

SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING
New York State Public High School Athletic Association
December 9, 2021 9:30am Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

1) Call to order and attendance

- a) Officers: B. Norcross, J. Barnhart, J. Dann, C. Mazzella
- b) Staff: M. Walentuk, R. Lozier
- c) MVAC: M. Douglas, M. Mills, D. Snide, A. Gonyo
- d) CVAC: W. Larrow, G. Myers, V. McMillan, J. Manchester
- e) Executive Committee: J. Harrica, M. Lawrence, M. Graney, J. Dann, S. Broadwell
- f) Guests: J. Altieri, R. Zayas – NYSPHSAA,
- g) Absent Excused – K. Lopez

2) Approval of October 7, 2021 Minutes – Harrica, Lawrence

APPROVED

3) Financial Report – Walentuk – Myers, Harrica

APPROVED

a) Review 2020-21 Budget

i) Decent Fall with our Fall Sectional Championships.

- 1. Held 2 Regional football games with decent attendance
- 2. This is without hosting neutral site semifinals in B & C soccer.
- 3. GoFan was fantastic. Checks would come in every Tuesday. No cash was collected at any events. We do get 30% of administration fees for GoFan. With this we should come out ahead of when we used to get the guaranteed annual fee from GoFan.

ii) On the Expense side, we have our typical expenses that come in, chairperson reimbursements, paying officials, and the NYSPHSAA insurance. We will have more expenses when we send out reimbursements from our successful teams that made it to State Championships this Fall.

4) Conference reports/concerns

- a. CVAC – nothing at this time.
- b. MVAC - meeting coming up this Tuesday

5) Executive Director Report – Walentuk

- a. Actions of the Executive Committee
 - Approved Caleb Castine as softball coordinator
 - Approved combing of teams:
 - Boys Ice Hockey: Peru w/ Saranac
 - Girls Ice Hockey: Chazy & NCCS w/ Beekmantown
 - B/G Indoor Track: Chazy w/ Seton Catholic
- b. Winter Sports Update

- Vaccination Requirements
 - i. RIT is requiring everyone to be required to be vaccinated that competes/attends the cheerleading State Championships.
 - ii. Do we not feel that we need to require this at the Section level, but will make sure all teams are aware of the RIT policy for Cheerleading States.
 - Charter buses?
 - i. The Section will continue to not charter any buses for individual championships. It will be up to the schools to transport their student-athletes and coaches to State Championships.
 - Several schools have added an additional Modified A basketball program. Beekmantown added an Air Rifle team and NAC added a bowling team.
 - Sent masking and no food signs to all Section VII schools to display for their indoor events.
- c. NYSDOH/NYSPHSAA Memos
- Facemasks
 - Officials as “Contractors”
- d. Consider approval of Combining of Schools – Graney, Manchester **APPROVED**
- Boys Hockey – Lake Placid & Saranac Lake (SLP)
 - Boys Hockey – AuSable Valley & Seton Catholic w/ Plattsburgh
 - Boys Swimming – Peru, Beekmantown, Adk Christian w/ AuSable Valley
 - B/G Indoor Track – AuSable Valley w/ Peru
 - Girls Hockey – Saranac, Peru, Willsboro w/ PHS
 - Girls Hockey - Lake Placid & Saranac Lake (SLP)
 - Wrestling – Saranac w/ Plattsburgh
- e. Fall Sectionals Update
- Big Thank you to the schools that hosted our championships.
- f. Fall State Championship Observations
- Boys Soccer
 - i. Disappointed in the field conditions down in Middletown. There should be alternative field turf locations as a contingency to a grass field.
 - ii. Chazy and Filmore had to protest their game to move it to a field with turf.
 - iii. Beekmantown played the 2nd game on a grass field and it had 6’ divots on it.
 - Girls Soccer
 - i. There were some issues with hotel availability for parents as it was a Cortaca weekend and there weren’t many available rooms in Cortland.
 - ii. AuSable Valley had an issue

