

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



**TUESDAY, March 4, 2025 - 9:30 A.M.
Orange Ulster BOCES
Zoom**

AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (February 11, 2025)
2. Section IX Report – Greg Ransom / Jim Osborne
3. OCIAA President's Report – Mr. Mike Bellarosa
 - A. Executive Committee Positions
 - B. NYSPHSAA Voting Items
4. OCIAA Athletic Coordinator's Report – Mr. Christopher P. Mayo
Items of Concern:
 - A. 2025-2026 OCIAA Calendar
 - B. Dropped Teams – Spring
 - C. Football – David Coates
 - D. OCIAA Scholar Athlete Breakfast
 - E. Tyler Muise MVP Award
 - F. Heat Acclimatization Guidelines and Lightning Policy
 - G. Combining of Teams – Tim Bult
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Next Athletic Directors Workshop – Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 9:30 am
@ Orange-Ulster BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C

Section IX Meetings – Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 9:30 am via Zoom
and
April 8, 2025 at 9:30 am @ Orange-Ulster BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C
8. Adjourn

NYSPPHSAA Proposals

1. Establish Three (3) Night's Rest Rule for Regional Competition

- Proposal: The NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee is seeking approval to establish a three-nights rest rule for all regional competition for all sports.

2. Consistency Among Championship Awards

- Proposal: Consider approval to create a consistent approach to championship awards for NYSPHSAA Championship events, enhancing clarity, equity, and recognition across all sports.

3. Regional Plaques

- Proposal: Consider approval of consistent approach for awards at Regional Championship events in team sports by standardizing the presentation of only the Regional Champion plaque.

4. Establish 8-Man Football Regional Championship on Week #21

- Proposal: Consider approval for the 8-man Regional Championship to be held on Week #21 (11-Man Football Semifinal weekend).

5. Cheerleading- Game Day Scoring Adjustment

- Proposal: Consider approval to adjust Game Day Score Sheets for 2025-2027

6. Cheerleading- Standard Practice for Fall and Winter Cheer

- Proposal: The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is seeking approval to set the following standard practice guidelines for competing teams in all sections.
 - Fall Cheerleading- Teams are restricted to only practicing those skills allowable in Game Day Cheerleading. This then does not limit those teams who do not wish to compete, but allows schools to still have teams. It does restrict those schools from working on the more advanced skills and routines for the Winter Competitive Season in advance of the season, thereby negating any unfair advantage. It allows for schools building programs to do so in a safe manner.
 - Winter Cheerleading- Since skills are more advanced for Competitive Cheer, there would be no restrictions for schools doing the lesser skills of Game Day during this season.
 - Any school found violating this rule and practicing skills beyond what is allowed in Game Day during the Fall Season, would be ineligible for the postseason for the Winter Season.

7. Girls Lacrosse: Artificial Noise Makers

- Proposal: The Girl's Lacrosse Committee is recommending prohibiting all artificial noise makers at NYSPHSAA Regional, Semifinal and Final games.

8. BASEBALL: Allow Scrimmage after 6th practice day

- Proposal: The NYSPHSAA Baseball Committee is seeking approval to allow scrimmages to be conducted after the 6th practice day. *(Would implement a restriction on the# of pitches (30) a pitcher is allowed to throw during any scrimmage that takes place on days 7-10 of the first 10 required practice days.)*

9. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) DEFINITIONS

- Proposal: Consider approval to add the definitions for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.
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Discussion Items:

10. Pathways to Promote Diversity on Committees

- Proposal: Consider approval for NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address representation on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as NYSPHSAA Sport Committees, Standing Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees.
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Already Approved by Leagues:

11. FALL START DATES

- Proposal: Consider approval for all Fall sports to start 2 weeks before Labor Day and Football to start on the Monday of Week #7.

12. SPRING START DATES

- Proposal: Consider approval for all Spring Sports to start on the 2nd Monday of March.

13. 3 Region Concept

- Proposal: The 3-region concept establishes regional rotations for sports/classification with 9 or more teams for post season play, dividing sections into three regions with specific guidelines. A committee is being formed to implement this for the Fall 2025 season.

Informational Items

14. NYS Temperature Bill

- For athletic and Phys. Ed. Purposes Temperatures in the gym cannot exceed 88 degrees. May cause schools to alter indoor practices and events and relocate activities.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

CHAMPIONSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Establish Three (3) Night's Rest Rule for Regional Competition

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee (Greg Ransom, Chair)

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee is seeking approval to establish a three-nights rest rule for all regional competition for all sports. The following language is being proposed for this rule.

Regional rounds immediately following Sectional Finals shall be scheduled, in advance of the postseason, with a minimum of three nights rest. Each subsequent round of regional games shall be scheduled, in advance of the postseason, with a minimum of three nights rest. Weather related issues shall not change any of the scheduled regional contests and delays may result in less than three nights rest. It is also recommended to conclude regional play the Saturday prior to the state final four.

Sample Schedule Set Up in Advance of Postseason:

Saturday or Sunday – Sectional Final
Tuesday or Wednesday – Sub-Regional
Saturday – Regional Final

Effective Start Date:

2025-26 school year

Rationale:

Three nights rest would allow for teams to get proper rest, schedule practice and be able to plan travel for regional competition.

Proposal Originated:

The number of nights rest a team gets in regional competition was brought forward as a concern by Section 1 at the Executive Committee meeting in May 2024. The CAC formed a sub-committee to discuss this on September 11th then present it to the full CAC on October 10th and January 16th.

Budgetary Impact:

None

CAC Feedback:

CAC voted 7-1 in support of this proposal at its January 16th meeting.

DATE REVISED: January 18, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Championship Philosophy: Consistency Among Championship Awards

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Proposal:

Consider approval to create a consistent approach to championship awards for NYSPHSAA Championship events, enhancing clarity, equity, and recognition across all sports.

This proposal suggests the following updates to the awards structure:

- **Individual Sports:**
 - Award up to ten (10) places for individual sports as determined by the NYSPHSAA Staff in consultation with the Sport Committee.
 - If a sport has more than 75 athletes competing in an event, per division/class, then the individual sport can award up to 20 places.
- **Team Sports:**
 - Award up to four (4) places in team championships as determined by the NYSPHSAA Staff in consultation with the Sport Committee.
 - **1st Place:** Receives the championship plaque and gold medals.
 - **2nd Place:** Receives a finalist plaque and silver medals.
 - **3rd and 4th Places:** Recognized with a plaque
- **Eliminate the Section Team Award:**

Recognition should be focused on the individual or team performance at the championship level. No shirts, champion boards, medals or plaques shall be awarded to Section Champions.

Effective Start Date:

2025-2026

Rationale:

Streamlining the awards process allows for consistency and equity in recognizing athletes' achievements in both team and individual sports. Consistency ensures that the integrity of competition remains intact.

Proposal Originated:

Championship Philosophy Committee

DATE REVISED: December 10, 2024

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Budgetary Impact:

The proposed changes to streamline the championship awards system will result in a cost savings. Below is a breakdown of the estimated financial impact:

Medals/Plaques: Estimate a savings of approximately \$1,979. (Note: Shipping costs are not included in this estimate as they vary by location.)

Champion Boards:

Eliminating Section Champion boards will save approximately \$1,300.

