

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

SECTION VI POLICY MANUAL

Approved: June 18, 2025

Section VI website: www.section6.e1b.org

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Athletic Participation

110 Participation Philosophy NYSPHSAA, Section VI

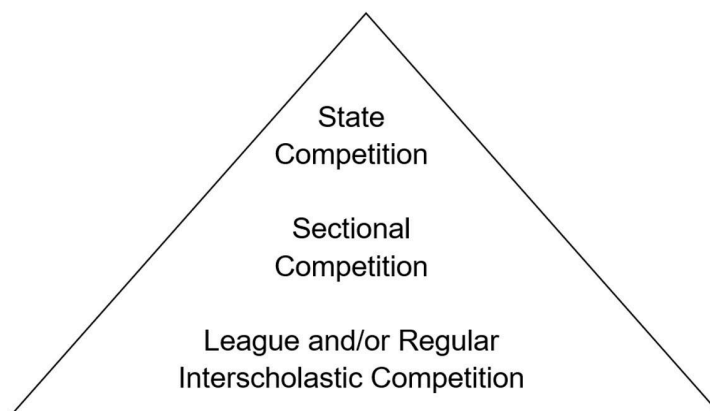
Section VI believes that participation at the Section level should involve as many students as practical. At the State level, the emphasis should be on excellence. Consequently, only the best athletes from each section should compete at the State level.

When considering program expansion, changes to classification numbers or number of participants for individual and team sports, the above statements must be considered along with financial and site factors. The consideration of all factors should be sport specific, i.e., the decision affecting one sport should not necessarily affect a proposal from another sport.

111 Policy of Excellence

In accordance with the philosophy of Section VI regarding the maintaining of a true commitment to excellence, Section VI believes the best athletes should be given an opportunity to compete against each other at a higher level than the league. This is provided for through sectional competition as represented in the pyramid below:

- a) All sports will use State classifications for the purpose of computing power ratings.



112 Participation in Multiple Sports

- a) A student may be allowed to participate on more than one sport team during the same season if they can meet the requirements of each sport program.
- b) Leagues have the responsibility and authority to make rules governing participation in more than one sport during a sport season.

114 Athlete Confidentiality

In order to protect the confidentiality of students, names of athletes will no longer appear on any Section VI meeting agenda or minutes in matters of disciplinary actions. Student athletes in these circumstances will only be referred to by team, and school district.

120 Combining Teams for Athletic Participation-

The combining of teams from two or more schools to form a single team may be permitted by the Section in order to foster the emergence of a new sport, support a school that has a declining number of participants in a sport and/or financial reasons. The combining of teams will be subject to the following guidelines:

- 120.1 A school may not combine with another member school unless the sport in question has Board of Education approval in both districts.
- 120.2 If the request is not approved at the league level, the Section will not hear the request.
- 120.3 The combining of schools application (Section VI website, "*Forms and Information*") must be submitted, including all signatures, to the following in the order listed for approval:
 - 120.3 a) All leagues involved
The respective sport's chairperson would need to be notified.
Federated sports would apply directly to the Athletic Council.
 - 120.3 b) Athletic Council - via the Section VI Executive Director.
 - 120.3 c) NYSPHSAA – via the Section VI Executive Director.

It is the responsibility of the athletic director(s) of schools involved to see that the request is forwarded to the leadership of their respective League(s) and the Section office. A spreadsheet listing each application and status/approval date is posted on the Section website. Paper copies are filed at the Section office.

- 120.4 Schools will combine teams for a period of one year. Classifications are determined by the approved NYSPHSAA criteria and graduated structure (below). An annual application and approval will be required at various levels. (see 120.3)
 - 120.4a 100% of the BEDS is taken into account from the school with the largest BEDS number. The combined team determines the host school. A percentage of the BEDS of the remaining school(s) is dependent upon the association's "Sport Specific Formula".

2025-2026 Sport Specific # State # <https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2021/6/8/classifications.aspx>

Six Classes (AAA, AA, A, B-100%, C-50%, D-40%)

Five Classes (AA, A, B-100%, C-50%, D-40%)

Four Classes (A, B-100%, C-50%, D-40%)

Three Classes (A-100%, B-50%, C-40%)

Two Division (100%, 50%)

The chart contained on back of application will always reflect the current state sport classification

- 120.5 Final approval by the Athletic Council must meet the following deadlines:
- Fall Sport: Must be approved no later than the previous March meeting.
 - Winter Sport: Must be approved no later than the previous May meeting.
 - Spring Sport: Must be approved no later than the previous September meeting.

Applications received after their deadline will only be considered for unforeseen and extenuating circumstances, not for member school administrative error.

120.6 Combining of Schools Committee

The Combining of Schools Committee will meet a minimum of three times per year at the conclusion of the fall, winter and spring seasons. The Committee will annually review combined teams to determine if dominance has been established. Combined teams who are sectional semi-finalists, sectional finalists, and sectional champions will automatically be reviewed. Recommendations from leagues, sports chairs and the Executive Director will also begin the review process. The Committee will make any necessary recommendations to the Athletic Council in regards to combined teams placement with the goal of ensuring fair competition.

120.6a It is mandatory that the Section receive a copy of each combined team's end of season report (online form, Section VI website, "*Forms & information*"). This data is imperative in determining approval/denial and/or placement. Reports are due after the season according to the following schedule:

- Fall Season: November 30
- Winter Season: March 20
- Spring Season: June 20

120.6b It is mandatory that the sports chair review the end of season report for each combined team and submit, to the Section office, any recommendations and whether they endorse the continuation of the combined team for the subsequent season. The Executive Director will provide his recommendations for the combined teams (per the May 2018 Executive Committee meeting).

120.6c Completed end of season reports will be submitted to the Combining of Schools Committee.

The Combining of Schools Committee will review combined teams:

- Won one or more sectional championships
- Sectionals finalist or semifinalist during consecutive seasons
- Upon request by leagues/sportchair/Executive Director

The Committee will utilize the following factors when making decisions on combined teams and determining the level of “Dominance”:

- Sectional champions in consecutive seasons
- Sectional champions combined with sectional finalists or semifinalists in consecutive seasons
- Program history of success at the sectional level
- Regular season record
- Returning players
- Non-league record
- Transfers
- Determine where teams are appropriately competitive
- Schedule

120.6d Section VI Athletic Council reserves the right to deny public schools' combined application, however, the member schools could request to move up a classification and re-apply or appeal to the Section VI Executive Committee.

120.6e If the request is not approved at the Section level, the State Association will not hear the request. Denials, at the Section level, will be communicated via formal correspondence including rationale for the decision. If the request is not approved, schools will be notified, in writing, why the request was denied. If the request for a combined team is denied, the host school would have the opportunity to submit an appeal to the Section VI Athletic Council (in accordance with the Section VI Constitution Article 11 - Grievance/Appeal Procedure).

120.7 Demerge Protocol: Not to support demergers after the season has started. Any consideration for demergers will not be accepted after the start of the season. If schools decide to demerge after the season begins, the team will remain at the elevated classifications.
120.7 Approved 11/14/2018 AC

130 Section VI Statement on Mixed Competition

The member schools of Section VI have supported mixed competition since it's inception by the SED in 1992.

Once a girl has qualified and committed to participation on a boys team, she is committed for the entire season and relinquishes the right to compete against girls during that season. The Section does not support any opportunity for a girl who has qualified for and consequently selected mixed competition, to return to the girls program at any level of competition during that sport season. Exceptions to this rule are, girls wrestling and girls golf.

Section VI will ensure compliance with standards for mixed competition as written by SED. Rationale, removes opinion and focuses on compliance.

140 Participation at a Shared Services School

The request to allow a student to be eligible for interscholastic athletics at a BOCES shared services school and not at the student's home school must be submitted to the league and then to the Section prior to the beginning of the sport season(s).

Approval of the request will depend on whether the following condition exists:

The student cannot return on time to his/her home school for interscholastic athletic practice because of dismissal time and distance between the two schools.

If this condition does not exist, the student must compete at his/her home school.

150 Federated Sport - Definition and Requirements

A Section VI Federation is a collaboration of Section VI member schools from multiple leagues who have joined for collective benefits within a sport and whose meet/game schedule is the responsibility of the sport chairperson's committee and not the participating leagues.

