

SECTIONAL INTERSECTIONAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 14, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS

1.2 Recommendation to discuss the wrestling proposals at the September 20, 2023 athletic council meeting and act on them at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting, but as a two-year pilot for the 24-25 and 25-26 school years.

1.3.1 Recommendation to remove the 2023 softball post season report from approval of the spring 2023 post season reports at the September 20, 2023 athletic council meeting and further discussion at October 12, 2023 S/I meeting.

1.3 Recommendation to approve all spring 2023 post season reports with the exception of the Softball report

1.4 Recommendation to approve all winter 2023-2024 pre-season reports with the exception of the Girls Basketball Proposal to split classifications after the opt-out date

Committee Members: (* indicates present)
*M. DiFilippo, Chairman
*A. Lloyd, Buffalo Representative
*B. Drake, CCAA Representative
*J. Przybysz, ECIC Representative
*B. Halgash, NFL Representative
*J. Reed, NO Representative
M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative
*J. Roth, Male Representative

1.0 **Sports Concerns**:

1.1 2-Year Pilot Boys and Girls Basketball Tiebreaker Proposal (Informational)

- Approved September 2022 Athletic Council meeting
- Enacted for 22-23 and 23-24
- Is based on a win percentage as opposed to fewest losses because there is a discrepancy between the number of games leagues play. Some leagues play 10 games, some play 14 games. The Boys Basketball Committee believes this will make things more equitable.
- Note: pilot deviates from the Section Policy Manual. If Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball want to move forward after 2 years, a proposal would have to be made to change the Policy Manual.
- Data report from Boys Basketball Committee and timeline for review and recommendation for 24-25?

The S/I committee was reminded that this is the second year of the 2-year TiebreakerPpilot in the sports of Boys and Girls Basketball. The respective chairpersons will be asked to attend a future Sectional Intersectional meeting to present the data collected for discussion and recommendation in advance of the 24-25 season. At present, the S/I committee has no concerns.

1.2 Status of Wrestling Proposals, 2024-2025 (Appendix A)

The Wrestling Committee is proposing to move away from class tournaments and institute an open sectional tournament for 2024-2025.

Discussion:

Wrestling, with the current number of tournaments, is annually operating in the negative, with an average yearly loss of $8,000.

Does it fit to recognize class meet champions based on our patch system?

The sentiment regarding the proposals is divided among the wrestling coaches.

The intention of the proposal is for continued opportunities for student-athletes to advance through the open tournament format.

With class meets, in most weight classes, participants are automatically selected/wrestling the same match-ups two weeks in a row. To avoid this situation, the intention of the open tournament is to wrestle off and keep competing in that weight class. The open tournament will also allow wrestlers an extra week of practice time before the state qualifier.

The greatest obstacle is the award format. The biggest difference is at class meet where the top 4 wrestlers are recognized. A student-athlete may be a class champion in a certain weight class, but they may not be the sectional champion at the divisional tournaments.

Recommendation to discuss the wrestling proposals at the September 20, 2023 athletic council meeting and act on them at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting, but as a two-year pilot for the 24-25 and 25-26 school years.
CARRIED
Halgash/Jason

1.3 Spring 2023 Post Season Sports Reports – Recommendation needed for Athletic Council (Appendix B)

1.3.1 Softball

1.3.1a **Proposal - 12 Run Mercy Rule** – this was already approved in Jan 2022 should have been enacted in spring 2023.

1.3.1b **Proposal to Split Classifications after Opt-Out**, - At present, classifications are split at the beginning of the season. Both softball and girls basketball are proposing to split classifications after the opt-out deadline if the class has 18 or more teams. The rationale stems from 10 to 15 teams opting out of sectionals every year in these sports and creating an unbalanced creating unbalanced competition.

Comments from the S/I Committee:

- Recommend moving dates up, allowing coaches the opportunity to scout teams in their class.
- Issues are anticipated if coaches don't know the teams in their class until sectionals
- Concern of eliminating a section champion
- Consensus to be consistent across both genders of the same sport
- This proposal will be tabled for further discussion at the October 12, 2023 S/I meeting
- M. DiFilippo will work with the chairman to package the proposal across baseball and boys basketball as well. M. DiFilippo will invite the baseball, softball, boys basketball, and girls basketball chairpersons to the October 12, 2023 S/I meeting.

