

**MID HUDSON ATHLETIC LEAGUE
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 11, 2026 - 9:30AM
Dutchess BOCES**

C.J. TOMASKOVIC "KEVIN LOVE FUND"

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
2. SECTIONAL REPORT - GREG RANSOM AND JIM OSBORNE
3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT- TOM CASSATA
4. REGIONAL OFFICE REPORT- CHRIS MAYO
5. ATHLETIC COORDINATOR'S REPORT - DENNIS BURKETT
1. STANDINGS
2. MEETING 3/9@9AM ZOOM 4/22@8:30AM MARIST
3. BASKETBALL CONFERENCE GAMES AT DIVISION 2 and 4 winners 2/23
4. CHAMPIONSHIPS AT DCCC (BOYS FIRST) AMERICAN CONFERENCE HOME TEAM
5. SCHOLAR ATHLETE BREAKFAST 5/28 WILTWYCK

6. COMBINING OF TEAMS- FRANK ALFONSO
7. MODIFIED REPORT- MATT SALAMONE
8. OLD BUSINESS
9. NEW BUSINESS
10. MOTION TO ADJOURN



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

NYS PHSA

EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Robert Zayas – Executive Director

- NFHS Annual Summer Meeting – 2027
NYS PHSA will host the NFHS Annual Summer Meeting in New York City June 26-29, 2027
- Second update to the Child Abuse Workshop:
NYSED and the Office of Teaching Initiatives have issued a second update to the Child Abuse and Neglect Identification Workshop. This includes Coaches. The deadline for completion is November 17, 2026. If you are seeking certification it is effective immediately.
- NFHS Network:
Membership in the NFHS Network provides high schools with a powerful platform to broadcast their athletic events. Schools interested in receiving information on the NFHS Network, can contact Sarah Atherton at sara.atherton@playonsports.com.
- Official Start Dates:
2025-2026
 - Spring Monday, March 9, 2026 (2nd Monday of March)2026-2027
 - Fall – Monday, August 17, 2026 (Week #7 – Football)
Monday, August 24, 2026 (2 weeks before Labor Day)
 - Winter – Monday, November 16, 2026 (Week #20)
 - Spring – Monday, March 8, 2027 (2nd Monday of March)

Joe Altieri – Assistant Director

- Championship Dates and Sites – updated NYS PHSA copy (included)

Kristin Jadin – Assistant Director

- NYS PHSA Student Leadership Conference:
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at the Hilton in Albany, NY.

Scholar Athlete:

- The Winter Scholar-Athlete submission portal opens Monday, January 26th, with a submission deadline of Monday, March 16, 2026 (Week #37).
- The Spring Scholar-Athlete submission portal opens Monday, April 6th, with a submission deadline of Tuesday, May 26th (Week # 47).

Sportsmanship Program:

- The survey will open in early February. The deadline to submit is Monday, April 6, 2026.
- Mental Health Awareness Week is May 4-8, 2026.



Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

Reports:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Report (included)
- Championship Philosophy Committee Meeting Report (previously distributed)

BACK TO THE SECTION – LEAGUES

- Information – Classification of Nonpublic/Charter Schools 2026
- Membership Dues
- Sectional Concern – Equitable Classification Framework
- Field Hockey- Establish a Pilot Program for Modified and JV Teams
- Competitive Cheerleading – Classification Cut-off numbers
- Softball – Establish Program Timeline and Protocol

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Osborne
Section IX Secretary

