

ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES

March 24, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 **CARRIED:** January 15, 2025 Section VI Athletic Council meeting minutes

5.2 **CARRIED:** Combining of Schools Applications

5.3 **CARRIED:** Senior All Star Applications

6.3.1 **CARRIED:** Treasurer's Report

6.7c1 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty and J. Roth to not support the 3 region concept as proposed in draft form if required to provide direction at the state May 2025 meeting

6.7c2 **OPPOSED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Championship Advisory Committee – Establish 3 nights rest rule for regional competition

6.7c3 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Definitions

6.7c4 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Pathways to Promote Diversity on Committees

6.7c5 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Championship Philosophy: Regional Plaques

6.7c6 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Fall Start Dates

6.7c7 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Spring Start Dates

6.7c8 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support establishing 8-man Football Regional Championship on Week #21

6.7c9 **CARRIED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Cheerleading – Game Day Scoring Adjustment

6.7c10 **OPPOSED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Cheerleading – Standard Practice for Fall and Winter Cheer

6.7c11 **OPPOSED:** Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Baseball – Allow Scrimmage after 6th Practice Day

10.1 **CARRIED:** 2024 Girls Soccer post season report

ATHLETIC COUNCIL
MINUTES

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER** (B. Banker)

11:31 am

2.0 **INTRODUCTIONS & AWARD PRESENTATIONS** (M. DiFilippo)

2.1 D&G Wellness (D. Vallas)

2.2 Mental Health Week – Section VI SAAC Athlete Representatives

2.3 Winter 24-25 State Champions

a) Boys Swim
- Frewsburg 200 Medley Relay team
- Frewsburg 200 Freestyle Relay team
- Frewsburg 400 Freestyle Relay team
- Connor Dean, Frewsburg, 200 IM
- Carter Kobielski, Williamsville South, 100 Freestyle

b) Girls Wrestling
- Michaela Thomas Iroquois 165lbs

c) Boys Wrestling
- Hamza Merrick, Wilson 285lbs

d) Indoor Track
- Depew Girls 4x200 Relay State Champions

3.0 **MINUTES** (B. Banker)

3.1 ***Motion to approve the January 15, 2025 Section VI Athletic Council meeting minutes***
CARRIED
Fallacaro-Dougherty/Zirkle

4.0 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** (M. DiFilippo)

4.1 Change Chemical Awareness Committee to Student Leadership Committee
Several years ago, NYSPHSAA formally changed the naming of its *Chemical Awareness Committee* to *Student Leadership Committee*. Section VI did not follow suit at the time as it is still listed as Chemical Awareness in the ByLaws. The Executive Committee agreed Section VI should remain consistent with the state and update the naming. The Section VI Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Athletic Council members voting. This item will be on the May 14, 2025 agenda.

4.2 Appeal Upheld – Falconer/Maple Grove Cassadaga Valley Girls Soccer
At the January 15, 2025 athletic council meeting, Falconer/Cassadaga/Maple Grove Girls Soccer was approved to be placed in Class A for the 2025 fall season. Falconer appealed the decision, which the Section VI Appeals Committee upheld. Therefore, Falconer/Maple Grove/Cassadaga Valley Girls Soccer will play in Class B for the fall 2025 season.

Informational Dates, agenda items 4.3 through 4.5:
4.3 Fall Start Date - August 18, 2025
4.4 Fall Mandatory AD Workshop – August 19, 2025
4.5 Fall Mandatory Coaches Meetings - August 13, 2025
Coaches meeting are scheduled the Wednesday prior to the start of the season.

4.6 Officials Recruitment Day – April 5, 2025
Section VI is holding an officials recruitment day on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the four area Dick's Sporting Goods locations (Walden Galleria, Boulevard Mall, Transit Road, and Orchard Park). Current officials will be working tables distributing informational handouts and engaging with those interested, providing offering insight into the field of sports officiating.

4.7 Football Update
The 2025 Football schedule was distributed Friday, March 21.

5.0 **COMMUNICATIONS** (M. DiFilippo)

5.1 Approved Combining of Schools (Executive Committee 3/12/25)

a) Flag Football Southwestern/Frewsburg Class C
b) Softball Maple Grove/Panama Class C – (pending CCAA approval)

5.2 ***Motion to approve of Combining of Schools Applications, numbers (1) through (11)***
CARRIED
Taylor/Dimitroff

Informational - The January 2025 athletic council minutes reflect an approved merger of IPrep/Riverside/Lafayette in the sport of boys volleyball. A typo was discovered revealing Riverside is not a part of the merger. The number reported and the website data are accurate.

Fall Sports

1. Cross Country BG, **Fredonia,** Westfield, V, 7/8, 435, C
2. Field Hockey, **Holland,** East Aurora , V. JV, 7/8/9, 476, B
3. Gym G, **Frontier,** Lake Shore, V, 1397,
4. Soccer B, New, **Ellicottville,** Franklinville, V & '7/8/9, 161, C
5. Soccer BG, **Pine Valley,** Gowanda, V, 7/8/9, 251, B
6. Soccer BG, **Westfield,** Brocton, V, 7/8/9, 216, C
7. Soccer G, New, **Barker,** Lyndonville, V, JV, 197, C
8. Swim G, New, **Franklinville,** Ellicottville, West Valley , V, 301,
9. Swim G, **Fredonia,** Dunkirk, Forestville, Pine Valley, Cass Valley, V, 1417,
10. Swim G, NEW, **Panama,** Maple Grove, Clymer, Sherman, V, 406,
11. Volleyball B, **Kenmore East,** Kenmore West, V, JV, 1522, D1

5.3 ***Motion to approve Senior All Star Application (a)***
CARRIED
Roth/Grzymala

a) Baseball/Softball Niagara-Orleans All Star Games on 6/10/25 at Medina Vets Park hosted by Medina & Niagara Orleans League

6.0 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1 Combining of Schools Committee (J. Sortisio)

6.1.1. Informational - Committee meeting April 1, 2025 – review winter season, discuss past practice, and consider making a recommendation to adjust COS policy language.

An ECIC representative is needed for the Combining of Schools Committee.

6.2 Charter Schools Classification Committee (J. Sortisio)

Nothing to report

6.3 Finance Committee (S. Penhollow)

6.3.1 Motion to approve of the Treasurer's Report (Appendix A)
CARRIED
Penhollow/Zirkle

6.4 Sectional/Intersectional (M. DiFilippo)

6.3.1 Sunsetting Pilots
The sectional intersectional committee will review and make recommendations regarding the following two sunsetting pilots at their April 3, 2025 meeting. If either or both are recommended and approved to move forward, policy changes are required and will be submitted to The Policy Committee for review. If not adopted, the Section will revert to old operating practices.

a) Split Classifications, 23-24 and 24-25, in the sports of Girls Basketball, Baseball and Softball (approved November 2023 AC) ends this school year (Note: Boys Basketball was approved to be removed from the 2nd year, 24-25, of this pilot at the June 2024 AC meeting)

b) 4, 5, 6 Point System, approved May 2023 AC,23-24 and 24-25, for Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Softball, and Baseball) this year.
*Note Boys and Girls Basketball began this pilot with the 22-23 school year, and was extended a year through 24-25 (approved AC May 2023).

6.5 Safety (M. McKenna)

Nothing to report

6.6 Modified Committee (L. Bergman, M. Librock)

6.6.1 Rolling Agenda
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X_iVIWi-nmrYKJ5C3IaJsbgWXMoZuray1XyZb79uuto/edit?usp=sharing

At the state meeting coming up this week, proposed changes to modified football alignments for reasons of consistency will be discussed. Also, discussion regarding the appropriate size for the football in the sport of modified flag football will be discussed. Until otherwise notified, the junior football is to be used.

6.7 State Executive Committee/Central Committee

a) Superintendent (J. Sortisio)

Nothing to report

b) Principal (C. Alvarez)

Nothing to report

c) Female Rep./Male Rep. (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty/J. Roth)

The following are action items to provide direction for M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative at the May 2025 NYSPSHAA Executive Committee meeting (Appendix B)*:*

6.7c1 ACTION ITEM: Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support 3-Region Concept

The state's intention is to act on this item at their May 7, 2025 meeting and implement September 2025. This would not include the sports of ice hockey, football, and volleyball. Those 3 sports have 8 or less participating sections in each classification.

The Executive Committee has several concerns regarding the 3-region concept, which M. DiFilippo Highlighted. Two main concerns involve voting on a draft of a proposal and how at-larges are determined and where they would compete.

Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty and J. Roth to not support the 3-region concept as proposed in draft form if required to provide direction at the state May 7, 2025 meeting
CARRIED
Sortisio/Kruzynski

With the possibility of a final proposal being confirmed prior to the May 7, 2025 state meeting, a zoom meeting will be scheduled by the Section VI office for the athletic council to provide direction.

6.7c2 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Championship Advisory Committee – Establish 3 nights rest rule for regional competition***
OPPOSED
Zirkle/Roth

This item relates to travel and logistics. It does not affect Section VI.

6.7c3 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Definitions***
CARRIED
Fallacaro-Dougherty/Croft

6.7c4 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Pathways to Promote Diversity on Committees***
CARRIED, 8 opposed
Roth/Reynolds

This proposal involves adding a boys and a girls representative from the Big 5 at the state executive committees meetings as well as four representatives (Superintendent, Principal, Male and Female) at the central committee meetings.

6.7c5 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Championship Philosophy: Regional Plaques***
CARRIED
Ljiljanich/Taylor

This proposal is to eliminate the finalist plaque at regionals.

6.7c6 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Fall Start Dates***
CARRIED
Salisbury/McDuffie

6.7c7 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Spring Start Dates***
CARRIED, 11 opposed
Zirkle/Almeida

6.7c8 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support establishing 8-man Football Regional Championship on Week #21***
CARRIED, ***5 opposed***
Zirkle/Fallacaro-Dougherty

6.7c9 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Cheerleading – Game Day Scoring Adjustment***
CARRIED
Roth/Reynolds

6.7c10 ***Motion to direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Cheerleading – Standard Practice for Fall and Winter Cheer***
OPPOSED
Fallacaro-Dougherty/Zirkle

This proposal is to not allow choreography until the winter season begins.

6.7c11 ***Motion to Direct M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support Baseball – Allow Scrimmage after 6th Practice Day***
OPPOSED
Zirkle/Roth

6.8 Extended Eligibility (M. DiFilippo)

6.8.1 Depew Track & Field, Denied

6.9 Chemical Awareness (J. Grzymala)

6.9.1 April Leadership Conference for NYSPHSAA - Section VI to bring 25 student athletes (over 60 applications were received).

6.9.2 Looking for a rising sophomore for position of representative on Section VI committee.

6.9.3 120 student-athletes participated in public service announcements to highlight Section VI student leadership.

6.10 Transfer/Foreign Student (M. DiFilippo)

Reports were emailed to the Executive Committee

6.11 Sportsmanship (J. Graczyk, D. Ames)

6.11.1 Sportsmanship Promotion Survey – Deadline April 7.
54 schools have finished the sportsmanship survey at present. 100% participation is the goal.

6.11.2 Reminder - Nominations for League Male & Female Coaches for Sportsmanship

6.12 Veterans (J. Trampert)

Nothing to report

6.13 Mixed Competition (C. Alvarez)

Nothing to report

6.14 Nominations (B. Banker)

6.14.1 Male Representative Position, term expires June 2025 (July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029)
J. Roth shared his intent to renew his term. A challenger application was posted on the Section VI website - deadline was March 1, 2025.

With no challenger application(s) received, the Nominations Committee will move to recommend J. Roth for approval at the May 14, 2025 athletic council meeting.

6.14.2 Spring Sports Chairs Terms Expiration June 30, 2025, new term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028 (Action Item May 2025) (Renewals/Challengers)
Challenger application was posted on the Section VI website - deadline was March 1, 2025

*1 Challenger application received for the sport of Girls Lacrosse

6.14.3 Open Position: Baseball Chairperson, Term July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028
Application was posted on Section VI website - deadline was March 1, 2025

*2 Applications Received

The Nominations Committee will conduct interviews for the Girls Lacrosse and Baseball sport chair positions and provide recommendations to the Athletic Council at the May 14, 2025 meeting.