Federated status for a sport must be requested by the sport committee and approved by the Athletic Council. Divisional alignment for each season is generated by the sports chairperson-

The administration of the Federation shall be provided by Section VI through a chairperson elected by the Athletic Council and a committee representing the participating schools. All the provisions and responsibilities regarding a Section VI sports chairperson as outlined in the bylaws Article V, will apply to the chairperson of a federated sport. Sports that have fewer than fifteen member schools participating are responsible for all season and post-season competition costs.

150.1 Section VI Federated Sports include:

- Football
- Flag Football
- Girls Gymnastics
- Boys Ice Hockey
- Girls Ice Hockey
- Indoor Track
- Boys Lacrosse
- Girls Lacrosse
- Alpine Ski
- Girls Wrestling

160 Subdividing a Classification

160.1 When eighteen (18) or more schools are in a specific classification, the classification must be split. (i.e. A1, A2)

160.2 When subdividing a class, if there are an odd number of schools, the school in the middle (bubble school) will be placed in the class closest to its enrollment. If the discrepancy in enrollment above the bubble school is the same as below, the bubble school will be placed in the lower classification.

170 Independent Status

Independent team status must be approved on an annual basis, first at the league level and then by the Athletic Council. Federated teams only require Athletic Council approval. It is the involved school’s responsibility to request approval.

180 Violation of the Commissioner of Education’s Regulations

For Violations of the NYSPHSAA and the Commissioner of Education Regulations (as outlined in the NYSPHSAA Handbook), the following protocol will be followed:

Coach-1st Offense

- Suspension of 10% of the maximum number of contests/points allowed by NYSPHSAA as outlined in the NYSPHSAA handbook not to be rounded up.
- (the next regular scheduled contest(s) either regular or post season)

Coach-2nd Offense

- Suspension for the remainder of the season

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Maximum No. Contests</u>	<u>Suspension</u>
Baseball	20	2 contests
Basketball	20	2 contests
Bowling	20	2 contests
Cheerleading	12	1 contest
Cross Country	16	1 contest
Field Hockey	16	1 contest
Football	10	1 contest
Golf	16	1 contest
Gymnastics	16	1 contest
Ice Hockey	20	2 contests
Lacrosse	16	1 contest
Rifle	16	1 contest
Skiing	16	1 contest
Soccer	16	1 contest
Softball	20	2 contests
Swim/Diving	16	1 contest
Tennis	16	1 contest
Track/Field	16	1 contest
Volleyball	20	2 contests
Wrestling	20	2 contests

Sectional Competition

210 Sectional Participation

A student may participate in a sectional activity in one sport and at the same time participate in practice sessions for another sport in the next sport season with approval at the league level.

211 No shows at Sectionals

211.1 A school team that does not show or refuses to play in a Sectional contest after the seeding meeting, spoils the integrity of the tournament.

Schools shall declare their intent to play or not play prior to sectional seeding. (See sectional sport handbook) Schools failing to fulfill their tournament commitment shall be subject to the following sanction:

"Ineligibility for sectional play in that sport during the next season. An appeal of this sanction must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of Section VI within sixty (60) days of the competition of sectional play.

211.2 The Section chairperson will notify the Executive Director of each sanction and the Section office will notify the superintendent, principal and athletic director of the school sanctioned.

212 Seeding Policy

212.1 A team's power rating is the sole method of determining where a team is seeded. Each team is required to submit a Power Point Rating Form (in the sports handbook) prior to the seeding meeting.

212.2 Team power ratings are determined by dividing total League/Division points accumulated by the total number of **League/Division** games originally scheduled.

$$\text{Power Rating} = \frac{\text{Total **League/Division** Points Accumulated}}{\text{Total Number League/Division Games Originally Scheduled}}$$

212.3 Total **League/Division** points are determined by applying the point chart. Teams receive points for **League/Division** victories. Points are earned for ties in Boys and Girls Soccer and Field Hockey.

POINT CHART
Winning Points

	AAA	AA	A	B	C	D
AAA	+5.0	+4.0	+4.0	+4.0	+4.0	+4.0
AA	+6.0	+5.0	+4.0	+4.0	+4.0	+4.0
A	+6.0	+6.0	+5.0	+4.0	+4.0	+4.0
B	+6.0	+6.0	+6.0	+5.0	+4.0	+4.0
C	+6.0	+6.0	+6.0	+6.0	+5.0	+4.0
D	+6.0	+6.0	+6.0	+6.0	+6.0	+5.0

POINT CHART
Tie Points

	AAA	AA	A	B	C	D
AAA	+2.5	+2.0	+2.0	+2.0	+2.0	+2.0
AA	+3.0	+2.5	+2.0	+2.0	+2.0	+2.0
A	+3.0	+3.0	+2.5	+2.0	+2.0	+2.0
B	+3.0	+3.0	+3.0	+2.5	+2.0	+2.0
C	+3.0	+3.0	+3.0	+3.0	+2.5	+2.0
D	+3.0	+3.0	+3.0	+3.0	+3.0	+2.5

- 212.4 If teams have identical power ratings, the following criteria will be used to break the tie:
- a. The team with the most **League/Division** wins will be the higher seeded team. If still tied:
 - b. The team with the fewest league **League/Division** losses will be the higher seeded team. If still tied:
 - c. The team with the higher winning percentage of games scheduled will be the higher seeded team (determined by total league wins divided by total **League/Division** games scheduled). If still tied:
 - d. If teams are in the same **League/Division**, use head-to-head results. If still tied:
 - e. A toss of a coin will determine the higher seeded team.
- 212.5 A team who is seeded is required to participate. See "No shows at Sectionals" Policy #211.

Any school who has not submitted adequate information to the sportchair in time for the seeding meeting will be excluded from the sectional tournament.

212.7 Changes to the seeding are not allowed after the conclusion of the seeding meeting. Within 24 hours adjustments can be made to rectify reporting errors.

212.8 Seeding of Charter Schools with approved Independent Schedules: As per past practice, Charter Schools that have competed with an approved independent schedule in a team sport will have the entire schedule counted towards seeding. Power points will be calculated based on the classification of the school they have defeated. The classification used will be the classification that the school has been assigned by the section in which they participate.

212.9 Website Protocol:

Results required for seeding purposes are not entered on sport specific websites: The sport chairperson will contact the athletic director, giving 48 hours from the time of contact to enter the contest results. If the results are not entered within that time frame, the Executive Director will contact both the athletic director and superintendent giving 48 hours, from the time of contact to fulfill the website requirements otherwise their school's team will not be able to participate in post season play. (May result in a minimum one game suspension at the start of post season play)

220 Sectional Activities Requirements

220.1 In order to have competition for a Sectional Championship, there must be a minimum of fifteen (15) member schools competing in that sport. All exceptions to the minimum number must be approved by the Athletic Council.

220.2 In order to have classification matches, meets, or tournaments, there must be a minimum of five (5) teams per classification. All exceptions to the minimum number must be approved by the Athletic Council.

220.3 Sectional competition shall be limited to those sports that have been recognized and sanctioned (approved by Section VI). Participation shall be limited to those school teams who prior to the sport season, have been declared as an interscholastic sport by the local Board of Education and who regularly compete during the season. Regular competition is defined for teams and/or individuals by the NYSPHSAA. All exceptions to the minimum number must be approved by the Athletic Council.

221 Neutral Sites

221.1 Section VI will charge admission. If charging admission is not possible, it is expected that costs will be reduced.

221.2 For finals, only site(s) approved in a pre-season report by the Athletic Council will be used. Exception: Weather / Emergencies.

221.3 Secure a new venue when a host school's team is playing in the finals (if possible).

State Competition

310 Travel to State Competition, Including Supervision

The amount of funds dedicated for state championships is determined from the review of previous year's actuals and forecast estimates during the annual budgeting process with the finance committee.

- 1) Transportation, lodging and meals for Cross Country, B&G Swim, Indoor and Outdoor Track and Bowling.
- 2) Lodging and meals for G Gymnastics, B & G Golf, B & G Tennis and Alpine Skiing.
- 3) Lodging for wrestling (Individual)

Member schools participating in state competition will be responsible for all costs related to that participation with exception of items 1, 2, 3 (above).

Section VI responsibility for member school participation in state championships is outlined below.

310.1 Supervision:

One or more certified coaches are required to travel with the student athletes from their school and must be present on any Section VI contracted bus, where the athletes are housed, at the state competition site and all related events.

310.2 Transportation:

Team Sports:

- a) Schools will make their own transportation arrangements for their athletes involved in state competition in team sports. Schools will be responsible for all transportation costs.
- b) Section VI will apply to the NYSPHSAA for the allowed reimbursement of \$1.35 per mile on the state grid below (one bus per team) and will forward this reimbursement to the schools upon receipt of funds from the state.