The S/I Committee was directed to be prepared to provide the following feedback from their respective leagues at the October 12, 2023 meeting:
1. Should the proposal be consistent cross baseball, softball, girls basketball and boys basketball?
2.. Should the committee propose the opt-out date
Dependent on the outcome of the October 12, 2023 S/I meeting, the proposal will tentatively be a discussion item at the November 15, 2023 athletic council meeting and an action item at the January 17, 2024 athletic council meeting.

1.3.2 The NFL is opposed to the softball seeding meeting being scheduled on a Tuesday, avoiding the holiday weekend. Baseball conducts their seeding meeting during the holiday weekend.
The rationale is to not accommodate 6 member schools for a travel tournament, which jambs up the league schedule. Additionally, this issue presents concern for creating and shorter season for softball compared to baseball.

Recommendation to remove the 2023 softball post season report from approval of the spring 2023 post season reports at the September 20, 2023 athletic council meeting and further discussion at October 12, 2023 S/I meeting.

1.3.2 Baseball - *No concerns*

1.3.3 Boys Golf - No concerns with the post season report. C. Shields has stepped down from the Boys Golf Chairperson position. This vacancy will be announced at the September 20, 2023 athletic council meeting with the posting published on the online "Bulletin Board" thereafter.

1.3.4 Girls Golf – M. DiFilippo to discuss the request for two (2) Section 6 gate workers directly with the chairperson.

1.3.5 Flag Football - No concerns. Much of this report is uncertain until NYSPHSAA determines the number of classes.

1.3.6 Girls Lacrosse

- The conference alignment was updated and finalized after this report was submitted. R. Schmitt will be asked to supply the updated alignment to revise this report in advance of distribution to the athletic council. M. DiFilippo asked the committee to make sure they share these conference alignments with their respective leagues in advance of the start of the spring season.
- Schools that are bumping girls lacrosse games for boys lacrosse games is a school issue, not a Section issue
- Due to transportation issues, the chairman inquired about a standard 5pm start time.

1.3.7 Boys Lacrosse - Comments highlighted within this report included fan conduct and sportsmanship issues, as well as the lack of sports officials. M. DiFilippo noted that Boys Lacrosse and Boys Ice Hockey are the two sources of the majority of the disqualifications issued in Section VI.

1.3.8 Unified Basketball

- M. DiFilippo to ask the chair for clarification regarding the proposed All Star Event
- A larger venue than Lancaster is requested to host the end of season culminating event. It is uncertain if there is another high school with 4 courts and available to host
- The NFL is interested in scheduling independently. BPS anticipates 5 teams for spring 2024 and, due to transportation issues, is inclined to schedule independently. B. Drake does not foresee independent scheduling an issue for the CCAA. The NO is in discussion to schedule with the NFL.

1.3.9 Boys Tennis – 22-23 was the first year the UTR was mandatory across the Section. An issue with statistics being mixed up between the leagues was reported and a resolution is being worked on.

1.3.10 Track & Field - No concerns with the report, but concerns with coaches not following procedures and protocols were discussed. M. DiFilippo plans to speak at league meetings, detailing the large undertaking the chairs take on in managing the post season (coordination of the sectional qualifier, compiling the entries for the state meet, arranging the bussing and meals for the state meet) and therefore the importance of track coaches adhering to the established deadlines and timeframes.

Recommendation to approve all spring 2023 post season reports with the exception of the Softball report
CARRIED
Roth/Halgash

1.4 Winter 23-24 Pre-Season Reports – Recommendation needed for Athletic Council (Appendix C)

1.4.1 Girls Basketball – See item 1.3.1b. The proposal to split classifications after opt-out will be excluded from approval of this report at the September 20, 2023 athletic council meeting.

1.4.2 Boys Basketball – The opinions within this report will be removed prior to being submitted to the athletic council for approval. Also, the foul rule change should be thoroughly discussed at coaches meetings.

1.4.3 Boys Swimming – No concerns

1.4.3 Wrestling – Prior year affects current year. There is concern about 23-24 seeding resulting from Starpoint having no points from 22-23.

1.4.4 Girls Wrestling – M. DiFilippo sent an email about the importance of the using the appropriate singlet for girls.

1.4.6 Unified Bowling – No concerns

1.4.7 Bowling – No concerns

1.4.8 Alpine Skiing – no concerns, but it was noted that there will be a request at the NYSPSHAA October 2023 meeting to move from 6 contests to 3.

1.4.9 Cheerleading – There is continuous concerns about cheer coaches across the state practicing outside of the season. Unfortunately, the Section has no authority over this issue.