6.15 Corporate Partners (K. Schon)

6.15.1 Snap! Raise

Snap! Raise, an online fundraising platform, is a newly confirmed corporate partner of Section VI. Member schools are not mandated to use this platform, but Section VI is offering opportunities for Snap! Raise representatives to connect with athletic directors and attend the Section VI portions of the coaches meetings.

In the first year of partnership, Section VI is guaranteed to receive $10,000 via quarterly payments. Each year thereafter, Section VI will receive a percentage of the revenue of member schools' use.

Snap! Raise has committed to sponsoring lunch at the mandatory athletic director meeting. One of their representatives is planning to attend league meetings between now and May to familiarize athletic directors with the offering.

The partnership will be reassessed at the conclusion of the 3-year contract.

6.16 Hall of Fame (J. Dunnigan)

6.16.1 Deadline for Nominations – May 14, 2025
The council was asked to encourage members schools to submit nominations. It was noted the ceremony is moving from a Friday to a Thursday night. It was also noted, a representative from the CCAA is needed to replace D. Scholla.

6.17 Unified Sports (D. Ames)

- New WNY SO program director: Julia Posch
- End of the Season Tournament over 2 days Airport Lanes
- 54 Teams / 1,300 student athletes
- 13 Division Champions
- Awards: CTA / Plaques / Medals / T-Shirts

6.18 Policy Committee (B. Banker)

The Policy Committee met January 30, 2025. Section VI has absorbed some of the policies that have naturally changed over time. Also, certain changes resulting from changed business practices have been accounted for. These changes will be included in the draft to be sent to the league representatives to distribute for discussion within their respective leagues. After receiving feedback, the Policy Committee will convene to finalize the draft for presentation and approval at the May 14, 2025 athletic council meeting.

The Policy Committee will continue to meet on a regular basis and explore some of those deeper, more complex policies.

7.0 **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.1 All WNY Scholar Athlete (J. Roth)
Winter is closed Committee in process of selecting the winners.

7.2 Schools Without Boundaries Ad Hoc Committee (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty)
Five proposals were brought forth at the February 4th state meeting. Two of the 5 proposals would be met with legal challenges. The other 3 will be shared with the Section VI representatives tomorrow during their meeting at Erie 1 BOCES. Section VI may devise its own proposal if desired. A follow-up state meeting will be held May 2025.

8.0 **STATE COMMITTEE REPORTS** (informational only) Appendix C
8.1 Flag Football – January 7, 2025
8.2 Field Hockey – January 10, 2025
8.3 Football – January 13, 2025
8.4 CAC – January 16, 2025
8.5 Girls & Boys Soccer, February 7, 2025
8.6 Football – February 10, 2025
8.7 Football – March 10, 2025

9.0 **GUEST REPORTS**

9.1 NYSPHSAA

9.2 NYSAAA Report (J. Lehmbeck)

10.0 **SPORTS REPORTS**

10.1 ***Motion to approve of the 2024 Girls Soccer post season report*** (Appendix D)
CARRIED
Zirkle/Ricci

11.0 **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing to report

12.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing to report

13.0 **GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT**

13.1 ***Motion to adjourn***
CARRIED
Kelly/Zirkle

APPENDIX A

Section VI NYSPHSAA, Inc.

Treasurer's Report

As of March 17, 2025

	Mar 17, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1040.1 · Bank of America CD	26,612.86
1043.1 · Northwest CD	318,036.09
1050 · Arbiter Pay	148,923.75
1000 · Petty Cash	2,400.00
1030 · Bank of America Checking	374,106.49
1040 · Bank of America Money Market	1.69
1043 · Northwest Savings Bank	123,017.97
Total Checking/Savings	993,098.85
Total Current Assets	993,098.85
TOTAL ASSETS	**993,098.85**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

Dedicated Funds

	Received	Expenses	Current Assets
Boys Ice Hockey	$ 125,000.00	$ 120,668.00	$ 4,332.00
Girls Ice Hockey	$ 49,500.00	$ 33,000.00	$ 16,500.00
Indoor Track	$ 130,000.00	$ 125,846.00	$ 4,154.00
	Budgeted		
State Championships	$ 212,000.00	$ 85,788.00	$ 126,212.00
	$ 516,500.00	$ 365,302.00	$ 151,198.00

FUND BALANCE **$ 841,900.85**

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

3-Region Concept

____ Action Item
____ Discussion Item
__X__ Informational Item

Presenter:
Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Details:
As shared with the Executive Committee in October, the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy Committee voted to support additional exploration and examination of a 3-Region concept to address long standing membership concerns related to regional rotations.

The basis of the 3-Region Concept is for Sections to have consistent geographic opponents, to reduce regional travel, school time missed, and travel expenses associated with regional participation. It is important to note that any regional rotation format will have challenges; no format will be perfect.

The NYSPHSAA staff is currently working to identify issues with the 3 Region Concept and potential solutions.

Attachments:
- 3-Region Concept Process & Sport Rotation Examples (Link)

DRAFT

3 Region Rotation Process

Regional Rotation Format for Post-Season Play

The following format establishes regional rotations for sports/ classification with 9 or more teams for post-season play, dividing sections into three regions with specific guidelines:

Region Assignments

Region 1:

- Includes Section 4, Section 5, and Section 6.
- Note: Section 4 will host the at-large team when required to complete the bracket (e.g., Class AAA and AA).

Region 2:

- Includes Section 2, Section 3, Section 7, and Section 10.

Region 3:

- Includes Section 1, Section 8, Section 9, and Section 11.

Key Guidelines

- Sections will maintain consistent geographic opponents to minimize disruptions and ensure fairness.
- The specific post-season format will be declared annually during an Executive/ Central Committee meeting (Fall – May meeting, Winter – July meeting, and Spring – October meeting) prior to its implementation in the following school year.
- Formats will be based on the number of participating sections and may be adjusted annually to reflect changes in participation.
- The 3 Region format will only be used for sports/ classification with 9 or more teams.

DRAFT

Sports and Classification Declarations and Representation Policy

Sections will be required to declare the sports and classifications in which they will have representation. During this meeting, the Regional Rotation format will be determined and approved by the Executive Committee based on these declarations.

Sections must finalize their declarations prior to the meeting listed below for each sports season. After this deadline, Sections will not be permitted to add teams to any sport or classification.

Fall Sports

February - Fall Sports Classification Cut-Off Numbers approved
May - Section Declaration for Fall Sports & Classifications

Winter Sports

May - Winter Sports Classification Cut-Off Numbers approved
July - Section Declaration for Winter Sports & Classifications

Spring Sports

July - Spring Classification Cut-Off Numbers approved
October - Section Declaration for Spring Sports & Classifications

If a Section determines, after the declaration meeting but before the start of the season, that they will no longer have representation in a specific sport or classification, the gap in the format will be filled by an At-Large team. The At-Large team will be selected through the established "At-Large" process, which rotates among Sections with four or more participating teams in the respective sport or classification.

In cases where an At-Large team is already part of the format, travel considerations will be taken into account. To reduce unnecessary travel, the At-Large team will be assigned to the closest Section competing against the At-Large team.

If a Section withdraws representation in a sport or classification after the declaration meeting and after the season has started, the format will accommodate this by introducing a bye.

To ensure Sections can make sport and classification declarations based on the most accurate information, all revisions to classification numbers must be approved at the meeting prior to the declaration meeting (e.g., February Executive Committee meeting for Fall sports).

DRAFT

At-Large Selection

At-large selections will rotate among Sections with four or more teams participating in a specific sport and classification. The NYSPHSAA staff will oversee and maintain this rotation for each sport and classification. Annually, at the declaration meeting, Sections must report the number of teams participating in each sport and classification to determine their eligibility for the rotation.

The rotation will proceed in chronological order (e.g., Sections 1 through 11) and will be updated each year based on the reported data. If a Section qualifies for inclusion, it will receive the At-Large selection when its position in the order is reached.

At-large teams will not host a sub-regional or regional final. The At-Large team will be the Sectional runner-up.

If a Section falls below the required threshold of four participating teams following the declaration meeting, including during Sectional tournament play, the At-Large selection will automatically advance to the next eligible Section in the established rotation. If a Section chooses not to accept the At-Large selection, it will automatically be offered to the next Section in line. This ensures a seamless and equitable reassignment of the At-Large selection.

No changes will be made if a Section increases the number of participating teams to four or more after the declaration meeting. Similarly, if a Section moves a non-public or charter school to a higher classification or approves a merged team for a higher classification after the declaration, the pre-determined at-large rotation will remain unchanged.

CHAMPIONSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Establish Three (3) Night's Rest Rule for Regional Competition

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee (Greg Ransom, Chair)

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee is seeking approval to establish a three-nights rest rule for all regional competition for all sports. The following language is being proposed for this rule.

Regional rounds immediately following Sectional Finals shall be scheduled, in advance of the postseason, with a minimum of three nights rest. Each subsequent round of regional games shall be scheduled, in advance of the postseason, with a minimum of three nights rest. Weather related issues shall not change any of the scheduled regional contests and delays may result in less than three nights rest. It is also recommended to conclude regional play the Saturday prior to the state final four.

Sample Schedule Set Up in Advance of Postseason:
Saturday or Sunday – Sectional Final
Tuesday or Wednesday – Sub-Regional
Saturday – Regional Final

Effective Start Date:
2025-26 school year

Rationale:
Three nights rest would allow for teams to get proper rest, schedule practice and be able to plan travel for regional competition.

Proposal Originated:
The number of nights rest a team gets in regional competition was brought forward as a concern by Section 1 at the Executive Committee meting in May 2024. The CAC formed a sub-committee to discuss this on September 11th then present it to the full CAC on October 10th and January 16th.

Budgetary Impact:
None

CAC Feedback:
CAC voted 7-1 in support of this proposal at is January 16th meeting.

DATE REVISED: January 18, 2025

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) DEFINITIONS

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Dr. Carlos Cotto, DEI Chair

Proposal:
Consider approval to add the definitions for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the NYSPHSAA Handbook.

Effective Start Date:
Immediately

Rationale:
Defining DEI aligns the association's efforts with its broader mission and values, demonstrating a commitment to creating a more inclusive and equitable environment.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA DEI Committee

Budgetary Impact:
None.

Notes:
None.

Attachments:
Definitions

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for NYSPHSAA

Diversity:
Diversity at NYSPHSAA encompasses the recognition and inclusion of differences among student-athletes, schools, and communities, including but not limited to, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, disabilities, sexual orientations, gender identity or expression, and sexes.

Equity:
Equity at NYSPHSAA means ensuring fair treatment, equal access to opportunities, and addressing barriers to participation for all student-athletes, schools, and communities.

Inclusion:
Inclusion at NYSPHSAA means fostering a welcoming environment where all student-athletes, schools, and communities feel valued, respected, and empowered to participate fully.

By prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion, NYSPHSAA is committed to creating a culture of belonging that enhances the experiences and success of everyone involved.

Pathways to Promote Diversity on Committees

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Dr. Carlos Cotto, DEI Committee Chair

Proposal:
Consider approval for NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address representation on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as NYSPHSAA Sport Committees, Standing Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees.

Effective Start Date:
Fall 2025

Rationale:
The current NYSPHSAA committee structure requires Sections to elect representatives to serve on the Executive and Central Committees, sport committees, standing committees, and ad hoc committees. As an association working for the betterment of all students within the structure of NYSPHSAA, providing representation for the Big 5 to have a voice on NYSPHSAA committees will ensure all students truly represented.

The Big 5 currently has representatives from the five city school districts of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers and Affiliate Members Albany, Mount Vernon and Utica. Note: New York City schools would not have the ability to serve on NYSPHSAA committees since New York City schools are not part of the NYSPHSAA membership structure.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA DEI Committee.

Budgetary Impact:
Additional representation at 3 Executive Committee meetings and 1 Central Committee per year; approximately $3000-$4000 annually.