NYSPHSAA Championships - 5-YEAR CALENDAR - Fall 2025 thru Spring 2030

FALL		FALL 2025	FALL 2026	FALL 2027	FALL 2028	FALL 2029
Girls Tennis (Individual)	Date	Mon-Wed, October 27-29, 2025	October 26-28, 2026	October 25-28, 2027	October 24-26, 2028	October 22-24, 2029
	Site	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center		
Week #17						
Girls Tennis (Team)	Date	Friday, November 7, 2025	Friday, November 6, 2026	Friday, November 5, 2027	Friday, November 3, 2028	Friday, November 2, 2029
	Site	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center		
Week #18						
Cheer (Game Day)	Date	Sunday, November 9, 2025	Sunday, November 8, 2026	Sunday, November 7, 2027	Sunday, November 5, 2028	Sunday, November 4, 2029
	Site	Hudson Valley CC	Hudson Valley CC	Hudson Valley CC	Hudson Valley CC	Hudson Valley CC
Week #18						
B/G Cross Country	Date	November 15, 2025	November 14, 2026	November 13, 2027	November 11, 2028	Saturday, November 10, 2029
	Site	Queensbury High School	Queensbury High School	Queensbury High School	Queensbury High School	Queensbury High School
Week #19						
Boys Soccer	Date	November 14-16, 2025	November 13-15, 2026	November 12-14, 2027	November 10-12, 2028	November 9-11, 2029
	Site	Middletown High School	Middletown High School	Middletown High School		
Week #19						
Girls Soccer	Date	November 15-16, 2025	November 14-15, 2026	November 13-14, 2027	November 11-12, 2028	November 10-11, 2029
	Site	Cortland	Cortland			
Week #19						
Field Hockey	Date	November 15-16, 2025	November 14-15, 2026	November 13-14, 2027	November 11-12, 2028	November 10-11, 2029
	Site	Arlington High School	Arlington High School	Baldwinsville High School	Baldwinsville High School	Baldwinsville High School
Week #19						
Girls Swimming & Diving	Date	November 21-22, 2025	November 20-21, 2026	November 19-20, 2027	November 17-18, 2028	November 16-17, 2029
	Site	Webster Aquatic Center	Webster Aquatic Center	Webster Aquatic Center		
Week #20						
Boys Volleyball	Date	November 22-23, 2025	November 21-22, 2026	November 20-21, 2027	November 18-19, 2028	November 17-18, 2029
	Site	Roberts Wesleyan/Finger Lakes CC	Roberts Wesleyan/Finger Lakes CC	Roberts Wesleyan/Finger Lakes CC		
Week #20						
Girls Volleyball	Date	November 21-23, 2025	November 20-22, 2026	November 19-21, 2027	November 17-19, 2028	November 16-18, 2029
	Site	Harding Mazzotti Arena, Glens Falls	Harding Mazzotti Arena, Glens Falls	Harding Mazzotti Arena, Glens Falls		
Week #20						
Football EAST	Date	November 28-29, 2025	November 27-28, 2026	November 26-27, 2027	November 24-25, 2028	November 23-24, 2029
	Site	Middletown High School	Middletown High School	Middletown High School	Middletown High School	
Week #21						
Football WEST	Date	November 28-29, 2025	November 27-28, 2026	November 26-27, 2027	November 24-25, 2028	November 23-24, 2029
	Site	Cicero North Syracuse HS	Vestal High School	Cicero North Syracuse HS	Vestal High School	
Week #21						
Football FINALS	Date	December 5-6, 2025	December 4-6, 2026 (tentative)	December 3-5, 2027 (tentative)	December 1-3, 2028 (tentative)	November 30-December 2
	Site	JMA Wireless Dome	JMA Wireless Dome	JMA Wireless Dome	JMA Wireless Dome	
Week #22						
WINTER		WINTER 2026	WINTER 2027	WINTER 2028	WINTER 2029	WINTER 2030
Wrestling Duals	Date	January 31, 2026	January 30, 2027	January 29, 2028	January 27, 2029	Saturday, January 26, 2030
	Site	SRC Arena at Onondaga CC	SRC Arena at Onondaga CC			
Week #30						
Girls Ice Hockey Regional	Date	February 20-21, 2026	February 19-20, 2027	February 18-19, 2028	February 16-17, 2029	
	Site	Nexus Center, Utica	Nexus Center, Utica			
Week #33						
B/G Skiing	Date	February 23-24, 2026	February 22-23, 2027	February 28-29, 2028	February 26-27, 2029	
	Site	Bristol Mountain	Whiteface/Mt. Vanhoeben			
Week #34/35						
Girls Wrestling	Date	Thursday, February 26, 2026	February of 2027	February of 2028	TBD	TBD
	Site	MVP Arena, Albany	MVP Arena, Albany	MVP Arena, Albany		
Week #34						
Boys Wrestling	Date	February 27-28, 2026	February 26-27, 2027	February 25-26, 2028	February 23-24, 2029	
	Site	MVP Arena, Albany	MVP Arena, Albany	MVP Arena, Albany		
Week #34						
Boys Swimming & Diving	Date	March 6-7, 2026	March 5-6, 2027	March 4-5, 2028	March 2, 2029	
	Site	Ithaca College	Ithaca College			
Week #35						
Cheer (Competitive)	Date	March 7, 2026	March 6, 2027	March 4, 2028	March 3, 2029	
	Site	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena		
Week #35						
Girls Gymnastics	Date	February 28, 2026	February 27, 2027	March 4, 2028	March 3, 2029	
	Site	Valley Gymnastics	Cold Spring Harbor High School	Cold Spring Harbor High School	Cold Spring Harbor High School	
Week #34/35						
B/G Indoor Track	Date	March 6-7, 2026 (2 days)	March 5-6, 2027	March 3-4, 2028	March 2-3, 2029	
	Site	Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex	Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex	Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex	Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex	
Week #35						
B/G Bowling	Date	March 13-15, 2026	March 12-14, 2027	March 10-12, 2028	March 9-11, 2029	
	Site	AMF Syracuse Lanes	AMF Syracuse Lanes			
Week #36						
Boys Ice Hockey	Date	March 14-15, 2026	March 13-14, 2027	March 11-12, 2028	March 10-11, 2029	
	Site	LECOM Harborcenter	LECOM Harborcenter			
Week #36						
Girls Basketball	Date	March 19-22, 2026	March 18-21, 2027	March 16-19, 2028	March 15-18, 2029	
	Site	Hudson Valley CC	Hudson Valley CC			
Week #37						
Boys Basketball	Date	March 19-22, 2026	March 18-21, 2027	March 18-21, 2028	March 15-18, 2029	
	Site	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena			
Week #37						
SPRING		SPRING 2026	SPRING 2027	SPRING 2028	SPRING 2029	SPRING 2030
Boys Tennis (Individual)	Date	June 5-7, 2026	June 4-6, 2027	June 2-4, 2028	June 1-3, 2029	
	Site	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center		
Week #48						
Flag Football	Date	June 6-7, 2026	June 5, 2027	June 3, 2028	June 2, 2029	
	Site	Cortland High School	Greece Central Schools	St. John Fisher/Pittsford Suth.	St. John Fisher/Pittsford Suth.	
Week #48						
Boys Golf	Date	June 7-8, 2026	June 6-7, 2027	June 4-5, 2028	June 3-4, 2029	
	Site	Mill Creek Golf Club	Mill Creek Golf Club			
Week #48						
Girls Golf	Date	June 7-8, 2026	June 6-7, 2027	June 4-5, 2028	June 3-4, 2029	
	Site	Wild Wood Country Club	Wild Wood Country Club			
Week #48						
Boys Lacrosse Semis EAST	Date	THURSDAY, June 11, 2026	Wednesday, June 9, 2027	Wednesday, June 7, 2028	Wednesday, June 6, 2029	
	Site	Middletown High School	Middletown High School			
Week #49						
Boys Lacrosse Semis WEST	Date	THURSDAY, June 11, 2026	Wednesday, June 9, 2027	Wednesday, June 7, 2028	Wednesday, June 6, 2029	
	Site	SUNY Cortland	SUNY Cortland			
Week #49						
Boys Lacrosse FINALS	Date	SUNDAY, June 14, 2026	Saturday, June 12, 2027	Saturday, June 11, 2028	Saturday, June 9, 2029	
	Site	Hobart & William Smith College	Hobart & William Smith College			
Week #49						
Boys Tennis (Team)	Date	June 12, 2026	June 11, 2027	June 9, 2028	June 8, 2029	
	Site	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center	USTA National Tennis Center		
Week #49						
Girls Lacrosse	Date	June 12-13, 2026	June 11-12, 2027	June 9-10, 2028	June 8-9, 2029	
	Site	SUNY Cortland	SUNY Cortland			
Week #49						
B/G Outdoor Track	Date	Sat, June 13-Sun, June 14, 2026	June 11-12, 2027	June 9-10, 2028	June 8-9, 2029	
	Site	Webster Schroeder High School	Cicero North Syracuse HS	Icahn Stadium		
Week #49						
Baseball	Date	June 12-13, 2026	June 11-12, 2027	June 9-10, 2028	June 8-9, 2029	
	Site	Binghamton	Binghamton	Binghamton	Binghamton	
Week #49						
Softball	Date	June 12-13, 2026	June 11-12, 2027	June 9-10, 2028	June 8-9	
	Site	Greenlight Networks GS Park	Greenlight Networks GS Park			
Week #49						



