

**MID HUDSON ATHLETIC LEAGUE  
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS WORKSHOP  
MAY 20, 2026 - 9:30AM  
Dutchess BOCES**

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
  
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 PH SAA

## EXECUTIVE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Dr. Robert Zayas – Executive Director

- Joshua Dann, NYSPHSAA Officer, Principal Representative
- Regional Rotation: Section Executive Directors have been provided with a draft of the Regional Rotation. Final Regional Rotations will be established by May 8, 2026, in preparation for the Fall 2026 sports season. As a reminder, the 3-Region Rotation format is utilized for sports with Nine (9) or more participating Sections. The Regional Rotation Committee will reconvene in the fall to evaluate the current 3-Region Rotation format and consider any potential revisions to the process in advance of the Fall 2027 Season
- Fall Athletic Director's Eligibility Workshop Schedule  
Monday, September 14, 2026 – Section IX

### Joe Altieri – Assistant Director

Championship Dates and Sites (attached)

Spring 2026 and 5 year calendar Fall 2025 – Spring 2030

### Kristin Jadin – Assistant Director

- Scholar-Athlete – The Spring submission portal opened on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, with a submission deadline of Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> (week #47)
- School of Excellence and Distinction applications will be released in May with schools submitting their online applications by June 30.
- Participation Survey was released on March 16<sup>th</sup> with a mandatory submission deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>. The completion of the survey is mandatory for all NYSPHSAA member schools.
- Mental Health Awareness Week is May 4-8, 2026
- Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)  
Applications for 2026-2027 are currently available. Section IX is looking for a current sophomore – male. Please contact Suzanne Lenzian for further information.
- Spalding Soccer Ball:  
The TF – 5000 pro will replace the current model as the official NYSPHSAA soccer ball. This ball will be used for sectional, regional and state championship play.

### Chris Joyce – Director of Foundation and Marketing

- NYS Cash Acceptance Law:  
NYSPHSAA Legal counsel interpretation is that ticketing does not fall under this law, and any cash-free ticketing policies are not impacted. NYSPHSAA will be monitoring how the law is enforced and will keep the sections informed if there are any changes or updates.
- Coaches Gate List: Reminder that Coaches attending the Outdoor Track and Field Championships must be registered by their Athletic Director.
- Sportsmanship Committee Report (attached)  
Sportsmanship – Lop sided score guidance

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# Section IX Athletics

Gregory Ransom, Executive Director

- NYSPHSAA Modified Committee  
The Committee proposed to change NYSPHSAA Handbook Language – Modified Wrestling - decrease the wait time between matches from 30 minutes to 20 minutes.
- Transfer Committee Meeting Report (attached)
- Combining of Teams Meeting Report (attached)

## Information Items:

- Girls Swimming and Diving – Qualifying Standards for 2026-2027
- Scholar-Athlete Program  
Should Recognition be expanded to include sub-varsity levels such as junior varsity and modified? Feedback is needed from the Sections and will be discussed by the NYSPHSAA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) on Tuesday, September 28, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Osborne  
Section IX Secretary



2025-26 NYSPHSAA
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)

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

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



## Sportsmanship Committee Report

Date: April 8, 2026 at 1pm

### Attendees:

Anthony Nicodemo (I), Doug Gejay (proxy for Curtis Wilkinson) (2), Chris Doroshenko (III), Hank Neubert (IV), Shawn Strege (V), Jim Graczyk, Doug Ames (VI), Brent Denis (VII), Justin Jonas/Jim Amen (VIII), Erik Whitcombe (X), NYSPHSAA –Kristen Jadin, Rebecca Verspoor (SAAC)  
Not Present –Todd Nelson, Jeremy Thode, Aaron Hasbrouck

### STATUS UPDATES/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Sportsmanship Promotion Banner Survey – Kristen reported that approximately 309 submissions had been received, which is consistent with prior years. Due to spring breaks and scheduling disruptions, Anthony recommended extending the deadline, and the committee agreed to extend it to April 17. Kristen will distribute certificates to participating schools and provide submission data to sections by April 20, with plaque winners to be determined by sections by mid-May.

Further discussion focused on the effectiveness of the sportsmanship survey. Doug A. raised the question of whether participation could be increased, even suggesting the possibility of requiring submissions, while acknowledging enforcement challenges. Chris D. noted that some schools choose not to participate if they have had suspensions. Jim A. stated that the survey feels too generic and does not always reflect real sportsmanship issues. Anthony added that he does not use the survey as an evaluation tool, but rather as a way to highlight and recognize positive behavior within his program. Overall, the committee expressed concern that the survey may be more burdensome than useful in its current form. ***Kristen suggested that sections discuss the purpose of the survey and provide feedback, and indicated that revisions or alternative approaches to recognizing sportsmanship could be developed over the summer.***

The committee also discussed ways to promote sportsmanship beyond the survey. Anthony shared several initiatives from Section I, including seasonal sportsmanship awards for teams, recognition of officials, and a professionally produced public service announcement shown at championship events. He also highlighted student leadership conferences that bring athletes together to discuss sportsmanship. Erik W. suggested creating a way for sections to share ideas. ***Kristen will create a shared document where sections can contribute and review different strategies, with the goal of generating new ideas for future implementation.***

2. Lopsided Score Recommendation - The committee revisited the topic of lopsided scores. ***A motion was made by Anthony and seconded by Jim to include lopsided score guidelines in the NYSPHSAA handbook, under the recommendation section. The motion passed unanimously.*** During discussion, Anthony emphasized that including guidance would provide helpful direction for coaches without imposing mandates. Justin J. shared last meeting and Kristen will share Section VII's sport-specific policies in the meeting report. Jim noted that improving competitive balance through scheduling may be a more effective long-term solution. Examples were shared, including Section I's use of ability-based leagues to create more competitive games, and Section VIII's experience with



power leagues, which has presented both benefits and scheduling challenges. The proposal will move forward to the Executive Committee in May for discussion and possible action in July.

3. NFHS Bench Bad Behavior Resource – Kristen shared the NFHS “Bench Bad Behavior” campaign as a resource that sections may use to support sportsmanship efforts, particularly with parents and spectators. Anthony added that Section I has built upon similar concepts by developing its own PSA campaign, which has been well received and reinforces expectations at events.
4. Section Concerns/New Business - Most sections reported no concerns. Justin reminded the group that sections have the authority to impose stricter penalties than NYSPHSAA minimums, and emphasized the importance of clearly communicating those differences to coaches and officials to avoid confusion when enforcement occurs.