Any expenses associated with Sport Committee representation will be incurred by the Big Five as the NYSPHSAA Constitution states:

> *"Necessary expenses for each delegate to attend sports committee meetings shall be paid by the section."*

Notes:
This proposal would require a revision to the NYSPHSAA Constitution. The procedures for revisions to the Constitution are clearly stipulated in the NYSPHSAA Constitution (Article VIII):

> ***"ARTICLE VIII***
> *Constitutional Amendments*
>
> *1.A majority vote of the Central Committee or Executive Committee at any duly authorized meeting is required to propose an amendment to the Constitution.*
>
> *Amendments may be initiated by the Central Committee, Executive Committee, a section athletic council, or the officers of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Proposals shall be submitted to the executive director by January 15 to allow sectional athletic councils adequate time for their consideration.*
>
> *2. A referendum is required to approve amendments. During a referendum, each school shall have one vote on a signed ballot. To be valid, this vote shall represent the collective judgment of and include the signatures of the chief school officer, principal, and the director of athletics. An Executive Committee member representing the section shall serve as teller to canvass all ballots to amend the Constitution or amend any other rule or regulation, which was put forth for the referendum.*
>
> *3. During the referendum, a majority vote of the member schools voting in each section shall be required for the adoption of the amendment in the section. Approval of at least seven sections and approval of two-thirds of the member schools casting valid ballots shall be required for the final adoption of the amendment as a statewide rule or policy or as an amendment to the Constitution, as the case may be.*
>
> *4. All amendments to this Constitution, which are approved by a referendum vote, shall not become effective until August 1 of the next school year."*

The Conference of the Big 5 currently has voting representation on the New York State School Boards Association as well as the New York State Coalition of School Superintendents.

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts was founded in 1958 as a membership organization representing the school systems of New York State's five largest cities of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. The Big 5 organization was expanded in 2014 to include Affiliate Members that are other urban school districts with comparable student demographics and local fiscal capacity issues.

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts was founded for the purpose of identifying both the common and unique problems of the city school districts and to advance solutions to such problems. Central to the Big 5's uniqueness is the diversity among the students they serve, the high concentrations of poverty in which they live, and the fiscal constraints imposed to meet their educational needs.

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts seeks to promote a more equitable and adequate funding system and the delivery of a high quality education to all children.

The Big 5 mission is accomplished by a strong advocacy and public information campaign representing the needs of urban education systems. Advocacy efforts include representation before all appropriate governmental entities as a proactive organization presenting budget initiatives and policy recommendations and reactive in analyzing and responding to various proposals.

In carrying out their mission, the Conference of Big 5 School Districts also acts as a public relations center communicating with State and local media and networking with other advocacy organizations in the promotion of urban school districts. The Big 5 maintains a data information center for collection and dissemination of information for member districts and act as a research center conducting fiscal and programmatic analyses and reporting on urban education issues.

Representatives of the five city school districts of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers and Affiliate Members Albany, Mount Vernon and Utica, work together through the organization of the Conference of Big 5 School Districts to speak with one voice on the needs and strengths of urban education in New York State.

Attachments:
Proposed Constitutional revisions.

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Proposed NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address diversity on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as Sport Committees.

ARTICLE III
Central Committee

1. The corporation shall be administered by a board of directors, known as the Central Committee, consisting of representatives from each of the sections **and representatives of the Big Five**, elected from ~~the~~ **NYSPHSAA** member schools in accordance with the following plan:

   a. The state shall be divided into geographic areas called sections, each of which shall elect four representatives to the Central Committee: one chief school officer, one principal, one male representative of athletics and one female representative of athletics from the member schools of the section.

   The Big Five shall also appoint four representatives to the Central Committee: one chief school officer, one principal, one male representative of athletics and one female representative of athletics from the member schools of the section.

   b. On or before December 15th of each year, each section secretary shall inform the section athletic council as to the branch of service in which a vacancy by expiration of term shall occur, and each section shall elect a replacement by a method of their choice.

   c. In the event of the positive unwillingness to serve on the part of any duly elected person, election shall go to the nominee having the second highest number of votes.

   d. Newly elected Central Committee representatives will assume their positions September 1.

   e. In case of a vacancy in the membership on the Central Committee arising in any section, it shall be the duty of the three remaining members in such section to choose, with the advice and consent of the section athletic council, the fourth representative from a member school in the section and from that position of service in which the vacancy has occurred. Appointments shall be made for the full period of the unexpired term. **The Big Five shall determine their process for filling a vacancy.**

   f. Persons retiring from active public education employment, currently serving on the NYSPHSAA Central Committee, shall be permitted to continue for the duration of their tenure and also be permitted to serve in that capacity if so elected by the section.

   g. Should any member of the Central Committee be unable to attend a meeting of the Central Committee, then a section athletic council officer shall be designated to represent that section. **If a Big Five representative is unable to attend a meeting, then the Big Five shall designate a representative.**

ARTICLE V
Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of ~~twenty-two~~ **twenty-four** members, each of eleven sections and **the Big Five** being represented by one member of the Central Committee who shall receive the position in any manner the section **and the Big Five** shall determine, and by the female representative of athletics on the Central Committee. This selection shall be made prior to the annual meeting of the Central Committee. The NYSPHSAA President and Vice Presidents shall not represent their respective sections. Sectional **and Big Five** representatives constitute the voting body of the committee and the president, first vice president, and second vice president shall not be entitled to vote except in the case of a tie with only one of said officers being entitled to vote in the order indicated. Should any member of the Executive Committee be unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, then another member of the Central Committee from the section **or Big Five** not so represented, or a section athletic council officer **or Big Five representative** shall be designated to represent that section.

2. The Executive Committee shall have general management of the affairs of the association in the interval between meetings of the Central Committee and shall have the power to act in all matters not covered by this constitution and bylaws. It shall have jurisdiction in all appeals, protests, and questions of eligibility when the Central Committee is not in session.

3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times each year. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president or at the request of a majority of the members.

4. Any action which needs the approval of the Executive Committee may be taken without a meeting, if authorized by the president, by conducting mail or electronic vote.

5. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for properly administering meets, tournaments, or games in which individuals or teams, determined as winners of sectional contests from two or more sections, participate. The secretaries of the sections to be represented in regional, intersectional, and state contests shall provide a complete list of sports in which that section intends to compete in the ensuing year to the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director for the approval of the Executive Committee at its spring meeting. Notice of withdrawal from a regional intersectional and state contest must be received at least sixty days prior to the date of the contest. Otherwise the section will be required to pay the proportionate share of the administration and insurance charges involved in the program.

ARTICLE VII
State Sport Committees

1. Each section **and the Big Five** may elect or appoint one representative to each state sports committee. Necessary expenses for each delegate to attend sports committee meetings shall be paid by the section **and the Big Five**.

    a. Each state sports committee shall hold an annual meeting and shall elect a vice chairman, and a secretary, who will be representatives on that state's sports committee, and who will hold office for the ensuing year. State sports committee meetings must have

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the approval of Association staff. Notice of the time and place of state committee meetings shall be given to members at least two months prior to the meeting.

b. Minutes of all meetings shall be provided to committee members, association officers and staff, section presidents and section executive directors/secretaries.

c. The coordinator of the state sports committee shall submit an annual written report to the Central Committee. If requested to attend, the necessary expenses to attend the Central Committee meeting will be paid by the association.

d. There shall be a biennial meeting of all state sports coordinators.

2. Each state sports committee shall encourage participation in that sport, require observation of the rules, regulations, and sports standards, provide measures of safety, answer questions and receive suggestions pertaining to that sport.

a. Each section sports committee representative shall conduct studies when needed, review games rules, conduct interpretation meetings, present demonstrations, secure the cooperation of officials, improve game administration in the section, and act as the liaison between the section and the state sports committee coordinator.

b. Each state sports committee may make investigations and surveys, and conduct other research to ensure that playing rules are adapted to the needs and abilities of the high school student and submit recommendations to the Executive Committee.

c. Each state sports committee shall be responsible for informing the sections of the correct procedure to be followed in making changes in policy, regulations, rules or sports standards in that sport.

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Championship Philosophy: Regional Plaques

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Proposal:
Consider approval of consistent approach for awards at Regional Championship events in team sports by standardizing the presentation of only the Regional Champion plaque.

Effective Start Date:
2025-2026

Rationale:
Historically, both a Regional Champion plaque and a Regional Finalist plaque have been awarded at Regional Championship events. The Championship Philosophy Committee believes only the champion should be awarded at regional rounds.

Proposal Originated:
Championship Philosophy Committee

Budgetary Impact:
There is no budgetary impact for NYSPHSAA. It will be a cost savings to the Sections as Sections currently cover the cost of all Regional Champion and Finalist plaques. Finalist plaques cost $45 per plaque.

Notes:

- Only team sports would be affected by this change.
- The Championship Philosophy Committee supported the proposal 11-1 (Section VII voted no, Section IX was absent).
- Sport Committee Feedback is listed below for the committees who have met thus far. Committees not listed will provide feedback after their meetings.
    - Field Hockey (0-10 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.
    - Football (0-10 OPPOSED) – Would like to keep current regional plaque system.
    - Baseball (0-11 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.
    - Girls Lacrosse (0-10 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.

Attachments:
None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

FALL START DATES

_____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
_____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Debra Ferry, NYSPHSAA 2nd VP, Committee Chair

Proposal:
Consider approval for all Fall sports to start 2 weeks before Labor Day and Football to start on the Monday of Week #7.

Effective Start Date:
2025-2026

Rationale:
Utilizing the National Federation of High School's (NFHS) Standard Calendar of Weeks provides a helpful framework. However, the NYSPHSAA designated fall sport start date has, at times, been either too early or too late to meet the needs of member schools. Allowing the start date to begin two weeks prior to Labor Day ensures consistency for the NYSPHSAA membership.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Start Date Ad Hoc Committee on January 14, 2025

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
It is important to note that a football start date of the Monday of Week #7 will require support from the New York State Education Department (NYSED), as Fall sports are currently limited to a 15-week season. Implementing this start date for football would extend the season to 16 weeks, necessitating a formal exception as was previously granted for the 2024 football season.

Vote Outcome: Motion Passed, 10-1
Vote Breakdown: I – No, 2 – Yes, III – Yes, IV – Yes, V – Yes, VI – Yes, VII – Yes, VIII – Yes, IX – Yes, X – Yes, XI – Yes

Sport Committee Feedback:
- Girls Tennis (10-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys FALL Golf (7-2 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Cheer Game Day (10-0 in favor) – Noted this was their original proposal from a year ago that got defeated.
- Cross Country (22-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.

Date Revised: January 14, 2025

- Field Hockey (6-3 in favor) – Had concerns about extended contracts, vacations, family, short notice for 2025. Liked proposal due to extra week of conditioning, spread out schedule, more time for team building.
- Boys Soccer (8-0) in favor) – Noted they like the flexibility; possibly concern of summer school/vacations.
- Girls Soccer (6-1 in favor) – Did not get responses from all state committee members.
- Girls Swimming & Diving (in favor) – No objection at their state tourn. meeting but did not formally vote.
- Girls Volleyball (11-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys Volleyball (4-3 in favor) – Only concern was the time off between Sectionals and States but that can be solved with adjustments in schedule if necessary or not starting on the proposed earlier dates.
- Football (11-0 in favor) – Proposing football start date on the Monday of week #7 permanently, regardless of how the calendar falls.

Attachments:
Start Date Document

NYSPHSAA Start Dates

Year	Current Fall Football Request (Wk. #7)	Fall Sports (Wk. #8)	Labor Day	Proposed Football Start Monday Week #7	Proposed All Other Fall Start 2 Wks. Before Labor Day
2025-2026	Aug. 18, 2025 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 25, 2025 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 1, 2025	Aug. 18, 2025 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 18, 2025 (Wk. #7)
2026-2027	Aug. 17, 2026 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 24, 2026 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 7, 2026	Aug. 17, 2026 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 24, 2026 (Wk. #8)
2027-2028	Aug. 16, 2027 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 23, 2027 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 6, 2027	Aug. 16, 2027 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 23, 2027 (Wk. #8)
2028-2029	Aug. 14, 2028 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 21, 2028 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 4, 2028	Aug. 14, 2028 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 21, 2028 (Wk. #8)
2029-2030	Aug. 13, 2029 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 20, 2029 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 3, 2029	Aug. 13, 2029 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 20, 2029 (Wk. #8)
2030-2031	Aug. 19, 2030 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 26, 2030 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 2, 2030	Aug. 19, 2030 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 19, 2030 (Wk. #7)
2031-2032	Aug. 18, 2031 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 25, 2031 (Wk. #8)	Sept. 1, 2031	Aug. 18, 2031 (Wk. #7)	Aug. 18, 2031 (Wk. #7)

Note: No Championship dates will be revised.