Individual Sports Group 1: Rifle, Golf, Tennis, Gymnastics, Wrestling

The schools will be responsible for transporting their athletes to state competition and all associated transportation costs.

Individual Sports Group 2: C. Country, Ind. Track, Track & Field, Swimming, Bowling

**Section VI will only provide transportation to Bowling State Championships in years when the venue is located beyond Section 3/Syracuse (May 2019 AC)*

- a) The Section VI office will contract bus transportation for the athletes. There are two choices for the school:

- 1) A school may choose to have its athlete(s) travel to state competition on the Section contracted bus. The following rules apply:
 - The athlete (and coach) must use the lodging and meals if pre-arranged by the Sportchair.
 - The athlete (and coach) must remain with the Section until the completion of the athlete's competition. The athlete will not be released prior to completion of competition.
 - When competition is completed, the athlete may be released to parents/coach for return home on alternate transportation if the Section release form is completed before the State Meet
- 2) A school may choose to have its athlete(s) travel to State competition in an alternate manner under the following stipulations:
 - A school that opt-outs of Section transportation will be responsible for arranging their own lodging and meals.
 - The request to opt-out of travel on the Section VI bus must be submitted in writing to the sportchair and the Section VI office by the date specified in the sport handbook.
 - The school must submit all required release forms to the sportchair by the specified date.
 - The school must arrange for the athlete to rendezvous with the sportchair (or designee) at a pre-designated time and place prior to the competition.
- b) Transportation expenses will be billed to Section VI.
- c) Section VI will apply to the NYSPHSAA for the allowed reimbursement of \$1.35 per mile on the state grid (below)

NYSPHSAA Transportation Grid: Round-Trip Mileage from Section VI (9/98)

To Section:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	NY
Mileage:	840	580	320	420	150	NA	780	930	690	560	1030	880

310.3 Lodging:

Team Sports: The sports chair will advise participating schools if accommodations are to be arranged by the state or by the schools. The school will be responsible for all lodging costs.

Individual Sports:

Sports in Group 1 (see 310.2) - The sportchair will be responsible for reserving a block of rooms for all athletes (4 per room), coaches (2 per room), and sport chair(s).

Sports in Group 2 (see 310.2) - The sportchair will be responsible for reserving a block of rooms for all athletes (4 per room), coaches (2 per room), and sport chair(s). The block will be increased by 50% to allow for coaches. (e.g.: If XC needs a block of 40 rooms for athletes and supervisors, they will now reserve a block of 60 rooms) When the qualifiers have been determined, the sportchair will register all athletes and coaches who are using Section transportation from the block of reserved rooms. The sport chair will also account for and reserve rooms needed by bus drivers for individual sports in Group 2 (see 310.2).

Schools that opt-out of Section transportation are responsible for registering their own athletes and coaches. They may register for the remaining rooms in the reserved block until the rooms are exhausted or choose their own lodging. Schools will be responsible for the cost of athletes' meals at state competition with the exceptions indicated in item 1, 2, 3.

Schools are required to reimburse lodging fees to Section VI for coaches who request single rooms as well as coaches and athletes who cancel after the deadline provided by the sport chair.

310.4 **Meals:**

Schools will be responsible for the cost of athletes' meals at state competition with the exceptions indicated in items 1, 2, and 3. For some individual sports, the Section will facilitate meal handling by paying meal expenses and invoicing the schools per participating athlete. This plan, if used, will be listed in the sport handbook.

Safety

Section VI will comply with all safety standards set forth by NYSPHSAA.

[Safety - New York State Public High School Athletic Association](#)

- [Drone Policy](#), pg. 55 of NYSPHSAA Handbook
- [Thunder & Lightning Policy](#) pg. 56 of NYSPHSAA Handbook
- [Heat Index, Wind Chill](#) and [Tornado Policy](#)

430 AED Policy

The game site-chairperson is responsible for securing an AED for the certified trainer's use at all sectional contests and at all regional and state contests that are hosted by Section VI. The certified trainer will be provided by an orthopedic group contracted by Section VI for post-season contests held at **NEUTRAL SITES**.

Note: The Section is financially responsible for a member school's AED that was lost or damaged during use for a post-season contest.

440 Cheerleading Safety Policy

The purpose of cheerleading is to foster school spirit, encourage sportsmanship, and assist in crowd control. In the interest of safety and to prevent injury to cheerleaders, the following pyramids, vaulting devices, and maneuvers are prohibited at all sectional and post-sectional competition:

- Mini-trampolines, spring boards and any other devices for increasing height
- Falling to the knees or falling to a knee slide
- Flips, handsprings, walkovers and falls from the tops of pyramids or bases (walkovers, splits, round-offs and cartwheels from the floor are allowed)
- All tosses

- Pyramids in excess of double level stunts
A pyramid is limited to multiple double level stunts which may or may not connect to other multiple double level stunts on single people

Definitions:

- A *double level stunt* is defined as a stunt involving a base in mount(s).
- A *base* is defined as a person contacting the floor.
- A *mount* is defined as a person held by a base.
- A *support* is defined as touching for the purpose of design, but not balance.

The Athletic Council strongly recommends that each League accept the above policy for league competition.

441 Cheerleading - Football:

Football cheerleaders will follow the Section VI Cheerleading Safety Policy (above) for Sectional playoffs only. Home-school rules shall govern regular season play. League guidelines may be more restrictive.

450 Wrestling: Mat Dimensions for Sectional Qualifiers:

For Sectional Qualifiers, the wrestling area of the mat shall be a circular area with a minimum of 28 ft. in diameter. Surrounding and secured to the wrestling area of the mat shall be a safety mat area approximately 5 ft. wide. (National Federation wrestling rulebook, Rule #2, Equipment, Section 1, Article 2 page 9)

Membership

510 Charter School Committee

A Special Committee on Charter Schools will be established to review concerns about the classification of any member school without geographic borders.

511 Section VI Guidelines: Charter Schools

NYSPHSAA requires that all MEMBERS who desire league affiliation be provided league membership. In response, Section VI has drafted guidelines for league placement and subsequent classification within a league.

Placement of Charter Schools

Phase 1:

Prior to requesting Section VI membership and placement into a League for competition, charter school personnel should spend one school year preparing for membership by taking the following steps:

1. Contact Section VI staff no later than September 1 of the school year prior to the desired start of competition
2. Establish membership in Section VI and in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA)

3. Charter School Leadership: The Chief School Administrator and one Board of Education representative will meet with the Section VI Committee to become familiar with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education 135.4 and the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Key Resource: New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA) Handbook
4. The administration and coaching staff of the charter school must accept fiscal and programmatic responsibility associated with competition in Section VI
5. The Athletic Director and Building Administrator will attend Section VI Council meetings regularly to become familiar with the structure and governance of Section VI as well as the rules and constitutional procedures of the Section and its Leagues.
6. Observe contests in sports for which the charter school plans to field teams to assess the existing competitive levels and compare them to the skill level of the charter school's program
7. Develop written internal personnel policies, procedures and handbooks to assure the effective management of the program that complies with all applicable regulations (see #3)
8. Develop and present a short and long range facility plan that assures facility availability for competition and accommodates spectators in a safe and orderly manner
9. Design and present a draft athletic budget for the coming year and a 3-5 year financial plan

Phase 2:

No later than September 1 of the year prior to the first year of competition, a formal written request to participate must be made to the Section VI. The request must include the following:

1. Documentation of steps taken in Phase 1
2. Enrollment information including: Maximum enrollment projections per grade level, BEDS data for the current year, projected numbers for the coming year including any factors expected to impact that enrollment, and enrollment projections for the following three years
3. Sports in which the school intends to compete; outlining competitive levels, plan for implementation, and specific time frames
4. Document that all coaches meet certification requirements established by the State Education Department
5. Document that all facilities meet requirements established by the State Education Department, Department of Health, and any other regulatory authorities
6. Provide a written plan that assures safe and appropriate educational and competitive environment for all home contests

7. A plan for the future development of the interscholastic program including a time line and flow chart
8. Other plans and objectives for the development of the interscholastic athletic program
9. A signed request by the Board of Education President

Phase 3:

No one criteria area will be the single determining factor in the recommendation for appropriate competition. The decision for competitive placement will be made in line with developmental programming that prepares students for safe and appropriate competition, which is in the best interest of the student athletes.

Options will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Independent schedules
2. The development of a league specifically made up of charter schools
3. Placement into an established league.