Champion Shirts:

Estimate a cost savings of approximately \$1,000.

Total Estimated Savings:

\$4,279

These changes represent an opportunity to allocate resources more efficiently while maintaining the prestige and recognition associated with the championships.

Notes:

All impacted sports have been notified. The following sports do NOT support the proposal;

- B/G Cross Country – In support of the revision for individuals but still would like to award Section Champions.
- Gymnastics – Does not support the proposal. Would like to continue awarding Section medals.
- B/G Swimming – Does not support the proposal. Would like to continue awarding 11th – 20th place in all events.
- B/G Bowling – Does not support the proposal. Would like to continue awarding Composite team medals.

If sports are not listed, proposal is being discussed at the sport committee's next meeting.

Attachments:

Sports Impacted Document

Sport	Divisions/Classes	Current Awards	How Impacted
Bowling (Boys)	2+ Composite	Medals 1st-3rd High Game 1st-3rd High Series 1st-3rd Place Team (8) 1st-3rd Place Composite (6) Composite - no plaque, just shirts/boards/medals Plaques 1st-3rd Place Teams	Adding -1st-10th place Individuals - Composite -Add 4th place plaque for HS team Removing -No longer award Composite Teams (Section) with plaques or medals -No longer award High Game & High Series (top 3) -No longer award 3rd place HS team with medals, only plaque
Bowling (Girls)	2+ Composite	1st-3rd High Game 1st-3rd High Series 1st-3rd Place Team (8) 1st-3rd Place Composite (6) Composite - no plaque, just shirts/boards/medals Plaques 1st-3rd Place Teams	Adding -1st-10th place Individuals - Composite -Add 4th place plaque for HS team Removing -No longer award Composite Teams (Section) with plaques or medals -No longer award High Game & High Series (top 3) -No longer award 3rd place HS team with medals, only plaque
Competitive Cheerleading	5	Medals - 1st & 2nd Place (A/B/Coed) - (24) Medals - 1st & 2nd Place (C/D) - (20) Plaques - 1st-5th Place Team	Removing -5th place team plaque
Cross Country (Boys)	4	1st-20th - Individual 1st - High School Team (7 medals) Plaques - 1st & 2nd place The top sectional team will receive mini boards and champion t-shirts.	Adding if committee desires: - Add medals for second place high school team - Add plaques for 3rd and 4th place teams Removing - No longer recognize Section Teams
Cross Country (Girls)	4	1st-20th - Individual 1st - High School Team (7 medals) Plaques - 1st & 2nd place The top sectional team will receive mini boards and champion t-shirts.	Adding if committee desires: - Add medals for second place high school team - Add plaques for 3rd and 4th place teams Removing - No longer recognize Section Teams
Game Day Cheerleading	3	Medals - 1st & 2nd Place (32) Plaques - 1st-3rd Place Team	Adding -Add 4th place plaque
Golf (Boys)	1	1st - 10th Place 1st - 3rd Place Section Team (9 medals)	Adding if committee desires: - 10th-20th place medals Removing - Medals for Section teams
Golf (Girls)	1	1st - 10th Place (Individual) 1st-3rd Place High School Team (6 medals) 1-3rd Place Section Team (10 medals)	Adding if committee desires: - 10th - 20th place medals - Add 4th place HS team plaque Removing - No medals for 3rd place HS team, just plaque - No longer award Section Teams
Gymnastics	1	1st - 6th Place in all events 1st - 3rd Place Section Team (15 medals) Medals	Removing - Section team medals
Skating (Boys)	1	1st - 10th Individual (Nordic) 1st-3rd Relay (Nordic - 3 medals) 1st - 10th (Alpine - Slalom) 1st - 10th (Alpine - Giant Slalom) Plaques 1st Place - High School Team (Nordic) 1st Place - Individual overall (Nordic) - small plaque 1st Place - High School Team (Alpine) 1st Place - Individual overall (Alpine) - small plaque	Adding if committee desires: Add medals for HS 1st & 2nd Place team (Nordic) Add plaques for 3/4 HS teams (Nordic) Add medals for HS 1st & 2nd Place team (Alpine) Add plaques for 3/4 HS teams (Alpine) Changing Providing a medal for the individual overall champion (Alpine/Nordic)
Skating (Girls)	1	1st - 10th Individual (Nordic) 1st-3rd Relay (Nordic - 3 medals) 1st - 10th (Alpine - Slalom) 1st - 10th (Alpine - Giant Slalom) Plaques 1st Place - High School Team (Nordic) 1st Place - Individual overall (Nordic) - small plaque 1st Place - High School Team (Alpine) 1st Place - Individual overall (Alpine) - small plaque	Adding if committee desires: Add medals for HS 1st & 2nd Place team (Nordic) Add plaques for 3/4 HS teams (Nordic) Add medals for HS 1st & 2nd Place team (Alpine) Add plaques for 3/4 HS teams (Alpine) Changing Providing a medal for the individual overall champion (Alpine/Nordic)
Swimming & Diving (Boys)	1	1st - 20th Place in all events	Removing -11th-20th medals in all events
Swimming & Diving (Girls)	1	1st - 20th Place in all events	Removing -11th-20th medals in all events

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Championship Philosophy: Regional Plaques

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Proposal:

Consider approval of consistent approach for awards at Regional Championship events in team sports by standardizing the presentation of only the Regional Champion plaque.

Effective Start Date:

2025-2026

Rationale:

Historically, both a Regional Champion plaque and a Regional Finalist plaque have been awarded at Regional Championship events. The Championship Philosophy Committee believes only the champion should be awarded at regional rounds.

Proposal Originated:

Championship Philosophy Committee

Budgetary Impact:

There is no budgetary impact for NYSPHSAA. It will be a cost savings to the Sections as Sections currently cover the cost of all Regional Champion and Finalist plaques. Finalist plaques cost \$45 per plaque.

Notes:

- Only team sports would be affected by this change.
- The Championship Philosophy Committee supported the proposal 11-1 (Section VII voted no, Section IX was absent).
- Sport Committee Feedback is listed below for the committees who have met thus far. Committees not listed will provide feedback after their meetings.
 - Field Hockey (0-10 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.
 - Football (0-10 OPPOSED) – Would like to keep current regional plaque system.
 - Baseball (0-11 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.
 - Girls Lacrosse (0-10 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.

Attachments:

None

DATE REVISED: December 10, 2024

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

FOOTBALL – Establish 8-Man Football Regional Championship on Week #21

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Proposal:

Consider approval for the 8-man Regional Championship to be held on Week #21 (11-Man Football Semifinal weekend).

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2025

Rationale:

The 2024 8-Man Regional Championship was held on Week #22 (11-Man State Football Championship weekend) resulting in several issues related to inclement weather, location of the game and confusion and concerns from schools and the general public.

In accordance with the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy 8-Man does not meet the threshold for Championship status (6 Sections with 4 participating schools).

Proposal Originated:

Internal staff discussion

Budgetary Impact:

Moving the event to week #21 reduces the cost of the game being played week #22 by itself or at the JMA Wireless Dome with the 11-man finals.

Notes:

The NYSPHSAA Football Committee does not support moving the 8-Man Regional Championship to Week #21 (11-Man Football Semifinal weekend); the Committee prefers hosting the 8-Man Regional Championship at the same venue as the 11-Man State Championship.

