



ORANGE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS WORKSHOP

Thursday, May 23, 2024 - 9:30 AM

MINUTES

All members present except: Mr. Adam Kless, Burke Catholic
Mr. Bill Spanjer, Jr., Chapel Field
Ms. Michele Ahart-Bosland, Homestead School
Ms. Erin Alvord, Liberty

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 9:45 am.

1. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (April 16, 2024)
Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Ryan Jasper (Monticello) and seconded by Mr. John Giametta (Beacon). All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Section IX Update – Mr. Greg Ransom / Mr. Jim Osborne
 - a. Mixed Competition Letter
A discussion took place regarding the email Mr. Ransom forwarded from Dr. Robert Zayas. There is a link in the email to allow responses to this proposal. We need to come together as several communities in opposition to this proposal.
 - b. Section Dues form is included in the materials.
 - c. Golf Outing form is included in the materials, and Mr. Greg Sirico (Warwick) presented the winning trophy in the meeting.
 - d. Mr. Ransom inquired about interest for Mr. Mike White to reserve dates at Ocean Breeze for Indoor Track. Most schools in the OCIAA are interested.
3. OCIAA President's Report – Ms. Suzanne Lenzian
 - a. NYSPHSAA Voting Items for the July 2024 NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting
 - i. **Consent Agenda Items – reviewed at meeting and summary sheet included below.**
Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items made by Mr. Giametta (Beacon) and seconded by Mr. Rich Steger (Valley Central). All in favor. Motion carried.

Voting Items for the July 2024 NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting: Consent Agenda Proposals:

- **Ticket prices - NYSPHSAA Championships 2024-2025** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval of a \$.50 increase in NYSPHSAA Championship Ticket Prices beginning in the 2024-25 school year.
Effective Start Date: September 1, 2024
Rationale: Due to rising championship expenses, NYSPHSAA is seeking ways to increase revenue.
- **NYSPHSAA Transfer Form for Waivers & Exceptions** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to require the use of the NYSPHSAA Transfer form for waivers and exemptions only.
Effective Start Date: Immediate implementation upon approval
Rationale: In the past, the NYSPHSAA Transfer Form was available for optional use by the Sections. It was not required. Sections asked the NYSPHSAA Transfer Committee to adapt the form to ensure Sections effectively address the concerns and circumstances of those involved and to align the form with the verbiage included in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.
- **Cheerleading: Update Required Coaching Course** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to update the additional required coaching course to reflect the replacement of the AACCA Safety course and the New NFHS Cheerleading Rules course.
Effective Start Date: Fall 2024
Rationale: The NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved the requirement that the AACCA Safety course be added to the required courses Cheerleading coaches must take. This course was required every 4 years. The AACCA course has been replaced by the USA Cheer Safety Course offered on the NFHS website. A coach would be required to take this course once. The new course that is being recommended that coaches take yearly is the NFHS Cheerleading Rules course offered by USA Cheer, which is updated annually to cover the rules changes. This course will educate all coaches on the updated rules and skills that have been changed by the NFHS Spirit Rules Committee.
- **Approve Regional Rotations for following sports:** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
- **Girls Team Tennis:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
- **Boys Soccer:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
- **Girls Soccer:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
- **Field Hockey:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
- **Girls Volleyball:**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2028
- **Football: 11 Man**
Motion: Consider approval to Establish New Regional Rotation for 2024-2029
- **Football: 8 Man** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to Move 8-Man Regional Championship to Week #22 & conduct the game at the Dome, during 11 Man Finals. Establish Regional Rotation
- **Girls Wrestling: Representation Rule** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to amend the current Representation Regulation for Girls Wrestling in the following manner.
NOTE: For individual, individual/ team sports, when a school district does not have a team designated for each singular gender, the Section Executive Director may grant a waiver of the Representation Standard for Sectional Competition when a student has met the qualification for participation in the current school year's NYSPHSAA Championship event. *In the sport of*

Girls Wrestling, if a school does have a team for both genders the female wrestlers may choose to compete in either the boys post season or the girls post season but not both.

Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 Season

Rationale: The sport of girls wrestling continues to grow across NYS. Some schools are reluctant to start a girl's teams for a variety of reasons because girls are allowed to compete on the boy's team and still be eligible to compete in the girls post season. Data from across the country and shown that many more girls will wrestle if the school offers a girl only team. Until the sport grows to wear female wrestlers can practice and compete against other girls there is still a need for some wrestlers to compete and practice on boys' teams. The committee feels this recommendation will encourage schools to offer a girl's team and still accommodate female wrestlers that have been wrestling on boys teams for many years.