The decision will incorporate all criteria areas.

1. Geographic Location:
Consideration will be given to convenience for participating schools and travel time to contests.
2. Enrollment:
According to the NYSPHSAA, classification is based on actual enrollment.
3. Program Features:
 - a. Strength of program
 - b. Availability of developmental experiences, school or community based, that prepare students for the demands of organized competition
 - c. Adequate facilities and event management capacity
 - d. Capacity to sustain programs

An annual report on the competitive placement of each charter school will be made by the school and the League in which the school was placed to the Section VI Special Committee on Charter Schools by mid-April. The Committee will review the reports and recommend placement for the following year at the May Athletic Council meeting. Annual reports must include the following:

- a. Win/loss records
- b. Completion of season
- c. Follow-through on financial commitments
- d. Procedural and/or program management issues
- e. Facilities update
- f. Sportsmanship
- g. Other pertinent information as determined by League Officials

A minimum classification will be established for the school based on the information provided. A review and potential adjustments will be made annually by the Section VI Committee based on the program strength of a specific sport as well as the overall capacity of the program.

Phase 4: Charter Schools as League Members:

1. A charter school will become a regular member of a league upon league approval. As a regular member of a league, the charter school is exempt from the Placement Portion of the Guidelines for Charter Schools. (Phases 1-3)
2. The classification of a charter school as a league member will be by BEDS numbers.
3. A review and potential adjustments will be made annually by the Special Committee on Charter Schools based on the program strength of a specific sport as well as the overall capacity of the program.
4. Section VI and the State Association have the right to override BEDS classification based on strength of program.

We understand the attached Section VI Guidelines regarding Charter Schools:

Charter School: _____ Date: _____

Superintendent or Highest Administrative School Officer:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____

President of the Board of Education or Head of Trustees:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____

Athletic Director or Administrator Responsible for Athletics:

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____

520 Membership for Non-Public Schools

520.1 Procedures

The following procedures will be followed for admitting non-public schools to sectional membership.

- a) An application* must be received by the Executive Director by September 1 of the preceding year in which participation is expected. Please note: Agreement to accept the applicant school or league into league membership is a prerequisite for membership into Section VI.
- b) A properly completed application will be presented by the Executive Director to the Athletic Council at the September meeting. An invitation will be extended to the applying school or league to attend that meeting for the purpose of making a presentation.

- c) The application will be discussed at the November meeting of the Athletic Council. The Council will determine by a majority vote of present members voting if the application will be submitted to a postcard ballot of the member schools. A postcard ballot must be used for non-public school admittance to the Section. A majority of the Section VI districts voting will be required for approval.
- d) If Section VI membership is not approved, a three-year waiting period will be in effect before membership can be requested again.

*The Non-Public School or League Membership application is posted on the Section VI website. Under *General Information*, click on *Forms and Information*.

520.2 Probationary Policy

Admittance of non-public schools shall be on a probationary basis for a three-year period. A yearly review of the membership and classification status will be conducted by a review committee appointed by the President. The review committee shall make its report to the Athletic Council. The committee will consider the following:

Review of Membership:

- a) Compliance with all rules and regulations contained in the NYSPHSAA Handbook;
- b) Compliance with the regulations regarding athletics and physical education of the Commissioner of Education and the State Education Department that are applicable to the public schools;
- c) Compliance with the rules and regulations of Section VI;
- d) Compliance with the recruitment philosophy and/or policy of the non-public school regarding recruiting students on the basis of their established athletic talents.

Review of Classification:

- a) Consideration of the actual geographic area served by the non-public school;
- b) Nature of the student body's participation in athletics;
- c) Past, present and expected future competitiveness of the non-public school within the assigned classification.

Central Management of Sports Officials

610 Fingerprinting of Sports Officials

All sports officials must be fingerprinted and cleared with NYSED before working any Section VI hosted sport contest.

620 Subsequent Arrest of Sports Officials - Policy and Procedures

Beginning with the 2003-2004 school year, Section VI has mandated that ALL sports officials be fingerprinted and cleared for employment pursuant to Project SAVE, specifically Part 87 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

Once a Section VI official has been duly cleared for employment by the State Education Department ("SED"), SED will notify Erie 1 BOCES Human Resources

Office (which acts as the employing covered school for Section VI) of any subsequent criminal history notifications concerning the official. Such notification from SED will include the date of the arrest and court of jurisdiction. Erie 1 BOCES will immediately forward the arrest notice to the Section VI office. Section VI office staff will then follow its established subsequent arrest notice process:

1. No Action: If the official is not listed in the assigning program, the arrest will be recorded in the Section VI fingerprinting database, but no action will be taken regarding the official.
2. Executive Director Action: If the official is listed in the assigning program, the official will be informed that he/she must present written documentation, specifically a copy of the arrest/police report regarding the subsequent arrest, to the Executive Director indicating the arrest charge(s) before he/she can officiate any Section VI contest. Upon receipt of this documentation, the Executive Director will evaluate the charge(s) to determine the impact the charge(s) has, if any, on the official's officiating duties:
 - a) If the charge(s) is determined to be of a non-violent nature as well as not harmful to children, the official will be allowed to continue with his/her duties and no further action will be taken.
 - b) If the charge(s) is of a violent nature, harmful to children, such that the impact on officiating duties cannot be determined by the Executive Director, or if the Executive Director otherwise determines that the official should be removed from his/her officiating duties, the information and/or documentation will immediately be forwarded to the Section VI attorneys (see item 3). Section VI will then inform the arrested official that he/she is on Temporary Suspension during which time he/she will not be assigned, and is prohibited from officiating any Section VI sporting contest until Section VI determines the impact the criminal charge(s) has, if any, on his/her officiating duties. Section VI will also remove the official's name from its website listing of officials "cleared for service" and inactivate the official in the assigning program during the Temporary Suspension.
3. Attorney Action: Section attorneys will evaluate the conditions of the official's arrest and advise the Executive Director of Section VI how to proceed.

If it is determined that the charge(s)/offense(s)/conviction(s) are non-violent, not harmful to children, and there are no other circumstances that would prohibit the official from returning to his/her officiating duties, the official will be informed of the Section's determination and will be returned to the "cleared for service" listing of officials.

If it is determined that there is a relationship between the criminal charge(s) / offense(s)/conviction(s) and the official's service within Section VI, the Executive Director will inform the official and any and all assignors, where applicable, that the official may no longer officiate any sports contest within Section VI. The Executive Director or his designee, will contact each Section VI district where the official recently officiated a sports contest to inform district administrators of the facts of the matter.

630 Assigning of Sports Officials

630.1 Software

ArbiterOne is the approved software program for the Central Management and Assigning of Officials (implemented 2007-08).

630.2 Requirements for Officials

All officials are required to obtain an email account to receive assignments.

631 Guidelines for Assigning

The Section VI Guidelines for Computer Assigning of Officials will be followed by all Leagues who share officials.

631.1 The assignment of officials at the Varsity and JV levels for Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Volleyball, Field Hockey, Boys and Girls Basketball, and Softball* and Baseball* will be conducted via the auto-assign component of ArbiterOne at a central location under the auspices of Section VI. Participating Leagues will have input regarding the assignment process. Exceptions are noted in the chart below. (* see chart in 631.4)

631.2 All Leagues that share officials from one organization for a sport, currently Buffalo, ECIC, NFL, NO and Monsignor Martin (MM), must participate and agree to make no assignments until the computer assignment process is completed.

631.3 The auto-assign will be conducted by ECIC personnel, approved by the Section and each participating League, with oversight by a representative from each participating League.

631.4 Sports will be assigned as outlined in the chart below. Variations may occur upon agreement of the Leagues involved. The central location for computer assigning will be the ECIC office with exceptions noted.