Attachments:

None.

CAC Feedback:

CAC voted 8-0 in support of this proposal at its January 16th meeting.

DATE REVISED: January 21, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Cheerleading – Game Day Scoring Adjustment

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Jennifer Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading State Coordinator

Proposal:

Consider approval to adjust Game Day Score Sheets for 2025-2027.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2025 season

Rationale:

- These new score sheets better align NYS with the rest of the country in terms of the Game Day format and scoring categories.
- These new score sheets make each scoring element more clear to both coaches and judges, by just reorganizing and breaking down the scoring categories, while NOT changing any of the elements that we currently score in NY Game Day. The only true difference from what we are currently doing is requiring dismounts from stunts between the Sideline and Cheer.
- The scoring categories reflect both the UCA and NCA scoring elements.
- The point spread is a better representation of the length of elements in each section of the Game Day routine. For example, the current score sheet equally spreads 20 points across 4 sections, however, the situational sideline is significantly shorter than the other sections.
- There are minimal “combined” scoring elements. The current score sheet has scoring categories such as “Motion Technique & Crowd Leading Tools”. It is difficult for judges to appropriately account for both of these elements in a single score and 5 points is not appropriate for 2 elements that are used throughout a given section of the routine. The new score sheet breaks these elements into 2 separate categories. Breaking these elements down also helps coaches to better understand the areas in which they excel or need improvement.
- No category is over 5 points, making it easier and more consistent for officials to score.

Proposal Originated:

Cheerleading Committee – after reviewing the first two State Competitions.

Attachments:

Proposed score sheets

NEW YORK STATE CHEERLEADING
GAME DAY/ CROWD LEADING SCORE SHEET



TEAM NAME: _____

DIVISION: _____ JUDGE 1 & 2 _____

CROWD LEADING (40)		POINTS	SCORE
Game Day Relevance of Situational Sideline <i>Sideline effectively conveyed an offense/defense situation.</i>		5	
Crowd Effectiveness <i>Clarity of the cheer - Voices had a consistent volume. Pace/flow was appropriate to clearly understand all words.</i>		5	
Formations & Spacing <i>Choreography of formations and transitions.</i> <i>Crowd coverage & effectiveness of formations.</i> <i>Formations allowed for maximum crowd coverage. Ability to elicit a crowd response.</i>		5	
Motion Technique <i>Execution of Motions - Technique, sharpness, synchronization, and consistency in placement of motions.</i>		5	
Crowd Leading Tools <i>Choreography and Execution of Props - Proper use of signs, poms, megaphones and flags. Technique, sharpness, consistency in placement of props.</i>		5	
Effectiveness of Stunt/Tumbling <i>Choreography of Skills - Skills chosen were effective and appropriate for the Game Day environment. Clean and crowd effective stunts and tumbling.</i>		5	
Execution of Stunt/Tumbling <i>Execution of Skills - Technique, stability, synchronization and spacing</i>		5	
Overall Impression <i>Leadership, School Spirit & Energy in the sideline/crowd leading cheer and transition entering that section.</i> <i>Leadership to engage and connect with the crowd. Genuine School Spirit and Energy. Transition going into the sideline/crowd leading section, maintained crowd coverage/engagement and was minimal/clean.</i>		5	
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS		40	

**NEW YORK STATE CHEERLEADING
GAME DAY/ BAND CHANT/ FIGHT SONG SCORE SHEET**



TEAM NAME: _____

DIVISION: _____ JUDGE 3 & 4

BAND CHANT (30)		POINTS	SCORE
Game Day Material & Crowd Effectiveness <i>Choreography of material - Crowd was engaged, entertained and/or encouraged to respond in all material. Creative visuals (levels/ripples/synchronization) entertained and engaged the crowd. Voices were clear and the chant fit the music.</i>		5	
Formations & Spacing <i>Choreography of formations and transitions</i> <i>Crowd coverage & effectiveness of formations.</i> <i>Variety/spacing of formations. Synchronization/visuals during transitions.</i>		5	
Motion Technique <i>Execution of Motions - Technique, sharpness, synchronization, and consistency in placement of motions.</i>		5	
Crowd Leading Tools <i>Choreography and Execution of Props - Proper use of signs, poms, megaphones and flags. Technique, sharpness, consistency in placement of props.</i>		5	
Game Day Visual Appeal <i>Creative movements and musicality (dance/chant/call-back matches the beat of the music).</i> <i>Use of level changes, ripples, & other techniques.</i>		5	
Overall Impression <i>Leadership, School Spirit & Energy in the band chant and transitions entering that section. Leadership to engage and connect with the crowd. Genuine School Spirit and Energy. Transition into the band chant maintained crowd coverage/engagement and were minimal/clean.</i>		5	
FIGHT SONG (30)		POINTS	SCORE
Game Day Material & Crowd Effectiveness <i>Choreography of material - Crowd was engaged, entertained and/or encouraged to respond in all material. Creative visuals (levels/ripples/synchronization) entertained and engaged the crowd. Voices were clear and the chant fit the music.</i>		5	
Formations & Spacing <i>Choreography of formations and transitions</i> <i>Crowd coverage & effectiveness of formations.</i> <i>Variety/spacing of formations. Synchronization/visuals during transitions.</i>		5	
Motion Technique <i>Execution of Motions - Technique, sharpness, synchronization, and consistency in placement of motions.</i>		5	
Crowd Leading Tools <i>Choreography and Execution of Props - Proper use of signs, poms, megaphones and flags. Technique, sharpness, consistency in placement of props.</i>		5	
Effectiveness & Execution of Stunt/Tumbling <i>Choreography of Skills - Skills chosen were effective and appropriate for the Game Day environment. Clean and crowd effective stunts and tumbling.</i> <i>Execution of Skills - Technique, stability, synchronization and spacing</i>		5	
Overall Impression <i>Leadership, School Spirit & Energy in the Fight Song and transitions entering that section. Leadership to engage and connect with the crowd. Genuine School Spirit and Energy. Transition into the Fight Song maintained crowd coverage/engagement and were minimal/clean.</i>		5	
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS		60	

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Cheerleading – Standard Practice for Fall and Winter Cheer

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Jennifer Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is seeking approval to set the following standard practice guidelines for competing teams in all sections.

- Fall Cheerleading - Teams are restricted to only practicing those skills allowable in Game Day Cheerleading. This then does not limit those teams who do not wish to compete, but allows schools to still have teams. It does restrict those schools from working on the more advanced skills and routines for the Winter Competitive Season in advance of the season, thereby negating any unfair advantage. It allows for schools building programs to do so in a safe manner.
- Winter Cheerleading- Since skills are more advanced for Competitive Cheer, there would be no restrictions for schools doing the lesser skills of Game Day during this season.
- Any school found violating this rule and practicing skills beyond what is allowed in Game Day during the Fall Season, would be ineligible for the postseason for the Winter Season.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2025 season

Rationale:

While NYSPHSAA defines the seasons as “Fall Cheerleading” and “Winter Cheerleading” with Game Day and Competitive being “Events” within each of those, sections are interpreting this differently. Some are allowing both in each season. Some are allowing only Game Day in the fall and only Competitive in the winter. Some are allowing teams to forego competing in the fall and just prepare/practice their competitive routines/skills for the winter. As a result, the State Committee is concerned with the following:

- The differences from section to section are creating extremely unfair advantages and disadvantages for certain teams/sections in competitive cheer. These disadvantages are causing coaches and athletes to leave cheerleading and as this grows, it will likely cause entire sections of NYS to withdraw from competing in NYS cheerleading.
- Schools that allow teams to not compete in the fall but practice/prepare for the winter season are paying for a coach that isn’t competing at all.
- Sections that do not allow Game Day in the winter prohibit teams from competing in Game Day nationally, as all national competitions for both Game Day and Competitive occur in January - March.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

- If we were to move to only allow Game Day in the fall and Competitive in the winter, it would set us back nationally and affect our athletes ability to compete for college scholarships.

