

ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES

January 14, 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 **CARRIED:** November 19, 2025 Section VI Athletic Council meeting minutes

4.2 **CARRIED:** Section VI Negotiation Team for next Section VI/WNYSO contract
(Officials Negotiations – identification of lead negotiators due 2/1/26, remaining team members due 3/1/26)
J. Sortisio - Lead
M. Kruzynski - Lead
L. Bergman
C. Alvarez
C. Bartoszek
M. DiFilippo
K. Schon – Recording Secretary

5.1 **CARRIED:** Combining of Schools Applications

6.1.2 **CARRIED**: Keep CSP Football in Class C for the 2026 season (previously approved to move from Class D to Class C
4 opposed for the 2025 season).

6.1.3 **CARRIED:** Keep CSP Girls Cross Country in Class C for the 2026 season (previously approved to move from Class D
3 opposed to Class C for the 2025 season).

6.1.4 **CARRIED:** Combining of Schools Deadline Recommendation Proposal (Appendix B)

6.2.1 **CARRIED:** Health Sciences/Global Concepts/BASCS to move from class A to class AA in the sport of Football for the 26-27 school year.

6.3.1 **CARRIED**: Treasurer's report (Appendix C)

6.3.2 **CARRIED:** 26-27 Proposed Budget (Appendix D)

6.3.3 **CARRIED:** 26-27 Proposed Coordination Fee Formula (Appendix E)

6.4.2 **CARRIED:** At Large Proposal (Appendix F)

6.4.3 **CARRIED:** Split Classification Pilot (Appendix F)
Recommendation to make the split classifications after opt-out formal policy beginning with the 26-27 school year. Pilot was approved for a 1-year extension, through 25-26, at the May 2025 AC meeting.

6.7c1 **CARRIED:** Handbook Committee – Addition to Representation Rule

6.7c2 **CARRIED:** Modified Committee – Flag Football Coordinator

6.7c3 **CARRIED:** Modified Committee - Ice Hockey Coordinator

6.7c4 **CARRIED:** Modified Committee – Revision to the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule
1 Opposed

6.7c5 **CARRIED:** Boys Basketball: Adopt new 5-second closely guarded NFHS rule (by State Association
1 opposed adoption)

6.7c6 **CARRIED:** Boys/Girls Bowling – Establish minimum roster size of five (50 bowlers on the school team at the State Tournament

6.7c7 **CARRIED:** Girls Flag Football NFHS Rule Adoption

6.7c8 **CARRIED:** Girls Flag Football Rule Request: Dead Ball Flag Checks

6.7c9 **CARRIED:** Girls Flag Football Pilot: Onside Play

6.7c10 **CARRIED:** Outdoor Track – To utilize the super standard, an athlete must finish top five in the state
5 Opposed qualifier meet, effective 2026

6.7c11 **CARRIED:** Outdoor Track – No Additional performances using the super standard (obtained after the state qualifier meet) will count toward entry into the state meet.

6.7c12 **CARRIED:** Outdoor Track – Utilize the three-year average for the formula for qualifying standards using the seed Performances

6.7c13 **CARRIED:** Baseball: Make it optional to utilize a double first base during the 2026 season (regular & postseason)

11.1 **CARRIED:** Approval of Proposed 26-27 Meeting Dates

ATHLETIC COUNCIL
MINUTES

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

1.1 Pledge of allegiance

Motion to approve the following amendments to the agenda:

- Add 5.2 Senior All Star contest, hosted by BPS, Silver Hoops, Basketball. Approved on 12/19/25
- Remove action item 6.1.1 (team automatically classified as A by the numbers)
- Two revisions to 5.1 Combining of Schools: Add Maple Grove to #22 and Add North Collins to #25

CARRIED
Taylor/Kelly

2.0 **PRESENTATION & AWARDS**

2.1 Fall State Champions
a) Girls Volleyball- Lancaster
b) Girls Volleyball - Portville
b) Boys Soccer- East Aurora
c) Boys XC- East Aurora - Class C Team Champs
d) Swimmer- Lauren Golden- Williamsville East 50YD Freestyle Champion, 100 YD Freestyle Champion

3.0 **MINUTES** (D. Lilleck)

3.1 ***Motion to approve the November 19, 2025 Section VI Athletic Council meeting minutes***
CARRIED
Penhollow/Zirkle

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

4.1 Mandatory AD Workshop – January 22, 2026 at Erie 1 BOCES (informational)

4.2 ***Motion to approve of Section VI Negotiation Team for next Section VI/WNYSO contract***
(Officials Negotiations – identification of lead negotiators due 2/1/26, remaining team members due 3/1/26)
J. Sortisio - Lead
M. Kruzynski - Lead
L. Bergman
C. Alvarez
C. Bartoszek
M. DiFilippo
K. Schon – Recording Secretary
CARRIED
Taylor/Ljiljanich

4.3 NYSPHSAA Summer Meeting / Foundation Golf Tournament July 27, 2026 (Appendix A)
Section VI to host the NYSPHSAA summer meeting. With that comes the NYSPHSAA Foundation Golf Tournament. M. DiFilippo asked council members to encourage at least one foursome from each league. It was noted the Buffalo Bills committed to a sponsorship.

4.4 Highmark Stadium Update
With the close of Highmark Stadium, Section 6 is in discussions about 2026 football sectional championships.

4.5 Spring Regional Rotations
Spring 2026 sectionals and regionals scheduling will be very different from the past. Section VI to host sub-regionals and regionals in every sport and classification. The turnaround time between sectional championships, crossovers, sub-regionals and regionals will be a gauntlet. M. DiFilippo and K. Schon have proactively shared this information multiple times with member leagues.