2025-26 NYS PHSAA
Championship Dates & Sites



Fall 2025

Oct 27-29 (Mon/Tue/Wed)	Girls Tennis Individual	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing
Nov 7 (Fri)	Girls Tennis Team	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing
Nov 9 (Sun)	Gameday Cheer	Hudson Valley Community College, Troy (2)
Nov 15	B/G Cross Country	Queensbury High School, Queensbury (2)
Nov 14-16	Boys Soccer	Middletown High School, Middletown (IX)
Nov 15-16	Girls Soccer	SUNY Cortland, Homer HS, Tompkins Cortland CC (III)
Nov 15-16	Field Hockey	Arlington High School, Arlington (I)
Nov 21-22	Girls Swimming/Diving	Webster Aquatic Center (V)
Nov 21-23	Girls Volleyball	Harding Mazzotti Arena, Glens Falls (2)
Nov 22-23	Boys Volleyball	Roberts Wesleyan University/Finger Lakes CC
Nov 23	Federation Cross Country	Bowdoin Park, Wappingers Falls (1)
Nov 28	8-Man Football Regional	Cicero North Syracuse HS, Syracuse (III)
Nov 28-29	Football West Semifinals	Cicero North Syracuse HS, Syracuse (III)
Nov 28-29	Football East Semifinals	Middletown High School, Middletown (IX)
Dec 5-6	Football Finals	JMA Wireless Dome, Syracuse (III)

Winter 2026

Jan 31	Wrestling Dual Meet	SRC Arena at Onondaga CC, Syracuse, NY (III)
Feb 20-21	Girls Ice Hockey Regional	Nexus Center, Utica (III)
Feb 23-24	B/G Skiing	Bristol Mountain (V)
Feb 26 (Thu)	Girls Wrestling Individual	MVP Arena, Albany (2)
Feb 27-28	Boys Wrestling Individual	MVP Arena, Albany (2)
Feb 28	Girls Gymnastics	Valley Gymnastics Utica (III)
March 6-7	Boys Swimming/Diving	Ithaca College, Ithaca (IV)
March 6-7	B/G Indoor Track/Field	Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex (NYC)
March 7	Competitive Cheer	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, Binghamton (IV)
March 13-15	B/G Bowling	AMF Syracuse Lanes, Syracuse (III)
March 14-15	Ice Hockey	LECOM Harborcenter, Buffalo (VI)
March 19-22	Girls Basketball	Hudson Valley Community College, Troy (2)
March 19-22	Boys Basketball	Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, Binghamton (IV)

Spring 2026

June 5-7	Boys Tennis Individual	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NYC)
June 6-7	Flag Football	Cortland High School, Homer High School (3)
June 7-8 (Mon/Tue)	Girls Golf	Wild Wood Country Club, Rush (V)
June 7-8 (Mon/Tue)	Boys Golf	Mill Creek Golf Club, Churchville (V)
June 11 (Thu)	Boys Lacrosse East Semis	Middletown High School, Middletown (IX)
June 11 (Thu)	Boys Lacrosse West Semis	SUNY Cortland, Cortland (III)
June 14 (Sun)	Boys Lacrosse Finals	Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva (V)
June 12 (Fri)	Boys Tennis Team	USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, Flushing
June 12-13	Baseball	Mirabito Stadium, Union Endicott HS, Binghamton Univ (IV)
June 12-13	Girls Lacrosse	SUNY Cortland, Cortland (III)
June 12-13	Softball	Greenlight Networks Grand Slam Park, Binghamton (IV)
June 13-14 (Sat/Sun)	B/G Track & Field	Webster Schroeder High School, Webster (V)
June 14	Federation Golf Championships	Bethpage Park, Farmingdale (VIII)



Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Committee Meeting Report

Date: January 12, 2026 @ 1pm

ATTENDEES:

Alton Hicks (III), Samantha Little (IV), Aubrey Lloyd (VI), Kru Patel (VIII), Greg Ransom (IX), Joe Mercado (XI), NYSPHSAA – Dr. Robert Zayas, Kristen Jadin, Adam Stoltman, Renee James, Joe Altieri, Tim Mullins, Russell Bartlett, Todd Nelson, Kylie Tyo (SAAC)

Not present: Kim Saxton (I), Dr. Carlos Cotto (2 & Chair), Camaron Johnson (V), Justin Gardner (VII), Reginald McDonald (X) Jennifer Pyle, Conference of Big 5 School Districts (Consultant)

Status Updates/Items Discussion/ Action Taken:

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks

Meeting called to order by Dr. Robert Zayas. He welcomed the committee and conveyed Dr. Cotto's regrets due to an urgent district matter. He also welcomed Kylie Tyo (Section X, Parishville-Hopkinton).

2. Executive Committee Agenda Review

The February 4, 2026 Executive Committee agenda was reviewed. No DEI-related items were identified.

3. Nonpublic/Charter Schools

Dr. Robert Zayas provided additional context regarding emerging concerns, primarily raised by downstate sections, related to the participation of non-public and charter schools within the NYSPHSAA structure, particularly in postseason tournament play. He explained that the concerns center on issues of competitive equity, noting that non-public and charter schools do not have defined geographic enrollment boundaries in the same way traditional public schools do. As a result, some member schools have expressed concern about competitive balance when these schools participate in the same postseason tournaments. Dr. Zayas emphasized that no formal proposal or recommendation has been submitted by any section at this time, and that Section IX has indicated it is not currently pursuing action. While the issue has not been formally characterized as a DEI matter, he noted that it could fall within the committee's scope from an equity and inclusivity perspective should a formal request be brought forward.

4. Cheerleading – Choreography Out of Season

10. Choreography of a routine is prohibited prior to the official NYSPHSAA Official start for GameDay. (Oct. 2024) Competitive Cheer choreography is permitted during the Fall season, in accordance with the NYSPHSAA Practice Rule #22. (July 2025)

The committee engaged in an extensive discussion regarding the current NYSPHSAA policy restricting competitive cheer choreography to the start of the fall season. Todd Nelson provided background on the rationale for the restriction, explaining that it was implemented to address concerns that some schools were utilizing professional choreographers during the summer, resulting in a competitive advantage at the state level and potential violations of existing NYSPHSAA rules requiring offseason activities to be open and non-mandatory.