*Kristen confirmed the next steps, including the extended survey deadline of April 17, distribution of results by April 20, and a mid-May target for plaque winner submissions. She will also create a shared document for sections to contribute sportsmanship initiatives and will review the current survey tool over the summer for potential updates. The meeting adjourned with the next committee meeting scheduled for the fall.*

**Future Items/Meeting:**

1. Fall 2026

From Dr. Robert Zayas:

I am writing to bring your attention to the proposed amendments to Sections 135.1 and 135.4 of the Commissioner's Regulations, which relate to the Athletic Placement Process (APP) and the removal of the Tanner Sexual Maturity Scale.

Please take time to review the document in full. I would like to highlight a few key items for your awareness:

- **Elimination of the Tanner Scale**

The proposed amendments remove all references to the Tanner Sexual Maturity Scale from the Commissioner's Regulations, representing a significant shift in how student readiness for interscholastic athletics is evaluated. Previously, the Tanner Scale was used by school physicians as part of the Athletic Placement Process (APP) to assess a student's level of physiological maturity when determining whether a younger student could safely compete at a higher level. Under the proposed changes, this medicalized assessment of maturity is eliminated entirely. In its place, the regulations move away from using biological development as a determining factor and instead emphasize a more holistic, non-invasive evaluation of a student's readiness. This change is intended to modernize the process, address privacy and appropriateness concerns, and align decision-making with observable, education-based criteria rather than physical maturation benchmarks.

- **Revisions to the Athletic Placement Process (APP)**

With the removal of the Tanner Scale, the Athletic Placement Process is revised to focus on a student's demonstrated ability and readiness rather than physiological maturity. The updated APP places greater emphasis on objective and observable criteria, including the student's sport-specific skill level, physical fitness, knowledge of the game, and demonstrated personal and social

responsibility. Additionally, the process requires informed consent from a parent or person in parental relation before a student can be considered for placement at a higher level of competition. The regulations also clarify that seventh and eighth grade students may only try out for high school teams by invitation of the school or district athletic director or physical education director, reinforcing local control and oversight. Importantly, once students are deemed eligible to try out, the selection criteria must be applied consistently to all participants. Overall, these changes are designed to create a more standardized, transparent, and developmentally appropriate pathway for student participation in interscholastic athletics.

- **Mixed Competition Panel Language (Page 23):**

The existing language regarding the required review panel for mixed competition is shown in brackets on page 23, indicating it is proposed for removal; see language below.

Under the proposed changes, it will be up to individual districts to determine whether they wish to utilize a panel. The Department will not be issuing standards or criteria related to such panels.

- *Proposed for removal: [In the sports of baseball, basketball, boxing, field hockey, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, speedball, team handball, power volleyball where the height of the net is set at less than eight feet, and wrestling, the fitness of a given student to participate in mixed competition shall be determined by a review panel consisting of the school physician, a physical education teacher designated by the principal of the school, and if requested by the parents of the pupil, a physician selected by such parents. Such panel shall make its determination by majority vote of the members, and in accordance with standards and criteria issued by the department.]*

These changes are intended to modernize the process, reinforce local control, and create a more transparent and developmentally appropriate pathway for student participation.

# NYSPPHSAA Officials Structure

## NYSPPHSAA/Officials Mission Statement

- Why do we all do what we do? Student Athletes!!!!
  - School Mission Statement
  - Officials Mission Statement

## Rationale for a examining the current NYSPPHSAA Officials Structure:

- Officials are an essential component to Interscholastic Athletics
- The current structure is not consistent across the state, with local chapters having the autonomy to certify officials, train, and govern themselves.
- The current structure has created friction between local chapters and sections/schools.
- Certification of new officials is very cumbersome. Communicating with potential new officials is very layered from the top down approach.
- Contract talks and disputes have become very adversarial. Some local chapters have used withholding of services as a tool to force the issue, even though the NYSPPHSAA Contract has a mechanism to handle grievances and contract impasse. Using a consistent method to address official's payment fees and increase would eliminate many obstacles in the negotiating process.
- We have found that some State Officials organizations do not have the authority to enforce the NYSPPHSAA Contract with their local chapters or find it difficult to discipline the local chapters or their members.
- NYS is the only state association in the country that does not register their officials at the state association level. Using a consistent platform across the state, for registration, assigning and paying officials.
- Behavior of athletes, coaches, and spectators towards officials. Schools not supporting or protecting officials from abuse both verbal and physical.
- Recruitment and Retention of Officials.
- Inconsistent assignor fees.

## OCF

- Purpose, and Focus (insert current mission statement)
- Communication between NYSPPHSAA, Sections, Schools, State Officials Organizations, Local Chapters, and Members
- Possible Expansion of OCF???????

## NYSPPHSAA Officials Contract

- NYSPPHSAA will not renew the Officials Contract at the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ school year.
- NYS Officials Associations and local chapters would become professional organizations.

- Each Sport would have a State Organization with the goal of increasing the importance of professional growth and development. Member Benefits would include:
  - Professional Development
  - Orientation for New Officials
  - Award Programs
  - Legislative Action
  - Newsletter
  - Website
  - Conference – All Sports
- The Structure would be like the current structure with the exception that local chapters could be based on Sections instead of territorial rights.
- Instead of a dues structure there would be a membership fee paid by each member.
- There could also be a national connection to an organization like NASO, IAABO, etc.

### **Registration of Officials**

- All Officials will register to become a certified official through NYSPHSAA using the Arbiter platform. There will be a fee for registration. Registration will include a sport specific rulebook.
- All Officials will sign an agreement with NYSPHSAA, as an independent contractor, to service all NYSPHSAA member schools.
- New Officials will take a digital course (rules – mechanics) approved by NYSPHSAA.
- All Officials will take a sport specific exam (current exam or governing sport exam).
- New Officials will be directed to get fingerprinted. (People's Choice – Arbiter)
- New officials will be eligible to work modified games.

### **Assignments of Officials**

- Sections or their designees will be responsible for assigning officials. Schools would be responsible for paying all assigning fees.
- There will be no territorial rights. Officials can agree to work anywhere in NYS.
- Training of Assignors. Rating system of Officials.