- **Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the Maximum Number of Tournaments** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to continue the waiver of the limitation of 6 tournaments during the regular season. The waiver is for girl only tournaments.
Effective Start Date: 2024- 2025 Season
Rationale: Currently there are not enough complete teams in the Sections to justify having dual meets during the regular season. The waiver allows girls to participate in as many competitions without going over the maximum number of contests allowed during the regular season.
- **Girls Wrestling: Waiver of the NFHS 1.5% Weight Loss Plan** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to waive the NFHS 1.5% weight loss plan.
Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 Season
Rationale: The Girls Wrestling Committee believes that there are other biological factors that affect girls weights as opposed to boys and this rule could have a negative impact on a female wrestler.
- **Girls Wrestling: Adopting the USA Junior Rules** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to adopt the Juniors rules in the USA Wrestling Rulebook.
Effective Start Date: 2024 - 2025 Season
Rationale: The Girls Wrestling Committee recommended and the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved using the USA Wrestling Rulebook for Freestyle wrestling. The juniors section of the rulebook is most appropriate for the HS level competition.
- **Boys Ice Hockey: Revision to Goalie Warm-up** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to remove the language in the NYSPHSAA handbook under 14.10 #10 which states, "If, in the judgment of the official, he feels that a goaltender's warm-up has been made to give his team a stoppage of play or rest period, the official may assess a minor penalty for delay of game."
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 season
Rationale: The official has no way of determining what the intent of the coach was when making the substitution therefore this language is not enforced and puts the official in a no-win situation.
- **Boys Ice Hockey: OT during Regulation Season** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to revise the language in the NYSPHSAA Handbook under 14.08 #11 letter b to mirror the OT procedure used during the post season. This would only be used when a winner is necessary.
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 season
Rationale: The Committee feels that the same procedure that is used in the post season should be used during the regular season when a winner is necessary. This provides consistency for players, coaches, and officials.
- **Girls/Boys Bowling: Split Composite Division into D1 & D2** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to establish two divisions for its Composite Division-Division 1 and Division 2- for competition during the State Tournament.
Effective Start Date: Winter (March) 2025
Rationale: Splitting the existing composite division by the current division enrollment numbers creates equitable opportunity to qualify for the state championship. The composite division awards state champions for Individuals as well as section teams. With 17,253 varsity bowlers in NYS in 2022-24, bowling would still be within its 5-8% range, per Championship Philosophy.

- Girls/Boys Bowling: Modify D1/D2 School Team Division-6 Man Format** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to modify the bowling format of the Division 1 and Division 2 school team events during the State Tournament to utilize a 6-man format.
Effective Start Date: Winter (March) 2025
Rationale: The existing format uses a 5-man format on a single pair of lanes (10 bowlers across 2 lanes). All five (5) scores currently count towards the team game total. While the 6-man format increases bowler participation with the additional competing player, the lowest individual score is dropped from the team total. The 6-man format also utilizes an additional pair of lanes (12 bowlers across 4 lanes) resulting in a more efficient tournament and better experience for student-athletes and fans instead of long days.
- Outdoor Track & Field: Establish Cut-Off Numbers for 2025** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to adopt the following classification cut-off numbers starting in 2025.

Class A	800 & Above	156 teams (24%)	8,066 athletes (39.76%)
Class B	799 to 400	168 teams (25.88%)	6,090 athletes (30%)
Class C	399 & below	325 teams (50%)	6,126 athletes (30.2%)

Effective Start Date: Spring 2025
Rationale: 3 divisions were approved. Need cut off numbers.
- Unified Sports – Sport offering/Rules Modification** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to for the following sport offering/rules modifications:
Unified Soccer - Rules Modifications
Unified Tennis – Rules Modifications
Unified Bocce – Sport Offering/Rules Modifications
Effective Start Date: Fall 2024
- Rationale:** NYSPHSAA/SONY has been looking to offer a Fall sort to our Unified Sports program for several years. Some Sections have piloted programs in these sports and would like to have the sport/rule modifications officially adopted by NYSPHSAA to be placed in the handbook. Bocce would have to be approved as a NYSPHSAA Unified Sport. All of our sport offerings are administered through the local Section/leagues.

