sent out soon.
- c. Section IX Football – David Coates  
Schedules are currently being worked on and a March release is expected. If you hear schools outside of Section IX, please share this information with us.
- d. Fall Schedules 2024 – Vote  
This information was sent to you.  
*Motion to approve made by Mr. Sirico (Warwick) and seconded by Mr. Eggleton (Livingston Manor/Roscoe). All in favor. Motion carried.*
- e. Combining of Teams – Mr. Tim Bult

SPORT	LEVEL	HOST SCHOOL	COMB SCHOOL #1	RECO	RATIONALE	IS #	Year
<b>** Boys Lacrosse</b>	Modified	Warwick	Greenwood Lake	Yes	Greenwood Lk-1	Team	Spring 2023-24
Girls Lacrosse	Varsity	Chester	Seward	Yes	Seward - 3	Team	Spring 2023-24
Boys Tennis	Varsity	Port Jervis	Eldred	Yes	Eldred - 1	Team	Spring 2023-24

<b>**COT Spec Approval</b>	OCIAA Approve	2/15/2024
	MHAL Approve	2/16/24
	S9 Approve	

*Motion to approve made by Mr. Giametta (Beacon) and seconded by Mr. Doug Murphy (Fallsburg). All in favor. Motion carried.*

- f. NYSAAA – Mr. Christian Hodge  
The Conference will be held from March 12-15. Registration is open.
6. Review of Ejection Policy and Protest Protocol  
This was included in your meeting materials. Please make sure your coaches have this information as well.

7. Old Business

- a. Boys Volleyball  
Contact Mr. Steve Boucher (Rhinebeck), if interested in participating.

8. New Business

- a. Mr. Ransom briefly discussed Livingston Manor/Roscoe merging on a yearly basis in their sports, rather than changing the Combining of Teams guidelines. Information regarding the merge request was included in your materials.
  - b. Mr. Ransom discussed the importance of making sure all of your players are eligible at the beginning of each season to avoid difficult situations later.
  - c. Coaching Courses offered by Ms. Amanda York for CPR/AED and First Aid have been recently emailed.
  - d. Health Sciences will be offered by Mr. Jason Semo (Cornwall) beginning in March. Information will be distributed shortly.
  - e. Instructors at school districts that certify staff in Coaching Courses must follow up to confirm they have the appropriate certifications to continue teaching. Mr. Mayo will forward the information he received from NYS.
  - f. Mr. Sirico (Warwick) discussed putting the Flag Football Handbook online.
  - g. Ms. Amanda Stevens (Fallsburg) delivered a baby boy on the morning of the meeting.
  - h. Mr. Doug Murphy (Fallsburg) has been appointed as the Interim AD in Ms. Stevens' absence.
  - i. Mr. Dan Morse has requested that coaches enter their outstanding ratings for Basketball.
9. Next Athletic Directors Workshop – Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 9:30 am  
at Orange-Ulster BOCES Conference Room B/C

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

10. Adjourn

*Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Bult (Minisink) and seconded by Mr. Murphy (Fallsburg). All in favor. Motion carried.*

# NYSPPHSAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



**(A)** Consider approval for a change in the Girls Basketball Officials Fees & Policies starting in the 2023-2024 season. **CARRIED**

**(A)** Consider approval to add Flag Football to the Officials Fees & Policies starting in the 2023-2024 season. **CARRIED**

Handbook Committee – Pat Pizzarelli

**(D)** Consider approval to revise the NYSPPHSAA Drone Policy to address law enforcement.

**(D)** Consider approval to revise the NYSPPHSAA Appeal procedures to address when the committee meets and to clarify the use of video is not permissible.

**(D)** Consider approval to revise the NYSPPHSAA Sportsmanship Rule to read, “Spectators and/or anyone involved in interscholastic athletics shall not be permitted to use vulgar/offensive or racially/culturally insensitive language or engage in any racially/culturally insensitive action. NYSPPHSAA Sections may sanction, censure or place schools on probation that fail to address derogatory or inappropriate behavior deemed harmful to physical or mental well-being for those involved in interscholastic activities.”