Proposal Originated:

This was a topic of discussion at the Cheer State Committee meeting at the State Competition and discussed at prior state committee meetings. While NYSPHSAA Executive Committee agreed to approve limiting beginning choreography prior to the start date, teams are not foregoing the fall Game Day season, and working on their winter season from August forward when the season truly for State Competition does not begin until November. This proposal gets all sections on the same page as to what is allowed and what isn't.

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

Section representatives felt this yearly course was important training given the complexity of new skills added each year. They felt that the needed progression and trainings was a safety issue that needed to be addressed.

The Cheerleading State Committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal at its December meeting.

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Girls Lacrosse: Artificial Noise Makers

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Liz Parry, Girls Lacrosse Coordinator

Proposal:

The Girl's Lacrosse Committee is recommending prohibiting all artificial noise makers at NYSPHSAA Regional, Semifinal and Final games.

Effective Start Date:

Spring 2025

Rationale:

The Girl's Lacrosse Committee has received concerns that artificial noise makers can be distracting to the players and officials on the field, especially when used by spectators that are standing closest to the field.

Proposal Originated:

Girls Lacrosse Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

Currently Boys and Girls Basketball ban artificial noise makers during the state championship (NYSPHSAA rule) and the sport of Volleyball (NCAA rule). The committee was unanimous in this recommendation. The NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Committee will discuss at their Spring meeting.

Attachments:

None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

BASEBALL: Allow Scrimmage after 6th practice day

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Al Roy, NYSPHSAA Baseball State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Baseball Committee is seeking approval to allow scrimmages to be conducted after the 6th practice day.

Effective Start Date:

Spring 2026

Rationale:

If this proposal is approved, we would implement a restriction on the # of pitches (30) a pitcher is allowed to throw during any scrimmage that takes place on days 7-10 of the first 10 required practice days. This is after 6 days of practice are completed by the individual player.

30 pitch-count limit on all pitchers in scrimmages that occur on practice days 7-10*
1-30 pitches thrown: 2 nights rest*****

The same rules for tracking pitch count during the season would apply to scrimmages (home team is the official counter). Teams are responsible for keeping track of their pitch counts and checking in between innings. The penalty for going over the pitch limit would be determined by the section.

Once 10 days of practice have been reached, the current pitch limit rule would be in effect.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA State Committee January 8, 2025 from Section VIII (Sean Burns)

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 11-0 in favor of supporting this proposal at its January meeting.

Attachments:

None

CAC Feedback:

Not necessary

DATE REVISED: January 8, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) DEFINITIONS

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Carlos Cotto, DEI Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval to add the definitions for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

Effective Start Date:

Immediately

Rationale:

Defining DEI aligns the association's efforts with its broader mission and values, demonstrating a commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable environment.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA DEI Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None.

Notes:

None.

Attachments:

Definitions

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for NYSPHSAA

Diversity:

Diversity at NYSPHSAA encompasses the recognition and inclusion of differences among student-athletes, schools, and communities, including but not limited to, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, disabilities, sexual orientations, gender identity or expression, and sexes.

Equity:

Equity at NYSPHSAA means ensuring fair treatment, equal access to opportunities, and addressing barriers to participation for all student-athletes, schools, and communities.

Inclusion:

Inclusion at NYSPHSAA means fostering a welcoming environment where all student-athletes, schools, and communities feel valued, respected, and empowered to participate fully.

By prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion, NYSPHSAA is committed to creating a culture of belonging that enhances the experiences and success of everyone involved.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2024

Pathways to Promote Diversity on Committees

- ☐ Action Item
- ☒ Discussion Item
- ☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Carlos Cotto, DEI Committee Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval for NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address representation on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as NYSPHSAA Sport Committees, Standing Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2025

Rationale:

The current NYSPHSAA committee structure requires Sections to elect representatives to serve on the Executive and Central Committees, sport committees, standing committees, and ad hoc committees. As an association working for the betterment of all students within the structure of NYSPHSAA, providing representation for the Big 5 to have a voice on NYSPHSAA committees will ensure all students truly represented.

The Big 5 currently has representatives from the five city school districts of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers and Affiliate Members Albany, Mount Vernon and Utica. Note: New York City schools would not have the ability to serve on NYSPHSAA committees since New York City schools are not part of the NYSPHSAA membership structure.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA DEI Committee.

Budgetary Impact:

Additional representation at 3 Executive Committee meetings and 1 Central Committee per year; approximately \$3000-\$4000 annually.

Any expenses associated with Sport Committee representation will be incurred by the Big Five as the NYSPHSAA Constitution states:

"Necessary expenses for each delegate to attend sports committee meetings shall be paid by the section."

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2024

Notes:

This proposal would require a revision to the NYSPHSAA Constitution. The procedures for revisions to the Constitution are clearly stipulated in the NYSPHSAA Constitution (Article VIII):

“ARTICLE VIII

Constitutional Amendments

1. A majority vote of the Central Committee or Executive Committee at any duly authorized meeting is required to propose an amendment to the Constitution.

Amendments may be initiated by the Central Committee, Executive Committee, a section athletic council, or the officers of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Proposals shall be submitted to the executive director by January 15 to allow sectional athletic councils adequate time for their consideration.

2. A referendum is required to approve amendments. During a referendum, each school shall have one vote on a signed ballot. To be valid, this vote shall represent the collective judgment of and include the signatures of the chief school officer, principal, and the director of athletics. An Executive Committee member representing the section shall serve as teller to canvass all ballots to amend the Constitution or amend any other rule or regulation, which was put forth for the referendum.

3. During the referendum, a majority vote of the member schools voting in each section shall be required for the adoption of the amendment in the section. Approval of at least seven sections and approval of two-thirds of the member schools casting valid ballots shall be required for the final adoption of the amendment as a statewide rule or policy or as an amendment to the Constitution, as the case may be.

4. All amendments to this Constitution, which are approved by a referendum vote, shall not become effective until August 1 of the next school year.”

The Conference of the Big 5 currently has voting representation on the New York State School Boards Association as well as the New York State Coalition of School Superintendents.

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts was founded in 1958 as a membership organization representing the school systems of New York State’s five largest cities of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. The Big 5 organization was expanded in 2014 to include Affiliate Members that are other urban school districts with comparable student demographics and local fiscal capacity issues.

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts was founded for the purpose of identifying both the common and unique problems of the city school districts and to advance solutions to such problems. Central to the Big 5’s uniqueness is the diversity among the students they serve, the high concentrations of poverty in which they live, and the fiscal constraints imposed to meet their educational needs.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2024

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts seeks to promote a more equitable and adequate funding system and the delivery of a high quality education to all children.