### **Official Mentors/Evaluators**

- Sections will hire experienced officials to mentor/evaluators to work with new officials.
  - Any official with two or less years of experience will be assigned a mentor/evaluator.
  - Any official with 5 or more years of experience in a sport may apply to become a mentor /evaluator.

- The Section office will review applications and select individuals to become mentor/evaluators.
- No individual will have more than 5 new officials per season to work with.
- Schools will pay the mentor/evaluator fee for each game.
  - Each mentor will be paid \$40 for the evaluation only and \$30 on top of their game fee if they work on the game and are evaluated.
- Mentors and evaluators will be required to attend games or work with new officials and send in a report to the Sections.
  - The mentor/evaluator will be required to do the following tasks:
    - Meet with their mentee before the game, at halftime, and after the game.
    - Complete a one-page report/evaluation on what they observed and talked about with their mentee and submit the report to the Section Office.
  - A mentor/evaluator will be assigned a minimum of 3 times during the season and a maximum of 5 times during the season.
  - The mentor/evaluator can receive input from other officials that have worked with their mentee.
  - Possible video use for evaluating mentees.
- Sections and mentors/evaluators will review reports on new officials at the end of the new year and determine the level the individual will work the following season.
  - Mentees will be informed of their status for the next interscholastic season.
  - A final overview of the mentee will be created by the evaluator and sent to the mentee. The final overview will include:
    - Strengths of the official.
    - Areas of improvement needed by the official.
    - Determination of the level of work for the following season.
  - Possible Evaluations of long time officials.

### **Rules Interpretations – Continuing Education**

- NYSPHSAA will hire sport specific rules Interpreters (stipend).
  - Rules Interpreters will work with NYSPHSAA staff and committees on sports specific rules.
  - Rules interpreters will work directly with governing sport governing body and conduct annual rules interpretation webinars for the entire state. All officials will be required to view annual rules interpretation webinars.
  - Rules interpreters will attend NYSPHSAA Championships.
  - Sections may designate local officials as Section rules interpreters.
  - Local Officials will be hired to conduct continuing education classes through BOCES.

- **Official Fees/Mileage**
  - The current fee at the start of this new structure will be used for all officials (mod/JV/Varsity).
  - Each official will get a 1% - 2% raise each year. Economic factor to increase pay.
  - The fee will cover mileage up to 50 round trip miles. Any mile above 50 would be paid using the current IRS mileage rate per mile. The distance would be calculated from the official's home address to the school's address. Concerns: Distance variations, manpower, Possible flat fee by mileage range. Calculations of the mileage.
  
- **NYSPPHSAA and Sectional Tournaments**
  - NYSPPHSAA will use current NYSPPHSAA Fees and Policies for the NYSPPHSAA Championships.
  - Sections will determine the selection and assignments of officials.
  - The current fees at the start of this new structure will be used for the Sectional Tournaments. A 1% - 2% raise will be applied to tournament fees per year.
  
- **Official/Section/School Issues**
  - Each Section will create or continue an Officials Committee made up of officials and school representatives. This committee will address issues from either schools or officials.
  - Any issue that cannot be resolved will be taken to the OCF for a resolution.
  - Any decision made by the OCF could be appealed to the NYSPPHSAA appeals committee.
  
- **Advantages & Challenges**

**Advantages**

  - NYSPPHSAA will maintain a comprehensive and accurate database of all certified sport officials.
  - New officials will be able to initiate their training immediately upon registration.
  - School-based officials will benefit from a more efficient and streamlined onboarding and assignment process.
  - Officials will have the opportunity to expand their geographic areas of assignment, increasing flexibility and coverage.
  - Experienced officials will have opportunities for additional compensation through mentoring and evaluating newly certified officials, while providing increased assignment opportunities for new officials.

- Uniform and consistent rules interpretations will be established and maintained statewide.
- Officials will have opportunities to receive compensation for delivering continuing education and professional development sessions.
- The new structure will reduce contention and disputes between local officials' chapters and Sections, particularly during contract negotiations and related contractual matters.
- A standardized and consistent framework for official pay increases and mileage reimbursements will be established.
- NYSPHSAA will serve as the central point of contact for resolving all issues involving officials and member schools.
- The Officials Coordinating Federation (OCF) will play a larger role in addressing and resolving issues in a consistent manner across the state.
- The appeal process for officials will align with NYSPHSAA's existing appeal structure, promoting consistency and transparency.

### **Challenges**

- State-level officials' organizations and local chapters may transition into professional support organizations, potentially resulting in a loss of authoritative control and formal representation for sport officials.
- Certain sports may require modifications to the standard certification process to accommodate their specific needs.
- The elimination or restructuring of local chapters may negatively affect camaraderie and networking opportunities among officials.
- The status and terms of existing Section-level officials' contracts would need to be reviewed and potentially renegotiated.
- NYSPHSAA would likely need to hire additional staff to manage the expanded responsibilities and administrative workload.
- School budgets for officiating may increase due to higher mileage reimbursements and the introduction of fees for mentoring and evaluating officials.



# Section IX Athletics

**Gregory Ransom, Executive Director**

**TO:** Section IX Executive Committee, Athletic Directors & Chairpersons

**SUBJECT:** Golf Outing after the Section IX Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, June 11, 2026

**Site:** Apple Greens Golf Club

**Time:** Immediately after the Section IX Meeting

**Cost:** \$53.00 per person – 18 holes with cart

\$37.00 per person – 9 holes with cart

Please responds to this email if you are interested in playing as a Single or if you have a foursome. Apple Greens needs to know how many tee-times to reserve.

**Last Day for Sign-Up is Friday, May 29, 2026**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Foursome: I will be playing with that day

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

## **Sportsmanship – Lopsided Score Guidance**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Todd Nelson/Kristen Jadin, NYSPHSAA Assistant Directors

**Proposal:**

Consider approval to add Lopsided Score Guidance to the recommendation section of the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2026

**Rationale:**

The Sportsmanship Committee

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

The Sportsmanship Committee recommends lopsided score guidance to promote respectful competition, provide coaches with clear expectations in managing one-sided contests, and support positive experiences for student-athletes while maintaining the integrity of the game

**Attachments:**

Lopsided Score Guidance



## Lopsided Score Recommendations

### **Purpose**

This recommendation is provided by NYSPHSAA to assist schools in addressing lopsided scores in a manner consistent with the values of education-based athletics. Each school or section may adapt any or all recommendations to meet local needs while ensuring that respect, integrity, safety, and sportsmanship remain the highest priorities.

