

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 22, 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 **CARRIED:** March 25, 2026 Section VI Executive Committee meeting minutes

5.1 **CARRIED:** Combining of Schools Applications

6.3.1 **CARRIED:** Treasurer's Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Attendance (*indicates present)
*D. Lilleck, President
*B. Banker, President-Elect
*M. Donahue, Past President
*J. Sortisio, Superintendents' Representative
*C. Alvarez, Principals' Representative
*M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative
*J. Roth, Male Representative
*M. DiFilippo, Executive Director
*K. Schon, Asst. Executive Director
*D. Ljiljanich, Incoming President
*B. Fadeley, Recording Secretary

**Agenda item numbers correspond with the athletic council agenda*

1.0 **CALL TO ORDER** (D. Lilleck)

9:34am

Motion to add the following to 5.1:
Football, NEW, **Hutch Tech**, IPrep, CH, Burg, BCul & PerA, 5750, V, JV
Football, NEW, **LJ Bennett**, East, MST, MEC, ResL & FLO, 3042 V, JV
Remove South Park from the LJ Bennett, MEC, Research Lab Boys Soccer merger
CARRIED
Roth/Sortisio

3.0 **MINUTES** (D. Lilleck)

3.1 ***Motion to approve of the March 25, 2026 Section VI Executive Committee meeting minutes***
CARRIED
Roth/Alvarez

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

4.1 Officials Recruitment Day – April 25th
Section VI officials are hosting a Recruitment Day on **April 25th, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM** at select Dick's Sporting Goods locations - **Dick's House of Sport:** 4200 Ridge Lee Road and **Dick's Orchard Park Location:** 3434 Amelia Drive. This event offers the chance to gain firsthand insight into officiating skills and techniques, with opportunities to speak directly to current officials about joining the team.

In addition, radio 106.5 and WGR55 have both advertised the recruitment day, which has procured 3 calls of interest to the office of interest.

4.2 Section VI Negotiations Update
Section VI lead negotiators, J. Sortisio and M. Kruzynski, met with WNYSO lead negotiators, C. Hope and M. Binkowski, on April 16th, 2026. The Section VI negotiating team convened its first meeting April 21, 2026.

4.3 NYSPHSAA Golf Tournament
M. DiFilippo continues to encourage participation; Section VI representation and support of A. Stoltman when he assumes the position of NYSPHSAA President.

4.4 Section VI Football Championships
Section VI is finalizing the venue for the 2026 football championships. A press release is anticipated by week's end.

5.0 **COMMUNICATIONS** (M. DiFilippo)

5.1 ***Motion to approve the Combining of Schools applications, numbers (1) through (7)***
CARRIED
Sortisio/Alvarez
FALL COS PROGRAMS
1. Field Hockey, **Wilson**, Royalton-Hartland & Barker MODIFIED ONLY, 382, 7/8/9 ONLY, N-O Pending
2. Gym Girls, **Williamsville South**, Amherst, 1186, V, Federated
3. Swim Girls, **Chautauqua Lake**, Westfield, 370, V, CCAA 4/16/26
4. Tennis Girls, New, **Olean**, Portville, 627, V, CCAA 4/16/26

WINTER COS PROGRAMS
5. Swim Boys, **Olean**,, Allegany-Limestone, Franklinville & Portville, 1022, V, CCAA 4/16/26
6. Wrestling B, **Olean**, Allegany-Limestone, 537, V, 78, CCAA 4/16/26
7. Wrestling G, **Olean**, Allegany-Limestone, 660, V, 78, CCAA 4/16/26
8. Football, NEW, **Hutch Tech**, I Prep, CH, Burg, BCul & PerA, 5750, V, JV
9. Football, NEW, **LJ Bennett**, East, MST, MEC, ResL & FLO, 3042 V, JV
10. Remove South Park from the LJ Bennett, MEC, Research Lab Boys Soccer merger

6.0 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1 Combining of Schools Committee (J. Sortisio)

6.1.1 The Combining of Schools Committee is scheduled to meet today, April 22, at noon regarding the winter 25-26 combined teams end of season reports.

6.1.2 NYSPHSAA Combining of Schools meeting was held on April 17, 2026. They wanted feedback on individual mergers and team individual mergers and whether they should be allowed to continue.

Swim relays were also a topic of discussion. One of the primary concerns was the idea of shadowing – practice with the host team, but compete individually.

Discussion about graduated scale and whether long-term mergers should expire after a number of years.

6.2 Charter Schools Classification Committee (J. Sortisio)

6.2.1 Charter School Placement – Voting Status
1. ***CARRIED*** (unanimous) Charter School Placement, Sport of Boys Basketball, committee is recommending Tapestry to move up from class B to class A.
2. ***CARRIED*** (unanimous) Charter School Placement, Sport of Boys Basketball, committee is recommending Health Science to remain in class AAA.