The Big 5 mission is accomplished by a strong advocacy and public information campaign representing the needs of urban education systems. Advocacy efforts include representation before all appropriate governmental entities as a proactive organization presenting budget initiatives and policy recommendations and reactive in analyzing and responding to various proposals.

In carrying out their mission, the Conference of Big 5 School Districts also acts as a public relations center communicating with State and local media and networking with other advocacy organizations in the promotion of urban school districts. The Big 5 maintains a data information center for collection and dissemination of information for member districts and act as a research center conducting fiscal and programmatic analyses and reporting on urban education issues.

Representatives of the five city school districts of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers and Affiliate Members Albany, Mount Vernon and Utica, work together through the organization of the Conference of Big 5 School Districts to speak with one voice on the needs and strengths of urban education in New York State.

Attachments:

Proposed Constitutional revisions.

DRAFT

Proposed NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address diversity on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as Sport Committees.

ARTICLE III

Central Committee

1. The corporation shall be administered by a board of directors, known as the Central Committee, consisting of representatives from each of the sections **and representatives of the Big Five**, elected from the **NYSPHSAA** member schools in accordance with the following plan:
 - a. The state shall be divided into geographic areas called sections, each of which shall elect four representatives to the Central Committee: one chief school officer, one principal, one male representative of athletics and one female representative of athletics from the member schools of the section.

The Big Five shall also appoint four representatives to the Central Committee: one chief school officer, one principal, one male representative of athletics and one female representative of athletics from the member schools of the section.
 - b. On or before December 15th of each year, each section secretary shall inform the section athletic council as to the branch of service in which a vacancy by expiration of term shall occur, and each section shall elect a replacement by a method of their choice.
 - c. In the event of the positive unwillingness to serve on the part of any duly elected person, election shall go to the nominee having the second highest number of votes.
 - d. Newly elected Central Committee representatives will assume their positions September 1.
 - e. In case of a vacancy in the membership on the Central Committee arising in any section, it shall be the duty of the three remaining members in such section to choose, with the advice and consent of the section athletic council, the fourth representative from a member school in the section and from that position of service in which the vacancy has occurred. Appointments shall be made for the full period of the unexpired term. **The Big Five shall determine their process for filling a vacancy.**
 - f. Persons retiring from active public education employment, currently serving on the NYSPHSAA Central Committee, shall be permitted to continue for the duration of their tenure and also be permitted to serve in that capacity if so elected by the section.
 - g. Should any member of the Central Committee be unable to attend a meeting of the Central Committee, then a section athletic council officer shall be designated to represent that section. **If a Big Five representative is unable to attend a meeting, then the Big Five shall designate a representative.**

ARTICLE V

Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of ~~twenty-two~~ **twenty-four** members, each of eleven sections and **the Big Five** being represented by one member of the Central Committee who shall receive the position in any manner the section **and the Big Five** shall determine, and by the female representative of athletics on the Central Committee. This selection shall be made prior to the annual meeting of the Central Committee. The NYSPHSAA President and Vice Presidents shall not represent their respective sections. Sectional **and Big Five** representatives constitute the voting body of the committee and the president, first vice president, and second vice president shall not be entitled to vote except in the case of a tie with only one of said officers being entitled to vote in the order indicated. Should any member of the Executive Committee be unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, then another member of the Central Committee from the section **or Big Five** not so represented, or a section athletic council officer **or Big Five representative** shall be designated to represent that section.
2. The Executive Committee shall have general management of the affairs of the association in the interval between meetings of the Central Committee and shall have the power to act in all matters not covered by this constitution and bylaws. It shall have jurisdiction in all appeals, protests, and questions of eligibility when the Central Committee is not in session.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times each year. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president or at the request of a majority of the members.
4. Any action which needs the approval of the Executive Committee may be taken without a meeting, if authorized by the president, by conducting mail or electronic vote.
5. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for properly administering meets, tournaments, or games in which individuals or teams, determined as winners of sectional contests from two or more sections, participate. The secretaries of the sections to be represented in regional, intersectional, and state contests shall provide a complete list of sports in which that section intends to compete in the ensuing year to the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director for the approval of the Executive Committee at its spring meeting. Notice of withdrawal from a regional intersectional and state contest must be received at least sixty days prior to the date of the contest. Otherwise the section will be required to pay the proportionate share of the administration and insurance charges involved in the program.

ARTICLE VII

State Sport Committees

1. Each section **and the Big Five** may elect or appoint one representative to each state sports committee. Necessary expenses for each delegate to attend sports committee meetings shall be paid by the section **and the Big Five**.
 - a. Each state sports committee shall hold an annual meeting and shall elect a vice chairman, and a secretary, who will be representatives on that state's sports committee, and who will hold office for the ensuing year. State sports committee meetings must have

the approval of Association staff. Notice of the time and place of state committee meetings shall be given to members at least two months prior to the meeting.

b. Minutes of all meetings shall be provided to committee members, association officers and staff, section presidents and section executive directors/secretaries.

c. The coordinator of the state sports committee shall submit an annual written report to the Central Committee. If requested to attend, the necessary expenses to attend the Central Committee meeting will be paid by the association.

d. There shall be a biennial meeting of all state sports coordinators.

2. Each state sports committee shall encourage participation in that sport, require observation of the rules, regulations, and sports standards, provide measures of safety, answer questions and receive suggestions pertaining to that sport.

a. Each section sports committee representative shall conduct studies when needed, review games rules, conduct interpretation meetings, present demonstrations, secure the cooperation of officials, improve game administration in the section, and act as the liaison between the section and the state sports committee coordinator.

b. Each state sports committee may make investigations and surveys, and conduct other research to ensure that playing rules are adapted to the needs and abilities of the high school student and submit recommendations to the Executive Committee.

c. Each state sports committee shall be responsible for informing the sections of the correct procedure to be followed in making changes in policy, regulations, rules or sports standards in that sport.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

FALL START DATES

☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Debra Ferry, NYSPHSAA 2nd VP, Committee Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval for all Fall sports to start 2 weeks before Labor Day and Football to start on the Monday of Week #7.

Effective Start Date:

2025-2026

Rationale:

Utilizing the National Federation of High School's (NFHS) Standard Calendar of Weeks provides a helpful framework. However, the NYSPHSAA designated fall sport start date has, at times, been either too early or too late to meet the needs of member schools. Allowing the start date to begin two weeks prior to Labor Day ensures consistency for the NYSPHSAA membership.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Start Date Ad Hoc Committee on January 14, 2025

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

It is important to note that a football start date of the Monday of Week #7 will require support from the New York State Education Department (NYSED), as Fall sports are currently limited to a 15-week season. Implementing this start date for football would extend the season to 16 weeks, necessitating a formal exception as was previously granted for the 2024 football season.

Vote Outcome: Motion Passed, 10-1

Vote Breakdown: I – No, 2 – Yes, III – Yes, IV – Yes, V – Yes, VI – Yes, VII – Yes, VIII – Yes, IX – Yes, X – Yes, XI – Yes

Sport Committee Feedback:

- Girls Tennis (10-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys FALL Golf (7-2 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Cheer Game Day (10-0 in favor) – Noted this was their original proposal from a year ago that got defeated.
- Cross Country (22-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.