### **Suggested Best Practices**

- **Coaching Strategies:** Rotate players to provide participation opportunities; emphasize skill development once a game becomes unbalanced; adjust defensive approaches (e.g., discontinue pressing/trapping).
- **Athlete Expectations:** Show respect to opponents at all times; avoid excessive celebrations or conduct that may embarrass others.
- **Game Management:** Communicate expectations clearly with athletes; work with officials to ensure contests remain respectful and safe.

### **Oversight and Accountability**

- **Local Policy:** Each school/section may establish thresholds (e.g., score differentials) to trigger game-management adjustments.  
Example: "At [X]-point differential, teams must [insert local rule]."
- **Reporting Process:** Schools may choose to report contests exceeding the agreed threshold to [insert local coordinator/AD committee].
- **Review:** Reported contests may be reviewed by [insert committee/AD group] to determine if further discussion or action is necessary.

### **Recognition of Sportsmanship**

- Schools/sections are encouraged to recognize teams that consistently demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship. This may include:
  - A sportsmanship rating system completed by officials and coaches after contests.
  - Certificates, banners, or public recognition for teams achieving high sportsmanship scores.
  - Example: "Teams averaging [X%] or above on sportsmanship ratings will receive recognition."

### **Goals**

Lopsided scores are sometimes unavoidable, but the way schools, coaches, athletes, and communities respond defines the true spirit of high school sports. By adopting local policies guided by NYSPHSAA's recommendations, schools can ensure that athletic participation remains a positive, educational, and character-building experience for all.

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## **Modified Committee – Wait time between Modified Wrestling Matches**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Jim Rose, NYSPHSAA Modified Co-Coordinator  
Judy Salerno, NYSPHSAA Modified Co-Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Modified Committee is recommending lowering the NFHS minimum wait time between modified matches from 30 minutes to 20 minutes.

**Effective Start Date:**

2026-2027

**Rationale:**

The current NFHS rule regarding 30-minute wait time is written for the HS matches which consist of 3, 2-minute matches. The NYSPHSAA modified matches are either 3, 1.5-minute periods or 1, 1 minute period and 2, 1.5-minute periods. The HS girls have 2, 3-minute periods and a wait time of 15 minutes between bouts based on the USA Wrestling rules. The Modified Committee believes that a 20-minute rest between bouts is appropriate for this level and would help the pace of the event.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Modified Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Safety Committee only concern was deviating from the NFHS rulebook and any liability NYSPHSAA may have.

**Attachments:**

None

DATE REVISED: April 14, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING – QUALIFYING STANDARDS FOR 2026-2027 SEASON

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Diane Hicks-Hughes, NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming & Diving State Coordinator  
Meg Kaplan, NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming & Diving Assistant State Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Swimming & Diving Committee will continue to use the same State Qualifying Standards for the 2026-27 school year as they did in 2025-26 due to participation staying between 5%-8%, per Championship Philosophy Committee requirements.

EVENT	PROPOSED STANDARD
200 Medley Relay	1:52.35
200 Freestyle	1:57.24
200 Individual Medley	2:12.84
50 Freestyle	24.84
Diving	440.00
100 Butterfly	1:00.02
100 Freestyle	54.36
500 Freestyle	5:14.65
200 Freestyle Relay	1:41.69
100 Backstroke	1:00.42
100 Breaststroke	1:08.60
400 Freestyle Relay	3:42.73

Number of varsity girls participating in Swimming & Diving: 4,677 (2024-25 survey)  
Number of girls participating in NYSPHSAA Championships: 363 (7.8% participation)

**Quality vs. Quantity (page 3 of Championship Philosophy document updated May 2025):**

The percentage of opportunities for athletes to compete in NYSPHSAA Championships should fall within a designated range of 5% to 8% for all sports. Percentages will be calculated using the number of varsity athletes/teams participating in the sport and the number of competitors in the championship event.

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2026

**CAC Feedback:** N/A

DATE REVISED: 4/8/2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

## **Championship Advisory Committee – NYSPHSAA Officials Fees and Policies Document**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Greg Ransom, Championship Advisory Committee Chairperson

**Proposal:**

The Championship Advisory Committee is recommending approving the NYSPHSAA Officials Fees and Policies for 2026 - 2029.

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2026

**Rationale:**

The Championship Advisory Committee is responsible for recommending the NYSPHSAA Officials Fees and Policies for the NYSPHSAA Championships. The Committee reviewed the current fees and examined the average fee for all of the 11 Sections to establish the fees for all NYSPHSAA Championships. The Committee is also recommending a pilot program for Girls and Boys Basketball as it relates to hotel accommodations. The committee is also recommending minor changes to Field Hockey and Girls Basketball.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

Increase to all Official Fees for NYSPHSAA Championships including Regionals

**Notes:**

None

**Attachments:**

Attached Draft NYSPHSAA Fees and Policies Document

DATE REVISED: April 16, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

## **BOYS SOCCER - Adjust Regional Rotation in Class D for 2026 Season**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Matt Allen, NYSPHSAA Boys Soccer State Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The Boys Soccer State Committee is seeking approval to revise the regional rotation for Class D for the 2026 season. See attached proposed rotation.

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2026

**Rationale:**

The proposal is designed to ensure a team cannot reach the Final Four playing just one postseason (Sectional or Regional) game. It shows a more balanced rotation by setting up a schedule where teams must play a similar number of postseason games to advance to the Final Four.

Under the current rotation, Section 9 has just one Class D boys soccer team, while Section 11 has two. As a result, the Section 9 team would advance directly to the Regional Final after the regular season, while the Section 11 teams would need to play only one game to determine who advances to face them. In contrast, teams in other regions may be required to play six or seven games—including sectionals, sub-regionals, and regional finals—before reaching the Final Four.

**Proposal Originated:**

Section 7 Coordinator Rob McAuliffe brought this proposal forward for consideration in November 2025 then again at the state committee zoom call on February 6, 2026. The state committee voted in favor of this proposal (10-1) at the February meeting.

**Budgetary Impact:**

The budgetary impact of this proposal would be minimal. With the same amount of games to be played as the current rotation the cost of officials would remain constant. Travel expenses would vary depending upon the Section participating in the games.

**Notes:**

The state committee voted 10-1 in favor of this proposal.

**Attachments:**

A proposed Regional Rotation is attached.

**CAC Feedback**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, voted 10-0 in favor of recommending this proposal.