4.6 2026 Girls Basketball Semi-finals
Boys and Girls Basketball will be scheduled together at Fredonia State University and at Buffalo State.

5.0 **COMMUNICATIONS** (M. DiFilippo)

5.1 ***Motion to approvel of the Combining of Schools applications, numbers (1) through (37)***
CARRIED
Ljiljanich/Fallacaro-Dougherty

COS Status Chart move to 2026Fall Tab

1. Football, NEW, **WNY Maritime,** Tapestry & CSAT, 724, V, 7/8/9, Federated
2. Football, Existing, **Falconer,** Cassadaga Valley, Maple Grove, 375, V, JV, 7/8, 7/8/9, Federated
3. Football, Existing, **Portville,** Cuba-Rushford, Bolivar-Richburg, 326, V, JV, 7/8, Federated
4. Football, Existing, **Eden,** North Collins, 325, V, 7/8/9, Federated
5. Football, Existing, **Barker,** Royalton-Hartland, 298, V, 7/8/9, Federated
6. Football, Existing, **Gowanda,** Pine Valley, 281, V, 7/8/9, Federated
7. Football, Existing, **Franklinville,** Ellicottville, West Valley, 214, V, JV 7/8, Federated
8. Cross Country, Existing, **Buffalo Cul Arts,** Emerson, 543, V, Buffalo
9. Cross Country, Existing, **Falconer,** Cassadaga Valley, 330, V, 7/8, CCAA
10. Cross Country, Existing, **Franklinville,** Ellicottville, 199, V, 7/8, CCAA
11. Cross Country, Existing, **Panama,** Sherman & Clymer, 182, V, CCAA
12. Cheer - Game Day, Existing, **Hutch Tech,** All BPS Schools, 7338, V, Buffalo
13. Cheer - Game Day, Existing, **Eden,** North Collins, 325, V, 7/8/9, ECIC
14. Cheer - Game Day, Existing, **Franklinville,** Ellicottville, 199, V, 7/8/9, CCAA
15. Soccer Boys, Existing, **Hutch Tech,** Bflo Cul Arts, Emerson, 1601, V, JV, Buffalo
16. Soccer Boys, Existing, **Burgard,** MST & Performing Arts, 1119, V, JV, Buffalo
17. Soccer Boys, Existing, **LJ Bennett,** MEC, Res Lab, South Park, 808, V, JV, Buffalo
18. Soccer Boys, Existing, **Riverside,** L. DaVinci, 546, V, JV, Buffalo
19. Soccer Boys, Existing, **Cassadaga Valley,** Falconer, 330, V, 7/8/9, CCAA
20. Soccer Boys, Existing, **Ellicottville,** Franklinville, 199, V, 7/8/9, CCAA
21. Soccer Girls, Existing, **City Honors,** All BPS, 7338, V, JV, Buffalo
22. Soccer Girls, Existing, **Falconer,** Cassadaga Valley, Maple Grove, 390, V, 7/8/9, CCAA
23. Soccer Girls, Existing, **Barker,** Lyndonville (5), 258, V, JV, 7/8, CCAA
24. Swim G, Existing, **LJ Bennett,** MEC & Research Lab, 659, V, Buffalo
25. Swim G, NEW, **Eden,** Gowanda, North Collins, 644, V, ECIC
26. Swim G, Existing, **Olean,** Portville, 627, V, CCAA
27. Swim G, Existing, **Perfm Arts,** L DaVinci, 615, V, Buffalo
28. Swim G, Existing, **Frewsburg,** Falconer, 429, V, CCAA
29. Swim G, Existing, **Panama,** Maple Grove, Clymer & Sherman, 405, V, Federation
30. Swim G, Existing, **Franklinville,** Ellicottville & West Valley, 312, V, Federation
31. Tennis G, Existing, **Burgard,** McKinley, 1035, V, Buffalo
32. Tennis G, Existing, **LJ Bennett,** MEC, 659, V, Buffalo
33. Volleyball Boys, Existing, **I-Prep,** Lafayette, 919, V, ECIC
34. Volleyball Boys, Existing, **City Honors,** L DaVinci, 755, V, Buffalo
35. Volleyball Boys, Existing, **Eden,** North Collins, 337, V, JV, 7/8, ECIC
36. Volleyball Girls, Existing, **Bflo Cul Arts,** Emerson, 716, V, JV, Buffalo
37. Volleyball Girls, Existing, **MEC,** LJ Bennett, 659, V, JV, Buffalo

6.0 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

6.1 Combining of Schools Committee (J. Sortisio)

6.1.1 ***Motion to approve to move Falconer/CV/MG Girls Soccer to Class A for the 2026 season.***
REMOVED as the numbers dictate their placement in Class A.

6.1.2 ***Motion to approve to keep CSP Football in Class C for the 2026 season (previously approved to move from Class D to Class C for the 2025 season).***
CARRIED, 4 opposed
Fallacaro-Dougherty/Dimitroff

A majority of the committee supports keeping CSP Football in Class C based on the team's historical dominance.

6.1.3 **Motion to approve to keep CSP Girls Cross Country in Class C for the 2026 season (previously approved to move from Class D to Class C for the 2025 season).**
CARRIED, 3 opposed
Alvarez/Roth

Based on 4 years of dominance and the team winning the Class C 2 championship this season, the committee recommends keeping the team at Class C.

6.1.4 ***Motion to approve of the Combining of Schools Deadline Recommendation Proposal*** (Appendix B)
CARRIED
Zipp/Ljiljanich

The committee was charged with reviewing the deadlines as they were written, primarily because the deadlines were not being met. The language proposes the need for early communication for those new teams intending to combine. The other piece within this proposal that has been adjusted refers to when the opportunity to combine sunsets, which is when the team is first eligible to compete. Opportunity to combine would cease on the day of eligibility to contest.