Date Revised: January 14, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

- Field Hockey (6-3 in favor) – Had concerns about extended contracts, vacations, family, short notice for 2025. Liked proposal due to extra week of conditioning, spread out schedule, more time for team building.
- Boys Soccer (8-0) in favor) – Noted they like the flexibility; possibly concern of summer school/vacations.
- Girls Soccer (6-1 in favor) – Did not get responses from all state committee members.
- Girls Swimming & Diving (in favor) – No objection at their state tourn. meeting but did not formally vote.
- Girls Volleyball (11-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys Volleyball (4-3 in favor) – Only concern was the time off between Sectionals and States but that can be solved with adjustments in schedule if necessary or not starting on the proposed earlier dates.
- Football (11-0 in favor) – Proposing football start date on the Monday of week #7 permanently, regardless of how the calendar falls.

Attachments:

Start Date Document

NYSPHSAA Start Dates

Year	Current Fall			Proposed Football Start	
	Football Request (Wk. #7)	Fall Sports (Wk. #8)	Labor Day	Monday Week #7	2 Wks. Before Labor Day
2025-2026	Aug. 18, 2025 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 25, 2025 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 1, 2025	Aug. 18, 2025 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 18, 2025 (Wk. #7)
2026-2027	Aug. 17, 2026 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 24, 2026 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 7, 2026	Aug. 17, 2026 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 24, 2026 (Wk. #8)
2027-2028	Aug. 16, 2027 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 23, 2027 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 6, 2027	Aug. 16, 2027 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 23, 2027 (Wk. #8)
2028-2029	Aug. 14, 2028 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 21, 2028 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 4, 2028	Aug. 14, 2028 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 21, 2028 (Wk. #8)
2029-2030	Aug. 13, 2029 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 20, 2029 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 3, 2029	Aug. 13, 2029 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 20, 2029 (Wk. #8)
2030-2031	Aug. 19, 2030 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 26, 2030 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 2, 2030	Aug. 19, 2030 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 19, 2030 (Wk. #7)
2031-2032	Aug. 18, 2031 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 25, 2031 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 1, 2031	Aug. 18, 2031 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 18, 2031 (Wk. #7)

Note: No Championship dates will be revised.

NYSPHSAA will need approval from NYSED to start football on Week #7.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

SPRING START DATES

- ☐ Action Item
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Informational Item

Presenter:

Debra Ferry, NYSPHSAA 2nd VP, Committee Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval for all Spring Sports to start on the 2nd Monday of March.

Effective Start Date:

2025-2026

Rationale:

Although the NFHS Standard Calendar of Weeks provides a helpful framework, the NYSPHSAA-designated start date for spring sports has occasionally been misaligned with the needs of member schools. Establishing the start date as the second Monday in March creates a consistent approach that better accommodates the varying needs of Sections and ensures alignment across the NYSPHSAA membership.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Start Date Ad Hoc Committee on January 14, 2025

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

Vote Outcome: Motion Passed, 7-4

Vote Breakdown: I – No, 2 – Yes, III – Yes, IV – No, V – Yes (Wants Executive Committee members to make their actual vote), VI – No, VII – No, VIII – Yes, IX – Yes, X – Yes, XI – Yes.

Sport Committee Feedback:

- Boys Tennis (10-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys SPRING Golf (7-2 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Girls Golf (10-1 **OPPOSED**) – No additional information/comments.
- Outdoor Track (6-4 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys Lacrosse (10-1 in favor) – Starting earlier allows for flexibility of scheduling games. Prefer Week #36.
- Girls Lacrosse (8-1 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Softball (11-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Baseball (11-0 in favor) – Is strongly in favor of Week #36 for all years, for consistency & allowing more time in preseason.
- Flag Football (6-2 in favor) – No additional information/comments.

Attachments:

Start Date Document

Date Revised: January 14, 2025

NYSPPHSAA Start Dates

Year	Current Spring Week #37	Proposed Spring Start 2nd Week of March
2025-2026	Mar. 16, 2026 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 9, 2026 (Wk. #36)
2026-2027	Mar. 15, 2027 (Wk. 37)	Mar. 8, 2027 (Wk. #36)
2027-2028	Mar. 13, 2028 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 13, 2028 (Wk. #37)
2028-2029	Mar. 12, 2029 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 12, 2029 (Wk. #37)
2029-2030	Mar. 11, 2030 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 11, 2030 (Wk. #37)
2030-2031	Mar. 17, 2031 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 10, 2031 (Wk. #36)
2031-2032	Mar. 15, 2032 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 8, 2032 (Wk. #36)

Note: No Championship dates will be revised.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

3-Region Concept

- ☐ Action Item
- ☐ Discussion Item
- ☒ Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Details:

As shared with the Executive Committee in October, the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy Committee voted to support additional exploration and examination of a 3-Region concept to address long standing membership concerns related to regional rotations.

The basis of the 3-Region Concept is for Sections to have consistent geographic opponents, to reduce regional travel, school time missed, and travel expenses associated with regional participation. It is important to note that any regional rotation format will have challenges; no format will be perfect.

The NYSPHSAA staff is currently working to identify issues with the 3 Region Concept and potential solutions.

Attachments:

- [3-Region Concept Process & Sport Rotation Examples \(Link\)](#)

DRAFT

3 Region Rotation Process

Regional Rotation Format for Post-Season Play

The following format establishes regional rotations for sports/ classification with 9 or more teams for post-season play, dividing sections into three regions with specific guidelines:

Region Assignments

Region 1:

- Includes Section 4, Section 5, and Section 6.
- Note: Section 4 will host the at-large team when required to complete the bracket (e.g., Class AAA and AA).

Region 2:

- Includes Section 2, Section 3, Section 7, and Section 10.

Region 3:

- Includes Section 1, Section 8, Section 9, and Section 11.

Key Guidelines

- Sections will maintain consistent geographic opponents to minimize disruptions and ensure fairness.
- The specific post-season format will be declared annually during an Executive/ Central Committee meeting (Fall – May meeting, Winter – July meeting, and Spring – October meeting) prior to its implementation in the following school year.
- Formats will be based on the number of participating sections and may be adjusted annually to reflect changes in participation.
- The 3 Region format will only be used for sports/ classification with 9 or more teams.

DRAFT

Sports and Classification Declarations and Representation Policy

Sections will be required to declare the sports and classifications in which they will have representation. During this meeting, the Regional Rotation format will be determined and approved by the Executive Committee based on these declarations.

Sections must finalize their declarations prior to the meeting listed below for each sports season. After this deadline, Sections will not be permitted to add teams to any sport or classification.

Fall Sports

February - Fall Sports Classification Cut-Off Numbers approved
May - Section Declaration for Fall Sports & Classifications

Winter Sports

May - Winter Sports Classification Cut-Off Numbers approved
July - Section Declaration for Winter Sports & Classifications

Spring Sports

July - Spring Classification Cut-Off Numbers approved
October - Section Declaration for Spring Sports & Classifications

If a Section determines, after the declaration meeting but before the start of the season, that they will no longer have representation in a specific sport or classification, the gap in the format will be filled by an At-Large team. The At-Large team will be selected through the established "At-Large" process, which rotates among Sections with four or more participating teams in the respective sport or classification.

In cases where an At-Large team is already part of the format, travel considerations will be taken into account. To reduce unnecessary travel, the At-Large team will be assigned to the closest Section competing against the At-Large team.