- Football
 - i. The Carrier Dome does a great job hosting football championships.
- Non-Public Schools
 - i. Mt. Academy won Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, and Volleyball State Championships in Class D. They finished 6th in the State in Cross Country at the Class B level. Hopefully they are classified at more appropriate classifications next year.
- g. Baseball Update
 - Lake Placid plans on playing baseball and softball in the MVAC this Spring.
 - The MVAC will continue to discuss this.
- h. Important Dates:
 - December 7th - 9th – Officials Appreciation
 - December 14th – MVAC AD's Meeting
 - December 22nd – CVAC AD's Meeting
 - January 12th – CVAC AD's Meeting
 - January 20th – Athletic Council Meeting
- i. Other
 - TPG – We haven't received any contracts from TPG yet. The thought is that they are focused on the filling NYSPHSAA sponsorships at this point coming back from this past year as they have a guaranteed contract.
 - NFHS Network – Concern over lack of coverage from other Sections. Robert has stated that he is talking with them to have a better model moving forward.
 - Sectionals – with SUNY Plattsburgh out, should we consider hosting at the higher seed through semifinals and then trying to secure venues for our finals.
 - i. Concern over court dimensions.
 - ii. It's an advantage for a team that is used to playing on a small court.
 - iii. The Basketball Committee and league will weigh in on this.
 - iv. Suggestion if we are going to put in court size, it should be a vote and schools should put in their court dimensions.
 - We are having an issue with the games in rschooltoday's activity scheduler not pushing to Refview for Randy to assign. We have let the rschooltoday support aware and they are actively looking for a solution.
 - How are administrators are handling the masking mandates?
 - i. Set the expectation early and stop the game if you need to.
 - ii. AD's can reach out to each other if there are any issues.

6) NYSPHSAA Reports

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report
 - i) RIT has instituted a vaccination requirement for the Cheerleading Championships

1. NYSPHSAA has released their championship protocol this fall and will not move venues due to any restrictions that they impose.
2. Have to honor contracts for the venues.
- ii) Had a test of the championship protocol with a regional football game between Sections 5 and 6.
- iii) Having pre-tournament championship coaches meeting via zoom.
 1. 30-45 minutes, they have been well received.
- iv) Sold out of championship apparel at most Fall Championships
- v) Question from W. Larrow – Can NYSPHSAA keep us constantly updated about any vaccination requirements? This may incentivize student-athletes to get the vaccine.
- vi) Masking – Robert gets multiple questions every single day regarding wearing masks.
 1. Why isn't NYSPHSAA forcing student-athletes to wear masks?
 - (a) The mandate is from the NYSDOH directly to schools. It is up to the schools to abide by that policy.
- b) Executive Committee Report
 - i) Will hit them in our action report.
- c) Committee Reports
 - i) SAAC Report – Douglas
 1. SAAC met at the Carrier Dome. We had our two representatives there and Kristen Jadin did a great job coordinating this.
- d) Unified Report – Sutphen
 - i) YAC Summit will be virtual this year
 - ii) Culminating event vs. tournament. So far we still feel that the culminating event is the best for our Section.
- e) February 2nd Executive Committee Meeting: Embassy Suites, Saratoga Springs
 - i) **Action Items**
 1. (D) Consider approval to amend the Officials fees for Boys Ice Hockey. **We are not in favor of this precedent setting procedure.**
 2. (D) Consider approval to establish a timeline, process, and criteria for the classification cut off numbers for non-variation five, four, and three classification sports and two division sports pending the approval of Championship Philosophy Committee proposal.
 3. Consider approval of establishing criteria for the creation of a sixth classification for sports with 501 or more teams competing in the NYSPHSAA State Championships.
 4. Consider approval of Kurt Ehrensbeck as the Modified Girls Basketball Coordinator.

7) Officials Report

- a) Issue with rschooltoday/refview
- b) Shortage of officials

- i) Now have to be vaccinated or test negative weekly.
- c) Officials are told not to enforce the mask mandate
 - i) This is up to the host site administrator.
- d) Issues with hockey officials and not wanting to follow the mask requirements. We are working through this.

8) Fall Coordinators Reports

- a) Gymnastics – new rulebook coming next year.
- b) Cross Country – used Finish Right timing for the championships and it went very well.
- c) Volleyball – voting on the 5th game going from 25 to 15 points. Trying to remove a waiver of the NCAA rules.
- d) Girls Soccer –
 - i) Saranac Lake has discussed potentially moving from division 1 to division 2. No formal request has been made.
 - ii) Concern over our officials' assignments at the Girls Soccer State tournament.
 - iii) Concern over the shortened season would like to see if longer.
 - iv) Concern over the number of JV Soccer programs in the Section.

9) Winter Coordinators Reports

- a) Indoor Track –
 - i) scheduled to run at Union and Hudson Valley CC for indoor track this season.
 - ii) Kudos to Saranac Lake that will be hosting several throwing events in their gymnasium this season.
 - iii) Schools do have the option to run an indoor track event on an outdoor track (if the weather/conditions are permissible).

10) Other

- A) Congratulations to AuSable Valley Girls Soccer Class C State Champions!

11) Adjournment – Harrica, McMillan

APPROVED

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2022