The changes within the proposal would be evaluated after the 1st year of implementation. This proposal would take place immediately, applicable to Fall 2026 applications.

A concern lodged was in regard to the sport of football. Combined team application approvals can affect the football alignments. The football schedule being confirmed in May is problematic for scheduling of other sports at facilities.

6.2 Charter Schools Classification Committee (J. Sortisio)

6.2.1 ***Motion to approve of Health Sciences/Global Concepts/BASCS to move from class A to class AA in the sport of Football for the 26-27 school year.***
CARRIED
McDuffie/Morris

Health Sciences/Global Concepts/BASCS meet 3 of the 4 criteria of the NYSPHSAA adopted language regarding Schools Without a Boundary. A team only needs to meet one of the criteria to be moved.

6.3 Finance Committee (S. Penhollow)

6.3.1 ***Motion to approve of the Treasurer's report*** (Appendix C)
CARRIED
Penhollow/Taylor

6.3.2 ***Motion to approve 26-27 Proposed Budget*** (Appendix D)
CARRIED
Penhollow/Taylor

6.3.3 ***Motion to approve 26-27 Proposed Coordination Fee Formula*** (Appendix E)
CARRIED
Kelly/Salisbury

The Finance Committee was asked to review the lack of students as spectators versus the ticket cost.

6.4 Sectional/Intersectional (M. DiFilippo)

6.4.2 ***Motion to approve the At-Large Proposal*** (Appendix F)
CARRIED
Hack/Kelly

6.4.3 ***Motion to approve the Split Classification Pilot as formal policy*** (Appendix F)

- Recommendation to make the split classifications after opt-out formal policy beginning with the 26-27 school year. Pilot was approved for a 1-year extension, through 25-26, at the May 2025 AC meeting.

CARRIED
Roth/Sortisio

Boys Basketball is the only sport not in favor of this proposal.

6.5 Safety (M. McKenna)

Nothing to report

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

6.6.1 Rolling agenda
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X_iVlWi-nmrYKJ5C3IaJsbgWXMoZuray1XyZb79uuto/edit

Nothing to report

6.7 State Executive Committee/Central Committee

a) Superintendent (J. Sortisio)

6.7a1 Presentation and discussion of a Policy Proposal to Restrict Participation in Championship Play (Appendix G)
The premise of this proposal is no public school student should have to face a private school student in the championship game.
The following concerns were expressed:

- Admittedly by the author of the proposal, the 30% is a percentage that was generated arbitrarily.
- J. Sortisio was told by the creator of this proposal, a carve-out would be included for tuition paying students, but the final proposal does not indicate that carve out.

b) Principal (C. Alvarez)

Nothing to report

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

The following are action items to provide direction for M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, to vote at the February 2026 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting. (Appendix H)

6.7c1 ***Motion to approve the Handbook Committee – Addition to Representation Rule***
CARRIED
Ljiljanich/Taylor

6.7c2 ***Motion to approve the Modified Committee – Flag Football Coordinator***
CARRIED
Salisbury/Zirkle

6.7c3 ***Motion to approve the Modified Committee - Ice Hockey Coordinator***
CARRIED
Salisbury/Zirkle

6.7c4 ***Motion to approve the Modified Committee – Revision to the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule***
CARRIED, 1 opposed
Roth/Dimitroff

If the athlete moves up, they cannot move back down.
There is no definition for elite athlete.

6.7c5 ***Motion to approve the Boys Basketball: Adopt new 5-second closely guarded NFHS rule (by State Association adoption)***
CARRIED, 1 opposed
Fallacaro-Dougherty/Almeida

6.7c6 ***Motion to approve the Boys/Girls Bowling – Establish minimum roster size of five (50 bowlers on the school team at the State Tournament***
CARRIED
Hack/Kelly

6.7c7 ***Motion to approve the Girls Flag Football NFHS Rule Adoption***
CARRIED
Hack/Dimitroff

6.7c8 ***Motion to approve the Girls Flag Football Rule Request: Dead Ball Flag Checks***
CARRIED
Hack/Dimitroff

6.7c9 ***Motion to approve the Girls Flag Football Pilot: Onside Play***
CARRIED
Heck/Zirkle

6.7c10 ***Motion to approve the Outdoor Track – To utilize the super standard, an athlete must finish top five in the state qualifier meet, effective 2026***
CARRIED, 5 opposed
Zipp/Zirkle

6.7c11 ***Motion to approve the Outdoor Track – No Additional performances using the super standard (obtained after the state qualifier meet) will count toward entry into the state meet.***
CARRIED
Fallacaro-Dougherty/Roth

6.7c12 **Motion to approve the** ***Outdoor Track – Utilize the three-year average for the formula for qualifying standards using the seed Performances***
CARRIED
Croft/Zirkle

6.7c13 ***Motion to approve the Baseball: Make it optional to utilize a double first base during the 2026 season (regular & postseason)***
CARRIED
Hack/Dimitroff

6.8 Extended Eligibility (M. DiFilippo)

Nothing to report

6.9 SAAC (J. Grzymala)

Tomorrow is second leadership opportunity at the University of Buffalo campus. If UB is cancelled, John school districts will be notified.