Season	Sport(s)	Level	Central assigning location
Fall	Boys & Girls Soccer	V, JV	ECIC office
	Boys & Girls Soccer	Mod	League Assigned*
	Boys & Girls Volleyball	V, JV	ECIC office
	Boys & Girls Volleyball	Mod	League Assigned*
	Girls Field Hockey	All levels	ECIC office
	Girls Swim	All levels	League Assigned*
	Cross Country	All levels	League Assigned*
	Football	All levels	Federation Assigner
	Gymnastics	All levels	Federation Assigner

Winter	Boys & Girls Basketball	V, JV	ECIC office
	Boys & Girls Basketball	Mod	League Assigned*
	Boys Swim	All levels	League Assigned*
	Boys Wrestling	All levels	League Assigned*
	Girls Wrestling	All levels	League Assigned*
	Cheerleading	All levels	Federation Assigner
	Indoor Track	All levels	Federation Assigner
	Girls Ice Hockey	All level	Federation Assigner
	Boys Ice Hockey	All levels	Federation Assigner
Spring	Track	All levels	League Assigned*
	Girls Lacrosse	V, JV	Federation Assigner
	Girls Lacrosse	Mod	ECIC Office
	Boys Lacrosse	All levels	Federation Assigner
	Flag Football	All levels	Federation Assigner
	Baseball	All levels	ECIC Office
	Baseball	All levels	NFL & NO - League Assigned
	Softball	All levels	Section VI

* League assigners will assign the contests in their league in cooperation with the other league assigners.

Note: CCAA schools are league assigned.

631.5 **Timelines**

Annual North and South Timelines will be established by the Section, reviewed by the assigners of each League, and approved by the Athletic Council. Section office staff will oversee follow through of each timeline line item. The timelines will be posted on the Section VI website and will include deadlines for each of the following:

- a) Schools:
 - Initial drafts and final schedules including non-league games
- b) Officials: Registering and entering availability in ArbiterOne
- c) Officials organizations:
 - Submission of roster and ranking changes to the Section office
 - The master roster in ArbiterSports
 - The rankings of current and new officials in ArbiterSports
- d) Assigners:
 - Entry of schedules in ArbiterSports
 - Assigning varsity, JV, and modified sports
 - Round Table review and subsequent publishing of assignments

631.6 **Roster of officials**

The roster in ArbiterOne for each affiliated sports officials organization is the master roster for Section VI. The sub-assigner for each organization is responsible for submitting roster updates to the Section office each season. Only those who have fulfilled the Prospective Official Requirements (Section website, under “Officials”) including receiving NYSED clearance or are given ArbiterOne accounts.

631.7 **Ranking of officials**

- a) Boys and Girls Basketball, Field Hockey, Boys and Girls Soccer and Girls Volleyball: A ranked list of officials is submitted to the Chairperson.
- b) Wrestling: The ranked list of officials is comprised of input from schools and officials boards
- c) Boys Volleyball, Boys and Girls Swim, Cross Country and Track: Ranked lists are provided by the officials board with little or no input from the schools.
- d) Final rankings of each official for each sport will be entered into ArbiterOne by Section office staff.

NOTE: Section VI will continue to evaluate the systems used to rank officials. When appropriate, joint committees will be convened to evaluate the process on a sport specific basis. Joint committees will consist of the Section VI Executive Director, involved OBR’s and assigners, and when necessary outside professionals whose expertise is relevant to the task.

631.8 **The assigning process:**

- a) All league, non-league, and tournament contests on each school’s final schedules will be computer assigned using the following criteria:
 - The “best official available” will be assigned to each game
 - Each official shall register on ArbiterOne and enter their availability by the deadline posted in the Timeline.
- b) All scrimmages are to be entered into ArbiterOne and assigned officials by the designated assigner.
- c) Turnbacks:
 - Turnbacks at all levels for computer assigned sports will be handled by league assigners or their designee.
 - Availability and ranking shall determine the assigning of turnbacks.
 - Officials who turnback assignments without a legitimate reason, as covered by the contract, may have their schedule and/or their ranking adjusted.

631.9 **Auto Assign Review Process:**

- a) Purpose: To ensure the fair and equitable distribution of shared officials.
- b) Participants:
 - Designated League Representatives
 - Officials Board Representatives
 - Section VI Executive Director

- c) Roles:
 - Designated League Representatives may make changes within their respective League schedules.
 - Officials Board Representatives may make recommendations only.
- d) Deadlines regarding review of assignments, Round Table meetings, and publish of assignments are listed on the Timeline of Schedules/Assignment of Officials form.
- e) The Section office is responsible for notifying designated League Representatives and Officials Board Representatives of the time and location of the Round Table.

Miscellaneous

710 Section VI Pass Policies

710.1 Bi-Annual Passes (issued every other year)

- a) Section VI passes are good at any Section VI hosted contest. The home school may refuse passes for admission at tournaments.
- b) A Section VI pass permits two admissions.
- c) The Section VI President / Executive Director have the authority to suspend the use of passes at certain events (e.g. New Era Field).
- d) Transferred passes shall be confiscated and returned to the Section VI Executive Director.
- e) Aforementioned items, (a) through (d), are listed on the back of each pass.
- f) Faculty and League passes will not be honored at Section VI activities.
- g) Each school in Section VI will be allocated five (5) passes – Chief School Officer, High School Principal, Athletic Director and two Coaches.
- h) Section VI committees shall determine how athletes, managers, varsity cheerleaders, coaches, bus drivers, supervisors and game management personnel are admitted.
- i) The press and scouts must call and make previous arrangements for admittance or buy a ticket.
- j) Section VI passes shall be issued to the following individuals:
 - Section VI officers
 - Section VI League Representatives to the Athletic Council
 - Section VI Committee Chairpersons
 - Chief School Officers
 - High School Principal
 - Athletic Directors
 - Coaches (2 per school)
- k) Section VI Service Award Recipients – Lifetime Pass

710.2 Lifetime Passes

a) Lifetime Pass Committee Membership

Chairperson (Executive Director), Central Committee Chief School Officer, and Central Committee Secondary School Principal

b) Duties

- Responsible for receiving and reviewing applications for Section VI Lifetime Pass.
- Responsible for recommending persons for a Section VI Lifetime Pass to the Athletic Council for approval.

c) Standards to be used as criteria in determining eligibility for a Lifetime Pass.

- Served on Athletic Council for a minimum of two years
- Served as Sports Chairperson for a minimum of one term
- Served on Sport Committee for a minimum of five years
- Served as Chairperson of a Committee i.e. Officials Handbook, Classification.
- Served at least one term as representative to the State Central or Executive Committees.

d) The application form is posted on the Section VI website. Under *General Information, Forms and Information*.

720 Sportsmanship Policy

PHILOSOPHY

The member school districts of Section VI believe that interscholastic athletics is an important part of education and support the ideals and values embodied in good sportsmanship.

We believe that sportsmanlike behavior is essential if interscholastic competition is to contribute to the broad goals of education and the quality of life of those involved.

Therefore, we pledge ourselves individually and collectively to encourage and support the development and maintenance of a sportsmanlike atmosphere for athletic competition.

ACTION STATEMENT

To achieve our objectives relating to sportsmanship, we propose: A Section VI definition of Sportsmanship, Standards of Sportsmanship and Policies to initiate and implement action.

Sportsmanship in Section VI - Definition

Sportsmanship is possessing and practicing the values of a sportsman: honesty, fair-minded, knowledge of rules, respecting rules and officials, demonstrating self-control, recognizing good play, treating others and all situations in a manner you would expect to be treated and accepting victory with grace and defeat with dignity.

Standards of Sportsmanship In Section VI

We believe that sportsmanlike conduct will reflect the following ideals, attitudes and values:

- a) A genuine interest in and enjoyment of interscholastic competition.
This standard requires conduct that reflects the understanding that games as a part of an overall school program are intended to be enjoyed. Further, behavior that reflects a use of the activities that exploit the program to serve other agendas or that reflects a winning at all cost attitude violates this standard.
- A. An understanding that interscholastic competition exists as a part of education.
This standard is significant for it clearly establishes that athletic competition is intended to be educational. The valuable lessons and learning that occur in these experiences are not possible in the regular classroom setting. Furthermore, this standard recognizes the emotional nature of athletic competition and supports the need for those involved to develop the ability to compete with enthusiasm and accept winning with grace and losing with dignity. When this is accomplished, it demonstrates that these activities are educationally sound.
- B. Respect for one's School and Community, its reputation and traditions.
This standard places important responsibilities on everyone involved, but most importantly upon coaches, players and supporters. It requires that they remember that each school team is just that, "the school's team" and that their participation is an honor and privilege which requires them to conduct themselves so honor and pride is brought to their school and community.
- C. Respect for one's opponents, their School and Community, including its cultural and ethnic makeup.
This standard suggests the need for coaches, players, and supporters to understand "where their opponents are coming from", to recognize and respect differences, and remember that the opponent also has hopes and aspirations for their team and school.

This standard places significant responsibility on school leaders and coaches in assisting athletes to enter the competition with an understanding of their opponents and to view them as competitive opponents, not enemies.