Adam Stoltman questioned whether the policy results in cheerleading being treated differently than other sports and noted that enforcement of existing rules should be addressed at the sectional level rather than through additional restrictions. Joe M. echoed this concern, stating that inequities and competitive advantages already exist across many sports during the offseason and questioned whether cheerleading should be uniquely regulated. Aubrey Lloyd shared the perspective of urban school districts, noting that while offseason restrictions may promote equity for schools with limited resources, similar disparities exist in football, basketball, and other sports where offseason development is common and largely unregulated. Kylie Tyo, serving as the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee representative, asked whether similar restrictions exist in sports such as gymnastics, where athletes also perform choreographed routines; Todd Nelson responded that no such restrictions apply to gymnastics, reinforcing that cheerleading is currently the only sport with a choreography-specific limitation. Sam Little raised concerns about fairness and consistency in monitoring and enforcement, noting that cheerleading is being more closely regulated than other sports.

The committee agreed that no action would be taken at this time and that section representatives would bring the issue back to their sections for further discussion and provide feedback at the April meeting.

5. Legislative Update

Dr. Zayas provided a legislative update regarding efforts by the Big Five Conference to pursue state legislation that would provide the Conference with two seats on the Executive Committee and four seats on the Central Committee. He noted that the legislative session has recently begun.

6. DEI Representative on Sport Committees – Dr. Robert Zayas

The committee discussed the potential addition of a DEI representative to NYSPHSAA sport committees as an initial step toward increasing diversity and inclusivity within the Association's governance structure. Dr. Zayas emphasized the importance of being intentional in creating pathways for individuals from underrepresented groups to gain experience through committee service, with the long-term goal of strengthening leadership pipelines within NYSPHSAA. Kristen Jadin raised the question of how diversity would be defined in this context, noting the need for clarity regarding whether representation would be based on race, ethnicity, gender, geography, underserved districts, or other underrepresented groups. Samantha presented concerns regarding terminology and emphasized the importance of using inclusive and respectful language when framing such roles. Adam Stoltman suggested that the committee first examine areas where sport committees may be overrepresented in order to better understand gaps in representation, noting that diversity considerations may vary by sport and region, including rural versus urban perspectives.

The committee agreed that additional discussion and feedback from sections is necessary before advancing the concept and asked section representatives to solicit input and return with recommendations at the April meeting.



7. Google Drive

Kristen Jadin shared that a DEI Committee Google Drive has been created to support communication and the sharing of resources among committee members. Members were encouraged to upload materials and information for future discussion.

8. New Business/Section Concerns

No Sectional Concerns were presented.

NYSPHSAA Officer Vacancy

Dr. Zayas informed the committee that applications are being accepted for the NYSPHSAA Principal Representative Officer position due to the upcoming conclusion of the current representative's term. He noted that eligible candidates must currently be serving on their section's executive committee and encouraged members to identify and recommend qualified individuals to send the application to, particularly from diverse backgrounds. Applications are due by Friday, January 16, 2026.

Future Items/Meeting:

1. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 1pm
2. Tuesday, June 23, 2026 @ 1pm



Championship Philosophy Committee Meeting Report Date: December 10, 2025 @ 1:00pm - ZOOM

Attendees:

Dan Belfi, proxy for Tom Baker (I), Mark Bubniak (2), Scott Sugar (III), Eric Race (IV), Jen Lapinski (V), Mark DiFilippo (VI), Matt Walentuk (VII), Brett Kornblum/Pat Pizzarelli (VIII), Greg Ransom (IX), Mark Wilson (X), Joe Mercado (XI), Tim Lincoln (Team Sports), Dan Doherty (Individual Sports), NYSPHSAA – Dr. Robert Zayas, Tim Mullins, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri, Chris Joyce, Adam Stoltman, Debra Ferry
Not Present:

Status Updates/Items Discussion/ Action Taken:

1. **Welcome:** Dr. Zayas opened the meeting, welcoming members and introducing Eric Race (Section IV) as a new representative. He reiterated that the committee convened due to continuing concerns from multiple sections regarding excessive numbers of athletes qualifying for state championships via at-large standards.

2. **Qualifying Process Proposals**

Section V: Jen L. stated Section V proposes that all qualifiers, team or individual, must qualify at the sectional/state qualifying event. Athletes should not qualify during the regular season by hitting state standards. The rationale is the current system is inconsistent across sports. Jen emphasized the proposal is philosophical, not driven by reducing numbers.

Section VIII: Pat Pizzarelli presented Section VIII's proposal, emphasizing this would allow only two athletes per event, per section should qualify (champion & runner-up). He suggested eliminating all at-large qualifiers. State championships should be elite, not participation driven.

Dan D. raised concerns that weather and facility differences do not impact all athletes equally, noting that qualification systems relying on performance standards can disadvantage sections with less favorable conditions. He highlighted a past example from Section XI, where three athletes had cleared seven feet in the high jump, placing them among the top performers in the state, yet only two were permitted to advance because of sectional limits. Joe M. supported efforts to reduce championship field sizes, he encouraged a more gradual, phased approach to avoid significant disruption. He explained that Section XI has already implemented meaningful changes, including a requirement that athletes who meet a regular-season standard must also finish in the top five at the state qualifier to advance. Based on early projections, this change alone is expected to reduce Section XI's qualifiers by approximately 20–25 athletes. Dan D. added that track and field has already undergone substantial adjustments, such as shifting qualifying standards to three-year post-COVID seed averages, with additional reductions planned for the 2026 season.

NYSPHSAA Staff: Establishing standard qualifying criteria for championships in which athletes qualify by time. Todd N. explained the proposal.

Scott expressed concerns about the complexity of the proposed qualification system, noting his preference for a single standard rather than multiple layers. He also cited an example from swimming in which lane assignments can limit athletes' chances of winning. Todd N. clarified that swimming's preliminary rounds allow all athletes an opportunity to advance to the championship heat, ensuring that anyone can ultimately win the state title. Greg R. added



broader philosophical concerns, emphasizing that under some proposals, an athlete could finish second at the state qualifier yet fail to advance, while another athlete who once ran a faster time earlier in the season could qualify instead. Chris J. said that performance standards are designed to advance the highest-performing athletes overall, not just those who happen to perform best on one particular day.

Jen L. reiterated concerns about inconsistencies across sports, noting that activities such as golf, gymnastics, and bowling do not have mechanisms allowing athletes to qualify through regular-season standards. She emphasized the need for any adopted philosophy to avoid creating sport-specific inequities. Todd N. explained that sport committees would need to develop appropriate standards. Dan B. questioned whether such an approach would be feasible given the significant variability among ski courses.

