

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



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 - 9:30 A.M.
@ Orange Ulster BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 9:40am.

- Guests present: Mr. Greg Ransom, Mr. James Osborne, Mr. Dennis Burkett.
 - All members present except: Mr. John Giametta, Beacon and Mr. Jason Scherdan, West Point Middle School.
1. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (August 20, 2024)
*Motion to approve: Ryan Jasper, Monticello; Second: Joe DiMattina, SS Seward
All in favor. Motion approved.*
 2. Section IX Report – Mr. Greg Ransom / Mr. Jim Osborne
 - *Section IX directories, passes and information on Title IX updates were made available to ADs.*
 - *Reduce representation in sports of Indoor Track, Gymnastics from 6 to 3 contests. (Alpine and Nordic Skiing already have a permanent reduction in place.) Motion: Rich Silverstein, Kingston; Second: Jason Semo, Cornwall. All in favor. Motion approved.*
 - *Greg Ransom to email NYSPHSAA Mandatory Workshop presentation to all ADs. Presentation will be posted online on the SectionIXathletics.org website.*
 3. OCIAA President’s Report – Mr. Mike Bellarosa
 - A. Sharon Delmonico Athletic Trainer of the Year Award
 - *Mike Bellarosa announced that in addition to the award for the Athletic Trainer of the Year, which is being named after the inaugural winner, a scholarship will be made available from the Bellarosa Family Endowment to a student athlete looking to enter the field of Athletic Training or sports medicine. Mr. Bellarosa asked for ADs to volunteer to serve on a selection committee. Mr. Christopher Mayo thanked Mr. Bellarosa for his generosity and explained how meaningful the award was last year to Sharon Delmonico and her family. The recognition has lasting effects and will always be remembered. Sharon and her family expressed their gratitude for the award.*
 - B. Section IX Athletics
 - a. State Proposals – Vote
 - *Motion for approval in a consent agenda for all items except Flag Football Classification Change and Girls Lacrosse Classification*

Change. Motion: Rich Steger, Valley Central; Second: Jason Semo, Cornwall. All in favor. Motion approved.

- *Motion to Approve Girls Lacrosse classification number change for this Spring. Motion: Jason Semo, Cornwall; Second: Rich Steger, Valley Central. Discussion centered around the timing of this proposal from the state. Since it is being proposed within this school year for change in the Spring, it was felt that the State needs to do a better job of presenting this proposal in the prior school year since schedules and alignments are already completed well before the start of a new school year. Vote was held. No one in favor. Motion defeated.*
- *Motion to Approve Girls Flag Football classification number change for this Spring. Motion: Greg Sirico, Warwick; Second: Rich Silverstein, Kingston. Discussion centered around the timing of this proposal from the state. Since it is being proposed within this school year for change in the Spring, it was felt that the State needs to do a better job of presenting this proposal in the prior school year since schedules and alignments are already completed well before the start of a new school year. Vote was held. No one in favor. Motion defeated.*

b. Regional Championships – Discussion

- *Discussion was held regarding the potential proposal from NYSPHSAA for a Regional Championship template that would Distribute regional championships into either a three or four region set up and forego the existing regional rotations. ADs preferred the three-team format out of the two potential proposals. Mr. Greg Ransom stated this likely will not come to a vote at the State level until May 2025, but that it is good to get feedback on which one is preferred.*

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

Items of Concern:

A. Boys Volleyball

- *Mr. Mayo asked what schools may be interested in participating in Boys Volleyball in the Spring of 2025. O'Neill, Middletown, Port Jervis, and Kingston all expressed interest. Discussion was held regarding possible set up of this as a sport in Section IX and how it may look this spring. Mr. Mayo will ask MHAL Schools the same question and see what the interest level is Section wide. A meeting will then be put together for the schools that expressed interest (also open to anyone that may want information). It is clear that this is a burgeoning sport and schools were told that if there is interest in their district to please start laying the groundwork for next year. Mr. Dan Morse mentioned that there is a number of officials in Section IX that are certified to work boys' volleyball games.*

B. 2025-2026 Sports Teams Form

- *Mr. Mayo asked Athletic Directors to please fill out the Sports team form and return it by Oct. 18. ADs were reminded that if they are even considering adding a sport, to please put it on the form so they could be included in the schedule. It is very difficult and sometimes impossible to add teams after the schedules are made and approved.*
- *Some ADs expressed interest in the Section adding Boys' Flag Football to their sport offerings next year. Mr. Mayo asked ADs to go back to their districts*

and gauge interest in this addition. This will be discussed at the next AD meeting.