6.10 Transfer/Foreign Student (M. DiFilippo)

Nothing to report

6.11 Sportsmanship (J. Graczyk, D. Ames)

Nothing to report

6.12 Veterans (J. Trampert)

Nothing to report

6.13 Mixed Competition (C. Alvarez)

Nothing to report

6.14 Nominations (B. Banker)

6.14.1 Section VI Female Representative (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty) Term Expiration June 2026

- Incumbent wishes to renew term
- Challenger application posted on website, deadline March 1, 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
- The application is posted on the Section VI website with a deadline of March 1, 2025
- 1 application received

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: Alpine Skiing – Jason Lehmbeck, Boys Basketball – Larry Jones, Boys Basketball Co-Chair – Erik O'Bryan, Girls Basketball – Chris Durr, 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
- The winter chairperson challenger application is posted on the Section VI website with deadline of March 1, 2026. No applications received at present.

6.14.4 Open Position – Boys Bowling Chairperson (term July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2029)

- Application posted on the Section VI website, deadline of March 1, 2026.

6.15 Corporate Partners (K. Schon)

Nothing to report

6.16 Hall of Fame (C. Bullis)

- 11th Annual HOF Induction Ceremony on December 4th was a success with 135 attending.
- Deadline for 2026 nominations is Wednesday, May 13, 2026.
- The next HOF Committee meeting is Friday July 17, 2026 at 11:00am.
- In the process of updating the nomination packet. Information and materials will be posted on the Section VI website by the end of January.

6.17 Policy Committee (K. Schon)

Nothing to report.

7.0 SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 All WNY Scholar Athlete (J. Roth)
The Fall 2025 selections are complete with 150 winners and 1,100 honorable mentions.

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

See agenda item 6.7a1

7.3 DEI Committee (A. Lloyd)

Three items were highlighted from the last committee meeting.

- Cheer Choreography – The committee reviewed the current NYSPHSAA policy that restricts competitive cheer choreography to the fall season. The original intent was to prevent competitive advantages. Several members from the committee raised concerns about equity and consistency and noted that cheerleading is the only sport with specific restrictions to this while off-season development advantages exist in other sports. Questions were raised about whether this is an enforceable issue that should be handled at the sectional level or at the state. The sections are being asked to discuss this item.
- DEI Rep on NYSPHSAA sports committees – discussed as first step increasing diversity and inclusivity within NYSPHSAA governance and creating intentional pathways for leadership roles. There was an agreement that more discussion is needed before advancing this item. Sections are being asked to gather feedback.
- Applications open for Principal Representative Officer position – deadline January 16, 2026

8.0 **STATE COMMITTEE REPORTS** (informational only) Appendix I

- Softball, December 3, 2025
- Football, December 6, 2025
- B/G Tennis, December 9, 2025
- Championship Philosophy, December 10, 2025
- Skiing, December 11, 2025
- Cheer, December 11, 2025
- Lacrosse Girls, December 15, 2025
- Wrestling Girls, December 19, 2025

9.0 **GUEST REPORTS**

9.1 NYSPHSAA (R. Zayas)

- Section VI to receive $7700 regarding NFHS VPS (variable performance share), which is Section VI's contribution to the total viewership in NYS. It is anticipated to grow with each year. This is in addition to the guaranteed rights revenue share from the NFHS.

- BIDS for championship events open periodically. BIDS are posted on NYSPHSAA website. The bid process is based on equity, fairness and transparency.

- The Big 5 wishes to secure 2 voting positions on the NYSPHSAA exec committee and 4 positions on NYSPHSAA Central Committee. They would be allocated votes. NYSPHSAA memberships reviewed and expressed concerns, but the Big 5 went ahead and pursued legislation, which is currently pending.

9.2 NYSAAA Report (J. Lehmbeck)

10.0 **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing to report

11.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

11.1 ***Motion to approve of the proposed 26-27 meeting dates***
CARRIED
Kelly/Taylor

- Sectional/Intersectional (Thurs. 9am Teleconference): Sept. 10, Oct.8, Jan.7, Feb.11, Apr. 8
- Finance (Thurs. 12pm Teleconference): Sept. 10, Oct 8 (@ Section VI), Jan. 7, Feb.11, Apr. 8
- Athletic Council Wed: Sept. 23, Nov. 18, Jan 20, Mar. 24, May 12, Zoom June 16 - if needed (Lunch at 11am, Meeting 11:30 am)
- Executive Committee: above AC dates plus (Teleconference) Oct.14, Dec. 16, Feb. 10, Apr.21, Jun. 16

11.2 Championship Philosophy (See report in Appendix I)
Council members were asked to review Appendix I and provide feedback through your leagues to the section.

12.0 **GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT**

12.1 ***Motion to adjourn***
CARRIED
Salisbury/McDuffie

NYSPHSAA FOUNDATION

GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIPS

BROOKFIELD COUNTRY CLUB, CLARENCE
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026



TITLE SPONSOR
$10,000

- Company name/logo added to all event promotion materials and course signage
- Company representative invited to speak at dinner and assist with awards
- Two complimentary golf foursomes
- On-course setup with choice of location
- 2 hole sponsorships
- Branded item in all gift bags

MEAL SPONSOR
$5,000

- Company name/logo on table signage for lunch and dinner
- Materials included at place settings for dinner
- Complimentary golf foursome
- Branded item in all gift bags

PREMIUM GIFT
$3,000

- Company name/logo on premium gift provided to all participants
- Logo on recognition signage at dinner

COURSE GAMES
$500 each

- Company name/logo on signage indicating course game
- Mention during awards
- Logo on recognition signage at dinner
- May include, but not limited to: Hole-in-One, Longest Drive, Closest to Pin, etc.

