

**MID HUDSON ATHLETIC LEAGUE
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS WORKSHOP
JANUARY 15,2025 - 9:30AM
DUTCHESS BOCES**

1.APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

2.SECTIONAL REPORT

3.PRESIDENT'S REPORT

4. REGIONAL OFFICE REPORT

5. ATHLETIC COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Please access meeting materials

6. COMBINING OF TEAMS- SCHOOLS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY
CLASSIFICATION CHANGES THAT RESULT FROM A MERGER.

7. MODIFIED REPORT AND NYSAAA

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

10. MOTION TO ADJOURN

GIRLS VARSITY SWIMMING – 16 GAMES

2025 – 2026

Practice Starts: August 18th

Practices required prior to 1st Scrimmage: 6 | Date of First Scrimmage: Aug. 25

Practices required prior to 1st Game: 6 | Date of First Game: Aug. 25

Labor Day: September 1st

Rosh Hashanah: **Sunset Monday, Sept. 22 to Sunset Wed, Sept. 24**

Yom Kippur: **Sunset Wed, Oct. 1st to Sunset Thurs. Oct. 2nd**

Columbus Day: October 13th

OCIAA's: Diving: Oct 23 @ Wash'ville | Swimming Oct. 24, 2025 @ Wash'ville and NFA

Sectionals: Nov. 6, 7, 8, 2025 @ Valley Central

States: Nov. 21-22 @ Webster Aquatic Center

Girls Swimming / Diving – 16 Matches Maximum	
■ = Pool Diving/Swim	■ = Pool Swim only = No Pool/College Pool
<u>Division I</u>	<u>Division II</u>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NFA 2. Kingston 3. Pine Bush 4. Valley Central 5. Beacon 6. Marlboro 7. Rhinebeck 8. Red Hook 9. Lourdes <p>% Spackenkill to shadow Beacon * Rondout / Onteora to shadow Kingston</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Middletown 2. Monroe Woodbury 3. Warwick*** 4. Washingtonville 5. Minisink 6. Cornwall 7. Goshen** 8. FDR 9. Walkkill 10. New Paltz <p>***SS Seward to shadow Warwick **Chester Shadows Goshen</p>

Dates:

September: 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, 26, 30,

October: 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15

Notes:

Two divisions. 8 or 9 league meets, 2 – 3 non-league, + Division Championship meet = 11-12

Lack of pools – FDR, Walkkill, – no pools. Goshen uses Goshen Community Pool sparingly. New Paltz uses SUNY New Paltz. Red Hook and Rhinebeck uses Bard College for minimal home meets. Lourdes pool situation TBD but scheduled all away.

Scheduling is either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday depending on division.

Shadows: SS Seward Shadows Warwick. Chester shadows Goshen. Rondout/Onteora Shadows Kingston?

Below is a link to the Swimming & Diving: Girls Varsity Fall 2025 Schedule for Section IX Athletics.

[Click here for the latest schedule](#)

2025 – 2026

MODIFIED FOOTBALL - 7 GAMES

Practice Starts: Sept. 3 or whenever first day of School takes place
Practices required prior to 1st Scrimmage: 10 | Date of First Scrimmage: Sept. 17th
Practices required prior to 1st Game: 10 | Date of First Game: Sept. 17th
Labor Day: September 1st
Rosh Hashanah: **Sunset Monday, Sept. 22 to Sunset Wed, Sept. 24**
Yom Kippur: **Sunset Wed, Oct. 1st to Sunset Thurs. Oct. 2nd**
Columbus Day: October 13th

MODIFIED B FOOTBALL 11 MAN (7-8) - 7 GAMES

1. Newburgh	1. Washingtonville
2. Monroe-Woodbury	2. FDR
3. Middletown	3. Minisink
4. Kingston	4. Goshen
5. Pine Bush	5. Port Jervis
6. Warwick	6. Beacon

Dates:

September: 18, 25, 30
October: 7, 14, 21, 28
November:

MODIFIED A FOOTBALL 11 MAN (7-8-9)

1. Valley Central	1. New Paltz
2. Monticello	2. Highland
3. Liberty	3. Marlboro
4. Chester/Florida	4. Red Hook
5. O'Neill	5. Rondout
6. Burke Catholic	6. Saugerties
7. Ellenville	7. Spackenkill
8. Wallkill	8. Dover

Modified A 8 Man Football (7,8,9)

1. Fallsburg	6. Pine Plains
2. Liv Manor/Roscoe	7. Pawling
3. Tri Valley	8. Onteora
4. Sullivan West	9. Millbrook
5. Eldred	

11 man Mod A Dates:

September: 18, 25, 30
October: 8, 15, 22, 29
November:

8 man Dates:

September: 20, 25, 30,
October: 4, 8, 14, 18, 22, 28,
November: 4

Below is a link to the Football: Modified B Fall 2025 Schedule for Section IX Athletics.
[Click here for the latest schedule](#)

Below is a link to the Football: Modified A Fall 2025 Schedule for Section IX Athletics.
[Click here for the latest schedule](#)

WINTER 2024-2025
MHAL AND SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP DATES
 Updated – 1/9/25

BOYS SWIMMING

OCIAA CHAMPIONSHIP

DIVING	Site: Washingtonville	February 6, 2025	3PM
DIV 1 SWIMMING	Site: NFA	February 7, 2025	5PM
DIV 2 SWIMMING	Site: Washingtonville	February 7, 2025	4PM

SECTION IX - @ Valley Central High School

SWIMMING Pre-lims		February 20 th , 2025	4:30 PM
DIVING		February 21 st , 2025	4:00 PM
FINALS		February 22 nd , 2025	1:00PM

STATES

March 7 th -8 th , 2025	Ithaca College	830AM
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GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL

MHAL TOURNAMENT

<u>Monday, February 24th, 2025</u>	<u>MHAL Semi-Finals</u>
<u>Wednesday, February 26th, 2025</u>	<u>MHAL Finals - @ Dutchess CC – Girls: 5PM – Boys: 7PM</u>

SECTION IX

Thursday, February 27 th , 2025	Seed Meeting	TBA
March 1 st – March 9 th , 2025	Tournament Games at Higher Seed	

BOYS BASKETBALL

March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class AAA	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AAA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class AA	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class A	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class A	@Section IV
March 8-10, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class B	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class B	@Section IV
March 8-10, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class C	@Section IX
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class C	@Section XI
March 8-10, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class D	@Section IX
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class D	@Section XI

STATES

March 20 th -23 rd , 2025	State Semi Finals and Finals	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena
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GIRLS BASKETBALL

March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class AAA	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AAA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class AA	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class A	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class A	@Section IV
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class B	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class B	@Section IV
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class C	@Section IX
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class C	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class D	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class D	@Section IX

STATESMarch 20th-23rd, 2025

State Semi-Finals and Finals

Hudson Valley Community College

WINTER 2024-2025**MHAL AND SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP DATES (continued)****WRESTLING****STATE DUAL MEET**

Saturday, February 1, 2025

SRC Arena, Syracuse

7:00AM

SECTION IXFriday, February 14th, 2025

Division I at Monroe Woodbury – Sectional Qualifier

4:15PM

Saturday, February 15th, 2025

Division I at Monroe-Woodbury

11:00AM

Sunday, February 16th, 2025

Division II at FDR

10:30AM

STATESFebruary 28th – March 1st, 2025

MVP Arena, Albany

INDOOR TRACK**SECTION IX**Thursday, February 27th, 2025

Seed Meeting – Google Meet

6:00PM

OCIAA DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPFriday, January 24th, 2025

Division 2,4,6 @ West Point

6-11pm

Saturday, January 25th, 2025

Division 1,3,5 @ West Point

1-7pm

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIPSFriday, February 7th, 2025