If a Section withdraws representation in a sport or classification after the declaration meeting and after the season has started, the format will accommodate this by introducing a bye.

To ensure Sections can make sport and classification declarations based on the most accurate information, all revisions to classification numbers must be approved at the meeting prior to the declaration meeting (e.g., February Executive Committee meeting for Fall sports).

DRAFT

At-Large Selection

At-large selections will rotate among Sections with four or more teams participating in a specific sport and classification. The NYSPHSAA staff will oversee and maintain this rotation for each sport and classification. Annually, at the declaration meeting, Sections must report the number of teams participating in each sport and classification to determine their eligibility for the rotation.

The rotation will proceed in chronological order (e.g., Sections 1 through 11) and will be updated each year based on the reported data. If a Section qualifies for inclusion, it will receive the At-Large selection when its position in the order is reached.

At-large teams will not host a sub-regional or regional final. The At-Large team will be the Sectional runner-up.

If a Section falls below the required threshold of four participating teams following the declaration meeting, including during Sectional tournament play, the At-Large selection will automatically advance to the next eligible Section in the established rotation. If a Section chooses not to accept the At-Large selection, it will automatically be offered to the next Section in line. This ensures a seamless and equitable reassignment of the At-Large selection.

No changes will be made if a Section increases the number of participating teams to four or more after the declaration meeting. Similarly, if a Section moves a non-public or charter school to a higher classification or approves a merged team for a higher classification after the declaration, the pre-determined at-large rotation will remain unchanged.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

Dr. Robert Zayas
Executive Director

Key Initiatives:

During the Executive Committee meeting, updates will be presented on several key initiatives, including the 3-Region Rotation concept, the location and date of the 8-Man Regional Football Championship, the recommendations of the Start Date Ad Hoc Committee, and an update from the Schools Without Borders Ad Hoc Committee.

NYS Temperature Bill:

In December 2024, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation establishing temperature regulations for New York State public school classrooms, effective September 1, 2025.

Classrooms and support service spaces must not exceed 88 degrees Fahrenheit. If temperatures reach this threshold, schools are required to relocate students and staff to cooler areas, when feasible.

When classroom temperatures reach 82 degrees Fahrenheit, schools must implement strategies to alleviate heat-related discomfort. These measures include turning off overhead lights, lowering shades or blinds, activating fans, opening windows and doors, and providing water breaks.

While the legislation primarily addresses classroom environments, it has implications for high school athletics. Gyms and other indoor sports venues used for physical education and athletic events are subject to the same temperature regulations. Schools must monitor these spaces and may need to adjust practice schedules or relocate activities if temperatures exceed the established limits.

The new law does not directly regulate outdoor temperatures.

Section IX Football Alignments 2025 – 2026

<u>Class AA: (1025 and up)</u>		<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Class A: (651-1024)</u>		<u>Enrollment</u>
<u>Division 1</u>			<u>Division 1</u>		
1. NFA		2819	1. Warwick		999
2. Middletown		2085	2. Washingtonville		917
3. Monroe-Woodbury		1752	3. FDR		855
4. Kingston		1368	4. Minisink		794
5. Pine Bush		1176	<u>Division 2</u>		
6. Valley Central		1050	5. Goshen		756
			6. Cornwall		744
			7. Wallkill		729
			8. Beacon		651
			9. Lourdes		572^^
			* Monticello Independent		689
<u>Class B: (402-650)</u>		<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Class C: (273 – 401)</u>		<u>Enrollment</u>
<u>Division 1</u>					
1. Saugerties		581	1. Highland		387
2. Port Jervis		521	2. Dover		369
3. Liberty		498	3. Spackenkill		368
4. New Paltz		489	4. O'Neill		353
5. Marlboro		456	5. Chester / SS Seward		313
6. Rondout		416	<u>Class D: (up to 272)</u>		<u>Enrollment</u>
7. Red Hook		410	1. Burke		209
<u>Football (5 Classes)</u>		<u>8 Man Football</u>			
		<u>Division 1</u>			
AA	1025 and Up	1. Fallsburg		339 – Class C	
A	651 – 1024	2. Sullivan West		252 – Class D	
B	402 - 650	3. Tri Valley		204 – Class D	
C	273 –401	4. Eldred		123 – Class D	
D	272 and Below	5. Liv. Manor/Roscoe		111 – Class D	
		<u>Division 2</u>			
		6. Ellenville		362 – Class C	
		7. Pine Plains/Rhinebeck		323 – Class C	
		8. Onteora		297 – Class C	
		9. Pawling		260 – Class C	
		10. Millbrook/Webutuck		249 – Class C	



OCIAA Tyler Muise MVP Award Application

Nominee: _____

School District: _____

Sports Program: _____

Years Participated: _____

Athletic Director Signature: _____

The Tyler Muise MVP Award celebrates and acknowledges the unique ways in which students with special needs positively impact an interscholastic athletic program. These students give their time and effort to enhance the experience of all those around them and ask for nothing in return. The OCIAA is proud to honor the recipient of the Tyler Muise MVP Award at the annual OCIAA Senior Scholar Athlete Breakfast.

Requirements:

1. Nominee shall be a current special needs student that works with an interscholastic athletic program.
2. A letter of recommendation for this award shall be sent from both the School District (Athletic Director, Coach, Teacher or Administrator), and a Captain of the team the student participates with.

Full Applicant package should be returned to us by May 2, 2025.

Return Documents to:

Regional Office of Interscholastic Athletics | 4 Harriman Drive | Goshen NY 10924

Fax: 845-291-7306 | email: christopher.mayo@ouboces.org



HEAT INDEX PROCEDURES

Administration of Heat Index Procedures:

- Feels Like Temperature (Heat index) or THI using a Wet Bulb indicator on the field will be checked 1 hour before the contest/practice by a certified athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee when the air temperature is 80 degrees (Fahrenheit) or higher.
- Download WeatherBug app to your phone or log into www.weatherbug.com. Schools may also use a Wet Bulb indicator on the field that will be used.
- Enter zip code or city and state in the location section of the app or on-line or determine the THI by using a Wet Bulb indicator.
- If the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or the Wet Bulb Indicator is 90 degrees or above, the athletic trainer, athletic director, or school designee must re-check the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or Wet Bulb indicator at halftime or midway point of the contest. If the Feels Like temperature (heat index) or Wet Bulb indicator is 96 degrees (Fahrenheit) or more, the contest will be suspended.

Please refer to the following chart to take the appropriate actions:

	Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) or Wet Bulb Indicator under 79 degrees	Full activity. No restrictions
RECOMMENDED	Heat Index Caution: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) or Wet Bulb indicator 80 degrees to 85 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session.
	Heat Index Watch: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) or Wet Bulb indicator 86 degrees to 90 degrees	Provide ample water and multiple water breaks. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (ex. 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time).
	Heat Index Warning: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) or Wet Bulb Indicator 91 degrees to 95 degrees	Provide ample water and water breaks every 15 minutes. Monitor athletes for heat illness. Consider postponing practice to a time when Feels Like temp is much lower. Consider reducing the amount of time for the practice session. 1 hour of recovery time for every hour of practice (ex. 2hr practice = 2hr recovery time). Light weight and loose fitting clothes should be worn. For Practices only Football Helmets should be worn. No other protective equipment should be worn.
REQUIRED	Heat Index Alert: Feels Like Temp (Heat Index) or Wet Bulb indicator 96 degrees or greater	No outside activity, practice or contest, should be held. Inside activity should only be held if air conditioned.