Joe M. stressed that every individual sport is unique, cautioning against the application of blanket rules that may not fit the realities of each discipline. He also reiterated that track and field has already implemented substantial reforms that should be evaluated before additional changes are considered. Brett K. said that weather should not play a role in determining advancement, noting that no other sport uses weather conditions as a criterion for state qualification. Kristen suggested that the charge of the Championship Philosophy Committee is not to solve issues solely within track and field, but to establish a consistent statewide philosophy that applies to all timed sports.

NYSPHSAA staff will revise the proposal to the following:

Consider approval to create standard criteria for how athletes may qualify for state championships in which athletes qualify by time. The criteria would state:

- A qualifying standard must be set by the committee each year prior to the start of their season, with approval from the Central/Executive Committee.
- Only automated timing results may be used for qualifying standards; no hand timing results may be used.
- Athletes may only qualify for the state championships at a state qualifier meet. The following athletes would qualify in each event:
 - o The first-place finisher
 - o Any place finisher within the top 5 that achieved the qualifying standard at any time during the season
- No exceptions or waivers would be granted for athletes that did not compete in the state qualifier meet.

NYSPHSAA Staff: Amend Championship Philosophy Regarding Percentage of Championship Participation.

The committee discussed the 5–8% participation guideline, with Chris J. providing the NYSPHSAA Staff recommendation of removal of the 5% minimum. In some sports, such as tennis, function well below it and expanding them to meet 5% would unnecessarily inflate their tournaments. He emphasized keeping the 8% cap as a benchmark for event quality, while noting that being under 8% should not automatically justify expansion; logistics, venue capacity, finances, and event quality must also be considered. Chris also pointed out that some sports, like skiing, exceed 20% and will need to review their qualification processes. Mark D. questioned the purpose of having a percentage at all if it is not a primary criterion. Chris clarified that the percentage serves as a guiding tool, especially for individual sports, rather than a strict requirement. Todd N. added that



sports exceeding 8% will be asked to make appropriate reductions. This proposal will also be shared with Sections and committees to consider.

3. **Next Steps:** Sections will review the revised proposal and the percentage proposal. NYSPHSAA staff will share both with sport committees impacted. Tentative timeline of proposal is below.
 - Winter/Spring 2026: Continued discussion across sections and sports.
 - October 2026: Discussion item on Executive Committee Agenda, pending a proposal from Championship Philosophy committee
 - February 2027: Possible Action Item Vote
 - Fall 2027: Targeted implementation

Future Meeting:

1. TBD

Championship Philosophy -
Establish Standard Qualifying Criteria for Championships in Which
Athletes Qualify by Time

- Action Item
 Discussion Item
 Informational Item

Presenter:

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director
Joe Altieri, Assistant Director
Chris Joyce, Director of Foundation & Marketing

Proposal:

Consider approval to create standard criteria for how athletes may qualify for state championships in which athletes qualify by time. The criteria would state:

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- Only automated timing results may be used for qualifying standards; no hand timing results may be used.
- Athletes may only qualify for the state championships at a state qualifier meet. The following athletes would qualify in each event:
 - o The first-place finisher
 - o Any place finisher within the top 5 that achieved the qualifying standard at any time during the season
- No exceptions or waivers would be granted for athletes that did not compete in the state qualifier meet.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2027

Rationale:

The membership has expressed concerns with the number of athletes qualifying in events for individual championships. Each sport has different qualifying standards, and many allow athletes to qualify at any time during the year, which makes it difficult to control the number of qualifying athletes in each event from a particular section. The criteria listed in the proposal would help limit the number of athletes within an event without sacrificing the quality of the meet. A majority of the time a section will send two athletes per event, with allowances for exceptional athletes that may bring the total number of qualifiers up to five.

By requiring athletes to qualify only at the state qualifier meet, it ensures quality competition with a field of athletes that have all earned their right to participate.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



For clarity, an example of who may qualify in a race is provided below:

100M Dash

Athlete 1: 10.69

Athlete 2: 10.81 – qualifying standard during the year

Athlete 3: 10.96

Athlete 4: 11.03 – qualifying standard during the year

Athlete 5: 11.14

Athlete 6: 11.32

Athlete 7: 11.58

Athlete 8: 11.70

A race contains 8 athletes. Athlete 1 qualifies as the winner of the race. Athletes 2 and 4 qualify for hitting the qualifying standard during the year and finishing in the top 5. No other athletes qualify from this race.

Proposal Originated:

NYS PH SAA staff at the request of the Championship Philosophy Committee

Budgetary Impact:

A change in costs to sections will likely occur but will vary by sport and by section.

Notes:

This would currently apply to Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving, Skiing, Indoor Track & Field, and Outdoor Track & Field. Diving and field events would be included because they are events within a championship in which athletes qualify by time.

Current qualification processes are:

Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving:

A qualifying standard is the 5-year average of the 20th place finisher in that event.

Adjustments may be made to keep the total number of participants at or below the 8% threshold.

Skiing:

In each Alpine and Nordic: one school team per section, three individuals per section, and at-large competitors selected based on a formula considering the number of programs in a Section and the winning Section from the previous year's meet.

Indoor Track & Field:

Each section may send the top two competitors per event, plus the third-place finisher if they have met the qualifying standard. The qualifying standard is the 5-year average of the 6th place finisher. Sections are permitted one entry per relay event.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Outdoor Track & Field:

A qualifying standard and super standard must be set by the committee each year prior to the start of their season, with approval from the Central/Executive Committee.

Athletes may only qualify for the state championships at a state qualifier meet. The following athletes would qualify in each event:

- The first place finisher
- The next highest place finisher that achieved the qualifying standard at any time during the season
- Any place finisher within the top 5 that achieved the super qualifying standard at any time during the season
- No exceptions or waivers would be granted for athletes that did not compete in the state qualifier meet.