HOLE SPONSOR
$250

- Company name/logo on signage at one hole
- Logo on recognition signage

PUTTING GREEN
$500

- Company name/logo on signage at practice green and signage indicating the location.
- Logo on recognition signage at dinner

DRIVING RANGE
$500

- Company name/logo on signage at driving range and signage indicating the location.
- Logo on recognition signage at dinner

PIN FLAG LOGOS
$1,000

- Company name/logo on one side of all 18 pin flags.
- Logo on recognition signage at dinner

GOLF CARTS
$1,500

- Company name/logo on all carts used for the tournament, including the beverage cart
- Logo on recognition signage at dinner

Chris Joyce
cjoyce@nysphsaa.org
518-690-0771

CUSTOM PACKAGES AVAILABLE!

NYSPHSAA FOUNDATION

GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIPS

BROOKFIELD COUNTRY CLUB, CLARENCE
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026

☐ **TITLE SPONSOR $10,000**	• Company name/logo added to all event promotion materials and course signage • Company rep invited to speak at dinner and assist with awards • Two complimentary golf foursomes • On-course setup with choice of location • 2 hole sponsorships • Branded item in all gift bags
☐ **MEAL SPONSOR $5,000**	• Company name/logo on table signage for lunch and dinner • Materials included at place settings for dinner • Complimentary golf foursome • Branded item in all gift bags
☐ **PREMIUM GIFT $3,000**	• Company name/logo on premium gift provided to all tournament participants • Logo on recognition signage at dinner
☐ **GOLF CARTS $1,500**	• Company name/logo on all carts used for the tournament, including the beverage cart • Logo on recognition signage at dinner
☐ **PIN FLAGS $1,000**	• Company name/logo on one side of all 18 pin flags • Logo on recognition signage at dinner
☐ **COURSE GAMES $500**	• Company name/logo on signage indicating course game • Logo on recognition signage at dinner and mention during awards • May include, but not limited to: Closest to Pin, Longest Drive, etc • Selected Game(s): _____
☐ **PUTTING GREEN $500**	• Company name/logo on signage at the practice green and directional signs indicating the location. • Logo on recognition signage at dinner
☐ **DRIVING RANGE $500**	• Company name/logo on signage at driving range and directional signs indicating range location. • Logo on recognition signage at dinner
☐ **HOLE SPONSOR $250**	• Company name/logo on signage at one hole • Logo on recognition signage at dinner Qty: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Company (if applicable): _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Date: _____ Total Due: _____

Please make checks payable to *NYSPHSAA Foundation.* Mail to: 8 Airport Park Blvd, Latham, NY 12110
For credit card payments, custom packages, or questions contact Chris Joyce at cjoyce@nysphsaa.org

APPENDIX B

Eden Central Schools

8289 North Main Street
Eden, New York 14057

Jeffrey A. Sortisio.
Superintendent of Schools

Phone (716) 992-3629
Fax (716) 992-3656

To: Mark DiFilippo, Executive Director, Section VI Athletics
From: Jeffrey A. Sortisio, Chair-Combining of Schools Committee
Date: January 5, 2025
Re: Recommendation for Action: Combining Deadline (Final Version)

It is the committee's recommendation that the Combining of Schools deadlines should be adjusted by 30 days for any schools who have consistently combined. The specific recommendation is that schools must declare their intent to continue to combine as follows:

Fall February 1st
Winter June 1st
Spring October 1st.

In addition, it is imperative that communication with the League, Sport Chair and the Section be completed as early as possible and no later than the due dates listed above.

New combined teams would be granted an additional 60 days to complete the necessary paperwork and approvals. However, communication as stated should occur at the earliest date possible.

The COS further recommends that the opportunity to combine ceases when teams become eligible to compete in games. For example, if a sport requires six practices prior to the first contest, eligibility to combine ends on that sixth practice day. The COS recognizes that in some instances the need to combine is unknown until the first practices of a season. This adjustment will allow for the continuation of emergency mergers and prevent mergers once seasons are underway. In addition, the COS recommends that for training sports, such as bowling and golf, that do not require pre-contest practices, the opportunity to combine ceases on the day of the first scheduled contest.

APPENDIX C

Section VI NYSPHSAA, Inc.

Treasurer's Report

As of January 8, 2026

	Jan 8, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1040.2 · Bankof America CD #2	100,617.64
1040.1 · Bank of America CD	27,554.36
1043.1 · Northwest CD	356,090.69
1050 · Arbiter Pay	102,511.50
1000 · Petty Cash	2,400.00
1030 · Bank of America Checking	308,533.13
1040 · Bank of America Money Market	1.69
1043 · Northwest Savings Bank	100,675.26
Total Checking/Savings	998,384.27
Total Current Assets	998,384.27
TOTAL ASSETS	**998,384.27**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

Dedicated Funds

	Received	Accural	Expenses	Current Assets
Boys Ice Hockey	$ 95,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 19,090.00	$ 75,910.00
Girls Ice Hockey	$ 56,250.00	$ 56,250.00	$ 2,940.00	$ 53,310.00
Indoor Track	$ 132,600.00	$ 132,600.00	$ 34,387.50	$ 98,212.50
	Budgeted			
State Championships	$ 215,000.00		$ 41,634.00	$ 173,366.00
	$ 498,850.00		$ 98,051.50	$ 400,798.50

Fund Balance $ 597,585.77

APPENDIX D

PROPOSED BUDGET 2026-2027 (November 19, 2025 AC Meeting)