DATE REVISED: APRIL 16, 2026

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

**BOYS SOCCER - Adjust Regional Rotation in Class D for 2026 Season**  
**CONTINUED...**

**Current Rotation for Class D Boys Soccer**

**Sub Regionals**

10 vs 3 (31 schools)

7 vs 2 (21 schools)

NA

**Regionals**

10/3 winner vs 7/2 winner (52 schools) (47 % of schools)

9 (1 school) vs 11 (2 schools) (2% of schools)

**Sub Regionals**

NA

NA

**Regionals**

5 vs 6 (21 schools) (18% of schools)

At large (Section 2) vs 4 (36 schools) (33% of schools)

**Proposed Rotation for Class D Boys Soccer for Fall 2026**

**Sub Regionals**

9 vs 11

NA

**Regionals**

9/11 winner vs 2 (17 schools) 15%

7 vs 10 (22 schools) 20%

**Sub Regionals**

6 (2 schools) vs At large

NA

**Regionals**

6/At large winner vs 5 (31 schools) 27%

3 vs 4 (36 schools) 32%

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

## **Football Committee – Classification Cut-Off Numbers**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Gary Vanderzee, NYSPHSAA Football Committee Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Football Committee is recommending the following change in the Classification Cut-Off Numbers.

Class AA	1025 and Up
Class A	662 – 1024
Class B	393 – 661
Class C	273 – 392
Class D	272 - Down

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2027

**Rationale:**

The 2026 season will be the end of the current 2-year cycle for classification cut-off numbers for the sport of Football. After reviewing and discussing the current number of teams in the sport of Football the committee is recommending the top 51 teams in Class AA and the bottom 62 teams in Class D and equally dividing the remaining classes.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Football Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

None

**Attachments:**

None

DATE REVISED: April 17, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## GIRLS VOLLEYBALL – Request for a Waiver on Bench Protocols

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

### **Presenter:**

Peggy Seese, NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Committee is seeking approval for a waiver of the NCAA bench protocols for 2026, if the NCAA adopts this rule in the spring. The new rule states: *“Teams switch benches only after the completion of the second set. After the coin flip in the 5th set, where a team can choose to serve, receive or which side to compete on. The teams will remain on their side of the net for the entire time.”* The intention of the NCAA using this rule is to increase pace of play.

### **Effective Start Date:**

August 2026

### **Rationale:**

Not all high school gyms are created equal regarding court space. If the NCAA adopts this rule, in some gyms this would create an adverse effect on the visiting team due to lack of space. Many gyms have objects like bleachers, batting cages, banners and other objects that are on one side of the court and not the other. This means a team having to play the first two sets on the side with obstacles will be at a disadvantage. High school matches are not televised like NCAA matches so the rationale provided by the NCAA to use this rule does not apply to high school to help increase the pace of play.

### **Proposal Originated:**

At the March 25, 2026 State Committee meeting.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

There is no budgetary impact

### **Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Committee voted to approve this amendment 11-0 on March 25, 2026.

The NCAA ruling only addresses five- set matches. Many sections conduct JV matches as best of three. Adopting this rule would create confusion for the JV level if this went into effect?

### **CAC Feedback:**

NA

DATE REVISED: March 27, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Request for Waiver of Administrative Red Card (uniform)**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Peggy Seese, NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Committee is seeking approval to waive the NCAA penalty, administrative red card, for having a non-compliant uniform. The one-year pilot has expired.

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2026

**Rationale:**

If a team has a non-compliant uniform the NCAA penalty is an administrative red card which means the team starts the match losing one point. There is no further penalty assessed for the team and the match proceeds. NYSPHSAA does provide a waiver to schools that cannot purchase new uniforms to be compliant. If a school has a waiver, then the administrative red card is not issued. NYSPHSAA directs the school that when purchasing new uniforms, they must buy ones that are compliant with the rules.

Many teams believe they have legal uniforms when in fact they don't, therefore do not ask for a waiver, and an official's interpretation determines a uniform to be illegal.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Committee proposed this waiver last year as a 1 year pilot. They would now like to make it permanent.

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Committee voted to approve this amendment 11-0 on March 25, 2026. The rule is 6.5.1 and 6.5.2 referencing rule 7.1.1.1. and 7.1.2 of the NCAA rulebook.

**CAC Feedback:**

NA

DATE REVISED: March 27, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Request to Revise Classification Formula for 2027**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

### **Presenter:**

Peggy Seese, NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball State Coordinator

### **Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Volleyball Committee is seeking approval to revise the classification cut-off formula for Girls Volleyball from the top 60 teams in class AAA and the bottom 80 teams in class D and equally dividing the rest of the classes to the top 70 teams in class AAA and the bottom 90 teams in class D and equally dividing the rest of the classes.

### **Effective Start Date:**

October 2026

### **Rationale:**

This is the first time in many years the committee has addressed the always changing numbers. The committee is trying to stay current with the enrollment numbers. The significant shift in numbers the last couple years is a reason adjustments are necessary at the very top of the classification and the bottom. The 70/90 helps balance the upper and lower levels while still keeping those classes within a competitive range. Large schools will not play much smaller schools. This breakdown mostly increases the number of teams in some sections that were struggling to provide teams.

### **Proposal Originated:**

First discussed November 2025 at the state tournament. The formal proposal was discussed at March 2026 meeting.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

There is no budgetary impact

### **Notes:**

The state committee voted 10-0 in favor of this proposal.

### **Attachments:**

SEE NEXT PAGE

### **CAC Feedback:**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, voted 10-0 in favor of this proposal.

DATE REVISED: April 16, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: Request to Revise Classification Formula for 2027** **CONTINUED...**

The example below was generated by using the current data.