Class B @ West Point

6-11pm

Saturday, February 8th, 2025

Class A @ West Point

1-7pm

STATE QUALIFIERSaturday, March 1st, 2025

@ Armory Track, NYC

9am-2pm

STATESSaturday, March 8th, 2025

Ocean Breeze Sports Complex, Staten Island

BOYS AND GIRLS ALPINE SKIING**SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Hunter Mountain

Girls GS – 10AM

Boys SL – 10AM

Boys GS – 1PM

Girls SL – 1PM

Weather make-up – Wednesday, February 12th**STATES**February 24th-25th

Gore Mountain

8:30AM

BOYS AND GIRLS NORDIC SKIING**SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Minnewaska State Park

3:30PM

Weather make-up – Wednesday, February 12th**STATES**February 24th-25th, 2025

North Creek Bowl

10AM

CHEERLEADING

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, February 22nd, 2025

Monroe Woodbury HS

TBA

NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, March 8th, 2025

Visions Veterans Memorial Arena

9AM

WINTER 2024-2025

MHAL AND SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP DATES (continued)

GYMNASTICS

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday, February 10th, 2025

Wednesday, February 12th 2025 *Snow Date

Epik Athletics

3:00PM

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, March 1st, 2025

Clarence High School

9AM

BOYS AND GIRLS BOWLING

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025 - Girls

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 - Boys

Thursday, February 20th, 2025 - *Snow Date*

Patel Lanes, Kingston NY

9AM

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

March 14th-16th, 2025

AMF Strike-N-Spare Lanes, Syracuse

10:30AM

WINTER 2024-2025
MHAL AND SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP DATES
 Updated – 1/9/25

BOYS SWIMMING

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BOYS BASKETBALL

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March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AAA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class AA	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class A	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class A	@Section IV
March 8-10, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class B	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class B	@Section IV
March 8-10, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class C	@Section IX
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class C	@Section XI
March 8-10, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class D	@Section IX
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class D	@Section XI

STATES

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GIRLS BASKETBALL

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March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AAA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class AA	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class AA	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class A	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class A	@Section IV
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class B	@Section I
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class B	@Section IV
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class C	@Section IX
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class C	@Section IX
March 10-12, 2025	Regional Semi-Final Class D	BYE
March 14-16, 2025	Regional Final Class D	@Section IX

STATES

March 20th-23rd, 2025

State Semi-Finals and Finals

Hudson Valley Community College

WINTER 2024-2025

MHAL AND SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP DATES (continued)

WRESTLING

STATE DUAL MEET

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Division 1,3,5 @ West Point

1-7pm

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIPS

Friday, February 7th, 2025

Saturday, February 8th, 2025

Class B @ West Point

6-11pm

Class A @ West Point

1-7pm

STATE QUALIFIER

Saturday, March 1st, 2025

@ Armory Track, NYC

9am-2pm

STATES

Saturday, March 8th, 2025

Ocean Breeze Sports Complex, Staten Island

BOYS AND GIRLS ALPINE SKIING

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP

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Hunter Mountain

Girls GS – 10AM

Boys SL – 10AM

Boys GS – 1PM

Girls SL – 1PM

Weather make-up – Wednesday, February 12th

STATES

February 24th-25th

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SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP

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STATES

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WINTER 2024-2025

MHAL AND SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP DATES (continued)

GYMNASTICS

SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP

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Wednesday, February 12th 2025 *Snow Date