Voting Items for the July 2024 NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting:

ii. Items for Individual Discussion and Vote:

- Football: Revision to the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: YES
Motion: Consider approval to revise the NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Penalty for the sport of football. Any player disqualified by a sport official for unsportsmanlike behavior or flagrant foul will be ineligible for the next two consecutive halves,
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 school year
Rationale: Currently, a student-athlete could be disqualified on the first play of a game and would have to sit out that entire game and the following game. This could equate to 25% of their season, based on an 8-game schedule. This is not equal, compared to all other NYS high school team sports. All other sport teams that have 16 or 20 games would only sit out 12.5% or 10% of their season. This rule will make it 12.5% for an 8-game schedule and 10% for a 10-game schedule. More than 75% of all football playing schools only participate in 8 games. This would mirror what the penalty is for a disqualification for targeting currently in the NYSPHSAA handbook.
Mr. David Coates (Middletown) spoke and answered questions.
Motion to approve made by Mr. Coates (Middletown) and seconded by Mr. Jason Semo (Cornwall). All in favor. Motion carried.
- Boys Wrestling: Early Weight Certification Date** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: NO
Motion: Consider approval to allow Sections to have an early weight Certification date starting no earlier than the Monday of Week #17.
Effective Start Date: 2024-2025 school year
Rationale: NYSPHSAA has approved the 1.5% weight loss descent plan for all wrestlers competing in the boys season as of the 2023-2024 season. The weight loss descent plan locks wrestlers into a specific weight based on their certification weight at the beginning of the season. The descent plan is based on a student losing a maximum of 1.5% of their bodyweight each season. Unfortunately, some wrestlers were not able to compete for a majority of their season because their descent plan did not allow them to

get to an eligible weight based on the certification at the beginning of the year. Other wrestlers were not eligible for a desired weight because their plan maxed out right above a particular weight class. If a Section was allowed to have an earlier certification date, then some wrestlers would be able to get certified and then start their weight descent plan 6 weeks prior to the season therefore maximizing their participation. If an earlier start date was allowed this would mean that the Section consultants would have to organize their staffs on two different time periods to certify the wrestlers prior to the season starting. There is also no guarantee that a wrestler will follow the descent plan and be at the desired weight class at the beginning of the season.

Motion to approve made by Mr. Mike Doucette (Chester) and seconded by Mr. Steger (Valley Central). All opposed. Motion defeated.

- **Girls Volleyball: Revise State Tournament Format Back to Pool Play** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: NO

Motion: Consider approval to revert back to a pool play format for the 2024 State Tournament.

Effective Start Date: Fall 2024

Rationale: Pool play guarantees that each team will play six (6) sets of volleyball (competing against all teams in their class) over an extended period of time, whereas bracket play only guarantees a minimum of 3 sets against one team) which can sometimes be completed in as little as 45 minutes. Student-athletes work tirelessly their entire career with dreams of making it to the NYSPHSAA Final Four. Teams across the state are accustomed to pool play during regular season multi-team tournaments. The pool play format will provide student-athletes a more memorable experience rewarding the hard work and dedication that they have endured to make it to the final four. While pool play and bracket play both have their flaws in determining the two state finalist teams, our committee feels that pool play will ultimately lead to the top two teams in the state facing off in the final match.

Once the committee experienced the length of time it took for six classes playing bracketed play, the initial concern for the length of time it took to add another team to pool play was no longer a concern.

Mr. Mayo read notes from Mr. Steve Boucher, Chairperson.

Motion to approve made by Mr. Semo (Cornwall) and seconded by Mr. Giametti (Beacon). One in favor. All others opposed. Motion defeated.

- **Handbook Committee- Forfeit Exception for Football** MHAL: YES | OCIAA: YES

Motion: Consider approval to add the following to the note for the Maximum Number of Contests in the NYSPHSAA Handbook, "Exception: In the sport of Football, when a team receives a forfeit win, the forfeit win will not count towards the maximum number of contests. The team who accepts the forfeit can reschedule a game that will count towards the maximum number of contests."

Effective Start Date: Fall 2024

Rationale: Many schools have lost out on homecoming games due to teams forfeiting. Additionally, two Section VI teams lost 25% of their season due to forfeits.

Motion to approve made by Mr. Coates (Middletown) and seconded by Mr. Semo (Cornwall). All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Cheerleading: Early Start Date** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: NO

Motion: Consider approval for Cheerleading to start practice in week number 7 to coincide with the football start date.

Effective Start Date: Fall 2024

Rationale: Starting on the Wednesday of week number 7 allows the team to hold a tryout and start to develop the skills necessary to prepare for the upcoming season. The development of the skills can be done in a way that progresses to help reduce risk to the student athletes. As most cheerleading teams do not have scrimmages this allows teams to prepare to attend clinics and camps held during late August and early September. These clinics and camps are very valuable in preparing a team for competition during the season.

Motion to approve made by Mr. George St. Lawrence (Goshen) and seconded by Ms. Amanda Stevens (Fallsburg). All opposed. Motion defeated.

- **Cheerleading – Game Day Participation Fall and Winter Season** MHAL: NO | OCIAA: Tabled for more information.