NYSPHSAA will need approval from NYSED to start football on Week #7.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2025

SPRING START DATES

_____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
_____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Debra Ferry, NYSPHSAA 2nd VP, Committee Chair

Proposal:
Consider approval for all Spring Sports to start on the 2nd Monday of March.

Effective Start Date:
2025-2026

Rationale:
Although the NFHS Standard Calendar of Weeks provides a helpful framework, the NYSPHSAA-designated start date for spring sports has occasionally been misaligned with the needs of member schools. Establishing the start date as the second Monday in March creates a consistent approach that better accommodates the varying needs of Sections and ensures alignment across the NYSPHSAA membership.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Start Date Ad Hoc Committee on January 14, 2025

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
Vote Outcome: Motion Passed, 7-4
Vote Breakdown: I – No, 2 – Yes, III – Yes, IV – No, V – Yes (Wants Executive Committee members to make their actual vote), VI – No, VII – No, VIII – Yes, IX – Yes, X – Yes, XI – Yes.

Sport Commtitee Feedback:
- Boys Tennis (10-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys SPRING Golf (7-2 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Girls Golf (10-1 OPPOSED) – No additional information/comments.
- Outdoor Track (6-4 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Boys Lacrosse (10-1 in favor) – Starting earlier allows for flexibility of scheduling games. Prefer Week #36.
- Girls Lacrosse (8-1 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Softball (11-0 in favor) – No additional information/comments.
- Baseball (11-0 in favor) – Is strongly in favor of Week #36 for all years, for consistency & allowing more time in preseason.
- Flag Football (6-2 in favor) – No additional information/comments.

Attachments:
Start Date Document

Date Revised: January 14, 2025

NYSPHSAA Start Dates

Year	Current Spring Week #37	Proposed Spring Start 2nd Week of March
2025-2026	Mar. 16, 2026 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 9, 2026 (Wk. #36)
2026-2027	Mar. 15, 2027 (Wk. 37)	Mar. 8, 2027 (Wk. #36)
2027-2028	Mar. 13, 2028 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 13, 2028 (Wk. #37)
2028-2029	Mar. 12, 2029 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 12, 2029 (Wk. #37)
2029-2030	Mar. 11, 2030 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 11, 2030 (Wk. #37)
2030-2031	Mar. 17, 2031 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 10, 2031 (Wk. #36)
2031-2032	Mar. 15, 2032 (Wk. #37)	Mar. 8, 2032 (Wk. #36)

Note: No Championship dates will be revised.

FOOTBALL – Establish 8-Man Football Regional Championship on Week #21

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Proposal:
Consider approval for the 8-man Regional Championship to be held on Week #21 (11-Man Football Semifinal weekend).

Effective Start Date:
Fall 2025

Rationale:
The 2024 8-Man Regional Championship was held on Week #22 (11-Man State Football Championship weekend) resulting in several issues related to inclement weather, location of the game and confusion and concerns from schools and the general public.

In accordance with the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy 8-Man does not meet the threshold for Championship status (6 Sections with 4 participating schools).

Proposal Originated:
Internal staff discussion

Budgetary Impact:
Moving the event to week #21 reduces the cost of the game being played week #22 by itself or at the JMA Wireless Dome with the 11-man finals.

Notes:
The NYSPHSAA Football Committee does not support moving the 8-Man Regional Championship to Week #21 (11-Man Football Semifinal weekend); the Committee prefers hosting the 8-Man Regional Championship at the same venue as the 11-Man State Championship.

Attachments:
None.

CAC Feedback:
CAC voted 8-0 in support of this proposal at is January 16th meeting.

DATE REVISED: January 21, 2025

Cheerleading – Game Day Scoring Adjustment

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Jennifer Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading State Coordinator

Proposal:
Consider approval to adjust Game Day Sore Sheets for 2025-2027.

Effective Start Date:
Fall 2025 season

Rationale:

- These new score sheets better align NYS with the rest of the country in terms of the Game Day format and scoring categories.
- These new score sheets make each scoring element more clear to both coaches and judges, by just reorganizing and breaking down the scoring categories, while NOT changing any of the elements that we currently score in NY Game Day. The only true difference from what we are currently doing is requiring dismounts from stunts between the Sideline and Cheer.
- The scoring categories reflect both the UCA and NCA scoring elements.
- The point spread is a better representation of the length of elements in each section of the Game Day routine. For example, the current score sheet equally spreads 20 points across 4 sections, however, the situational sideline is significantly shorter than the other sections.
- There are minimal "combined" scoring elements. The current score sheet has scoring categories such as "Motion Technique & Crowd Leading Tools". It is difficult for judges to appropriately account for both of these elements in a single score and 5 points is not appropriate for 2 elements that are used throughout a given section of the routine. The new score sheet breaks these elements into 2 separate categories. Breaking these elements down also helps coaches to better understand the areas in which they excel or need improvement.
- No category is over 5 points, making it easier and more consistent for officials to score.

Proposal Originated:
Cheerleading Committee – after reviewing the first two State Competitions.

Attachments:
Proposed score sheets

NEW YORK STATE CHEERLEADING
GAME DAY/ CROWD LEADING SCORE SHEET

TEAM NAME: _____
DIVISION: _____JUDGE 1 & 2_____

CROWD LEADING (40)	POINTS	SCORE
Game Day Relevance of Situational Sideline *Sideline effectively conveyed an offense/defense situation.*	**5**	
Crowd Effectiveness *Clarity of the cheer - Voices had a consistent volume. Pace/flow was appropriate to clearly understand all words.*	**5**	
Formations & Spacing *Choreography of formations and transitions* *Crowd coverage & effectiveness of formations.* *Formations allowed for maximum crowd coverage. Ability to elicit a crowd response.*	**5**	
Motion Technique *Execution of Motions - Technique, sharpness, synchronization, and consistency in placement of motions.*	**5**	
Crowd Leading Tools *Choreography and Execution of Props - Proper use of signs, poms, megaphones and flags. Technique, sharpness, consistency in placement of props.*	**5**	
Effectiveness of Stunt/Tumbling *Choreography of Skills - Skills chosen were effective and appropriate for the Game Day environment. Clean and crowd effective stunts and tumbling.*	**5**	
Execution of Stunt/Tumbling *Execution of Skills - Technique, stability, synchronization and spacing*	**5**	
Overall Impression *Leadership, School Spirit & Energy in the sideline/crowd leading cheer and transition entering that section. Leadership to engage and connect with the crowd. Genuine School Spirit and Energy. Transition going into the sideline/crowd leading section, maintained crowd coverage/engagement and was minimal/clean.*	**5**	
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	**40**	

NEW YORK STATE CHEERLEADING
GAME DAY/ BAND CHANT/ FIGHT SONG SCORE SHEET

TEAM NAME: _____
DIVISION: _____JUDGE 3 & 4_____

BAND CHANT (30)	POINTS	SCORE
Game Day Material & Crowd Effectiveness *Choreography of material - Crowd was engaged, entertained and/or encouraged to respond in all material. Creative visuals (levels/ripples/synchronization) entertained and engaged the crowd. Voices were clear and the chant fit the music.*	5	
Formations & Spacing *Choreography of formations and transitions* *Crowd coverage & effectiveness of formations.* *Variety/spacing of formations. Synchronization/visuals during transitions.*	5	
Motion Technique *Execution of Motions - Technique, sharpness, synchronization, and consistency in placement of motions.*	5	
Crowd Leading Tools *Choreography and Execution of Props - Proper use of signs, poms, megaphones and flags. Technique, sharpness, consistency in placement of props.*	5	
Game Day Visual Appeal *Creative movements and musicality (dance/chant/call-back matches the beat of the music).* *Use of level changes, ripples, & other techniques.*	5	
Overall Impression *Leadership, School Spirit & Energy in the band chant and transitions entering that section. Leadership to engage and connect with the crowd. Genuine School Spirit and Energy. Transition into the band chant maintained crowd coverage/engagement and were minimal/clean.*	5	
FIGHT SONG (30)	**POINTS**	**SCORE**
Game Day Material & Crowd Effectiveness *Choreography of material - Crowd was engaged, entertained and/or encouraged to respond in all material. Creative visuals (levels/ripples/synchronization) entertained and engaged the crowd. Voices were clear and the chant fit the music.*	5	
Formations & Spacing *Choreography of formations and transitions* *Crowd coverage & effectiveness of formations.* *Variety/spacing of formations. Synchronization/visuals during transitions.*	5	
Motion Technique *Execution of Motions - Technique, sharpness, synchronization, and consistency in placement of motions.*	5	
Crowd Leading Tools *Choreography and Execution of Props - Proper use of signs, poms, megaphones and flags. Technique, sharpness, consistency in placement of props.*	5	
Effectiveness & Execution of Stunt/Tumbling *Choreography of Skills - Skills chosen were effective and appropriate for the Game Day environment. Clean and crowd effective stunts and tumbling.* *Execution of Skills - Technique, stability, synchronization and spacing*	5	
Overall Impression *Leadership, School Spirit & Energy in the Fight Song and transitions entering that section. Leadership to engage and connect with the crowd. Genuine School Spirit and Energy. Transition into the Fight Song maintained crowd coverage/engagement and were minimal/clean.*	5	
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS	**60**	

Cheerleading – Standard Practice for Fall and Winter Cheer

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Jennifer Simmons, NYSPHSAA Cheerleading State Coordinator

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Cheerleading Committee is seeking approval to set the following standard practice guidelines for competing teams in all sections.

- Fall Cheerleading - Teams are restricted to only practicing those skills allowable in Game Day Cheerleading. This then does not limit those teams who do not wish to compete, but allows schools to still have teams. It does restrict those schools from working on the more advanced skills and routines for the Winter Competitive Season in advance of the season, thereby negating any unfair advantage. It allows for schools building programs to do so in a safe manner.
- Winter Cheerleading- Since skills are more advanced for Competitive Cheer, there would be no restrictions for schools doing the lesser skills of Game Day during this season.
- Any school found violating this rule and practicing skills beyond what is allowed in Game Day during the Fall Season, would be ineligible for the postseason for the Winter Season.

Effective Start Date:
Fall 2025 season

Rationale:
While NYSPHSAA defines the seasons as "Fall Cheerleading" and "Winter Cheerleading" with Game Day and Competitive being "Events" within each of those, sections are interpreting this differently. Some are allowing both in each season. Some are allowing only Game Day in the fall and only Competitive in the winter. Some are allowing teams to forego competing in the fall and just prepare/practice their competitive routines/skills for the winter. As a result, the State Committee is concerned with the following:

- The differences from section to section are creating extremely unfair advantages and disadvantages for certain teams/sections in competitive cheer. These disadvantages are causing coaches and athletes to leave cheerleading and as this grows, it will likely cause entire sections of NYS to withdraw from competing in NYS cheerleading.
- Schools that allow teams to not compete in the fall but practice/prepare for the winter season are paying for a coach that isn't competing at all.
- Sections that do not allow Game Day in the winter prohibit teams from competing in Game Day nationally, as all national competitions for both Game Day and Competitive occur in January - March.

- If we were to move to only allow Game Day in the fall and Competitive in the winter, it would set us back nationally and affect our athletes ability to compete for college scholarships.

Proposal Originated:
This was a topic of discussion at the Cheer State Committee meeting at the State Competition and discussed at prior state committee meetings. While NYSPHSAA Executive Committee agreed to approve limiting beginning choreography prior to the start date, teams are not foregoing the fall Game Day season, and working on their winter season from August forward when the season truly for State Competition does not begin until November. This proposal gets all sections on the same page as to what is allowed and what isn't.

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
Section representatives felt this yearly course was important training given the complexity of new skills added each year. They felt that the needed progression and trainings was a safety issue that needed to be addressed.