This standard suggests that planned activity is needed to demonstrate a warm and friendly welcome, mutual respect, and a genuine and healthy readiness "to have a good game."

- D. An understanding and respect for the rules of the game and for those responsible for implementing them.

This standard places great responsibility upon coaches to teach the rules and to cultivate attitudes by players that demonstrate both knowledge of the rules and respect for the game officials and their decisions. Since many misunderstandings between players and officials stem from lack of knowledge of the rules by players, it is necessary for coaches to stress this aspect of the game with emphasis on new rules and rule changes.

This standard also places responsibility on school officials and support groups to respect the game officials and recognize that they are well prepared and are doing their best to fairly enforce the rules.

- E. Readiness to participate regardless of one's role in a constructive and contributing fashion.

This standard is different in nature from the others in that it assigns responsibility for action to all persons associated with high school sports according to their role. There are not violations to this standard, only success through thoughtful action or failure when the opportunity to act is denied.

Policies to Initiate, Implement and Review

- A. The Athletic Council requires and directs member leagues to organize similar committees on sportsmanship with comparable responsibilities and authority relative to league competitions.
- B. The Athletic Council delegates authority to the principals of the schools involved to resolve concerns and violations related to non-league competition.
- C. Violations

The Athletic Council adopts Section-wide penalties for violations occurring at sectional and league competition. The use of such common policies is based on the belief that consistency is in the general best interest.

The reporting of violations is limited to persons with specific roles related to interscholastic athletics. For sectional activities, these will include: sports chairpersons, game officials, principals of competing schools and the Section's Executive Committee. (Leagues may choose to designate persons appropriate to their activities.)

It is recognized that violations will vary in scope, intensity and severity. In order to provide committees sufficient direction and appropriate flexibility, two categories of violations are outlined below.

Category I: School and/or team violations. These incidents are largely the responsibility of a school or team; for example, unacceptable and unsportsmanlike conduct by school personnel or supporters, or unacceptable behavior by the majority of team members and/or coaches.

Category II: Player(s) violations - these incidents involve the unsportsmanlike conduct of a player or players.

Penalties for Category I:

- a) Letter of Concern from the League or Section Sportsmanship Committee Chairperson is sent to the Superintendent (cc: Principal and Athletic Director) expressing concern about a specific incident(s). The intent is to bring a matter of concern to the attention of school leaders with the expectation that the matter can be resolved before it becomes more serious.
- b) Letter of Admonishment from the League or Section Sportsmanship Committee Chairperson is sent to the Superintendent (cc: Principal and Athletic Director) requiring a written response from the Superintendent to include a description of the actions intended to prevent repetition of the incident under consideration.
- c) Notification of Sanctions: A series of stronger measures.
 - ☐ Probation The first level of sanction places the school or team on probation and may include the assignment of specific measures to be implemented. Probation does not limit eligibility for competition.
 - ☐ Forfeiture: Requires forfeiture of a specific contest(s) but does not necessarily limit eligibility from further competition.
 - ☐ Disqualification: Involves disqualification from competition in a specific sport for the remainder of the season.
 - ☐ Suspension: Involves suspension from competition in a specific sport for a longer but specified period, including the assignment of remedies to be implemented prior to lifting the suspension.

Penalties for Category II:

- a) An automatic one-game suspension for a player(s) for the next scheduled contest following ejection from competition by game officials for unsportsmanlike conduct which violates the Section VI Standards of Sportsmanship; ex: fighting, use of profanity, disrespecting officials. These infractions do not include "technical violations" related to a specific sport that results in disqualification.
- b) Extended suspension: extended suspension for a specified number of games for flagrant or repeated acts of unsportsmanlike conduct that resulted in ejection from competition.
- c) Letters of concern: letters directed to appropriate school personnel as in Category I.

- d) Letters of Admonishment - letters directed to the appropriate school personnel as in Category I.
- e) The coach of an ejected player(s) will report the incident to the appropriate school official within 24 hours.
- f) Coaches ejected by a game official will report the incident to the appropriate school official within 24 hours.

LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

The following section clarifies reasonable expectations for those in leadership roles.

A. Superintendents:

We request that the CSO's of Section VI play an important leadership role in our shared and ongoing Section-wide effort to encourage a sportsmanlike atmosphere in Western New York Interscholastic Athletics. We offer these initial expectations regarding their participation:

- 1) Become aware of and informed about interscholastic activity in their League and the Section, particularly as it relates to sportsmanship. This can be done in large part by reading communications and minutes, requiring their principals and athletic directors to keep them updated and by attending games where they can observe firsthand, realizing that such attendance is recognized and appreciated.
- 2) Encourage their boards of education to review their district policies related to interscholastic athletics with the intent of keeping those activities in their proper places in the overall program of education.
- 3) Provide direction and leadership to the high school principal and athletic director through regularly scheduled meetings.
- 4) Encourage a sportsmanlike attitude among their coaches. This can be reflected in their selection, appointment and orientation of coaches.
- 5) Exercise leadership within their school district as conditions require. A superintendent should always keep in mind the importance of his or her interest, understanding and presence.

B. Principals:

We request that high school principals accept an important and ongoing leadership role in our shared effort to encourage sportsmanlike conduct in W.N.Y.

We recognize the unique position the principal fills in each of our schools and further recognize that their interest and support of this effort is vital to the success of the venture. We offer these initial expectations regarding their participation:

- 1) Be aware of and informed about athletics and sportsmanship at both the League and Sectional level by:
 - a) Participating actively in League and Section activities with other principals and athletic directors.
 - b) Reading and responding to communications at both levels
- 2) Initiate regularly scheduled meetings with the athletic director, including meeting with coaches to:
 - a) Provide them specific instructions: explain policies, procedures and clearly set forth expectations for the coaches' conduct while reminding them of the key leadership role they play in developing the desired attitudes and behaviors of athletes.
 - b) Demonstrate their support of interscholastic activities and explain how these activities fit into the total school program.
- 3) Initiate meetings with faculty, students and support groups to clarify the role and intent of interscholastic competition and clarify expectations about the behavior expected at these games and activities.
- 4) Attend contests and in so doing demonstrate their interest while at the same time being aware of the atmosphere surrounding the contests, including the attitude and conduct of coaches, players and supporters.
- 5) Initiate activities and events in their school and community that encourage and reinforce the desired attitudes and sportsmanlike behavior, with a primary focus on recognizing examples of exemplary conduct.

Athletic Director: Conduct meetings with coaches and cheerleading advisors:

1. Discuss sportsmanship guidelines, including information from superintendent and principals' meetings (enlist their support).
2. Attend coaches/advisors meetings
3. Establish custodial follow-up routine with chaperones, administration, participants.

Coaches

1. Attend athletic director/principals' meeting
2. Actively support guidelines...set example
3. Conduct sportsmanship sessions, conveying established guidelines.
4. Recognize players and "Good Examples".

Student Body

Through the principal, athletic director and cheerleading advisor, establish a "Sportsmanship Council".

Suggested Activities

1. League Sportsmanship Council (made up of the school's Sportsmanship Council and advisors): Meet 2 to 3 times at different schools. Include discussions, projects and recognition.
2. Each School's Council
 - Inform student body on League Highlights
 - Create sportsmanship sign/poster group
 - Create a positive cheer group to assist cheerleaders' efforts.
 - Recognize positive student efforts by:
 - a) P.A. Announcements
 - b) "Good Sport" of the week
 - Create "teams" of greeters, meet other teams' spectators, assist in seating them, discourage "poor choices" and assist cheerleaders in pre-game promotions e.g.: Welcome Statement, Welcome Cheer
 - Establish contact with adult booster club (if one exists) and/or PTA
 - a) Share guidelines - projects you do
 - b) Encourage their participation in positively recognizing "Good Examples"
 - c) Joint gatherings inviting officiating representatives to discuss/share concerns and projects.
3. Cheerleaders' Role at athletic contests is to encourage and support their teams, encourage good sportsmanship and help control spectator reaction.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

This vast and important subject is difficult to adequately address in a written document.

Hopefully this proposal will spark interest, offer some direction and provide a shared framework for action. If we are to experience success, it will be the result of the support, creativity and action by interested people. The extent of success will likely reflect the number of these "contributing" leaders.

This proposal is intended to be open ended and continuous in order to respond to changing circumstances and encourage long-term results.

The following statement will be read over the public address system just prior to the Pledge of Allegiance. If there is no public address system, the statement will be read to both teams by the site chairperson or his representative:

"Welcome to Section VI _____(Name of Sport).