Attachments:

None

**Championship Philosophy - Amend Championship Philosophy Regarding
Percentage of Championship Participation**

- Action Item
 Discussion Item
 Informational Item

Presenter:

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director
Joe Altieri, Assistant Director
Chris Joyce, Director of Foundation & Marketing

Proposal:

Consider approval to amend the designated participation range in the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy to a recommended maximum of 8% of varsity participation in that sport. Sports could exceed 8% with Central/Executive Committee approval. The 5% floor would be removed. Percentage of participation would be one of several criteria used to determine tournament expansion, along with logistics, scheduling, venue capabilities, financial impact, etc.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2027

Rationale:

The current criteria of 5-8% no longer meets the needs or fits the operations of the association. An upper limit is necessary to ensure high-quality competition, but the lower limit has not been followed nor does it contribute to achieving the goal of a quality championship event. Removing a minimum percentage of participation will also prevent the unnecessary expansion of tournaments in pursuit of reaching the 5% minimum. If a sport felt there was a legitimate reason to exceed the 8% limit, they could provide justification and submit a proposal for review by the Championship Advisory Committee and approval by the Central/Executive Committee. The 8% recommended limit should be one of several factors when considering expanding tournaments, and is not intrinsically a reason to expand. Other factors such as event logistics, scheduling, venue capabilities, financial impact, etc will be considered when evaluating proposals regarding the number of participants in championship tournaments.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA staff at the request of the Championship Philosophy Committee

Budgetary Impact:

Reduction in costs in events where participants may shrink, and increased awareness of financial impact with future participation proposals from sport committees.

Notes:

The following sports are currently over the recommended 8% threshold and would need to revise their criteria or provide justification for approval: skiing, gymnastics, boys swimming & diving, girls wrestling.

Rational Letter:

Dr. Robert Zayas
Executive Director
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
8 Airport Park Boulevard
Latham, NY 12110

Dear Dr. Zayas and Members of the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee,
I am writing regarding the proposal to create standardized criteria for qualifying athletes to state championships in timed events, as revised on December 10, 2025. While I understand the intent to manage championship field sizes effectively, I must formally oppose the current version of this proposal as it applies to Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving. The sport's existing qualification processes have proven effective and equitable, and the Swimming & Diving community is committed to working collaboratively to address any participation concerns.

On a positive note, the Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving Championship Advisory Committees would willingly accept an 8% cap on state meet participants without a minimum bottom to help control overall field size. This adjustment, combined with the committee's ongoing authority to set qualifying standards based on the 5-year average of the 20th-place finisher, would provide a proactive and sport-specific solution that maintains balance without requiring the broader standardized changes proposed.

The current qualification system for Swimming & Diving has successfully operated within established Championship Advisory Committee (CAC) guidelines. Girls Swimming & Diving has consistently remained within participant thresholds, while Boys Swimming & Diving has only occasionally

Scott Warner and Diane-Hicks Hughes Boys and Girls State Coordinators
January 20, 2026
PJR 4:15pm

exceeded them as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown. These facts suggest that the existing mechanisms are sufficient to manage field sizes without necessitating drastic statewide changes.

Furthermore, unlike many other sports, Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving combine the NYSPHSAA state championship and the New York State Federation meet into a single event—which is a significant cost-saving measure by reducing the need for separate venues, staffing, and logistics.

Additionally, the proposal was developed without input from a dedicated Swimming & Diving representative or the sports Championship Advisory Committee. A change of this magnitude, affecting multiple sports with unique characteristics, warrants direct consultation with sport-specific experts to ensure it truly addresses demonstrated needs rather than imposing a uniform standard that may not fit all disciplines equally.

Two specific elements of the proposal raise serious concerns regarding equity and access:

1. Requiring only automated (fully automatic) timing results for qualifying standards would place an undue financial and logistical burden on many member schools. Numerous programs, especially in smaller or resource-limited sections, conduct dual meets and invitationals using verified stopwatch timing (e.g., the average of three watches). Electronic timing systems are costly to acquire, maintain, and operate, and not all facilities have reliable access to them. Excluding hand-timed results would disproportionately penalize athletes from under-resourced programs, reducing opportunities for participation and conflicting with NYSPHSAA's commitment to equitable competition for all student-athletes.

Additionally, this requirement diverges from NFHS guidelines and common practices in high school swimming, where verified hand-held times (such as the average of three watches) are widely accepted for qualification purposes, and fully automatic timing is prioritized primarily

for official meet results or national records rather than excluding other reliable methods.

2. Limiting qualifications primarily to performances at the state qualifier meet (with seasonal standards only counting if achieved there and within the top 5) would diminish incentives for consistent excellence throughout the season and risk excluding deserving athletes who encounter unforeseen challenges at the qualifier.

Under this new proposal, the sectionals would no longer be a true sectional championship, as coaches and athletes would have to choose between maximizing the team's points (by entering athletes in events for scoring) or prioritizing an individual's best chance for advancing to States. The current system, allowing consideration of seasonal times, rewards sustained high performance and provides a safety net for exceptional competitors. Restricting qualifiers in this manner could arbitrarily reduce competitive depth in certain events while failing to enhance overall meet quality.

To address field-size concerns without adopting the proposed restrictive changes, the Swimming & Diving community would also support the following targeted adjustment within the current framework:

- Restrict relay alternates at the State Championship meet to athletes who are already entered and qualified in at least one individual event. This change would eliminate the practice of bringing additional athletes solely as relay alternates, thereby reducing overall participant numbers while maintaining team relay opportunities and rewarding multi-event performers.

These sport-specific measures—an 8% cap without a bottom and the relay-alternate restriction—combined with continued proactive use of the CAC's authority to adjust standards annually, would effectively control total entries while preserving season-long qualification opportunities, acceptance of verified hand times, and broader access for student-athletes.

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I respectfully request that the Executive Committee reject the proposed standardized criteria and instead encourage ongoing collaboration with the Swimming & Diving Championship Advisory Committee to implement the solutions outlined above. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to New York's student-athletes.

Sincerely,

Scott Warner and Diane-Hicks Hughes Boys and Girls State Coordinators
January 20, 2026
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Counter Proposal:

To address field-size concerns without adopting the proposed restrictive changes, the Boys' and Girls' Swimming & Diving committee proposes the following counter proposal:

Counter Proposal: Maintain Current Qualification Processes for Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving with Targeted Adjustments to Control Participant Numbers

Proposal:

Deny approval of the standardized criteria for qualifying athletes to state championships in timed events (as revised December 10, 2025).