The Cheerleading State Committee voted unanimously in favor of this proposal at its December meeting.

Attachments:
None

BASEBALL: Allow Scrimmage after 6th practice day

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Al Roy, NYSPHSAA Baseball State Coordinator

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Baseball Committee is seeking approval to allow scrimmages to be conducted after the 6th practice day.

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2026

Rationale:
If this proposal is approved, we would implement a restriction on the # of pitches (30) a pitcher is allowed to throw during any scrimmage that takes place on days 7-10 of the first 10 required practice days. This is after 6 days of practice are completed by the individual player.

30 pitch-count limit on all pitchers in scrimmages that occur on practice days 7-10*
1-30 pitches thrown: 2 nights rest***

The same rules for tracking pitch count during the season would apply to scrimmages (home team is the official counter). Teams are responsible for keeping track of their pitch counts and checking in between innings. The penalty for going over the pitch limit would be determined by the section.

Once 10 days of practice have been reached, the current pitch limit rule would be in effect.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA State Committee January 8, 2025 from Section VIII (Sean Burns)

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 11-0 in favor of supporting this proposal at its January meeting.

Attachments:
None

CAC Feedback:
Not necessary

DATE REVISED: January 8, 2025

NYSPHSAA Flag Football
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 7, 2025 via Zoom

ATTENDEES:
NYSPHSAA Staff: Joe Altieri, Kristen Jadin, Chris Joyce, Todd Nelson, Lexi Swatt
COMMITTEE: Marissa Dauria (Co-Coordinator), Jen Lapinski (Co-Coordinator), April Wertheim (3), Jen Lapinski (5), Marissa Dauria (6), Brent Denis (7), Arnold Epstein (8), Philip Torregrosa (11). Sections 4, 9, 10 were not present.

1. Attendance & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 10:14 am by Co-Coordinators Marissa Dauria and Jen Lapinski.

2. NYSPHSAA Reports

Joe Altieri, Assistant Director

a. Stated he will provide hotel information on the state tournament after he huddles with Machell Phelps in Cortland. He welcomed feedback on hotels from 2024.

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director

a. Classification #'s for three classes were voted on at the October Executive Committee meeting and set for 2025-26 as proposed by the Flag Football Committee.
b. He reported we are looking at expanding to Modified with grants being offered by NFL teams. That will also mean we need a Modified rep for flag football. The Modified State Committee meets twice per year via Zoom and would be the liaison between the Modified Committee and Flag Football Committee. **QUESTION**: Frank asked if Mod 9 falls under Modified. Todd clarified if its grades 7-8-9 then its considered Modified and we'll need to establish rules for it.
c. Stated the Jets, Giants and Bills are interested in getting involved in offering Unified Flag Football in Fall 2025. More information will come out as it develops. Todd explained the Unified concept for all sports for those not familiar with it.

Kristen Jadin, Assistant Director

a. Met with Brian Taylor at Spalding regarding the ordering of balls this spring. The following will be shipped to each section:

Section	Sport	Product #	# of Balls	Shipping Name
1	Flag Football	72-6858	24	Todd Santabarbara
2	Flag Football	72-6858	30	Doug Gejay
3	Flag Football	72-6858	48	Jason Czarny
4	Flag Football	72-6858	36	Brad Tomm
5	Flag Football	72-6858	18	Kathy Hoyt
6	Flag Football	72-6858	18	Mark DiFilippo
7	Flag Football	72-6858	15	Brent Denis
8	Flag Football	72-6858	24	Arnie Epstein
9	Flag Football	72-6858	48	Jim Osborne
11	Flag Football	72-6858	24	Tom Combs
States	Flag Football	72-6858	86	Kristen Jadin

The following balls will also be shipped for Regional games:

- Section 7 - 11 balls
- Section 9- 11 balls
- Section 3- 11 balls
- Section 1- 11 balls
- Section 6 - 31 balls (regional and state balls. Section VI bring to State Tourney)
- Section 11 - 11 balls
  Total balls - 86

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing

a. Foundation – Reported there were numerous grant applications submitted for NYSPHSAA Foundation grants aimed at Flag Football. Since the Jets, Giants, Bills, have a money allocated to Flag Football, this was a more appropriate avenue for schools to seek funding. The NYSPSHAA Foundation is need-based an many grants submitted for flag football were to offset costs for schools who already had Booster Club support.

Lexi Swatt, Director of Sports Information

a. Updated the nysphsaa.org website with the three-classification schedule.
b. She will work with Marissa and Jen on badge creating and distribution.

4. State Tournament Items

a. The following schedule was updated on the NYSPHSAA website:

Saturday Semifinals:	Homer HS:	9:30, 11:30 - Class C
	Cortland HS:	9:30, 11:30, 1:30, 3:30 - Class A, Class B
Sunday Finals:	Cortland HS:	11 am – Class A Finals
		1:15 pm – Class C Finals
		3:30 pm – Class B Finals

b. Jen discussed the regional schedule and noted coordinators are responsible for those games. Lexi will distribute a live Google doc to fill in regional dates, times and sites.

5. Committee business

a. Jen reviewed the proposals for the February 5th Executive Committee meeting.
b. Todd reported he spoke with the NFHS (he will represent NY on the national rules committee) about the upcoming meetings for Flag Football rules. A rulebook will be developed from scratch at the NFHS level. **QUESTION**: Brent asked if any rules developed by the NFHS in the coming months will be for 2025. Todd stated they will be for 2026.
c. Sports Seasons Start Date Ad Hoc Committee – This committee met last month and has a draft proposal out for discussion for fall and spring sports. For spring, moving start dates to the second Monday in March is being discussed. A draft of this proposal has been shared with all State Coordinators and we are seeking feedback from each committee. Moving spring to the second Monday in March does not necessarily mean it's earlier than usual every year but for most years it will fall a week earlier; depends on how the calendar falls. Kristen reminded the committee a school/section can always start later than the approved date.

This committee voted 6-2 in favor of this proposal.
This feedback will be provided to the Ad Hoc Committee/Executive Committee Feb 5th.

7. Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 6th at 10:00 am via Zoom

Minutes as of 1/7/27 respectfully completed by Marissa Dauria and Joe Altieri

NYSPHSAA FIELD HOCKEY State Committee

January 10, 2025 at 10:00 am via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance
NYSPHSAA Staff: Dr. Robert Zayas, Joe Altieri, Todd Nelson, Kristen Jadin, Chris Joyce, Lexi Swatt
Committee: Bev Hooper (State Coordinator), Rebecca Disisto-Leslie (1), Michelle Venditto (2), Monica Tooley (3), Nicky Huston (4), Caitlyn Angelidis (5), Jeffrey Costello (6), Barb Sellers (8), Deborah Beam (9), Deb Ferry (11), Katie Mitchell (11), Terri Welcher

1. Attendance and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am by State Coordinator, Bev Hooper. She thanked Barb Sellers for her many years as the committee secretary and welcomed Katie Mitchell who will take on the position as well as Section XI co-chair. Katie will also serve as the Modified Coordinator.

2. NYSPHSAA Staff Reports

Dr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director

a. Reported on a new concept being considered for regional rotations. He shared his screen and explained a 3-region concept with sections designated in a specific region and the concept emphasizes equity. It is exploratory at this time and would likely be put in place in the 2026-27 school year. A discussion ensued about this idea. This concept was due to the Ad Hoc Committee which has met for almost a year and trying to address the concerns of equity, travel, etc.

Joe Altieri, Assistant Director

a. Thanked Section 1, Rebecca, Sue, Mike Cring, Bev and this committee for their work on the state tournament. Was a success in the first year at Arlington HS. A contract has been set up with the Holiday Inn Poughkeepsie and a rate of $139 ($10 less than 2024) will be offered for staff and committee while teams will get the same $149 rate as last year. Meeting space will be complimentary as well.
b. Sports Seasons Start Date Ad Hoc Committee – This committee met November 12th and will meet again January 14th to discuss the recommendation shared with each sport committee about starting fall and spring sports earlier than the typical start dates. Feedback from all sport committees will be shared. He thanked field hockey for their quick feedback. A recommendation may come out of the Ad Hoc committee and be forwarded to Executive Committee for a vote at the February 5th meeting. The chairperson is Deb Ferry.
c. Reported on another new committee, Schools Without Boundaries Committee, which met on October 16th due to a membership concern from Section 1. This is to address the concern of private schools and placement. The committee meets again on February 4, 2025 to discuss ideas & proposals.
d. NFHS Implicit Bias Course – Required for only new committee members. https://nfhslearn.com/courses/implicit-bias?gclid=CjwKCAjwxOymBhAFEiwAnodBLCQUQq7zUoAqmAbV5UBZahE0dFuZN9dH0m2H1LVu8FpLUw80zdHkKRoCFjEQAvD_BwE
e. NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame - Deadline is Jan. 29th for the Class of 2025. Explained a new approved recommendation to ask sport committees to submit one nomination every three years. The nomination form can be submitted online. https://nysphsaa.org/hof.aspx?type=class_induction
f. Joe explained the potential for a new 3-region concept. He noted Dr. Zayas will further explain and show what this concept looks like later in the meeting. See explanation under NYSPHSAA Reports.

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director

a. Gave a welcome to Katie Mitchell as the new Modified Coordinator.
b. Asked if the committee would like to look at their classification #'s for 2026. Bev indicated the committee did review the #'s and will discuss later in the meeting.
c. Asked about the mask rule and if this committee will provide feedback to the NFHS. Bev indicated they provided that by the November 1st deadline.

Kristen Jadin, Assistant Director

a. Reported Championship Philosophy Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee to eliminate the regional champion plaque effective 2025-26 school year. She asked the field hockey committee to discuss this for their position on it.
   MOTION to support this recommendation by Deb, SECOND by Barb. Defeated 0-10.
   The state committee does not support this recommendation. Their feedback will be shared.

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing & Foundation

a. Reported we had a great year of fundraising in 2023-24 for the foundation. We raised over $12,000 from our inaugural golf tournament this past summer. Grants are now available for schools. They can apply on the NYSPHSAA website.
   GRANT APPLICATIONS: https://form.jotform.com/NYSPHSAA/SchoolGrantApplication

Lexi Swatt, Director of Sports Information

a. Records – She requested the committee review records on the NYSPHSAA website. We don't know if there are records that should be reflected on the website or not. She was specifically interested in coaches being identified as active or not on the baseball page. Link to records here. Also, the record reporting form should be used to submit records.
   RECORDS can be found here: https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2021/6/9/FH_0609213027.aspx
b. NFHS Network – NYSPHSAA, Bev and Section I people identified the Network didn't appear to have field hockey commentators on the broadcast. Joe Altieri expressed this concern to Blake Rivera, NFHS producer. Blake responded to Joe and Lexi also received a response as well. Lexi explained Blake had a baby and it shook up changes with announcers. Blake indicated they didn't have a lot of options at the time and will work on it earlier next year to ensure more field hockey experts are available.