C. OCIAA Championships

- *The document that was given out to ADs will be updated and will be available on the League's website.*

D. Section IX Football – David Coates

- *Section IX Football Chairperson David Coates, Middletown, discussed Modified Football and the necessity of holding a separate meeting from the High School meeting. All bylaws and formations are listed on the Section IX Football webpage. Both leagues follow the same rules now. In the past their different rules between the leagues. Now all follow the same bylaws throughout the section. Mr. Coates also reminded ADs to communicate with one another regarding their roster size for the planning of a four or five quarter game.*

E. Special Olympics – Amanda Zgrodek

- *Amanda Zgrodek, Eldred, spoke about Special Olympics and what a great program it is. She is looking to get more schools involved around the league. She spoke about what a great experience it is and that Middletown ran a great program last year and how it continues to grow. Goshen is the host this year on May 17th. It was discussed that getting athletes involved would bolster the program and involving kids in the age range of 8 -12 years old will help build unified programs throughout the area.*

F. Combining of Teams – Mr. Tim Bult

- *Motion to approve 19 applications from Roscoe / Livingston Manor to combine teams in various sports. (See below for chart.) Motion: Tim Bult, Minisink. Second: Mike Doucette, Chester. All in favor. Motion Approved.*
 - **Winter 2024-25**
Varsity Boys Basketball (LM 9, RCS 4), JV Boys Basketball (LM 6, RCS 7), Mod. Boys Basketball (LM 9, RCS 5), Varsity Girls Basketball (LM 7, RCS 4), JV Girls Basketball (LM 4, RCS 6), Mod. Girls Basketball (LM 8, RCS 7), V Boys Indoor Track (LM 1, RCS 2), Var. Girls Indoor Track (LM 1, RCS 1), Varsity Cheerleading (LM 9, RCS 1),
 - **Spring 2025**
Varsity Baseball (LM 8, RCS 5), Modified Baseball (LM 9, RCS 7), Varsity Softball (LM 7, RCS 5), JV Softball (LM 7, RCS 6) Modified Softball (LM 7, RCS 5), Varsity Boys Golf (LM 2, RCS 3) Varsity Girls Golf (LM 1, RCS 1), Varsity Girls Outdoor Track (LM 1, RCS 2), Modified Boys Outdoor Track (LM 1, RCS 1), Modified Girls Outdoor Track (LM 4, RCS 1)

5. AD Resources Online

- *Mr. Mayo discussed how, many years ago, Mr. Osborne put together a big binder for new ADs with all kinds of needed information in it and recognized what a help it was for them to access various items back in the day. Mr. Mayo stated that all the information in the binder has been updated put online for all ADs to have access to, so it never disappeared. It was only brought into the modern world of athletics on the internet. However, Mr. Mayo stated that the information was in various locations and sometimes separately on our league website and section IX website. Mr. Mayo met with and worked with Mr. Dan Morse to put all pertinent information in one*

location on the league website so that all ADs would be able to access what they needed in one location. Thus, the AD Resources tab was born and released to Athletic Directors. Mr. Morse went through the page and pointed out various items to the group. Athletic Directors were asked to let the office know if there was anything else that should be added and to let us know and we will add it to the tab. Mr. Morse also reminded ADs that there are video tutorials available for the RSchool program and that they can access those videos if they want to learn any parts of the program.

6. Old Business

- Mr. Morse discussed the OCIAA Spring Track and Field Championship date. There was a suggestion to move the date off of the Memorial Day Holiday weekend and hold it the weekend prior. Mr. Greg Sirico, Warwick, will send out a proposal detailing the change and the reasons what it is suggested to move it. Mr. George St. Lawrence, Goshen, asked ADs to please discuss with their coaches because there could be conflicts with the weekend prior. Athletic Directors will make a determination at the next league meeting in October.
- Mr. Morse discussed the modified cross country races to be held at OC Park on September 18th and also in October. The coaches all seem very happy to race there as they can compare times from the beginning the season to the end. The October race will have medals for awarded. Mr. Mayo commented that parents loved the races last fall as they got to see their kids competing against all the kids in the league.
- Mr. Mayo reminded schools that we are still running the OCIAA Community Service Challenge and to keep submissions coming in. Mr. Mayo also reminded schools that we would love to share their great stories on our social media platforms, so please send us anything you would like publicized.

7. New Business

- Mr. Mayo announced that the Mid Hudson News is starting a new sports section that will cover our athletes in Section IX. Justin Rodriguez heads the effort. Mr. Mayo commented that this is a much-needed shot in the arm for local athletes to be recognized. Midhudsonnews.com is the website. You can find the link to Sports under the community tab.
- Mr. George St. Lawrence, Goshen is dropping boys' JV Lacrosse and is looking to participate in a Modified A scenario to allow 9th graders the opportunity to play. Middletown is also interested in that scenario. Mr. Mayo explained that there is only currently one level of Modified Lacrosse (Modified), which does allow 9th graders to participate. There is a distinction between Modified A (Allows 7th, 8th and 9th graders to participate only against other Modified A teams), Modified B (Grades 7 and 8 can only compete against other Modified B teams), and Modified (which per NYSPHSAA Handbook, allows grades 7, 8 and 9 to participate together under that specified level against other Modified level teams regardless of their grade make-up). Therefore, as the league has only the generic Modified level, 9th graders are able to participate on that team. The only caveat is that schools are asked to notify their opponents and let them know they have 9th graders participating.

- *Mr. St. Lawrence also proudly announced that his secretary, Christina Oliveras has named the recipient of the MHSSC award for excellence as an Administrative Assistant.*
 - *Mr. Rich Silverstein announce that Dietz stadium renovations are complete and that the stadium is reopening!*
8. Next Athletic Directors Workshop – Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.
@ OU BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C

Section IX Meeting – Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. OU BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C

9. Adjourn
*Motion: Mr. Tim Bult, Minisink; Second: Mr. David Coates, Middletown
All in Favor. Motion Approved. Meeting ended at 11am.*

Respectfully Submitted,



*Christopher Mayo
Orange Ulster BOCES
Interscholastic Athletic Coordinator*