Maintain the current sport-specific qualification processes for Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving, with the following voluntary enhancements to address participant number concerns:

- Continue to set annual qualifying standards based on the 5-year average of the 20th-place finisher at the State Championship, with expanded authority for the Swimming & Diving Championship Advisory Committee (CAC) to proactively adjust standards upward (make them faster/more difficult) when necessary to keep total participants at or below the established 8% threshold.
- Restrict relay alternates at the NYSPHSAA State Championship meet to swimmers who are already qualified and entered in at least one individual event. No additional athletes may be brought solely as relay alternates.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2027 (or upon approval)

Rationale:

The enhancements outlined above directly address field-size management while preserving the strengths of the existing process:

- Proactive standard adjustments by the CAC provide a data-driven, flexible tool to control entries without arbitrary caps.
- Limiting relay alternates to athletes already qualified in individual events reduces overall participant numbers without eliminating team relay opportunities or penalizing multi-event swimmers.

These changes maintain equity, encourage season-long performance, accept verified hand times, and ensure high-quality championship fields—all within the proven framework tailored specifically to swimming & diving.

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We share the Championship Philosophy Committee's (CPC) valid concerns regarding participant numbers at the state championship level and are fully willing to continue collaborating with the CPC to refine solutions that effectively manage field size. However, we are deeply concerned that the CPC's proposed standardized criteria would compromise the integrity of sectional championships by introducing restrictive changes that disrupt the sport-specific processes that have successfully served New York student-athletes for years. Additionally, any approach that effectively mandates electronic timing systems would impose significant financial costs on schools and sections, many of which lack the resources to acquire and maintain such equipment without substantial budgetary strain.

Proposal Originated:

Swimming & Diving coordinators, coaches and section representatives in opposition to the NYSPHSAA staff proposal (December 10, 2025)

Budgetary Impact:

Minimal to none. No new equipment mandates; avoids costs associated with forcing schools/sections to acquire electronic timing systems.

I respectfully request that the Executive Committee reject the proposed standardized criteria and instead encourage ongoing collaboration with the Swimming & Diving Championship Advisory Committee—and the CPC—to implement the targeted solutions outlined above. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to New York's student-athletes.

Scott Warner and Diane-Hicks Hughes Boys and Girls State Coordinators
January 20, 2026
PJR 4:15pm

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 4, 2026

Classifications of Nonpublic/Charter Schools **Fall 2026**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Information:

Classifications of nonpublic/charter schools for the Fall 2026 season will be shared on the NYSPHSAA website. Link is below. Please note that Section X does *not* include nonpublic or charter schools.

Fall 2026 – Classifications of Nonpublic/Charter Schools

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2026

Rationale:

This information is provided due to the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approving the use of Oversight Criteria & Framework for Nonpublic/Charter schools.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 4, 2026

Membership Dues

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

Presenter:

Adam Stoltman, NYSPHSAA Vice President

Details:

The base fee of NYSPHSAA membership dues will continue to increase \$50 annually. This began in the 2024-2025 school year. The Executive Committee expressed interest in incorporating structural growth of membership dues within the association's budget structure. Schools can continue to budget a \$50 annual increase. The \$50 annual increase will be included within the NYSPHSAA Budget, which will be voted on at the May Executive Committee meetings. A schedule increase is below. The increase will continue until the Budget/Audit Committee proposes a revision based upon membership feedback and input.

2026-2027

\$1150 + \$1/student over 300

2027-2028

\$1200 + \$1/student over 300

2028-2029

\$1250 + \$1/student over 300

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 4, 2026

SECTIONAL CONCERN

Equitable Classification Framework

Presenter:

Steve Luciana & Susan Reid, Section I Male & Female AD Reps

Sectional Concern:

There are ongoing inequities within the NYSPHSAA regarding the classification of open enrollment schools in championship tournaments. The Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents (LHCOSS) maintains that the solutions proposed to date have not sufficiently addressed these concerns.

Addressing the Sectional Concern:

It is requested that this issue be reexamined through a process that incorporates the collective feedback of School Superintendents throughout New York State. Such a process should emphasize inclusive statewide engagement, with the goal of adopting a uniform proposal capable of achieving broader sectional support and ensuring fair and equitable competition for all student-athletes.

Rationale:

No public high school student in New York State should be placed at a competitive disadvantage solely because they attend their local school district.

Members of the LHCOSS Executive Board have recently engaged in discussions with the New York State Education Department (NYSED), New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCOSS) leadership, and Superintendents across the state. Through these conversations, it has become evident that many Superintendents were unaware of the NYSPHSAA Ad Hoc Committee that previously reviewed potential solutions related to Schools Without Boundaries. The adopted solutions to date have not sufficiently addressed the concern.

Budgetary Impact:

Unknown (dependent upon solution)

Notes: n/a

Attachments:

Memo from Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents

January 13, 2026



Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents

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Executive Coordinator

Aviva Kafka
Phone: (845) 303-4426
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To: Executive Directors of Section One and Section Nine Athletics
From: Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents
RE: Sectional Concern: Equitable Classification Framework Needed
Date: 12/26/2025
CC: NYS Public School Athletic Directors

At the request of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents (LHCOSS), representing 78 public school districts across Sections One and Section Nine Athletics, we believe it is incumbent upon our leadership to address ongoing inequities within the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) related to the classification of open enrollment schools (schools without boundaries) in championship tournaments.

Despite several years of discussion, the proposed solutions to date have not adequately addressed these concerns. We respectfully request that this issue be reexamined through a process that reflects the collective feedback of school superintendents across New York State and results in revised practices that promote fair and equitable opportunities for both open-enrollment schools and public schools with district attendance boundaries.

LHCOSS remains committed to defending public education while seeking a solution that does not diminish opportunities for students enrolled in nonpublic or open-enrollment schools. Our goal is a statewide proposal that can garner broad sectional support and ensure balanced and equitable competition for all student-athletes. Regardless of the percentage of state championships won by open enrollment schools, no public high school student in New York State should be placed at a competitive disadvantage simply by attending their local school district.

Each member of LHCOSS is committed to contributing to a collaborative solution and working with colleagues statewide to ensure that participation in high school athletics remains a positive, fair, and developmentally appropriate experience for all students. We expect NYSPHSAA to formally reexamine this issue and present a proposed plan developed through inclusive, statewide feedback to the membership no later than the Central Committee meeting scheduled for July 28-29, 2026.

Endorsed by the 78 Superintendents of the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents.

Louis N. Wool, President,
Andrew Patrick, Treasurer

Jeremy Luft, President Elect
Caroline Hernandez Pidalá, Secretary

www.lhcss.org

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 4, 2026

FIELD HOCKEY – Establish a Pilot Program for Modified and Junior Varsity Teams

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

Presenter:

Bev Hooper, NYSPHSAA Field Hockey State Coordinator

Proposal:

Consider approval of a two-year pilot program to allow 9 vs 9 players at the JV and/or Modified level using a regulation field with adjusted rules.