Joe deGuzman, Director of Sales

a. No report on new sponsors

3. Committee Business

a. 2025 State Championship
   - Rotation for the State Tournament schedule will be A, B, C
b. Regional Rotation
   - Bev discussed the 2025 regional rotation and announced the following:
     Sub Regional (4 v 9): Winners play in section 1. If Section 9 does not have a Class B team, the winner of section 4 v 1 Class B game will go on to the State Championships.
   - 8 @ 11
   - 3 @ 2
   - 5 @ 6

c. State Championships:

Field 2 (Maroon)	Field 1 (stadium)	
All Classes: 5/6 vs 8/11*	3/2 vs 4/9/1*	* is home team

Sunday: Visiting team on Saturday will be the Home team on Sunday.

d. Classification numbers – Bev reviewed the numbers in each class with each section. Barb has one team that is joining but she is not sure what class they will be in yet. Classifications numbers were reviewed with each coordinator to ensure accuracy for 2025

	Class A	Class B	Class C
Section 1	16	14	12
Section 2	7	7	7
Section 3	6	9	14
Section 4	3	3	9
Section 5	4	6	1
Section 6	5	10	7
Section 8	7	7	5
Section 9	2	1	7
Section 11	19	13	5

4. Other Committee Business

a. NFHS rules
The federation will be meeting on the new rule proposals either this week or next.

b. Section reports/concerns:

- Section 11: see a drop in JV programs; 1 MS drop; lack of officials; transportation; double header affects JV completion because of lack of officials; BBP moving to a C
- Section 9: more officials needed; trying to grow the game and get back programs that have less numbers
- Section 8: lack of officials; trying to push getting a 4:30 start with bussing; restricted on number of games because of officials
- Section 6: lack of officials; lack of JV teams; Promotion Rule: Modified athletes to JV or V after the Modified season is over (state rule)
- Section 5: lack of officials; possible later start and having 6 practices; dropped/lower numbers MS and JV programs
- Section 4: should have even playing numbers (gentlemen's agreement); coaches communicate with each other based off their roster numbers; wants to grow the sport; unruly spectators; sportsmanship between teams at the end of the game
- Section 3: JV programs and numbers is a major concern; very successful they played evenly down (I.e. 7 v 7, 8 v 8, etc.); hoping to come up with an actual rule using 9 v 9 on the JV level; Schools looking to eliminate teams if they don't have 11 v 11 - we need to do better. Modified needs updating in the handbook, currently states halves, should be quarters
- Section 2: lack of officials; bussing issues and getting charged for late starts
- Section 1: lack of officials; decreasing number of JV teams

c. Modified-Plays without penalty corners; question came up if JV should follow suit

Bev asked Todd - Can we put something in the HS handbook about playing 7 v 7 up to 11 v 11 - this will ensure administration knows this is available. Katie can bring to modified and Bev can bring to Handbook committee for the Executive Board. Katie can bring to modified changing the state handbook to read quarters, not halves

- Monica: motion to have modified FH to play 4 quarters of 15 mins; Second Barb; all in favor; passes; Katie will bring it to Modified committee in March.

d. Miscellaneous matters
   - Nicky is working with USA hockey to help grow the game in NY. Hockey 5 will take place at Syracuse University, running a youth through club level. Nicky will be working with the officials about the hockey 5 rules. She will be sending an email out to all section coordinators hoping to share with all their coaches at every level.
   - Hall of Fame nomination from Section 4 Carla Tagliente. Player from Marathon, played on the USA national team, is currently head coach at Princton.

e. Alternative play to counter losing programs - Deb Beam asked about how 8 man football was started. Todd explained it was in the football rulebook and some sections started at the local level. Todd suggested you see who is interested in a 7 v 7 level division from each section. Bev mentioned you could lose teams at the class level which could affect the number of divisions at the state championships. We need to change the terminology of speaking with AD's and coaches in regards to whether you play 11 v 11 or 7 v 7, 9 v 9, etc.

Next Meetings

2025 State Committee Tournament Mtg – Friday, Nov. 14th @ 6:30 pm/Officials 5:00 pm at the hotel
2026 State Committee Annual Meeting – Friday, January 9, 2026 @ 10:00 am via Zoom

Adjournment at 12:31 pm

--minutes respectfully submitted on January 12, 2025 by Bev Hooper and Joe Altieri

NYSPHSAA FOOTBALL STATE COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025 @ 1:00PM
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Dr. Robert Zayas, Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri, Kristin Jadin, Chris Joyce, Ken Stoldt-Asst. FB Chairman; Mike Cring, Steve Luciana-Section 1; Sean Colfer-Section 2; Keith Kempney, Joe Corley-Section 3; Jeff Paske, Matt Hafele-Section 4; Scott Barker-Section 5; Ken Stoldt- Section 6, Pat Keleher-Section 7; Joe Martillotti-Section 8; Tom Cassata, Jason Semo-Section 9; Matt Tessmer-Section10; Tim Horan-Section 11; Ric Hamblin, Tim Arden, Patrick English-Officials, Steve Nolan- Modified, Paul Sealy-NYSHSFCA

START DATES: Dr. Zayas provided clarification regarding the 2025 and long-term fall sports start dates. He is working with the ad hoc committee to revise the language to state: **"All fall sports shall start two weeks prior to Labor Day. Football shall start on the Monday of Week 7." I**t's important to note that SED approval is required for football to start in Week 7, as this would extend the football season to 16 weeks. Currently, the fall sports season is limited to 15 weeks.

A separate proposal is being discussed specifically for the 2025 season. This proposal suggests that all fall sports, including football, start on Monday of Week 7 for that year only until the Ad Hoc Committee proposal can be fully discussed.

Additionally, Kristin Jadin presented a proposal from the Philosophy Committee to eliminate runner-up plaques in regional competition. The Football Committee unanimously supported maintaining the current format.

8-MAN FOOTBALL: The Football Committee discussed the site, date, and venue for the 2025 8-Man Regional Championship. There is support within the committee to hold this game in the Dome alongside the 11-Man Championships.

Currently, the Central Committee made the determination the 8-Man Regional should not be held at the same venue as the 11-Man State Championships. Currently, the NYSPHSAA staff is recommending scheduling the 8-Man Regional Championship during Week 21, to be played outdoors during the 11-Man Semifinal Week.

Section Chairpersons were asked to consult with their local sections to build support for holding the game in the Dome. Additionally, they were requested to provide Keith Kempney with projections for the number of 8-Man teams their section expects to have in 2025.

MODIFIED: No report

NYSHSFCA: Paul Sealy reminded everyone the state clinic will be held at Turning Stone on March 6, 7 & 8. 2-25. The 7 on 7 tournament will be held at SUNY Cortland in July.

OFFICIALS: Tim Arden noted they are heavy into recruiting season at this time. A concern was brought up by a committee member regarding the pants issue for 2025. Tim will look at options.

ROUND TABLE: Tim Horan inquired about two-man officiating crews on modified games. There is concern over site lines on special teams with two-man crews. Tim Arden noted that he would share these concerns with his officials. Keith Kempney is looking for someone to take over the spreadsheet to track teams looking for games throughout the season. Keith also has requested chairmen to complete his classification spreadsheet as well.

NEXT MEETING: Monday February 10 @ 1:00PM

Respectfully submitted by
Ken Stoldt, NYSPHSAA Asst. Football Chairman
1/14/25

CHAMPIONSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2025

CAC Members Attending: Greg Ransom (Chair), Mike Andrew (Team Sports), Jen Keane (At-Large), Josh Harrica (At-Large), Eileen Troy (At-Large), Kathy Hoyt (Executive Director), Susan Reid (At-Large), Carlos Cotto (At-Large) ABSENT with notice: Mark Ward (At-Large), Dave Lilleck (Superintendent), Jamie Harter (Individual Sports)

Staff/Officers Attending: Joe Altieri (CAC Liaison/Assistant Director), Dr. Robert Zayas (Executive Director), Todd Nelson (Assistant Director), Kristen Jadin (Assistant Director), Lexi Swatt (Director of Sports Information); Chris Joyce (Director of Marketing), Tim Mullins (President), Adam Stoltman (Vice President), Deb Ferry (2nd Vice President). **Guest**: Jamie Pereira (SAAC member)

Coordinators Attending: Jim Amen (Boys Lacrosse), Liz Parry (Girls Lacrosse)

Call to Order by Chair Greg Ransom at 10:07 am. He introduced Jamie Pereira, a member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). Greg reminded the committee that our task is to vet proposals and represent the association and not schools or sections individually. He offered Dr. Robert Zayas and President Tim Mullins opening remarks/reports. Dr. Zayas stated he will discuss two items later in the agenda. President Mullins thanked Greg and the CAC for their continued service. He welcomed Jamie Pereira.

Greg asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2024 CAC meeting.
MOTION by Josh. SECOND by Mike. CARRIED 8-0.

PROPOSALS
(*These items will be presented as discussion or action at the next Executive Committee Mtg)*
Following proposal presentations by Sport Coordinators, Greg announced Sport Coordinators may depart the call so the CAC can discuss and vote on proposals.

GIRLS LACROSSE – Regional Rotation 2025-30 – Girls Lacrosse State Coordinator Liz Parry explained the proposal. No questions/concerns were raised.
MOTION by Kathy to support the proposal. SECOND by Carlos. CARRIED 7-1.

BOYS LACROSSE – Regional Rotation 2025-30 – Boys Lacrosse State Coordinator Jim Amen explained the proposal. No questions/concerns were raised.
MOTION by Eileen to support the proposal. SECOND by Jen. CARRIED 7-1.

FOOTBALL – 8-Man Regional Championship – Executive Director Dr. Robert Zayas explained the proposal from the NYSPHSAA staff and that the football state committee was opposed to this proposal. Greg stated until they get to a championship level, they should consider rotating to the east and west semifinal sites for this game. Todd noted it not always best when teams come from the same area. We had two Section IV teams (considered the east) qualify in 2024 but hey were supposed to travel east because that was established as the host site. A discussion ensued about how to establish a host site. Joe suggested voting on the Week #21 proposal and because we have good relationships with the east/west semifinals sites, we can

figure out a rotation as to who hosts at a later time.
MOTION by Mike to support the proposal. SECOND by Kathy. CARRIED 8-0.

CAC SUB-COMMITTEE – Regional Dates/Nights Rest Rule – Greg recapped the sub-committee discussion on this topic in September and how the language was developed. Joe reminded CAC this was brought up as a concern from Section 1 at the May Executive Committee meeting. Jen was concerned with a minimum of three nights due to venues hosting games and contracts with them that hold them to certain dates. Sue agreed with the concern but hoped sections/coordinators have that in mind as they set schedules. Jen suggested two nights rest. Sue noted two nights rest has been an issue in the past and she was under the impression all sports had a guideline for regional games but not all actually do. Mike indicated the idiosyncrasies of each section that play a role in scheduling.
MOTION by Sue to support the proposal. SECOND by Josh. CARRIED 7-1.

FOR REVIEW/INPUT/CHAMPIONSHIP SITE SELECTIONS:
Competitive Cheer 2026-28 – Joe A. explained the lone bid submitted by Visions Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton. He indicated both staff and committee agreed on the bid as the recommendation.
CAC expressed no concerns with the recommendation.

Wrestling (Boys & Girls) Individual 2026-28– Joe A. explained this was a re-bid from September due to the increased high costs of the MVP Arena (Albany) bid. In the re-bid, MVP secured a $50,000 donation to help offset the costs and reduced its rent by $13,000. He indicated both staff and state committee agreed on the bid as the recommendation. **CAC expressed no concerns with the recommendation.**

Outdoor Track 2026-28 – Joe A. explained no bids were submitted for this event and a re-bid is went out in November. No bids were submitted at that time either, therefore the staff is tasked with finding a site. He explained a revised RFP was sent out to nearly a dozen selected venues with a Saturday-Sunday option if a venue cannot host on a Friday-Saturday. Approval will be requested in April/May.

INFORMATIONAL:
3-Region Regional Rotation Concept – Dr. Zayas explained the proposal. Several applauded the efforts and concept to help solve equity and other issues. No concerns were raised.

Season Start Dates Ad Hoc Committee – 2nd Vice President Deb Ferry explained the meetings amongst this committee and the recommendations going to the Executive Committee in February.

2024-29 Championship Dates & Sites – Joe A. noted the updated championship documents in the packet.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Josh. SECOND by Sue. CARRIED 8-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

NEXT MEETINGS: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 @ 10:00 am
Wednesday, June 18, 2025 @ 10:00 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by NYSPHSAA liaison Joe Altieri; reviewed/approved on 1/17/2025 by CAC Chair, CAC members and the NYSPHSAA Executive Director prior to distribution.