Epik Athletics

3:00PM

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Clarence High School

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SECTION IX CHAMPIONSHIP

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Patel Lanes, Kingston NY

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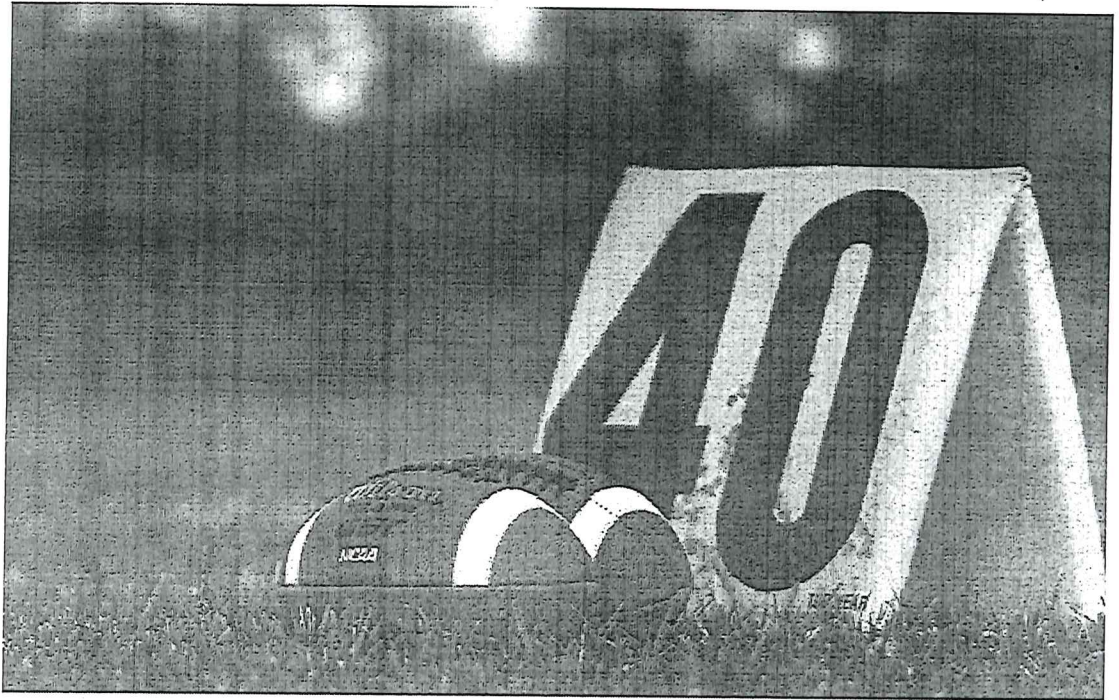
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

March 14th-16th, 2025

AMF Strike-N-Spare Lanes, Syracuse

10:30AM

Athletic Business



OPERATIONS | LEGAL

School District's Failure to Correct Dangerous Field Condition Leads to \$31M Settlement

Sports and recreation providers, both public and private, have a legal duty to ensure that the facilities they use are suitable for the intended activity. Providers have this legal obligation to keep users safe from unreasonable risks.

By — Fei Gao, John Wolohan

Jan 8th, 2025

Sports and recreation providers, both public and private, have a legal duty to ensure that the facilities they use are suitable for the intended activity. Because providers have this legal obligation to keep users safe from unreasonable risks, it is essential that facility owners and employees conduct monthly, weekly or even daily inspections of their facilities.

That said, merely inspecting the facility is not enough. To satisfy their duty of care to the users of facilities, facility owners and service providers need to correct any dangerous condition as soon as it has been discovered, or limit access to the specific location until the problem has been corrected. A recent case that illustrates the importance of correcting dangerous playing surfaces is *Garcia v. Newport-Mesa Unified School District* CASE NO: 30-2022-01243554-CU-PO-CJC.

Traumatic brain injury

Emanuel "Manny" Garcia was a 15-year-old freshman at Corona del Mar High School in Newport Beach, Calif. As a member of the freshman football team, Garcia was participating in a full-contact practice conducted on one of the high school's fields. During the practice, Garcia was attempting to catch the football when he experienced a helmet-to-helmet collision with another player. The collision sent Garcia crashing to the ground, and his head struck the playing surface. Even though Garcia was wearing a helmet at the time, he suffered catastrophic and permanent injuries, including — but not limited to — a severe traumatic brain injury, a large subdural hemorrhage and an intracranial bleed.