Actual 2024-2025		Budget 2025-2026 - Approved Jan 2025		Projection 2026-2027	
Erie 1 BOCES		**Erie 1 BOCES**		**Erie 1 BOCES**	
Revenue		**Revenue**		**Revenue**	
Coordination Fees (BOCES Billing)	$ 582,520.00	Coordination Fees (BOCES Billing)	**$ 582,520.00**	Coordination Fees (BOCES Billing)	$ 621,085.00
Off. Recruit. & Ret. (BOCES Billing)	$ 14,200.00	Off. Recruit. & Ret. (BOCES Billing)	$ 14,200.00	Off. Recruit. & Ret. (BOCES Billing)	$ 14,200.00
Travel Pay (BOCES Billing)	$ (4,888.00)	Travel Pay (BOCES Billing)	$ (4,888.00)	Travel Pay (BOCES Billing)	($5,005)
Total Revenue	$ 591,832.00	**Total Revenue**	**$ 591,832.00**	**Total Revenue**	$ 630,280.00
Operating Expenses		**Operating Expenses**		**Operating Expenses**	
Salaries	$ 329,619.00	Salaries	$ 339,085.00	Salaries	$ 351,066.00
		Executive Director (118720)		Executive Director (122,152)	
				Asst. Director (97,231)	
				Office Staff (131,683)	
Equipment	$ 2,957.00	Equipment	$ 1,500.00	Equipment	$ 1,500.00
Supplies	$ 748.00	Supplies	$ 2,300.00	Supplies	$ 1,000.00
Contract Services	$ 149,279.00	Contract Services	$ 150,000.00	Contract Services	$ 142,700.00
Benefits	$ 132,770.00	Benefits	$ 148,400.00	Benefits	$ 166,400.00
Computer/Technology	$ 10,802.00	Computer/Technology	$ 13,500.00	Computer/Technology	$ 11,450.00
Rent/Utilities, Etc.	$ 13,434.00	Rent/Utilities, Etc.	$ 14,000.00	Rent/Utilities, Etc.	$ 14,250.00
Print Shop	$ 1,040.00	Print Shop	$ 1,300.00	Print Shop	$ 1,100.00
Total Operating Expenses	$ 640,649.00	**Total Operating Expenses**	**$ 670,085.00**	**Total Operating Expenses**	$ 689,466.00
Section VI		**Section VI**			
Revenue		**Revenue**		**Revenue**	
Sports Programs		Sports Programs		Sports Programs	
Sectional	$ 602,984.00	Sectional	$ 600,000.00	Sectional	$ 590,000.00
Regional	$ 69,858.00	Regional	$ 85,000.00	Regional	$ 65,000.00
Boys Ice Hockey - Reg. Season	$ 203,548.00	Boys Ice Hockey - Reg. Season	$ 230,000.00	Boys Ice Hockey - Reg. Season	$ 202,000.00
Girls Ice Hockey - Reg. Season/Sec	$ 53,971.00	Girls Ice Hockey - Reg. Season/Sec	$ 50,000.00	Girls Ice Hockey - Reg. Season/Sec	$ 60,000.00
Indoor Track & Field - Reg. Season/Sec	$ 154,577.00	Indoor Track & Field - Reg. Season/Sec	$ 140,000.00	Indoor Track & Field - Reg. Season/Sec	$ 152,000.00
State Championships	$ 40,810.00	State Championships	$ 50,000.00	State Championships	$ 40,000.00
Total Sports Programs	$ 1,125,748.00	Total Sports Programs	$ 1,155,000.00	Total Sports Programs	$ 1,109,000.00
General Administration		General Administration		General Administration	
Off. Recruit & Ret. (non-coser)	$ 11,400.00	Off. Recruit & Ret. (non-coser)	$ 11,400.00	Off. Recruit & Ret. (non-coser)	$ 11,400.00
Travel Pay (non-coser)	$ 4,888.00	Travel Pay (non-coser)	$ 4,888.00	Travel Pay (non-coser)	$ 5,005.00
Dues Collected by Section	$ 189,990.00	Dues Collected by Section	$ 189,990.00	Dues Collected by Section	$ 208,115.00
Dues Collected by BOCES	$ 582,520.00	Dues Collected by BOCES	$ 582,520.00	Dues Collected by BOCES	$ 621,085.00
Off. Recruit & Ret. (coser)	$ 14,200.00	Off. Recruit & Ret. (coser)	$ 14,200.00	Off. Recruit & Ret. (coser)	$ 14,200.00
Travel Pay (coser)	($4,888)	Travel Pay (coser)	$ (4,888.00)	Travel Pay (coser)	$ (5,005.00)
Interest Income	$ 17,776.00	Interest Income	$ 13,000.00	Interest Income	$ 17,500.00
Corporate Sponsorships	$ 152,019.00	Corporate Sponsorships	$ 120,000.00	Corporate Sponsorships	$ 136,000.00