Approved May 1, 2010
Updated July 27, 2016

NYSPPHSAA
THUNDER & LIGHTNING POLICY

(Effective 10/25/04)
(Revised October 20, 2008)

Applies to regular season through NYSPPHSAA Finals:

1) Thunder and lightning necessitates that contests be suspended. The occurrence of thunder and/or lightning is not subject to interpretation or discussion - thunder is thunder, lightning is lightning.

a) With your site administrator, set up a plan for shelter prior to the start of any contest.

2) When thunder is heard and/or when lightning is seen, the following procedures should be adhered to:

a) Suspend play and direct participants to go to shelter, a building normally occupied by the public or if a building is unavailable, participants should go inside a vehicle with a solid metal top (e.g. bus, van, car).

b) Do not permit people to stand under or near a tree; and have all stay away from poles, antennas, towers and underground watering systems.

c) After thunder and/or lightning have left the area, wait 30 minutes after the last boom is heard or strike is seen before resuming play or competition.



Tornado Policy

- Tornado Watch-indicates tornados are possible. Event staff must continue to monitor the situation.
- Tornado Warning-Tornado siren sounds signaling tornado sighted or tornado indicated by radar

GUIDELINES/PROCEDURES

- If a tornado warning is initiated, immediate event delay shall be implemented, and all participants, spectators and athletic staff shall seek shelter immediately. Once inside a secure location, tune to local weather alert radio to be informed of the storm location, path and duration of tornado warning.
- Warning may be extended, or a new warning issued at any time, so continue to monitor.
- Safe shelter from tornado inside lowest building level, away from exterior walls/windows, with windows closed.

All Clear-tornado warning will expire after duration specified by the National Weather Service and the site director will notify all involved that the warning has ended, and the event may resume.

July 2022



New York State Public High School Athletic Association Drone Policy

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association prohibits the use or possession of unmanned aircraft or aerial systems (UAS), also known as drones, for any purpose by any person or entity at all scrimmages, regular season and post season events.

This prohibition applies to the area above and upon all spectator areas, fields of play, courts, arenas, stadiums, mats, gymnasiums, pools, practice facilities, parking areas and or other property being utilized for the purpose of the interscholastic activity.

If there is a report of UAS activity at an athletic event school, Section and/or State Association officials will, in consultation with the sports officials, suspend the play until such time as the UAS is removed from the area as defined above or the school, Section/ State and sports officials determine it is safe to proceed.

For purposes of this policy, a UAS is any unmanned airborne device or aircraft. The NYSPHSAA, Section and/or Member School reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone operating or attempting to operate a UAS or to request the immediate removal of any person using or attempting to use a UAS in violation of this policy.

The NYSPHSAA Executive Director has the authority to grant an exception to this policy to law enforcement, public safety agencies, NYSPHSAA media partners, or other entities or individuals. Any request for an exception to the policy must be submitted to the Executive Director at least a week prior to the event. The exception is limited to the specific event requested and requires the consent of the host venue.

Any use granted under this provision must comply with the applicable FAA regulations as well as any and all requirements set forth by NYSPHSAA. News media must have the necessary FAA authorization. Any individuals granted an exception would be required to sign a document acknowledging and agreeing to the terms of use and agreeing to hold the NYSPHSAA and its member schools harmless from damage to persons or property.

**Approved May 5, 2017 (Executive Committee)*

Unified Flag Football

Submitted by Rich Silverstein, Unified Sports Chair Section 9

{As presented by Todd Nelson NYSPHSAA.}

*Unified Flag Football, Fall sports pilot program in NYSPHSAA in Fall 2025

*Special Olympics currently has rules that NYSPHSAA will adopt for this pilot program

*The season will start in September, after all other Fall sports have started.

2-3 weeks of practices (6 total needed) then the first game in September. 6 game schedule, 2/week. The plan is to have a culminating tournament with a semi final and final/consolation game. End date will be end of October.

*NY Giants, NY Jets and Buffalo Bills are all involved with this launch and supporting financially different sections in New York. Section 9 is *NOT* covered under this initial startup. The pro teams are supporting by providing uniforms and equipment for Sections 1,2,3,5,6,8,11.

We must let NYSPHSAA know if we are interested by school and section by May 1st if we want to be involved with this program.

*Section 9 will be starting Unified Bocce this Fall 2025 with 6 schools participating.

Rich's recommendation:

Fall 2025 we run Unified Bocce only. Fall 2026 we look to add Unified Flag football as a pilot program, and if successful we look to add it as a sport Fall 2027 in addition to Unified Bocce.

SOFTBALL WAIVERS OF NFHS RULES

EFFECTIVE SPRING 2025

1. Adding Player/Sub to Line Up Card

1. **Drop NFHS (3-1-3):** If a player/sub is added to the lineup card after being submitted, the umpire shall issue a team warning to the head coach. Any further changes made to a player/sub name or number result in the head coach being restricted to the dugout/bench area for the remainder of the game.
2. **Keep USA (1 4.1):** No penalty or restriction

2. Extra Player

1. **NFHS: NO such rule**
2. **USA (4.1C.1):** Has the option of using an Extra Player-(EP)-

3. Shorthanded

1. **Drop NFHS (4-3-1f):** Must have nine (9) players to start the game.
2. **USA (4.1D 1-2):** Teams can play shorthanded to start or continue a game. The game can start or finish with one less player than required to start (8)

4. Fitness of the Grounds

1. **Drop NFHS (4-1-1):** The home coach shall decide whether the grounds and other conditions are suitable for starting the game.
2. **USA (5.2):** Fitness of the grounds for a game shall be decided solely by the plate umpire.

5. Tie Games

1. **Drop NFHS:** If a regulation game has a tie score, as in 4-2-2, it is a tie game.
2. **USA (5.3F):** Regulation tie game-games that are regulation tie games shall be resumed at the exact point where they were stopped.

6. Tie-Breaker Procedure

1. **Drop NFHS (4-2-5....4-2-6):** A regulation-called game has a tie score when ended as in 4-2-2 it is tie game unless the State Association has a tie-breaker procedure.
2. **USA (5.11 A/B):** Starts at the top of the 10th (state waiver from the 8th inning). Place the person who is scheduled to bat last in the inning on second base.

7. American Disability Act Rule

1. **NFHS: No Rule**
2. **USA: ADA Rule 4-2**

8. Double First Base

1. **NFHS: By state association adoption, a double first base is permitted.**

USA (2-3 H): The base is required to be 15 x 30.

9. Intentional Walk

- a. **Drop NFHS (2-65-28-1-1c):** If the pitcher, defensive coach or catcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, he/she may do so by notifying the plate umpire who shall award the batter first base.
- b. **Keep USA (6-4):** If the pitcher desires to walk a batter intentionally, all pitches must be legally delivered.

10. Defensive Changes

- a. **Drop NFHS: Defensive changes of pitcher and catcher do not have to be reported**
- b. **Keep USA (8.10 A-G):** Defensive changes involving the pitcher and catcher must be reported to the plate umpire.