NYSPHSAA
Boys/Girls Soccer JOINT Committee
Friday, February 7, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Dr. Robert Zayas, Joe Altieri, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce, Emily Iannotta (Intern), Anthony Cordero (Intern)
COMMITTEE: Matty Allen (Boys Coordinator/Section 1), Tony Portara (Section 1), Ernie Clapper (Section 2), Bill Donald (Section 3), Mike Andrew (Section 4), Gary Pollack (Section 5), Todd Marquardt (Section 6), Rob McAuliffe (Section 7), Al Freeman (Section 8), Pete Ferguson/Tony Martelli (Section 9), Dicky Marcellus (Section 10), Mike Huey (Section 11)
COMMITTEE: Joe Vasile-Cozzo (Girls Coordinator/Section 11), Michael Chappas (Section 1), Zale Benton (Section 2), Pete Lautensack (Section 3), Richard Turnbull (Section 4), Jon Beardsley (Section 5), Chris Durr (Section 6), Tim Mulligan (Section 7), Mike Bongino (Section 8), Diane Wanser (Section 9), Rose Bronchetti (Section 10)
GUESTS: Al Ellis, Machell Phelps, Lou Hanner, Dicky Marcellus, Matt Wood (Modified Rep), Tony Portera (Sct1)

1. Attendance & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am by State Coordinators, Matty Allen (boys) and Joe Vasile-Cozzo (girls). Joe V thanked Mike Andrew for his many years of service as boys state coordinator and welcomed Matty Allen, new coordinator

Joe Altieri introduced Brian Kelly from Spalding. He reported that Spalding is providing any feedback from NYSPHSAA to his engineering team to improve the soccer ball. QUESTION: Chris Durr asked the difference in two ball models (SC5 and TF5000). He had a concern about getting through the season with one of the models and that the SC5 was a little soft. Brian stated SC5 is a thermal bonded ball and TF5000 is hand-stitched. He added they are discontinuing the SC5 ball but would accept feedback to re-consider using it. Matty added input on the two models he was provided for testing for two months in an indoor league. Brian thanked both committees and asked for their continued feedback on the products.

2. NYSPHSAA Staff Reports

Dr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director

a. Reported on a new committee, Schools Without Boundaries Committee, which met on October 16th due to a membership concern from Section 1, then again on February 4th. This is to address the concern of private schools and placement. They recently reviewed eight proposals from committee members and it was decided to take back three of the proposals to sections to seek feedback as well gather data on the number of public schools in the NYSPHSAA membership who are accepting tuition-paying students outside their boundaries. The committee will meet again this spring.
b. Reported on a new concept being considered for regional rotations. He shared his screen and explained a 3-region concept with sections designated to a specific region. It was discussed at the February 5th Executive Committee meeting and the membership has passed a motion to explore implementing this concept in the Fall of 2025. A discussion and questions followed about this idea. This concept was created based on a concern regarding equity, travel, etc in regional play.
c. Reported on communications he is working on with Commissioner Rosa to obtain guidance and clarity on the Executive Order from President Trump on transgender participation in athletics.

Joe Altieri, Assistant Director

a. Thanked Cortland and Middletown for outstanding, successful soccer state tournaments in the fall.
b. Reported Championship Philosophy Committee has made a recommendation to the Executive Committee to eliminate the regional finalist plaque effective 2025-26 school year. He asked both committees to discuss this and provide their position.
   BOYS COMMITTEE:
   MOTION to <u>not</u> support this recommendation by Bill D. SECOND by Al. Defeated 9-2.

   GIRLS COMMITTEE:
   MOTION to <u>not</u> support this recommendation by Joe V. SECOND by Pete. Defeated 8-3.
   Neither committee supports this recommendation. Their feedback will be shared.

c. Reported the Championship Advisory Committee (CAC) has presented a recommendation to the Executive Committee for a three-nights rest rule in regional play. If approved in May, host sections must give three nights rest between sectional finals, sub-regional games and regional finals. It would be effective Fall of 2025.
d. On behalf of Lexi Swatt, Director of Sports Information, he noted records are as good as the information submitted. He asked both committees to review the NYSPHSAA website and reach out to Lexi if there are changes needed. You can also complete the Records Report Form on the website to report records.
e. On behalf of Lexi, he stated Lexi is working with Matty A. and Joe V. on a live Google form for regional results for Fall of 2025. Same procedure, slightly different form. Lexi wanted to thank both committees for their cooperation in 2024.
f. Reported on the Sports Seasons Start Date Ad Hoc Committee. On Weds, February 5th the Executive Committee voted to approve all fall sports to start week #7 (August 18th), effective for the 2025 season only. Future fall season start dates will be voted on at the May Executive Committee meeting.

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director

a. Reported the 2025-26 school enrollment #'s and the 2025-26 classification cut-off numbers for six class sports were approved in October and posted on our website.
b. He welcomed Matt Wood, Modified Coordinator, and asked him if he had a report. No report.

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing & Foundation

a. Reported we had a great year of fundraising in 2023-24 for the foundation. We raised over $12,000 from our inaugural golf tournament this past summer. Grants of up to $1,000 per school are now available on our website. They can apply on the NYSPHSAA website. GRANT APPLICATIONS: https://form.jotform.com/NYSPHSAA/SchoolGrantApplication

NYSPHSAA
Girls Soccer Committee Meeting
Friday, February 7, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Joe Vas started the meeting at 11:09

1. Review of 2024 Tournament
    a. no feedback or concerns raised

2. 2025 Tournament
    a. review of documents
        i. committee directory
        ii. trophy and regional balls list
        iii. brackets and regional rotations - could change in May (depending on vote on Regional Rotations)
        iv. Pre tournament meetings (same Hotel as last year)
            if committee members could arrive around 2:30 to help with dividing up awards and credentials
            1. committee mtg - 3:30
            2. team Check in - 5:00
            3. Coaches Meeting - 6:00
            4. Officials Meeting - 7:00 (Joe will check with German)
    b. Game protocols
        i. Peter asked about MVP awards and the announcements. Todd stated that nothing has been changed in the protocol regarding the awards ceremony.
        ii. Rose - officials need to start things on time. officials need to stick to the timeline. Joe will reiterate with German.
        iii. Chris recommended a 10 - 5 - 4 format
            1. officials mtg at 10 min
            2. teams off the field at 5 min
            3. walk out at 4 minutes
        iv. Peter suggested that the teams stay on the field after announcements and not go back to coach or also just announce starters. Rose likes the announcing of all players. Joe mentioned that we decided to announce all players a couple years ago. Jon reiterated that we need to keep the kids in mind. as much time on the field for warmups as possible. teams are used to seeing their coaches after the announcements. In Section V they do 4-2-1 minutes.
            Joe said that we will go with 10-5-4.
        v. Jon asked about the procedure for the national anthem. Before every game or once a day? and asked that the announcers be consistent and speed up. Todd stated that the state policy is a national anthem for every game and there are scripts for every announcer. Michelle requested feedback on the announcers and she will work on it.
    c. sectional Concerns

i. Spalding ball - concerns were addressed in joint mtg.
ii. Joe asked Todd to be added to the Regional rotation committee. Todd recommended that Joe should send Robert an email with that request.
iii. Diane raised concerns about the new regional rotations timeline if implemented for this fall. Not enough lead time for implementation and a huge change in what we currently have and what is proposed. Diane currently has a one night tournament and now possibly a three night tournament. (sub regionals, who is hosting, etc)n Dianne recommended that we should have the time to review the new proposal and implement it in 2026.
Joe asked Todd to relay our concerns to Robert. Todd reiterated that the NYSPHSAA office staff agrees 100%. Motion was made by Section VII from the floor and was voted through by a majority vote. Todd recommended that we as coordinators speak with our executive directors and executive committee members and let them know our thoughts.
Mike reiterated that what Todd said is accurate. He is on the committee that voted. He believes it passed with a 18-4 vote.
Joe reiterated that our current brackets should have been approved today, but with the vote in May, everything could change. Coming up with the new brackets and rotations will put stress on all fall sports.
iv. Todd stated that he enjoys working with our committee and Michelle. the sites are great and it is one of the best tournaments we have. Joe thanked Michelle for being an integral part of our successful tournaments. Joe also thanked the committee for working well together and doing the best we can for the sport.
v. Chris thanked Todd and the office for having the spalding rep at the meeting. The feedback both ways was very helpful.

d. Joe reviewed “plan A” and “plan B” for the state tourney. reviewed and approved by the state office. Thank you to Todd for all his help at the tourney.
e. Jon has concerns regarding the 3 day rest proposal. Section V is a large section with crossover games (split classes) and that could make them end their season earlier. Jon is opposed to affecting all schools in a regular season just to get teams set for a state tournament. Chris agrees with Jon, and asked the committee if any other sections split their classes? Pete stated that Section III eliminated split classes about 10 years ago. Only Section V and VI have split classes in Girls soccer. Jon stated he and Chris work well on the current regional structure but that the rest policy would adversely affect the schedule. Rich agreed that the rest proposal makes it very hard to put a schedule together.

Meeting adjourned 11:44 am

Rose - Motion, 2nd - Jon

NYSPHSAA
BOYS Soccer Committee Meeting
Friday, February 7, 2025
MEETING MINUTES

Matty Allen began meeting at 11:12 AM

1. **Begin with announcement of New Committee Members and Directory Updates**
    a. Matty begins meeting with thank you for Mike Andrew
    b. Robert Franco - Harborheads - Section 11 (Not In Attendance for Meeting)
    c. Matty introduces Tony Portera to the Committee
    d. Matty shares screen of Updated Directory for Coordinators for Boys Soccer
    e. Matty shares screen of a Directory for Soccer Coaches across the State

2. **Ted Woods Memorial Award - Awarded to Mike Huey of Section 11**
    a. Mike Andrew Introduced the Award and its merits.
    b. Coordinator Matty Allen announces that Mike Huey will be the recipient of the award.
    c. A series of coordinators including Mike Andrew and Al Freeman speak glowingly about Mike.
    d. Mike Huey announces that he will be in attendance for the State Tournament and accepts award.

3. **State Tournament 2024 Review/Discussion-Led by Pete and Tony**
    a. There isn't much of a Review just highlighting the Success of Tournament
    b. Kudos are given to the staff up at Middletown for the seamless interchange of games
    c. Rob McAuliffe highlights the great success of the Second Turf Field.
    d. Matty highlights the training area behind the field as being successful

4. **2025 State Tournament Scheduling – Section IX, NYSPHSAA, M. Allen**
    a. Matty reviews the bracket / All Ellis shares his bracket with the group as well
    b. Matty discusses the streamlining of information and shares screen
    Regional Sites and Times Discussion - Streamlining
    c. Also, discuss the creation of a form for Regional Sites to give to teams–Still a work in progress Streamlining the Regional Games

5. **Discussion about Regional Shift from the Large Meeting Carries over**
    a. Al Freeman notes a concern about the timing of introduction. Instructs committee to talk to their athletic directors/coordinators about having time
    b. Joe Altieri chimes in about the reasoning. States that the State office is opposed to having the New Regional Schedule come into play in 2025. Explains the reasons why it is being looked at. Announces that an upcoming vote will occur and instructs coordinators to have a discussion with their respective regional offices.

6. Matty Introduces some new Committee Business - HOF

a. ReEstablishing our Hall of Fame - Doug Gannon (HHW) - Talks about Doug Gannon taking over this endeavor
b. Need to set up a Non for Profit
c. Need to find a location
d. Matty asks the committee to reach out to him privately if any ideas about Hall of Fame can be raised.
e. Matty has a Mercy Discussion/ Games with 8 goal differential and to remind coaches in your section to foster an element of sportsmanship

7. Starting Date on August 18th / 25th

a. Matty polls the group to see when the starting dates will happen in each section and that Section I will wait until the 25th.
b. Rob McAuliffe notes that he likes the change in that it spaces out games for the future and like the early start date. However, this comes with a note of caution as decisions are being made with excessive speed. He highlights the need for a year off for Regional changes.

8. State Polls and Records - Brackets – Matt Allen / Al Ellis - (aellis17@aol.com)

a. Matty announces that a google doc will be used for State Rankings
b. Lou Hanner speaks about REgistering High School boys for All-Region and All American. Notes that it's important for coaches to register with the USC and to make sure that they registered as a Boys High School coach to get credit. He remarks that our numbers for the awards have increased especially on Long Island where the numbers have gone up. They are the only section that mandates that coaches join the USC.