Athletic competition can provide everyone with a sense of accomplishment and pride if players, coaches and spectators abide by the rules of good conduct. We ask that you enjoy the performance of our outstanding athletes in a spirit of sportsmanship and appreciation of competition."

730 Media Communication

The official spokesperson for the Section is the President or the Executive Director when the President is not available.

731 Provisions for Telecasting/Broadcasting Section VI Contests

(Adopted Sept 1987- Revised Oct. 2003)

- a. Telecasting or radio broadcasts of any Section VI playoffs is prohibited without prior written consent of Section VI.
- b. Expenses incurred are the sole responsibility of the originating station.
- c. Advertising and announcements relative to alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or political candidates, parties or organizations are strictly prohibited.
- d. The station agrees to include early in the broadcast the statement "The rights to this broadcast have been granted by Section VI representing more than 100 Senior High Schools who participate annually in Section VI sponsored athletic competition. Any re-broadcast or republication of the programming without written consent of Section VI is strictly prohibited."
- e. The station agrees not to expose negative or questionable activity occurring during the programming (e.g.: fights, officials calls, crowd reaction)
- f. Payment in full of the established fee (only for live broadcasts at the sectional level and beyond), shall be required prior to the start of the contest.
- g. The station agrees to indemnify, defend and save harmless Section VI from any and all claims, demands, liability, suits and procedures arising out of permission granted in this agreement or any activities in connection therewith.
- h. There shall be no TV Time Outs.
- i. Half-times shall not be extended. There shall be no delay of contest without the consent of Section VI.
- j. The Section reserves the right to determine the amount of people required for the broadcasts.
- k. The station will submit names of persons and duties to the Section for approval prior to broadcasting the event.
- l. The station will agree to the above Media Provisions by signing the Section VI Media Contract and submitting it with the established fee (indicated on the contract) for the right to broadcast the event(s) noted.

740 Recognition for Service

740.1 At the completion of service or for appreciation of contribution, an individual or group will be presented with an award at the annual Recognition Dinner.

750 Voting Protocol – Athletic Council & NYSPHSAA Central Committee

Athletic Council representatives vote according to the direction given by their respective Leagues. Section VI representatives to the NYSPHSAA Executive and Central Committees vote according to the direction given by the Athletic Council.

760 Conflict of Interest Policy

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy (the “Conflicts Policy”) is to ensure that Section VI’s covered personnel act in the Section’s best interest and comply with the applicable regulations set forth under New York State Not for Profit Law and Section VI’s Constitution and By-laws.

Article 1 – Definitions

The Executive Committee, Athletic Council members, chairpersons, office staff, and persons in positions to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of Sections VI shall be “covered persons” under the Conflict of Interest Policy.

Interested Person

Any covered person who has a direct or indirect financial interest (as defined below) or a potential conflict of Interest (as defined below)

Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest may exist whenever an individual owes a duty to more than one person or organization, or when an individual’s interests or concerns are potentially inconsistent with, or divergent from, the interests of Section VI.

Family

Family of a person includes: his or her spouse or domestic partner, ancestors, brothers and sisters, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment or family:

An ownership or beneficial interest in any corporation of 35% or more than 5% in a partnership or professional corporation with which Section VI has or may have a transaction or arrangement,

A compensation arrangement with Section VI or with any entity or individual with which Section VI has a transaction or arrangement, or

A potential ownership or investment in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual which Section VI is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the Executive Committee/Athletic Council determines that a conflict of interest exists.

Related Party Transaction

A related party transaction includes any transaction, agreement, or any other arrangement in which an interested person has a financial interest and in which Section VI is a participant. A transaction, agreement, or other arrangement may be a related party transaction even if the Executive Committee/Athletic Council determines that a conflict of interest does not exist.

ARTICLE II PROCEDURES

Duty to Disclose

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest or any potential related party transaction, an interested person must disclose the existence of any financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the Executive Committee/Athletic Council considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest or Related Party Transaction Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the Executive Committee/Athletic Council meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining Executive Committee/Athletic Council members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest or Related Party Transaction

At the request of the Executive Committee/Athletic Council, an interested person may make a presentation at the Executive Committee/Athletic Council meeting, but after the presentation shall leave the meeting during the discussion, and vote upon, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

An interested person is prohibited from attempting to improperly influence and Executive Committee/Athletic Council deliberation or voting related to the transaction or arrangement involving a possible conflict of interest or related party transaction.

The President of Section VI shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement. *In*

the event the proposed transaction involves a related party transaction in which the interested person has a substantial financial interest, then a disinterested person or committee must be appointed to investigate alternative transactions to the extent they are available.

After exercising due diligence, the Executive Committee/Athletic Council shall determine whether the Section can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest or *related party transaction*.

If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under the circumstances not producing a conflict of interest or that do not constitute a related party transaction, the Executive Committee/Athletic Council shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested committee/council members whether the transaction or arrangement is in Section VI's best interest, for its own benefit and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination, it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

If the transaction involving a possible conflict of interest constitutes a related party transaction; then the disinterested committee members shall only approve the transaction or arrangement if it is fair, reasonable, and in the Section's best interests, and shall record in the minutes of the meeting at which such a transaction is approved the basis for the Executive Committee/Athletic Council's approval, that a majority of the committee members present at the meeting approved the transaction and that alternative transactions were considered.

Violations of the Conflict of Interest Policy

If the Executive Committee/Athletic Council has reasonable cause to believe an interested person has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform him/her of the basis for the belief and afford him/her the opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

If, after hearing the interested person's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the Executive Committee/Athletic Council determines the person failed to disclose an actual or perceived conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

ARTICLE III

RECORDS OF THE PROCEEDINGS

The minutes of the Executive Committee/Athletic Council shall contain:

- The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have financial interest or other personal interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest or personal interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the Executive Committee/Athletic Council's decision as to whether a conflict of interest existed.

- The names of the persons who were present for the discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

ARTICLE IV COMPENSATION

A voting member of the Executive Committee/Athletic Council who receives compensation directly or indirectly, from Section VI for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.

No voting member of the Executive Committee/Athletic Council whose jurisdiction includes compensation, directly or indirectly, from Section VI, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

*** The Conflict of Interest Policy shall be shared with the Executive Committee, Athletic Council, Chairpersons, and office staff on an annual basis.**

765 Whistle-Blower Protection

Approved 1/20/2021 Athletic Council Meeting

Prohibition of Retaliatory Behavior (Commonly Known as "Whistle-Blower" Protection)

Section VI prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed against complainants, victims, witnesses, and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of a complaint of discrimination and/or harassment. Complaints of retaliation may be directed to the Executive Director. In the event the Executive Director is the alleged offender, the report will be directed to the acting Section VI President.

Where appropriate, follow-up inquiries will be made to ensure that discrimination and/or harassment has not resumed and that those involved in the investigation have not suffered retaliation.

770 Transgender Guidelines

https://s3.amazonaws.com/nysphsaa.org/documents/2023/8/21/NYSPHSAA_Handbook_Aug_2025.pdf#page=52

Grievances

810 Eligibility and Grievance Procedures

810.1 All grievances must include the signatures of the school's athletic director, high school principal and superintendent of schools.

- 810.2 It is the intent of this procedure to have every effort made to solve the grievance at the earliest possible stage.
- 810.3 All processes as outlined in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association are to be incorporated into this procedure.
- 810.4 Grievance Procedure details: see Section VI Constitution, Article 11.
Grievance Procedure forms: see the Section VI website

820 Protest Procedure for Game, Match or Meet

- a) At the earliest possible time-out following an alleged rule or regulation infraction, the coach must inform the referee and game chairperson, if applicable, that the game is being played under protest. The specific rule or regulation must be stated at this time then entered in the score book (or so noted in writing). The signatures of both coaches, officials and the game chairperson, if applicable, shall be entered in the score book (or so noted in writing) along with the game score and time remaining. Per NYSPHSAA, in any case, video may not be used to overturn an official's decision.”
- b) Within forty-eight (48) hours of the alleged violation, a formal written protest must be submitted to the sports chairperson and copies forwarded to parties involved including the principals of both schools, the game officials, and the game site chairperson.
- c) Before a protest is formally initiated, it should be carefully considered and then signed by the superintendent, principal, and athletic director.
- d) As soon as possible, but not later than the next scheduled playoff game affecting the schools involved, the Sports Chairperson (or designee) and not less than four (4) members of the Protest Committee, will meet with the parties involved in the protest (superintendent, principal, athletic director, coach, officials, site Chairpersons).
- e) The Protest Committee will conduct a hearing and a transcript (or tape) of the proceedings will be taken.
- f) Involved parties will have the right to listen to all testimony and cross-examine.
- g) Witnesses will testify voluntarily. If this is not possible, a written-signed statement will be admissible.
- h) All documents submitted in the hearing will be retained by the Protest Committee.