Media/Program Sales	$ 1,750.00	Media/Program Sales	$ 2,500.00	Media/Program Sales	$ 1,750.00
Other Athletic Council Income	$ 72,970.00	Other Athletic Council Income	$ 38,000.00	Other Athletic Council Income	$ 50,000.00
Total General Administration	1042625	Total General Administration	$ 971,610.00	Total General Administration	$ 1,060,050.00
Total Revenue	**$ 2,168,373.00**	**Total Revenue**	**$ 2,126,610.00**	**Total Revenue**	**$ 2,169,050.00**
Operating Expenses		**Operating Expenses**		**Operating Expenses**	
Sports Programs		Sports Programs		Sports Programs	
Sectionals	$ 510,472.00	Sectionals	$ 530,000.00	Sectionals	$ 530,000.00
Awards + Assigners	$ 63,366.00	Awards + Assignors	$ 70,000.00	Awards + Assignors	$ 68,000.00
Regionals	$ 54,294.00	Regionals	$ 58,000.00	Regionals	$ 57,000.00
Boys Ice Hockey	$ 197,872.00	Boys Ice Hockey	$ 212,000.00	Boys Ice Hockey	$ 202,000.00
Girls Ice Hockey	$ 60,414.00	Girls Ice Hockey	$ 55,500.00	Girls Ice Hockey	$ 65,000.00
Indoor Track & Field	$ 146,456.00	Indoor Track & Field	$ 130,000.00	Indoor Track & Field	$ 152,000.00
State Championships	$ 198,669.00	State Championships	$ 215,000.00	State Championships	$ 220,000.00
Total Sports Program Expense	$ 1,231,543.00	Total Sports Program Expense	$ 1,270,500.00	Total Sports Program Expense	$ 1,294,000.00
General Administration/AC		General Administration/AC		General Administration/AC	
Medical Benefit (Ex Dir)	$ 12,662.00	Medical Benefit (Ex Dir)	$ 11,000.00	Medical Benefit (Ex Dir)	$ 13,000.00
Audit/QB Services/Legal Fees	$ 19,353.00	Audit/QB Services/Legal Fees	$ 35,000.00	Audit/QB Services/Legal Fees	$ 22,000.00
Meetings/Seminars/Catering	$ 22,244.00	Meetings/Seminars/Catering	$ 15,000.00	Meetings/Seminars/Catering	$ 24,000.00
Sportsmanship/HOF/Veterans	$ 15,934.00	Sportsmanship/HOF/Veterans	$ 14,500.00	Sportsmanship/HOF/Veterans	$ 17,000.00
Misc/Bank Fees	$ 555.00	Misc/Bank Fees	$ 600.00	Misc/Bank Fees	$ 750.00
Chair Stipends/Insurance	$ 42,580.00	Chair Stipends/Insurance	$ 44,000.00	Chair Stipends/Insurance	$ 51,900.00
Form X/Arbiter	$ 21,213.00	Form X/Arbiter	$ 23,300.00	Form X/Arbiter	$ 23,200.00
Supplies/Office/Apparel/Printing	$ 8,961.00	Supplies/Office/Apparel/Printing	$ 10,000.00	Supplies/Office/Apparel/Printing	$ 9,500.00
Ads/Sponsor/Donation	$ 22,250.00	Ads/Sponsor/Donation	$ 900.00	Ads/Sponsor/Donation	$ 1,250.00
NYSAAA/NIAAA/PD	$ 2,184.00	NYSAAA/NIAAA/PD	$ 6,000.00	NYSAAA/NIAAA/PD	$ 2,500.00
Officials Recruitment & Retention	$ 20,947.00	Officials Recruitment & Retention	$ 25,600.00	Officials Recruitment & Retention	$ 25,600.00
Total General Admin/AC Expense	$ 188,883.00	Total General Admin/AC Expense	$ 185,900.00	Total General Admin/AC Expense	$ 190,700.00
Total Operating Expenses	**$ 2,061,075.00**	**Total Operating Expenses**	**$ 2,126,485.00**	**Total Operating Expenses**	$ 2,174,166.00
Change Unrestricted Net Assets	**$ 107,297.00**	**Change Unrestricted Net Assets**	**$ 125.00**	**Change Unrestricted Net Assets**	**$ (5,116.00)**
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - Begin Year		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - Begin Year		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - Begin Year	
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - End Year		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - End Year		UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - End Year	