Motion: Consider approval for Game Day Participation in both Fall and Winter Seasons

Effective Start Date: Fall 2024

Rationale: By the NYSPHSAA guidelines, Game Day and Competitive are not separate sports, they are separate events within the same sport. The Game Day Championship is scheduled in the fall and the Competitive Championship is scheduled in the Winter. Therefore, within Fall Cheerleading and Winter Cheerleading, teams may compete within multiple events in the same competition for both Game Day and Competitive. There may be different individuals that compete in each of those events, similar to track, swimming, and gymnastics.

As Game Day is a lower progression within the sport of cheerleading, it may be more appropriate and safer for some developing programs to have a winter Game Day performance, rather than a Competitive performance. As Programs progress, they can develop Competitive performances alongside their winter Game Day performance.

- Note: Chairpeople are not looking for a Section or State Championship for Game Day in the Winter season. Game Day Cheerleading: Is currently only allowed in the Fall Season, in Section IX. Game Day competition is currently allowed in New York Sections 1, 4, 8, and 11 in the Winter Season. These sections allow their Game Day teams to compete at UCA/NCA regional and national competitions in the Winter. *Motion to approve made by Mr. Semo (Cornwall) and seconded by Mr. Steger (Valley Central).* After discussion, it was determined that more clarification was needed before voting. *Motion to table made by Mr. Bult (Minisink) and seconded by Mr. Semo (Cornwall). All in favor. Motion carried.*

b. Swim Software Proposal

Information was included in the materials. School districts will be billed \$99 annually by Section IX.

Motion to approve made by Mr. Coates (Middletown) and seconded by Mr. Steger (Valley Central). All in favor. Motion carried.

4. OCIAA Athletic Coordinator's Report – Mr. Christopher P. Mayo

a. Winter Schedules 2024-2025 Vote

Motion to approve made by Mr. Jasper (Monticello) and seconded by Mr. JJ Gass (Port Jervis). All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Anyone Can Save a Life

Please check that the links are active. If they are not, please let Mr. Mayo know, and he will compile the information and send to Mr. Todd Nelson.

c. Section IX Football – Mr. David Coates

i. Start date for this Fall is Monday, August 19, 2024

ii. Form to request your venue host Championship games is due by May 28 and will be determined at the Committee meeting on June 7.

iii. Coaches meeting will be determined at Committee meeting.

d. Scholar Athlete Ceremony – June 6, 2024

i. Reservation forms are now due. Please submit immediately, if you have not already done so.

ii. Thank you to Mr. Bryan Wilson (Highland Falls/O'Neill) for putting us in touch with Mr. Brian Riley, West Point Hockey Coach.

e. Tyler Muise Award

Congratulations to Damari Lewis from Kingston! Damari will also be singing the National Anthem for us this year.

f. OCIAA Community Service Challenge

Congratulations to Monroe-Woodbury, our recipient for this year!

g. Combining of Teams – Mr. Tim Bult

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>HOST SCHOOL</u>	<u>COMB. SCHOOL #1</u>	<u>RECO</u>	<u>RATIONALE</u>	<u>IS#</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
*Football (8-man)	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-10/Ros-2	Team	Fall 2024
Football (8-man)	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-15/Ros-7	Team	Fall 2024
*Girls Soccer	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-11/Ros-4	Team	Fall 2024
Girls Soccer	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-7/Ros-9	Team	Fall 2024
*Boys Cross-Country	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-1/Ros-3	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Boys Cross-Country	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-2/Ros-1	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Boys Soccer	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-7/Ros-5	Team	Fall 2024
*Girls Cross-Country	Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-1/Ros-2	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Girls Cross-Country	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-1/Ros-1	Indiv. - 5	Fall 2024
Volleyball	Junior Varsity	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-4/Ros-7	Team	Fall 2024
Volleyball	Modified	Liv. Manor	Roscoe	Yes	LM-4/Ros-1	Team	Fall 2024
* Stay Class D		OCIAA Approve	5/23/2024				
		MHAL Approve	5/22/2024 ??				
		S9 Approve/Mins	6/11/2024 ??				

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

5. Old Business
None to report.

6. New Business
Mr. Mayo reminded the Athletic Directors to let us know if there are any preferred pronouns for scholar athletes that we need to be aware of for the Scholar-Athlete recipients, so our emcee can prepare accordingly.

7. Next Athletic Directors Workshop – Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 9:30 am
@ Orange Ulster BOCES Carl Onken Conference Center Room B/C

Section IX Meeting – Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 8 am @ Apple Greens Restaurant

8. Adjourn: *Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Bult (Minisink) and seconded by Ms. Amanda Zgroddek (Eldred). All in favor. Motion carried.*