<b>60/80</b>	1124 - UP	722 - 1123	449 - 721	274 - 448	168 - 273	167 - DOWN
<b>70/90</b>	1050-UP	723 - 1049	453-722	280-452	175-279	174-DOWN

Section	AAA	AA	A	B	C	D	
I	13	20	14	16	7	1	71
II	7	8	11	14	21	16	77
III	4	8	4	8	5	4	33
IV	2	4	4	9	16	9	44
V	3	15	13	12	25	30	98
VI	3	10	23	20	20	14	90
VII	0	0	0	5	3	1	9
VIII	15	18	17	7	1	1	59
IX	5	6	9	10	6	4	40
X	0	0	2	4	1	5	12
XI	18	14	12	5	4	4	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>89</b>	
<b>%</b>	<b>11.86</b>	<b>17.46</b>	<b>18.47</b>	<b>18.64</b>	<b>18.47</b>	<b>15.0</b>	

Total Program: 590



# New York State Public High School Athletic Association

*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

## BOYS SWIMMING – REVISE QUALIFYING STANDARDS FOR 2026-2027 SEASON

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Scott Warner, NYSPHSAA Boys Swimming & Diving State Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Boys Swimming & Diving Committee is seeking approval to modify the State Qualifying Standards for the 2026-27 season. This adjustment is necessary because the previous standards did not align with the Championship Philosophy Committee's required participation range of 5%–8%. The state committee utilized a 5-year average of the 20<sup>th</sup> place finisher in the 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle relay, 200 IM and 50 freestyle to determine revisions for the upcoming season, noted below with an **R**. These new standards will eliminate approximately 70-80 athletes from the state meet.

EVENT	PROPOSED STANDARD
200 Medley Relay	1:40.27 R
200 Freestyle	1:47.60
200 Individual Medley	1:59.11 R
50 Freestyle	21.87 R
Diving	450.00
100 Butterfly	53.95
100 Freestyle	48.76
500 Freestyle	4:52.52
200 Freestyle Relay	1:30.07 R
100 Backstroke	54.82
100 Breaststroke	1:01.20
400 Freestyle Relay	3:18.87

Number of varsity boys participating in Swimming & Diving: **4,138 (2024-25 Participation Survey)**  
 Number of boys participating in NYSPHSAA Championships after using a five-year average of the 20<sup>th</sup> place in the 200 Medley Relay, 200 Free Relay, 200 IM, and 50 Free. **313 athletes (7.6% participation)**

**Quality vs. Quantity (page 3 of the Championship Philosophy document updated May 2025):**  
*The percentage of opportunities for athletes to compete in NYSPHSAA Championships should fall within a designated range of 5% to 8% for all sports. Percentages will be calculated using the number of varsity athletes/teams participating in the sport and the number of competitors in the championship event.*

**Effective Start Date:**

Winter 2026-2027

**CAC Feedback:** On April 15, voted 10-0 in favor of recommending this proposal.

DATE REVISED: April 16, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## **GYMNASTICS – Revise Scoring Change in Technical Handbook for 2026-27 Season**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Marbry Gansle, NYSPHSAA Gymnastics Coordinator  
Kim Rhatigan, NYSPHSAA Gymnastics Assistant Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Gymnastics Committee is seeking approval of the following scoring change in its Technical Handbook for the 2026-27 school year (can be found on page 24 for bar and 41 page for beam):

- **No 0.3 deduction off the start value for lack of a dismount**

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2026

**Rationale:**

The proposed change is to be less restrictive on overall individual athlete scoring.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Gymnastics Committee at its March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting then subsequently discussed at its April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA Gymnastics State Committee was unanimously (8-0 vote) in favor of this proposal at its April 10, 2026 zoom meeting. The committee and staff consulted with Maria DeCristoforo, longtime gymnastics rules interpreter and current editor of the Gymnastics Technical Handbook.

**CAC Feedback:**

Not applicable

DATE REVISED: April 13, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING – Increase Daily Game Limitation to Ten (10) Games for Post-Season Events

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

### Presenter:

Mike O'Connell, NYSPHSAA Boys Bowling Coordinator  
Eileen Shultis, NYSPHSAA Girls Bowling Coordinator

### Proposal:

The NYSPHSAA Boys and Girls Bowling State Committee is seeking approval to increase the maximum daily game limitation from six (6) games to ten (10) games for post-season events. Post season championship tie-breaking procedures would remain exempt from this limitation. The current six (6) game limit would remain in effect for all regular season competition.

### Effective Start Date:

Winter 2026-27

### Rationale:

The current six (6) game daily limit was established for regular season competition and does not reflect the demands or design of post-season championship play. The following summarizes the basis for this proposal:

- **The current rule does not distinguish between regular season and post-season play.** The six (6) game limit applies uniformly to both regular season matches and state championship events. Regular season matches are contested in dual or multi-team formats at commercial facilities under time and space constraints. Post-season championships are held at dedicated venues over structured multi-day schedules featuring the most competitive student-athletes in the state. A single standard does not serve both environments equally.
- **USBC rules do not define a limit – USBC tournaments regularly schedule 8–10 games in a single championship day.** NYSPHSAA follows USBC rules for the sport of bowling, and USBC does not define a game limit within their rules. Many of New York's top high school competitors bowl in the U15 and U18 Junior Gold divisions of USBC, which routinely schedules eight (8) to ten (10) games in a single championship day.
- **Comparable state athletic associations do not impose a similar per-day game cap at the championship level.** A review of peer state athletic associations reveals that New York's six (6) game per day limit is among the most restrictive in the country for championship competition. New Jersey (NJSIAA), Pennsylvania (PIAA), Florida (FHSAA), and Nebraska (NSAA) do not impose a comparable per-day game maximum in their bowling championship

DATE REVISED: April 16, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



## *Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

regulations. These states govern post-season participation through similar season or tournament contest limits and daily participation is gated by the tournament format design—not a hard per-day game count.

- **A ten (10) game limit enables competitive bracket formats at the state and sectional level.** The 2026 NYSPHSAA State Bowling Championships introduced a new Individual State Championship format. Increasing the post-season daily game limit would give tournament directors the flexibility to design bracket-style and match play competition formats consistent with national standards. A ten (10) game allowance accommodates a qualifying block plus multiple rounds of bracket play within a single competition day, making the state championship a more meaningful and appropriately structured culminating event.
- **Post-season competitors are physically prepared for an increased game limit.** Student-athletes who qualify for sectional and state competition regularly participate in youth bowling leagues, Junior Gold qualifying events, and travel tournaments where bowling six or more games in a single day is routine. High-level competitors train at volumes well in excess of the current NYSPHSAA limit. A ten (10) game cap applied exclusively to post-season events is a reasonable and appropriate standard for varsity championship-level competition.

### **Proposal Originated:**

Section 3 brought this proposal forward to the committee in March for consideration.

### **Budgetary Impact:**

Since this would apply to the State Tournament, there is minimal additional cost, if any, to NYSPHSAA. Any increase in lineage resulting from additional games bowled at post-season events would be managed within existing host site agreements and entry fee structures.