As a result of his injuries, Garcia sued the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, claiming that his injuries were a direct, proximate and legal result of the school district's negligence in maintaining the field. The school district, Garcia argued, had a duty to maintain the field to a safe condition, had actual notice that the field was in a dangerous condition, and failed to make the field safe for athletes.

Specifically, Garcia argued that the field lacked adequate grass coverage, exposing the surface and hardening the soil. He claimed the field was not designed, planned, constructed, installed, inspected, maintained or repaired in a manner that was adequate to absorb the kind of shock associated with tackles and falls during football practices, and that its dangerous condition created a substantial risk of injury to athletes.

Moreover, Garcia claimed that the school district was negligent for failing to correct the field's defects before his injury, despite numerous written and verbal warnings communicated to the principal and athletic director by coaches and parents complaining about the quality of the playing field. One piece of evidence produced in discovery to support Garcia's claim was an email from the lacrosse coach to the athletic director, complaining that "the surface on which we are asking our student-athletes to practice and compete on a daily basis is bordering on unplayable. Our fields have steadfastly become a safety concern, a liability issue and an extremely poor representation of our school."

Garcia also argued that the school district was negligent in failing to regularly inspect the field and address its repair and maintenance after the district became aware that the field posed a serious injury risk. Any reasonable field inspection and maintenance program implemented by the school district would have discovered the obviously dangerous condition in more than sufficient time ahead of Garcia's injuries for the school district to repair, correct, remedy or warn of the danger. Therefore, Garcia claimed, the school district breached its duty to not increase the risks otherwise posed by high school football practices.

Argument, then settlement

In arguing that it was not negligent for Garcia's injuries, the school district claimed that it conducted regular safety assessments and soil compaction tests on its fields. In addition, the school district noted that it had made substantial improvements to its athletics facilities and fields over the years and was dedicated to ongoing maintenance of the fields to ensure the success and safety of student-athletes.

After two years of discovery and legal maneuvering in the Orange County Superior Court of California, and before the case could go to trial, the school district decided to settle the case, paying Garcia \$31 million for his injuries.

While there may be many reasons for a defendant in a lawsuit to settle a case before trial — the cost of

settling is less than the nuisance cost of taking the case to court, for example — the most common reason is that the defendant fears losing at trial and leaving the damage award in the hands of a jury. In Garcia's case, because of the evidence that the school district had notice of the poor condition of the field and failed to correct it for years, it is reasonable to believe that a jury could have easily found such actions negligent and awarded Garcia even more money.

Inspect, document, fix

Normally, this column prefers to report on cases that have been decided by the courts, enabling readers to learn how the courts apply the law to issues such as negligence. Though the parties in *Garcia v. Newport-Mesa Unified School District* settled the case for \$31 million before it reached a jury, school and recreation facilities, both private or public, can still learn valuable lessons from the case.

First, the case reinforces the point that sports and recreation providers have a legal duty to ensure that facilities are suitable for their intended activity. By allowing participants to practice and play on surfaces that are in disrepair or are generally in a dangerous condition, facility owners and service providers have failed in their duty to provide a safe playing environment. By breaching their duty to not increase the risks inherent in the activity, the facility owners and service providers are inviting a negligence lawsuit.

Second, this case also makes it clear that facility owners and service providers have a duty to regularly inspect their facilities and playing surfaces for dangerous conditions before they are used. It is also important that these inspections are documented and kept on file in the event of a lawsuit.

A third lesson facility owners and service providers should take away from *Garcia* is that if a dangerous condition is discovered — a wet floor, a hole in the field, a surface that is unreasonably hard — it is essential that the facility owner or service provider repair, correct or otherwise remedy the dangerous

condition immediately. If the condition cannot be corrected right away, facility owners or service providers have a duty to limit access to the location until the problem is corrected. While perhaps inconvenient for the facility, such actions are the only way to ensure the safety of all users — and to protect the facility owners and service providers from costly lawsuits.

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