



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

Tuesday, March 16, 2026 - 9:30 AM

MINUTES

All members present except: Mr. Bill Spanjer, Chapel Field
Mr. Jason Semo, Cornwall
Ms. Amanda Zgrodek, Eldred
Mr. Joe DiMattina, Seward
Mr. Christopher Hubert, Rockland
Mr. Kurt Buddenhagen, Sullivan West

Guests Present: Mr. Dennis Burkett, MHAL Coordinator
Mr. Greg Ransom, Section IX Executive Director
Mr. James Osborne, Section IX Secretary
Ms. Linda Trapani, Section IX Treasurer
Mr. Justin Sturge, Assistant Athletic Director, Middletown
Mr. Michael Gillespie, Athletic Director, Greenwood Lake

1. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting (February 10, 2026)

Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Greg Sirico (Warwick), seconded by Ms. Jennifer Evans (Pine Bush). All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Section IX– Mr. Greg Ransom

Mr. Osborne emailed information with regulations for the new Soccer ball for post season, Fall 2026.

3. OCIAA President’s Report – Mr. Mike Bellarosa

- a. Mr. Bellarosa reviewed Executive Committee openings and renewals for next year.
- b. Mr. Bellarosa reviewed voting items in materials
 - A two-year pilot program to allow 9 vs. 9 players at the JV and/or Modified level using regulation filed with adjusted rules
 - Classification Cut-Off numbers for Competitive Cheerleading
 - Softball Warm-up time limitations
 - Championship Philosophy Committee: Creating standard criteria for how athletes may qualify for state championships in which athletes qualify by time.

- Amending the designated participation range in the NYSPHSA Championship Philosophy to a recommended maximum of 8% of varsity participation in that sport.

Motion for consent agenda, minus softball, made by Mr. David Coates (Middletown), seconded by Mr. Tim Bult (Minisink). All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Softball Warm-up time limitations made by Mr. Coates (Middletown), seconded by Mr. Bult (Minisink). Motion defeated.

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

a. 2026-2027 OCIAA Calendar

Motion to approve made by Mr. Tom Zehner (Liberty), seconded by Ms. Evans (Pine Bush). All in favor. Motion carried.

b. Dropped Teams – Spring

Chester – Modified Lacrosse, JV Softball

O'Neill – no JV teams

Middletown – JV Boys and Girls Lacrosse

Tri-Valley – JV Baseball, JV Softball

c. Fall Schedules

Motion to approve made by Mr. Coates (Middletown), seconded by Mr. Zehner (Liberty). All in favor. Motion carried.

d. Football Schedules

Schedules are complete and will be going to Section IX for approval. Officials will be an issue again on Friday night. Dan Morse will send out a survey where schools can choose preferred date for moving games from Friday.

e. Scholar –Athlete Awards – June 4, 2026 @ Otterkill Country Club

- Starts promptly at 9:00am
- The guest speaker will be Mr. Greg Large.
- Singer from Rockland.

f. Tyler Muise Award

Please submit nominees. Tyler Muise will be in attendance once again.

g. Sharon Delmonico Athletic Trainer of the Year Award

You should have received an email from Doug Stahl for nominations. Please let Doug know if you have any questions. If you nominated someone last year, Doug will have the application and you can just send anything you would like to include from the past year.

h. Heat Acclimatization Guidelines and Lightning Policy

Please make sure coaches are aware.

i. Spring/Summer Coaching Courses – FA/CPR & Theory and Techniques

Dates are included in materials. Spring Theory and Techniques starts April 9.

You must register for CPR coachingcourses9@gmail.com at least a week before class.

j. Student Athlete Leadership Summit – Suzanne Lenzian

- A local conference will take place at Mount St. Mary for two students and one chaperone.
- Student Athletic Conference is April 15-16.

- k. Combining of Teams – Mr. Tim Bult
Spreadsheet attached. Thank you for the email votes.
5. Old Business
- Chris Mayo sent out information regarding George Frasier’s “After the Sweat Dries” assembly. Schools can go through BOCES for payment.
 - BOCES has approved Bound as our new program. We will have a three year commitment with an opt out clause. A meeting will be set up for AD’s with Bound.
6. New Business
- A discussion about playing the best 2 out of 3, with the 3rd game as a tiebreaker, in Volleyball ensued. A vote will take place at the April AD meeting.
7. Next Athletic Directors Workshop –
Monday, April 21 2026, at 9:30 am @ Orange-Uster BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C
- Next Section IX Meeting –
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 9:30am via Zoom
Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 9:30 am @ Orange-Uster BOCES Carl Onken Center Room B/C
8. Adjourn
- Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Coates (Middletown), seconded by Mr. Bult (Minisink). All in favor. Motion carried.*