### **Notes:**

The Boys and Girls Bowling State Committees voted 20-0 (10-0 each committee) in favor of this proposal.

### **Attachments:**

None

### **CAC Feedback:**

On April 15, voted 10-0 in favor of recommending this proposal.

**BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING – Amend Individual State Championship Format to Add Single Elimination Bracket**

- Action Item  
 Discussion Item  
 Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Mike O’Connell, NYSPHSAA Boys Bowling Coordinator  
Eileen Shultis, NYSPHSAA Girls Bowling Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Boys and Girls Bowling State Committee is seeking approval to amend the format of the NYSPHSAA Individual State Bowling Championship from its current six (6) game total-pinfall format to a two-phase competition. The two phases will be:

- \* Qualifying Round (phase #1) a six (6) game qualifying round
- \* Add single elimination finals (phase #2) bracket for the top ten (10) qualifiers. The top two (2) seeds would receive a two-round bye directly into the semi-finals. Athletes who do not qualify for the finals will not receive awards and may return home earlier in the day. The maximum number of games bowled in a single day is ten (10), not including tiebreaking procedures.

**Phase 1 – Qualifying Round (6 Games)**

All individual state qualifiers bowl six (6) games with standard lane rotation. The current break and reassignment of lanes after 3 games would be eliminated. Total pinfall across all six games determines seeding with the top ten (10) bowlers advancing to the Finals Bracket. Ties for the 2nd or 10th position will be broken using a traditional 9th and 10th frame rolloff until the tie is broken. Ties for seeding within places 3-9 would be broken by taking high game scores.

**Phase 2 – Single-Elimination Finals Bracket**

The top 10 qualifiers compete in a single-elimination bracket. Each match is one (1) game; highest score advances. Seeds 1 and 2 receive a two-round bye and advance directly to the Semi-Finals. Seeds 3 through 10 compete in the following bracket progression:

- **Round 1 – First Round (8 bowlers):** Seeds 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 bowl. Matchups: #3 vs. #10 • #4 vs. #9 • #5 vs. #8 • #6 vs. #7. Four (4) winners advance.
- **Round 2 – Quarterfinals (4 bowlers):** The four (4) Round 1 winners bowl. Matchups determined by bracket seeding. Two (2) winners advance to the Semi-Finals.
- **Round 3 – Semi-Finals (4 bowlers):** Seeds #1 and #2 enter the bracket. Four (4) bowlers compete: #1 vs. lowest remaining seed, #2 vs. next lowest remaining seed. Two (2) winners advance to the Championship Final.
- **Round 4 – Championship Final (2 bowlers):** The two (2) semi-final winners bowl one championship game. Highest score is the NYSPHSAA Individual State Champion.

**Effective Start Date:**

Winter 2026-27

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association

*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

## **Rationale:**

The current NYSPHSAA Individual State Bowling Championship is decided solely by total pinfall across six (6) games with no bracket or head-to-head component. The proposed format creates a competitive championship atmosphere while honoring the existing qualifying investment.

**Peer states use qualifying-plus-bracket formats.** A review of comparable state athletic associations shows that many peer states use a bracket or elimination final to crown its individual champion:

- Michigan (MHSAA): 6-game qualifier, top 16 advance, single-elimination match play (2-game sets through QF/SF/Final).
- New Jersey (NJSIAA): 3-game Round 1, top 18 advance; 3-game Round 2, top 5 advance; stepladder final.
- Iowa (IHSAA): 3-game qualifier, top 8 seeded into single-game single-elimination bracket.
- Pennsylvania (PIAA): 6-game qualifier, top 5 stepladder finals, single-game single-elimination. (not a true bracket, but utilizes head-to-head competition)

**The two-round bye for seeds #1 and #2 rewards qualifying performance and incentivizes competitive excellence.**

**Single-elimination bracket competition produces a competitive, championship environment.**

**Head-to-Head Competition creates high leverage situations and excitement.**

**Potential opportunity to live stream final rounds:** the current cumulative pinfall model provides no opportunity to stream the finals. Using head-to-head championship bracket model would provide the possibility of streaming the finals, increasing the sport exposure.

## **Proposal Originated:**

Section 3 in March 2026. The proposal was introduced during a meeting at the state tournament then the committee met formally on April 7, 2026 via Zoom to cast a vote.

## **Budgetary Impact:**

A total of 72 games (boys & girls, both divisions) at \$4.50 per game would be added to the tournament and be an additional \$324 lineage expense for NYSPHSAA. No facility or other costs would be incurred and it would not be necessary to add staffing to the facility or NYSPHSAA operations. No additional cost for sections (travel, etc). NOTE: During the break before seeding of the brackets, sportsmanship awards would be presented so those athletes/sections can get on the road to travel home.

## **Notes:**

This proposal is intended to be considered in conjunction with the companion proposal to increase the NYSPHSAA post-season daily game limit from six (6) to ten (10) games. Adoption of both proposals is recommended, as the revised championship format requires the higher daily game limit to be permissible under NYSPHSAA regulations. (The Boys and Girls Bowling State Committees voted 20-0 in favor of the increase in postseason games proposal on a zoom call on April 7, 2026.) The Boys and Girls Bowling State Committees voted 20-0 in favor of this new bracketed format proposal on a zoom call on April 7, 2026.

## **Attachments:**

None

## **CAC Feedback:**

On April 15, voted 10-0 in favor of recommending this proposal.

DATE REVISED: April 16, 2026

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

## **GIRLS BASKETBALL – Waive NCAA Rule on Minimum Court Dimensions**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Tim Lincoln, NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Committee is seeking approval for a waiver of the NCAA Rule for court dimensions.

**Effective Start Date:**

Fall 2026

**Rationale:**

Due to NCAA rules requiring a minimum of 94' for the length of a basketball court, it is necessary to request a waiver so courts that are 84' (NFHS rule) in length may be used for a girls basketball game in New York State. If courts are less than 84', then a school should apply for a waiver to use a smaller court.

A waiver was never requested for the NCAA court dimensions rule and therefore it was never included in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Office/Coordinator on April 1, 2026

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

The NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 11-0 in favor of this proposal.

**Attachments:**

None

**New York State Public High School Athletic Association**



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

**Girls Basketball Committee – Waive the NCAA uniform rule requirements for all sub-varsity teams**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Tim Lincoln, NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Committee is requesting to waive the NCAA uniform rules for all sub-varsity teams.