1.4.10 Boys Ice Hockey – concern about the possibility of Sweet Home not having a team for the 23-24 season as it would significantly affect the schedule, which is also heavily reliant on-site rentals. M. DiFilippo was asked to reach out to Sweet Home, giving them a hard date to make a decision.

1.4.11 Girls Ice Hockey – No concerns with the report. It was mentioned that Webster (Section V) may be joining non-league competition

1.4.12 Indoor Track – No concerns

1.4.13 Rifle – No concerns

Recommendation to approve all winter 2023-2024 pre-season reports with the exception of the Girls Basketball Proposal to split classifications after the opt-out date
CARRIED
Halgash/Roth

2.0 **Section Concerns**:

2.1 Awards Policy – The S/I Committee was asked to review the Policy Manual and bring forth recommendations at the October 12, 2023 meeting. Those recommendations may then be pushed to the Section VI Constitution/ByLaws/Policy Manual (CBP) Ad Hoc Committee for review. It is anticipated that the CBP Ad Hoc Committee will have a first draft of the revised Policy Manual at the January 2024 or March 2024 athletic council meeting.

2.2 Boys Golf Chairperson Vacancy – See item 1.3.3

3.0 **NYSPHSAA Concerns** (J. Roth/M. Fallacaro-Dougherty):

The S/I committee was asked if the male/female action items were distributed and discussed at their respective league meetings and if there were any questions. It was noted that an additional action item regarding rescinding the pound allowance for dual meet championship in the sport of wrestling, was added to the September 20, 2023 athletic council agenda.

At present, there are no concerns.

The following are action items to provide direction for M. Fallacaro-Dougherty (Female Representative) and J. Roth (Male Representative to vote at the October 2023 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting (Appendix): (Appendix D)

3.1 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Combining of Teams, Increase in percentages

3.2 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support criteria for adding a 3rd division (Philosophy Committee)

3.3 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support criteria for adding a 5th class (Philosophy Committee)

3.4 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support changes to scoring/deduction sheets (Competitive & Game Day Cheering)

3.5 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Freestyle Wrestling in the sport of Girls Wrestling

3.6 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support rule change to transition to Freestyle in the sport of Girls Wrestling

3.7 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support revised qualifying standards in the sport of Indoor Track

3.8 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support new regional rotations with six (6) classes for 2024-2028 in the sport of Girls Basketball

3.9 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support new regional rotations with six (6) classes for 2024-2028 in the sport of Boys Basketball

3.10 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support new regional rotations with six (6) classes for 2024-2025 in the sport of Softball

3.11 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support moving to 3 singles, 4 doubles (3-4 format) in Division I Team Championships in the sport of Boys Tennis

3.12 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support moving to 2 singles, 3 doubles (2-3 format) in Division II Team Championships in the sport of Boys Tennis

3.13 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support adopting seeding of team state tournament final four in the sports of Boys & Girls Tennis

3.14 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support 2 timeouts per half in the sport of Girls Flag Football

3.15 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support stopping clock during running time in the sport of Girls Flag Football

3.16 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support live punts in the sport of Girls Flag Football

3.17 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support implementing battery week (pitchers/catchers) in the sport of baseball starting in 2024

The following are discussion items at the October 2023 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting (Appendix E):

3.18 Girls Wrestling – NYSPHSAA State Championship – T. Nelson and R. Zayas are scheduled to propose approval of week 34 at next week's NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee meeting. If opposed, week 33 will be requested for approval.

3.19 Handbook Committee – League Tournaments

S/I Committee members are to inquire if leagues are in favor of league tournaments, thus an opportunity to schedule an additional 2 games.

4.0 **Next Athletic Council Actions Items:** (informational only)

4.1 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Approval of West Valley/Franklinville to compete independently in the sport of Girls Volleyball (Fall 2023)

4.2 *Pending Recommendation from the Charter Schools Classification Committee regarding the Boys Basketball Committee recommendation to place Health Sciences from Class B to Class AA.

4.2 *AC ACTION ITEM:* Approval of Williamsville North and Clarence to play in Division 1 Boys Ice Hockey for the 23-24 season off of the September 20, 2023 AC agenda.

5.0 Old Business

Nothing to report

6.0 Good of the Order:

6.1 April 4th meeting date – spring break
Committee members were asked to review their calendars. If necessary, a reschedule date for the April 4th, 2024 meeting will be decided at the October 12, 2023 meeting.

6.2 Next meeting date – October 12, 2023 @ Erie 1 BOCES

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Fadeley

Beth Fadeley
Recording Secretary