6.3 Finance Committee (B. Fadeley)

6.3.1 ***Motion to approve the Treasurer's report*** (Appendix A)
CARRIED
Roth/Banker

6.4 Sectional/Intersectional (M. DiFilippo)

6.4.1 Promotion Rule Revision – Voting Status
At the January 14, 2026 Athletic Council Meeting, the Athletic Council directed M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to support the Modified Committee – Revision to the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule. At the February 2026 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting, the Revision to the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule was supported at the beginning of the 26-27 school year. "With Section approval, contestants may be promoted to a higher classification within the modified program or to a junior varsity or varsity team at any time." With that, sections now have the choice to apply the revision to the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule.

CARRIED (unanimous) Motion to support application of the revision of the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule within Section VI. This will begin fall 2026.

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)

6.7c1 Action Items – Voting Status

. ***CARRIED*** *(unanimous) Field Hockey – Establish a Pilot Program for Modified and Junior Varsity Teams*
CARRIED *(unanimous) Competitive Cheerleading: Classification Cut-off Numbers*
DEFEATED *(16 opposed, 4 in favor) (Softball – Establish pregame timeline and protocol for regular season games*

**11 eligible voting members did not submit votes.*

6.8 Extended Eligibility (M. DiFilippo)

Nothing to report

6.10 Transfer/Foreign Student (M. DiFilippo)

Nothing to report

6.13 Mixed Competition (C. Alvarez)

Nothing to report

6.14 Nominations (B. Banker)

6.14.1 Section VI Female Representative (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty) Term Expiration June 2026
- Action item May 13, 2026 athletic council meeting

6.14.2 President-Elect Position, term July 2026 – June 2028
- Action item May 13, 2026 athletic council meeting

6.14.3 Winter Sports Chairs, term July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029
- Action Item May 13, 2026 athletic council meeting
- The following incumbents provided intention to renew their terms: Boys Basketball – Larry Jones, Boys Basketball Co-Chair – Erik O'Bryan, Girls Basketball – Chris Durr, Boys Bowling- Dan Kaplan, Girls Bowling – Joe Biondo, Cheerleading – Justina Grudzinski, Boys Ice Hockey – Rick Brooks, Girls Ice Hockey – Rick Hopkins, Boys Indoor Track – Jason Bibler, Girls Indoor Track – Justin Craddock, Rifle – Kristina Brown, Boys Swimming Co-Chairs– Nate Bourke & Chris Miller, Boys Wrestling – Mike DeBarbieri, Girls Wrestling – Tom Shifflet, Unified Bowling – Doug Ames

- 2 Challenger Applications Received in the sports of Boys and Girls Wrestling

6.14.4 Alpine Skiing Chairperson
- J. Lehmbeck stepped down from the position.
- Candidate P. Lester (Williamsville South) – Action item at the May 13, Athletic Council meeting. Term July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029

6.15 Corporate Partners (K. Schon)

Nothing to report

6.17 Policy Committee (K. Schon)

The committee convened April 20, 2026. Additional clean-up was made to voted on items from this past school year. A document of updates will be distributed to the council in advance of this June meeting's vote.

7.0 SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 All WNY Scholar Athlete (J. Roth)
The draft list was distributed to athletic directors. Corrections are due this Friday, April 24, 2026.

7.2 Schools Without Boundaries Ad Hoc Committee (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty)

- 3 Options – Voting Status
  (50 Votes) 1. Stay with the approved process and evaluate after 2 years.
  (11 Votes) 2. Continue to examine potential revisions / hybrid model.
  (10 Votes) 3. Consider complete separation of non-public and public, recognizing potential costs of litigation.

- R. Zayas Letter
  Executive Committee continued discussion regarding NYSPHSAA procedural processes.

10.0 OLD BUSINESS

10.1 Football Schedule – Officials
Discussion ensues surrounding the Thursday/Saturday scheduling of games and lack of officials.

10.2 Independent Status – Ad Hoc Committee
D. Ljiljanich to chair the Independent Status Ad Hoc Committee. M. DiFilippo to request league representation at the next league heads meeting. The intent is to convene the committee in advance of the end of the year.

10.3 Section Office Position
The timeline regarding the impending Section VI office open position and interview process was discussed with the Executive Committee.

11.0 NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report

12.0 GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT

12.1 ***Motion to adjourn***
CARRIED
M. Fallacaro-Dougherty/Roth

APPENDIX A

Section VI NYSPHSAA, Inc.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 16, 2026

	Apr 16, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1040.2 · Bankof America CD #2	101,535.90
1040.1 · Bank of America CD	27,792.52
1043.1 · Northwest CD	359,331.71
1050 · Arbiter Pay	7,719.92
1030 · Bank of America Checking	164,020.72
1040 · Bank of America Money Market	1.69
1043 · Northwest Savings Bank	100,964.21
Total Checking/Savings	761,366.67
Total Current Assets	761,366.67
TOTAL ASSETS	**761,366.67**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

Dedicated Funds	Budgeted	Expenses	Current Assets
State Championships	$ 215,000.00	$ 123,531.00	$ 91,469.00

FUND BALANCE **$ 669,897.67**