**Effective Start Date:**

Winter 2026-2027

**Rationale:**

The Girls Basketball Committee believes the NCAA rules are intended for the Varsity level teams and that many schools have difficulty meeting the uniform rules at the sub-varsity level.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

None

**Attachments:**

None

**New York State Public High School Athletic Association**



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

**Girls Basketball Committee – Changing the length of the Timeout in Overtime from 30 second to a Full Timeout**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Tim Lincoln, NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Committee is requesting to waive the length of the additional timeout in overtime from a 30-second time out to a full timeout.

**Effective Start Date:**

Winter 2026-2027

**Rationale:**

The Girls Basketball Committee believes a full timeout would be more beneficial to the student athletes and teams to have a full timeout.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Girls Basketball Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

None

**Attachments:**

None

**New York State Public High School Athletic Association**



*Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026*

**Girls Wrestling Committee – USA Wrestling Junior Weight Classes**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Ryan Palmer, NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee is recommending following the USA Wrestling Junior weight classes, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 140, 145, 155, 170, 190, and 235.

ADD 135

*15  
weight  
classes*

**Effective Start Date:**

Winter 2026-2027

**Rationale:**

In girls wrestling we are currently following the USA Wrestling Junior rules, and this recommendation would fall in line with the rules governing the sport. As Girls Wrestling has grown, we have seen a growth in the lower weights and this recommendation would add two weight classes to the lower weights which would benefit a large number of wrestlers.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

This would increase the number of participants in both the Sectional tournaments and at the State Championships.

**Notes:**

None

**Attachments:**

None

# New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – May 6, 2026

## **Girls Wrestling Committee – Increasing the Percent of Body Fat to follow NFHS Rule Change**

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

**Presenter:**

Ryan Palmer, NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Coordinator

**Proposal:**

The NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee is recommending increasing the percent of body fat to the level approved by the NFHS from 14% to 19%.

**Effective Start Date:**

Winter 2026-2027

**Rationale:**

The Girls Wrestling Committee reviewed two studies completed by the National Wrestling Coaches Association and the NCAA (see notes). Both studies indicated that the percentage of Body Fat should be increased. The NCAA increased the percentage of body fat to 17% and the NWCA recommended moving it to 19%. The NFHS has increased the percent of body fat in the formula for females from 12% to 19%.

**Proposal Originated:**

NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Committee

**Budgetary Impact:**

None

**Notes:**

NWCA

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k-7PJ8Vw-PajOO4mKOp47yw9H-W1-Sg-/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k-7PJ8Vw-PajOO4mKOp47yw9H-W1-Sg-/view?usp=drive_link)

NCAA

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/OgrcJHsNjpwTlZgXPxfSqOOsdwIxzXwCGG?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

**Attachments:**

None

DATE REVISED: April 16, 2026

## **2-Year Pilot Program – Modified and Junior Varsity Field Hockey Team Size**

- 1. At the Modified and Junior Varsity levels, contests may be conducted using reduced team sizes when necessary to maintain participation opportunities.**
  - 2. The standard reduced format of play shall be 9 vs. 9, including goalkeepers.**
  - 3. By mutual agreement of the participating schools, contests may also be conducted using the following formats: 11 vs. 11, 10 vs. 10, 8 vs. 8, or 7 vs. 7.**
  - 4. As per the rulebook, teams may play with 6 field players and a goalie.**
  - 5. Schools shall not be required to discontinue a Modified or Junior Varsity field hockey team due to having fewer than ten (10) players on the roster.**
  - 6. All contests shall be played using the established quarter format currently in place for field hockey contests.**
  - 7. This provision shall be implemented as a pilot program for TWO years and shall be subject to review by the Section Field Hockey Committee.**
-

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.

**SECTION IX SPORTS  
2026-2027 DUES**

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Girls**

**Boys**

Basketball \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bowling \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheerleading (Competitive) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cheerleading (Game Day) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cross Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Field Hockey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flag Football \_\_\_\_\_  
 Golf \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gymnastics \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lacrosse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skiing, Alpine \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skiing, Nordic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soccer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Softball \_\_\_\_\_  
 Swimming \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tennis \_\_\_\_\_  
 Track, Indoor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Track, Outdoor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volleyball \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wrestling \_\_\_\_\_

Baseball \_\_\_\_\_  
 Basketball \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bowling \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cross Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flag Football \_\_\_\_\_  
 Football \_\_\_\_\_  
 Golf \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ice Hockey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lacrosse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skiing, Alpine \_\_\_\_\_  
 Skiing, Nordic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soccer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Swimming \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tennis \_\_\_\_\_  
 Track, Indoor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Track, Outdoor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Volleyball \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wrestling \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unified Basketball \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unified Bowling \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unified Bocce \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Athletic Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**SHARE: \$280. per varsity sport**

NUMBER OF SPORTS: \_\_\_\_\_

2026-2027 DUES: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2026-2027 NYSAAA DUES: \$ 200.00

2026-2027 INSURANCE: \$ 485.00

2026-2027 SWIM CLOUD \$ 150.00

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return all forms to:  
 Linda Trapani, Section IX Treasurer  
 P.O. Box 656  
 Goshen, New York 10924

- For Schools that have Boys and Girls Swimming

PLEASE KEEP ONE COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS; RETURN ONE COPY BY THE DUE DATE OF FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026. THANK YOU.

**Your School District will be billed.**

Section IX Dues not paid by September 1, 2026, will incur a 10% penalty.

Section IX Dues not paid by October 1, 2026, will result in INELIGIBILITY for Section IX Tournaments of that school district's athletic teams.



### **Summer Coaching Courses 2026**

Interested in completing your coaching certification this summer?  
Our 2025-2026 Coaching Courses will be offered in a **blended learning format**, combining online coursework with an **in-person skills session** (attendance is mandatory for in-person dates).

#### **To Register:**

Email **Amanda Zampini** at [CoachingCourses9@gmail.com](mailto:CoachingCourses9@gmail.com) to receive registration details and access to the online course materials.

#### **In-Person Location:**

Carl Onken Conference Center Room  
**53 Gibson Road, Goshen, NY**

*Located behind the Career and Technical Education building, at the back of the parking lot next to O&M*

#### **In-Person Skills Session Dates:**

July 20, 2026  
July 27, 2026  
July 29, 2026  
August 3, 2026  
August 4, 2026  
August 18, 2026