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) –Jayda Perry & Aiden Pearl

**(D)** Consider approval to add a NYSPPHSAA SAAC student to all NYSPPHSAA Standing Committees.

Safety Committee – Todd Nelson

**(A)** Consider approval to add the use of My *Lightning Tracker App* to the NYSPPHSAA Thunder & Lightning Policy. **CARRIED 17-5**

Modified Committee – Jim Rose

**(A)** Consider approval of removing language regarding one-arm swings in Boys Lacrosse. **CARRIED 20-2**

**(A)** Consider approval to remove language prohibiting metal cleats in Softball. **CARRIED**

**(A)** Consider approval of Cathleen Dnyprowsy as Modified Volleyball Coordinator. **CARRIED**



# NYSPHSAA

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

### **General Action Items**

- (D) Consider approval for Spring Sports to start on the Monday of Week #36 beginning in 2025. *Joe Altieri,  
NYSPHSAA  
Assistant Director*
- (D) Consider approval of Guiding Principles for development of Regional Rotations. *Tim Mullins,  
NYSPHSAA Vice  
President (Chair of  
Ad Hoc Committee)*
- (D) Consider approval of revisions to the Hall of Fame Policies and Operating Procedures. *Joe Altieri,  
NYSPHSAA  
Assistant Director*
- (A) Consider approval to waive the NYSPHSAA Representation Rule to allow Unified athletes to compete in two seasons in the same sport. **CARRIED 18-4** *Todd Nelson,  
NYSPHSAA  
Assistant Director*
- (A) Consider approval of waivers of the Representation Rule for various sections. **CARRIED** *Dr. Robert Zayas,  
NYSPHSAA  
Executive Director*
- (A) Consider approval of Friend & Neighbor and new member schools. **CARRIED** *Dr. Robert Zayas,  
NYSPHSAA  
Executive Director*

### **Sports Action/Discussion Items**

#### **FALL**

- (D) Consider approval to allow NYSPHSAA member Football programs to start practice on the Wednesday of Week #7. *Football  
Committee*
- (D) Consider approval to modify combined practice requirement in the sport of Football - "F. 11-man football may conduct 11-on-11 drills for a maximum of 10 offensive and 10 defensive plays." *Football  
Committee*
- (D) Consider approval to adopt a three-day, bracketed tournament, starting with the 2024 season in Girls Volleyball. *Girls Volleyball  
Committee*
- (A) Consider approval of Hudson Valley Community College as the host of the 2024-2026 NYSPHSAA Game Day Cheerleading Championships. **CARRIED 20-2** *Game Day  
Cheerleading  
Committee*
- (A) Consider approval to revise the state tournament format to include all sections in the state tournament and increase the length of competition to two days in the sport of Boys Volleyball. **CARRIED** *Boys Volleyball  
Committee*

# NYSPPHSAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

## WINTER

- (D) Consider approval for a permanent waiver of the Representation Rule reducing the minimum number of races from six (6) to three (3) in the sport of Skiing. *B/G Skiing Committees*
- (D) Consider approval to permit the use of rotating at-large berths when a Division (1,2 or composite) has an odd number of teams competing in the NYSPHSAA Bowling Championships. *B/G Bowling Committees*
- (D) Consider approval to allow bowlers to compete in both the team and composite state tournament events at section discretion. *B/G Bowling Committees*
- (A) Consider approval to adopt a new Regional Rotation and At-Large plan for the Girls Ice Hockey 2024 regional quarterfinals due to Section V announcing their intentions to participate in October. **CARRIED 21-1** *Girls Ice Hockey Committee*
- (A) Consider approval of overtime procedures for Girls Ice Hockey. **CARRIED** *Girls Ice Hockey Committee*
- (A) Consider approval to add a second division for the 4 x 200, 4 x 400 and 4 x 800 relays at the State Championships (does not include intersectional relay). **CARRIED 20-2** *Boys/Girls Indoor Track/Field Committees*
- (A) Consider approval of Gore Mtn/North Creek (2025), Bristol Mtn/Harriet Hollister (2026) Whiteface Mtn./Mt. Van Hoevenberg (2027) as the hosts of the NYSPHSAA Skiing Championships. **CARRIED** *B/G Skiing Committees*
- (A) Consider approval of AMF Strike N' Spare Lanes (Syracuse) as the host of the 2025-2027 NYSPHSAA Bowling Championships. **CARRIED** *B/G Bowling Committees*
- (A) Consider approval of Visions Veterans Memorial Arena (Binghamton) as the host of the 2025-2027 NYSPHSAA Boys Basketball Championships. **CARRIED 12-10** *Boys Basketball Committee*
- SPRING
- (D) Consider approval for Softball to adopt NFHS Rules with waivers beginning in the 2025 season. *Softball Committee*
- (D) Consider approval of Boys Lacrosse Classification Cut-off numbers for 2025. *Boys Lacrosse Committee*
- (D) Consider approval of the USTA National Tennis Center as the host of the Boys & Girls Individual and Team Championships for Fall 2024 - Spring 2028. *Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director & Boys/Girls Tennis Committees*

# NYSPHSAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

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| <p>(A) Consider approval to permit Boys Lacrosse (JV &amp; Varsity) and Girls Lacrosse (Varsity) to request an experiment for a shot clock to the NFHS.<br/><b>CARRIED 20-2</b></p>   | <p><i>Boys/Girls Lacrosse<br/>Committees</i></p>           |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of establishing a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Class in Outdoor Track &amp; Field beginning in Spring 2025.<br/><b>CARRIED 14-8</b></p>  | <p><i>B/G Outdoor Track<br/>&amp; Field Committees</i></p> |
| <p>(A) Consider approval to adopt the NFHS suggested speed up rule permitting courtesy runners as written in the NFHS rule book.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>   | <p><i>Baseball<br/>Committee</i></p>                       |
| <p>(A) Consider approval adding the following language to the NYSPHSAA Flag Football Rules regarding the flag belts.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The “pop” type flag belts will be used by all schools.</li><li>2. All flag belts will have a minimum of two flags on the belt.</li></ol> | <p><i>Flag Football<br/>Committee</i></p>                  |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of the 2024 Flag Football Classification Cut-Off Numbers.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>   | <p><i>Flag Football<br/>Committee</i></p>                  |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of the 2024 Flag Football Regional Assignments/Rotations.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>   | <p><i>Flag Football<br/>Committee</i></p>                  |
| <p>(A) Consider approval to compete the Division 2 team tournament as a 2-3 format (2 singles and 3 doubles) for the team tennis championships beginning in the spring of 2024 for a two-year pilot (2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school year).<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>   | <p><i>Boys/Girls Tennis<br/>Committees</i></p>             |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of SUNY Cortland as the host of the 2025-2027 NYSPHSAA Girls Lacrosse Championships.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>  | <p><i>Girls Lacrosse<br/>Committee</i></p>                 |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of Greenlight Networks Grand Slam Park (Binghamton) as the host of the 2025-2027 NYSPHSAA Softball Championships.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>   | <p><i>Softball Committee</i></p>                           |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of Middletown High School as the host of the 2025-2027 NYSPHSAA Boys Lacrosse EAST Semifinals.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>  | <p><i>Boys Lacrosse<br/>Committee</i></p>                  |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of SUNY Cortland as the host of the 2025-2027 NYSPHSAA Boys Lacrosse WEST Semifinals.<br/><b>CARRIED</b></p>   | <p><i>Boys Lacrosse<br/>Committee</i></p>                  |
| <p>(A) Consider approval of Hobart College (Geneva) as the host of the 2025-2027 NYSPHSAA Boys Lacrosse Championship Finals.<br/><b>CARRIED 14-8</b></p>  | <p><i>Boys Lacrosse<br/>Committee</i></p>                  |
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