- i) It shall be understood that involved parties may be accompanied by their Superintendent, Principal, Athletic Director and Coach.
- j) The Sports Chairperson (or his designee) will notify parties involved of the Protest Committee's decision as soon as possible but no later than the next scheduled contest affecting the teams involved.

Note #1: The Protest Committee's decision is final. (Refer to the NYSPHSAA Handbook Standard Appeals Procedure).

Note #2: Time periods may be waived by mutual consent or if deemed necessary by the Protest Committee Chairperson.

Note #3: It is understood that if a protest involves a school or a member of the Protest Committee, that member will be disqualified from serving on the Protest Committee.

Finance Policies

900 Finance Committee

900.1 Duties:

The Finance Committee is scheduled to meet 5 times per school year. Four (4) of these meetings are held virtually and are scheduled in the months of September, January, February, and April. A fifth, in-person, meeting is scheduled in October to coincide with the annual audit presentation and to generate the proposed budget for the following fiscal year. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed.

The general purpose of a meeting may include, but is not limited to:

- Review the status of the budget/fund balance
- Review seasonal sport profit/loss statement
- Review the annual audit and generate the proposed budget for the following fiscal year
- Review of proposals involving a financial impact and generate recommendation to the Athletic Council
- Propose changes to financial policies (as needed) to the Policy Committee

Static agenda items and numbers for each Finance Committee meeting include:

- 1.0 Treasurer's Report
- 2.0 New Business
- 3.0 Old Business
- 4.0 Good of the Order

910 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year is July 1 through June 30 to coincide with Erie 1 BOCES.

911 Delinquent Payments

Delinquent payments of Section issued invoices will be recouped by adjusting the involved member school's annual dues statement. Delinquent payments of Section issued invoices involving non-member schools will be handled at the discretion of the Executive Director and Executive Committee.

912 Section VI Credit Card

Section VI, NYSPHSAA, Inc. will issue credit cards in its name to the Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, and Treasurer for use as needed. Sport chairpersons can be permitted to use the corporate cards for authorized expenses by either the Executive Director, Associate Executive Director or Treasurer. Expenses incurred on each credit card shall be paid in a way to avoid interest charges. Payment shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer. Any individual who makes an unauthorized purchase with a Section VI credit card shall reimburse Section VI for the cost.

920 Sale and Purchase of Merchandise

920.1 Any sale of merchandise that takes place at a Section VI event must be done so under the jurisdiction of the sports chairperson and in conjunction with the Executive Director.

920.2 There is to be no sale of any merchandise by a private individual and/or corporation for the sole benefit of that individual and/or corporation.

920.3 Sports Chairpersons must receive approval from the Executive Director and Treasurer before purchasing equipment/supplies.

921 Proposals

All proposals with a financial impact must be submitted with a statement of rationale and all cost implications. The Finance Committee will review and make recommendations to the Athletic Council. All proposals must be presented for discussion at an athletic council meeting prior to being slated for action at a following athletic council meeting.

930 Check authorization

The Executive Director and Treasurer must authorize the check writing process as outlined by the Auditors of Section VI, NYSPHSAA, Inc. Checks in the amount of \$2,500 or greater are recommended to have both the Executive Director and Treasurer signatures.

931 Mileage Reimbursement

The Section will reimburse for mileage at the current IRS rate. An Expense Form for reimbursement and supporting documentation (via Google Maps, MapQuest, etc.) must be submitted and approved by the Executive Director/Treasurer.

932 Financial Responsibility for AED Damage

The Section is financially responsible for loss of/damage to any school AED used for sectional events

933 Uncleared Checks

With oversight by the accountants, the Section will adhere to New York's Abandoned Property Law.

940 Section Dues

940.1 Section VI member dues will be used to fund the Section office. The dues formula is built upon the 6-sport classification fee and the Boys Basketball classification numbers as approved by the NYSPHSAA as well as a per sport fee and federated sport fee (see 970.4) as applicable.

960 Venue Policies

960.1 The type of venue selected for sectional competition will be determined by the Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, and the Sectional/Intersectional Committee.

960.2 A written contract itemizing expenses will be obtained from the host facility.

960.3 Section crews of supervisory staff will be established by the Executive Director and/or a designee to handle site management at sectional events.

960.4 Venue Selection Guidelines

These guidelines are to be used by sportchairs to select sectional venues:

- a) Choose two sites, one north and one south, to limit travel.
- b) Select sites to maintain neutrality e.g.: a Class A school for C/D contests
- c) Consider rotation of sites if possible.
- d) Review the following parameters for each site:
 - Requirements for the sport itself: fields/courts and locker rooms
 - Seating capacity
 - Restroom facilities
 - Parking
 - Support staff
- e) Prepare a cost analysis: Rent, security, equipment, etc.
- f) Site rental charges will be included in seasonal profit and loss statements provided by the Section VI Treasurer. The Finance Committee is responsible to recommend changes in venue, for future events, when costs exceed an acceptable amount.
- g) Notes regarding the use of high school venues for sectional events:
 - A key factor in obtaining high school venues at a lower cost to the Section is obtaining the support of superintendents for hosting sectional events. Superintendents on the Athletic Council will be asked to discuss hosting sectionals events with constituents.
 - A maximum amount should be set for administration at sectional contests.

970 Sectional Personnel Fees and Stipends

970.1 Fees and stipends are approved by the Athletic Council and posted on the Section VI website.

970.1.1 Administrative fees for working 1, 2 or 3 sectional contests are as follows:

Site Chairperson: \$60, \$85, \$105
Other Administration: \$50, \$75, \$95

* Full days, Individual Sports-(i.e. Wrestling, Swimming):Adjusted to sessions or contest equivalent

970.1.2 Stipends are reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee.

970.1.3 Federated Sports - Assigner fees

Federated sports assigners are contracted by Section VI and paid a stipend. To cover this expense, participating member schools will be charged an additional fee included in their annual dues.

Policy Manual Update History

Date	Policy #	Change or addition
01/18/11	750	Addition
03/23/11	920.3	Updated
	912	Added
05/16/11	310	Travel Policy, updated for a 2-year trial
09/21/11	310	Travel Policy, updated
09/19/12	221.2	Neutral Sites, updated
05/15/13	310	State Travel, updated
06/19/13	120	Combining Teams Policy, approved 4/5 League Vote
01/17/14	210	League changed to League/Division
05/14/14	310	State Travel Policy, updated for 2014-2015 & 2015-2016
05/13/15	760	Conflict of Interest Policy, added
09/16/15	120	Combined Teams Ad Hoc Committee moved to Standing Committee (approved at AC 9/16/15)
11/18/15	310	Extend State Travel Policy trial to include 2016-17 school year (approved AC 11/18/15)
01/22/16	212.9	Website Requirements -results mandated for seeded schools (approved. AC 1/22/16, implementation Fall 2016)
01/22/16	221.3	Secure a new neutral venue when host school's team is playing in the finals (if possible) (approved AC 1/20/16)
04/07/16	160.1	When eighteen (18) or more schools are in a specific classification, the classification must be split. (i.e. A1, A2). Implementation Fall 2016
05/08/17	310	NYSPHSAA mileage reimbursement increase (\$1.30 to \$1.35)
05/17/17	180	Violation Policy (approved May 2017 AC)
07/2017	120	Revised language, added Combined Schools Committee responsibilities (Approved Sept. 2015 AC)
07/20/17	410.12	Drone Policy (added)
7/25-26/17	770	Transgender Guidelines (added)
11/15/18	120-7	Combining Teams for Athletic Participation Demerge Protocol
05/15/19	310.2	Bowling Transportation caveat
03/20/20	120.4a	edit the header to include 2020-2021
02/01/21	765	Added New policy Whistle-Blower Protection approved 1/20/21AC
06/18/25		Revised Policy Manual approved by AC

Notes about Hyperlinks:

State Handbook Link 2025-26 hb link [https://www.nysed.gov/state-handbook/2025-26](#) links listed in items Safety p14, Drone, Thunder & Lightning, Heat Index, Wind Chill & Tornado Policy. Also on p36 770
 Link to State Classifications in Policy 120 p4