9. Sectional Concerns

I - Matty highlights the start date as a point of contention within the section. Coaches want early; directors want late.
2 - Ernie reiterates and would like to revisit the yellow card accumulation policy. Unfair with the distribution of cards across the state with varying amount of games. Would like to revisit that.
III - Bill echoes Ernie's statement about yellow card rule being revisited
IV - Mike Announces no pertinent concerns for Section IV
V -Gary reiterates the rush on changing the Regional dates and highlights a concern about rushing and moving forward so quickly
VI - Todd announces no pertinent concerns for Section VI
VII - Rob highlights the rushing of the dates and pushing things through committees for fast.
VIII - Al reiterates his position on the rush of the dates.
IX - Tony announces no pertinent concerns
X - Dickie Marcellus announces no concerns for Section X
XI - Mike Huey gives a final thank you to the committee but no pressing concerns.

Meeting is Adjourned at 11:47 (Motion made by Mike Huey and seconded by Mike Andrew)

NYSPHSAA FOOTBALL STATE COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025 @ 1:00 PM
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE
Staff: Dr. Robert Zayas, Joe Altieri, Lexi Swatt
Committee: Mike Cring (Section 1), Sean Colfer (Section 2), Keith Kempney, Joe Corley (Section 3), Matt Hafele (Section 4); Scott Barker (Section 5), Pat Keleher (Section 7) Joe Martillotti (Section 8), Tom Cassata, Jason Semo (Section 9), Tim Horan-Section 11
Officials: Ric Hamblin, Tim Arden, Patrick English-Officials

START DATES: Dr. Zayas provided an update that State Ed has approved a 16-week season for 2025 if football started week #7. SED is the first hurdle to clear and now NYSPHSAAA Executive Committee will vote on the earlier week #7 start date on May 7th. Dr. Zayas does not see there being an issue with the approval. He also noted the calendar slowly gets earlier and earlier including August 13th in 2029 then jumps later in 2030. Keep that in mind going forward.

8 MAN FOOTBALL:
Dr. Zayas reported there is a proposal for the regional championship to go back to the 11-man state semifinal weekend. It will be voted on May 7th. He stated the committee can still come up with a better proposal but must act fast and communicate to its section for support.

OFFICIALS:
Tim Arden discussed the pants issue and compiled a document that has guidelines and will be shared with the group. Gary stated the pants issue was a major topic of conversation at the NFHS National Rules Meeting. Tim A. said some of his info from the NFHS is included in the document he compiled. Patrick sent out a press release for distribution to everyone. He noted a change in the fumble rule. Gary said signage is also part of a new rule and cameras in helmets. Gary explained the procedures for when the rules will be final and we can share.

MODIFIED: No report

NYSHSFCA: Gary reminded everyone the state clinic will be at Turning Stone on March 6-8.

ROUND TABLE:
Season Schedules - Gary asked if everyone is done with their regular season schedules yet. Pat was still seeking games for his schools in week #0 of the season. Keith will compile a spreadsheet of games for each section so the committee can keep track. Gary had a request from Matt Ortega from Coatsville, PA looking for a game on September 6 or 7. Large school (6A). Reach out to Gary if interested.

2025 State Finals - Joe reported the JMA Wireless Dome approved NYSPHSAA for the 2025 State Finals to be played on Friday, December 5th (3 pm, 6 pm) and Saturday, December 6th (12 pm, 3 pm, 6 pm).

8-Man Numbers - Gary asked how we are doing with 8-man programs across the state. The following is where we currently stand.

Section 1 - 1 team that plays in S9
Section 3 - 12 teams
Section 4 - 7 teams
Section 5 - 4 teams (1 may go back to 11-man)
Section 6 - 2 teams
Section 7 - 0 teams
Section 9 - 10 teams (there are 2 section 2 schools that may join S9)
Section 10 - 1 team

Keith will organize a meeting on Tues, Feb 18th at 8:00 am to discuss 8-man scheduling.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 10 @ 1:00PM (Joe will send out a Zoom link)

Respectfully submitted by Joe Altieri, NYSPHSAA Assistant Director
2/10/2025

NYSPHSAA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 @ 1:00PM
MINUTES - REVISION

ATTENDANCE: NYSPHSAA Staff- Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri, Kristin Jadin; State Coordinator-Gary Vanderzee, Asst- Ken Stoldt; Section 1- Mike Cring, Section 2- Sean Colfer; Section 3- Keith Kempney, Joe Corley; Section 4-Jeff Paske; Section 5-Scott Barker; Section 6-Jay Sirianni; Section 7-absent; Section 8- Joe Martillotti; Section 9-Tom Cassata, Jason Semo, Dave Coates; Section 10- Matt Tessmer; Section 11-absent; Officials- Ric Hamblin, Tim Arden, Pat English;

NYSPHSAA: No report

8 MAN FOOTBALL: Todd Nelson informed the committee there has been a proposal submitted to CAC and Executive Committee requesting that the 8-Man Regional Final be played the same week as the 11-Man Semifinals. This will be voted on in May. Keith Kempney (3) presented the committee with a proposed 8-Man season schedule for 2025 that would have the regional final played during the week of the 11-Man Semifinals. MOTION by Keith to accept this proposal, SECOND by Scott Barker (5). The vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Todd reminded the committee that in order to have an 8-Man Regional Championship in 2026, there must be a minimum of 4 sections that have at least 4 teams or 8-Man will no longer be recognized or paid for by NYSPHSAA. The committee must declare # of programs in each section by May 2026.

OFFICIALS: No report. Gary Vanderzee informed the committee that the proposed mouthpiece rule will not go into effect this year.

MODIFIED: No report. It was noted that modified proposals for football should go from to the Section Football Coordinator or Modified Coordinator, Steve Nolan.

NYSHSFCA: No report.

ROUNDTABLE: Section 3- Keith Kempney requested that the chairman of each section list teams looking for games on the spreadsheet he has created. Joe Altieri reported Niskayuna High School (Section 2) contacted the NYSPHSAA office to request week #0 games. Keith will add them to the schedule and noted schools should reach out to their section coordinators for game requests.
Section 6- Ken Stoldt asked if any teams took advantage of spring football last year. No schools have participated outside of Section 6 at this time.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY APRIL 7, 2025 @ 1:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Ken Stoldt, NYSPHSAA Assistant Football Coordinator, 3/11/2025

APPENDIX D

Fall 2024 Post-Season Report
Sport: Girls Soccer

Sport Chair: Chris Durr, Joanna Fildes (Asst.)

2024- Sectional Results:

AAA - Lancaster defeated Niagara Falls 5-1
AA - Clarence defeated Lockport 2-0
A - Lew-Port defeated Pioneer 2-0
B - Falconer/CV/MG defeated Allegany-Limestone 2-1
C - Frewsburg defeated Randolph 2-0
D - Ellicottville defeated North Collins 2-0

2024- Regional Results

AA - Clarence defeated Spencerport 2-0

Clarence lost 1-0 in sudden victory OT to Albertus Magnus (I) in NYSPHSAA Semis

Nominations for Coaches Sportsmanship Award:

Dale MacArthur - Allegany Limestone

Dale exhibits outstanding sportsmanship and is a role model for other coaches. His sideline demeanor should be an example of how a coach conducts him/herself.

All WNY Sportsmanship Winners:
Buffalo - Olmsted
CCAA I -
CCAA II - Harper Klein 11 Ellicottville
CCAA III -
ECIC I - Maya Griffin 12 Orchard Park
ECIC II - Eliana Wolfley 12 Hamburg
ECIC III - Debbie Ciura 12 Maryvale

ECIC IV - Peyton Langworthy 11 Tonawanda
NO - Medina
NFL - Lexi Gampp 11 North Tonawanda

Report on Active Pilots:

Splitting of classes at seeding meeting.
We had a total of 8 teams opt out of sectional play this year. As a result, Class A and B dropped below the number of teams (18) required to split the classes. This is year two of the pilot and the committee would like to make this adaptation a permanent policy for girls soccer.

Problems Encountered/Concerns from this season:

We received several complaints/concerns regarding the combining of schools formula, and especially Falconer/CV MG (before they won the Class B title)

Semi Finals at home site Change.
Our committee was against the change of Semis to home sites. Our concerns were validated when we had 7 of our 11 Semifinals held at the 3:30 time frame. There was a problem finding officials available for the early game slot (21 officials). Concerns were also raised regarding the travel time and players missing school.

Wilson raised a concern (after the game) that the Frewsburg home goals were the incorrect size. Evidence was provided that the goals were in fact, not legal. This issue needs to be corrected for the 2025 season

Fall 2025:

Sport Committee:

Title:	Name:	School:	Cell Phone	Email
Section Chairperson:	Chris Durr*	Clarence	316-3892	willeastcoach@gmail.com,
Assistant Chairperson:	Joanna Fildes	Amherst	908-9550	jfildes@amherstschools.org
AT Large	Steve Sabo	Meadow Elementary (N.T.)	228-7362	coachsabo@ladyjackssoccer.org
AT Large	Kevin Rice		550-3479	krice@silvercreekschools.org
ECIC	Joanna Fildes*	(see above)		
ECIC I	Mike Graffeo	Orchard Park	359-1665	mgraffeo@opschools.org
CCAA I	Dale MacArthur*	Allegany-Limestone	378-8920	ddmacarthur@verizon.net

CCAA II	Michael Matz	Portville	353-0298	mmatz@portvillecsd.org
CCAA III				
BFLO	Jason Milne*	City Honors	698-9571	jasonmilne76@gmail.com
NFL	Dave Bowman*	Conner Middle (Grand Island)	829-9422	davidbowman@gicsd.org
NO	Maggie Orbaker	Albion	(585) 590-1557	morbaker@albionk12.org
Officials Rep.	Bill Sciliono	Buffalo / ECIC/ NFL/ NO	912-1200	wrssocref@aol.com
	German Lesmes	Chaut-Catt (South)	785-7087	leser22@gmail.com
	Dan Teplesky	Bflo, ECIC	518-701-1738	rvfdan@aol.com

Sport Committee Meeting Dates:

Pre Season Meeting - TBA (late March)

Sport Committee Proposals:

Would like to explore changing the last tie breaker to overall record.

2025- Post Season Calendar

Event	**Details**	**Date/Time**
First Practice		8/25/25
First Scrimmage/Contest	after 6 individual practices	9/1/25
Pre-Season Coaches Meeting	Your League Meeting	Wednesday 8/20
Rosters deadline	sectionvisoccer.com	9/1
Deadline to opt out of Sectionals	email chair	10/11/25
Last League Game	**Regularly scheduled	10/16/25
Seeding Meeting	at TBA	10/18/25 9am

Admittance form for Sectionals	Admittance form	bring to semis, finals, regionals
2024 Sectional Post Season Calendar details on next page		
Coaches bring copy of Admittance form to Semi's & Finals Admittance form		
Far West Regional Section VI	Section V	TBA
Far West Regional Section VI	Section V	TBA
State Championship State Championship schedule	Various Sites, Cortland Area State Championship	11/15 & 11/16 Time tba
All-WNY Scholar Athlete Deadline	On-Line Form Only	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct.				16 **Last Regularly Scheduled League Game** **Cut-Off Date**	17	18 **Seeding Meeting** **9am @ TBA**
19	20	21 **PRE-1/4** AA, A 3:30 or TBA at Higher Seed	22 **PRE-1/4** B 3:30 or TBA at Higher Seed	23 **QUARTERS** AA, A 3:30 or TBA at Higher Seed	24 **QUARTERS** B, C 3:30 or TBA at Higher Seed	25 **QUARTERS** AAA (if needed) Noon at Higher Seed

26	27 **SEMIS** D A 2:30, 6:00, or 7:00 at Higher Seed	28 **SEMIS** C AA 2:30, 6:00, or 7:00 at Higher Seed	29 **SEMIS** AAA B 2:30, 6:00, or 7:00 at Higher Seed	30	31 **FINALS** A1, A2 @ TBA 5:00 (if nec) & 7:30 C & D @TBA 5 & 7:30	1 **FINALS** B1, B2 @ TBA 10:30 & 1:00 (if nec) AA & AAA @ TBA 4:00 & 6:30pm
2	3	4 **OVERALL FINALS** (If necessary) A & B @ TBA 5:30 & 7:30	5	6	7 **REGIONALS** @ Section V TBA	8 **REGIONALS** @ Section V TBA
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 **STATES** @ Cortland (Section 3)
16 **STATES** @ Cortland (Section 3)						

Other Important Dates:

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Durr, 1/27/25