Some adjustments would be:

1. Narrowing the width of a regulation field.
2. Play 12-minute quarters instead of 15 minutes with substitution on the fly.
3. Play penalty corners with a full defensive team available.
4. All players at the Modified level are 5 yards away on all free hits.
5. Both teams will play with an equal number of players on the field during games.
6. No overtime with teams with less than 11 v 11 games.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2026

Rationale:

The field hockey state committee has reported the sport is struggling with Modified and JV programs. Modified and JV teams who do not have 11 players on their teams are having their games canceled. A two-year, 9v9 pilot program would help keep programs alive and competing while also reinstating programs that were previously dropped due to low participation. Modified and JV sports focus on player development, and programs should not be eliminated simply because they lack a full roster of 11 players.

According to the NFHS rulebook, **Rule 1-4-1 states that “Each team shall consist of not more than 11 players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A team may compete with a minimum of seven players. When a team plays with fewer than 11 players, a goalkeeper shall be one of the players.”**

Proposal Originated:

Field Hockey Committee - January 9, 2026

Notes:

The Field Hockey Committee voted 9-0 in unanimous support of this proposal.
No budgetary impact.

DATE REVISED: January 16, 2026

To: Section Coordinators

From: Bev Hooper, State Field Hockey Coordinator

Re: Modified/ Junior varsity Field Hockey teams hold an important role in the success of field hockey in NYS

It appears throughout the state, field hockey seems to be struggling with the Modified and JV programs. To help grow the sport, the NYS Field Hockey Committee have discussed several ideas that would give opportunities for student athletes to participate in the sport of field hockey. Ways to help struggling programs and give student athletes the opportunity to play the game.

It was discussed at our last meeting that Modified and JV teams who do not have 11 players on their squads are canceled. This is detrimental to the Varsity program and field hockey in general as it does not feed the Varsity level team with quality players or encourage/increase participation. In addition, it has younger players playing at the higher level just to have a varsity team able to compete for that school.

According to the NFHS rulebook, **Rule 1-4-1 states that "Each team shall consist of not more than 11 players, one of whom is the goalkeeper. A team may compete with a minimum of seven players. When a team plays with fewer than 11 players, a goalkeeper shall be one of the players."**

Based on the NFHS rulebook, teams can play if they have fewer than 11 players. The reason games are not being played at the Modified/ JV level should not be because there are not 11 players on game day. The Field Hockey committee is suggesting to pilot for 2 years a 9 V 9 game at the Modified and JV level using a regulation field with minimum adjustments and adjusted rules for this level game.

Some adjustments would be:

1. Narrowing the width of a regulation field.
2. Play 12-minute quarters instead of 15 minutes with substitution on the fly.
3. Play penalty corners with a full defensive team available.
4. All players at the Modified level are 5 yards away on all free hits.
5. Both teams will play with an equal number of players on the field during games.
6. No overtime with teams with less than 11 v 11 games.

Modified/ JV teams exist to allow young players in a high school program to develop, learn to compete, deal with wins and losses, plus individual successes, and failures. It gives coaching staff a chance to evaluate how their players are progressing. This pilot program may bring Modified and JV programs that have been dropped due to low enrollment back. Modified/ JV sports are about young developing players. Let's not drop a Modified or JV program because they don't have 11 players on their team. Let's allow the smaller schools or programs the opportunity to play.

Let's continue to grow the game of Field Hockey!

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 4, 2026

Competitive Cheerleading: Classification Cut-Off Numbers

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

Presenter:

Jen Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is recommending the following Classification Cut-Off numbers for Competitive Cheerleading. The proposal updates the same philosophy as has been currently used for classifications: top 75, bottom 100 and splitting the rest into two divisions, along with a CO-ED division. Viewing our current numbers, due to changes in enrollment as well as teams participating, the below new numbers are being recommended.

Class A – 973 and up – 75 schools
Class B – 972 to 613 – 110 schools
Class C – 612 to 274 – 110 schools
Class D – 273 and below - 100 schools
Co-Ed – One Class

Effective Start Date:

2026—2027 Winter Competitive Season

Rationale:

The Cheer Committee felt that the numbers needed to be reviewed, as once again the number of teams in one division was much higher than the others and was no longer close to our initial class divisions number of teams. So after the two years at the current numbers, the participating schools BEDS numbers were reviewed. To reinforce our initial philosophy, The Cheer Committee agreed that most of our smaller schools were once again not able to compete and be successful against the larger schools with the current divisional breakdown. The current numbers left: Class A with 68 schools, Class B with 129 schools, Class C with 109 schools and Class D with 89 schools.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee

Budgetary Impact:

None.

Notes:

All Section Cheerleading Representatives, reviewed and approved these new numbers

DATE REVISED: January 12, 2026

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 4, 2026

SOFTBALL– ESTABLISH PREGAME TIMELINE AND PROTOCOL FOR REGULAR SEASON GAMES

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Jim Wright, NYSPHSAA Softball State Coordinator

Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Softball State Committee is requesting approval to adopt a standardized pregame timeline and protocol for all regular season contests to start at the scheduled time for that game.

Effective Start Date:

Spring 2026

Rationale:

Due to concerns from umpires, coaches, and the state committee, it is necessary to set a timeline and rules to ensure warmups and games start on time in addition to sportsmanship being demonstrated.

The committee unanimously recommends implementing a **30-minute pregame clock** for the visiting team beginning upon the visiting team's arrival at the field. This period would allow time for personal preparation and adequate on-field warm-up. In alignment with existing state tournament procedures, the **home team is expected to complete its warm-up activities prior to the visiting team's arrival** to prevent delays and reduce gamesmanship.

Recognizing that some facilities require additional walking time from the parking area to the playing field, reasonable accommodations may be made when those circumstances exist.

The overarching goal of this proposal is to **ensure games begin promptly**, respecting the time commitments of umpires, coaches, student-athletes, and spectators while maintaining fairness and consistency across all programs.

The 30-minute clock will be monitored by game officials.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA Softball Committee on December 3, 2025

Budgetary Impact:

None

Notes:

The NYSPHSAA Softball State Committee voted 11-0 in favor of this proposal at its December 3rd meeting.

DATE REVISED: January 13, 2026