2026-2027 Proposed Coordination Fees

APPENDIX E

11/14/2025

Formula for Section VI Fee

Class Fee: AAA=$5000 AA=$4850, A=$4720, B=$4515, C=$4345, D=$4215

Section VI Fee = Class Fee + # sports x $150 + $100 Football Fee + $100 BLax + $100 GLax Fee

Boys Basketball AAA 1031+, AA 660-1030, A370-659, B 213-369, C121-212, D 0-120

Chart includes Finance Committee recommendations to increase each class fee by $500, increase federated sport fee from $90 to $100 and updated to 26-27 approved NYSPHSAA BEDS. * This chart does not yet include OFF R/R Fee, Travel Pay Fee/Refund, 26-27 number of varsity programs/ tru-up

School	Class	Class Fee	# Sports	# Sports x $150	Football Fee	BLax Fee	GLax Fee		Section VI 26-27 Fee	Was Class	25-26 Coord Fee	Difference
AKRON	B	$4,515	25	$3,750	$100	$100			$8,465		$7,945	$520
ALBION	A	$4,720	19	$2,850	$100				$7,670		$7,160	$510
ALDEN	B	$4,515	27	$4,050	$100				$8,665		$8,155	$510
ALLEGANY-LIMESTONE	B	$4,515	23	$3,450	$100				$8,065		$7,555	$510
AMHERST	A	$4,720	34	$5,100	$100	$100	$100		$10,120	AA	$9,720	$400
BARKER	C	$4,345	18	$2,700	$100				$7,145		$6,635	$510
BROCTON	D	$4,215	14	$2,100	$100				$6,415	C	$6,035	$380
CASSADAGA VALLEY	C	$4,345	23	$3,450	$100				$7,895		$7,385	$510
CATTARAUGUS-LITTLE VALLEY	C	$4,345	17	$2,550	$100				$6,995		$6,485	$510
CHAUTAUQUA LAKE	C	$4,345	19	$2,850	$100				$7,295		$6,785	$510
CHEEKTOWAGA	A	$4,720	23	$3,450	$100				$8,270		$7,760	$510
CLARENCE	AA	$4,850	38	$5,700	$100	$100	$100		$10,850		$10,320	$530
CLEVELAND HILL	B	$4,515	17	$2,550	$100				$7,165		$6,655	$510
CLYMER	D	$4,215	17	$2,550	$100				$6,865		$6,355	$510
DEPEW	A	$4,720	32	$4,800	$100	$100	$100		$9,820		$9,290	$530
DUNKIRK	A	$4,720	29	$4,350	$100				$9,170		$8,660	$510
EAST AURORA	A	$4,720	29	$4,350	$100	$100	$100		$9,370		$8,840	$530
EDEN	B	$4,515	29	$4,350	$100	$100	$100		$9,165		$8,635	$530
ELLICOTTVILLE	C	$4,345	19	$2,850	$100				$7,295		$6,785	$510
FALCONER	B	$4,515	25	$3,750	$100				$8,365		$7,855	$510
FORESTVILLE	D	$4,215	26	$3,900	$100				$8,215		$7,705	$510
FRANKLINVILLE	C	$4,345	23	$3,450	$100				$7,895	D	$7,255	$640
FREDONIA	B	$4,515	28	$4,200	$100				$8,815	A	$8,510	$305
FREWSBURG	C	$4,345	24	$3,600	$100				$8,045		$7,535	$510
FRONTIER	AA	$4,850	33	$4,950	$100	$100	$100		$10,100		$9,570	$530
GOWANDA	B	$4,515	20	$3,000	$100	$100	$100		$7,815	C	$7,115	$700
GRAND ISLAND	AA	$4,850	32	$4,800	$100	$100	$100		$9,950	A	$9,290	$660
HAMBURG	AA	$4,850	34	$5,100	$100	$100	$100		$10,250		$9,720	$530
HOLLAND	C	$4,345	22	$3,300	$100				$7,745		$7,235	$510
IROQUOIS	A	$4,720	35	$5,250	$100	$100	$100		$10,270		$9,740	$530
JAMESTOWN	AAA	$5,000	27	$4,050	$100				$9,150		$8,640	$510
J.F.KENNEDY	B	$4,515	19	$2,850	$100				$7,465		$6,955	$510
KENMORE:												
EAST	AA	$4,850	35	$5,250	$100	$100	$100		$10,400	A	$9,740.00	$660
WEST	AA	$4,850	35	$5,250	$100	$100	$100		$10,400		$9,870.00	$530

School	Class	Class Fee + Assessment	# Sports	# Sports x $150	Foot Fee	BLAX Fee	GLAX Fee		S6 25-26 Fee	WAS CLASS	25-26 Coord Fee	Difference
LACKAWANNA	A	$4,720	20	$3,000	$100				$7,820		$7,310.00	$510
LAKE SHORE	A	$4,720	31	$4,650	$100	$100	$100		$9,670		$9,140.00	$530
LANCASTER	AAA	$5,000	36	$5,400	$100	$100	$100		$10,700		$10,170.00	$530
LEWISTON PORTER	A	$4,720	28	$4,200	$100	$100	$100		$9,220		$8,690.00	$530
LOCKPORT	AA	$4,850	33	$4,950	$100	$100	$100		$10,100		$9,570.00	$530
MAPLE GROVE	D	$4,215	22	$3,300	$100				$7,615	C	$7,235.00	$380
MARYVALE	A	$4,720	26	$3,900	$100				$8,720		$8,210.00	$510
MEDINA	B	$4,515	22	$3,300	$100	$100			$8,015		$7,495.00	$520
NEWFANE	B	$4,515	27	$4,050	$100	$100	$100		$8,865		$8,335.00	$530
NIAGARA FALLS	AAA	$5,000	33	$4,950	$100	$100	$100		$10,250		$9,720.00	$530
NIAGARA WHEATFIELD	AA	$4,850	33	$4,950	$100	$100	$100		$10,100		$9,570.00	$530
NORTH COLLINS	C	$4,345	17	$2,550	$100	$100	$100		$7,195		$6,665.00	$530
NORTH TONAWANDA	AA	$4,850	32	$4,800	$100	$100	$100		$9,950		$9,420.00	$530
OLEAN	A	$4,720	26	$3,900	$100				$8,720		$8,210.00	$510
ORCHARD PARK	AA	$4,850	37	$5,550	$100	$100	$100		$10,700		$10,170.00	$530
PANAMA	D	$4,215	16	$2,400	$100				$6,715		$6,205.00	$510
PINE VALLEY	D	$4,215	12	$1,800	$100				$6,115		$5,605.00	$510
PIONEER	A	$4,720	28	$4,200	$100				$9,020		$8,510.00	$510
PORTVILLE	B	$4,515	19	$2,850	$100				$7,465	C	$6,785.00	$680
RANDOLPH CENTRAL	B	$4,515	21	$3,150	$100				$7,765		$7,255.00	$510
ROYALTON-HARTLAND	B	$4,515	27	$4,050	$100				$8,665		$8,155.00	$510
SALAMANCA	B	$4,515	28	$4,200	$100	$100	$100		$9,015		$8,485.00	$530
SHERMAN	D	$4,215	15	$2,250	$100				$6,565		$6,055.00	$510
SILVER CREEK	C	$4,345	26	$3,900	$100	$100	$100		$8,545		$8,015.00	$530
SOUTHWESTERN	B	$4,515	25	$3,750	$100				$8,365		$7,855.00	$510
SPRINGVILLE	B	$4,515	25	$3,750	$100		$100		$8,465		$7,945.00	$520
STARPOINT	AA	$4,850	34	$5,100	$100	$100	$100		$10,250	A	$9,590.00	$660
SWEET HOME	AA	$4,850	36	$5,400	$100	$100	$100		$10,550		$10,020.00	$530
TONAWANDA	A	$4,720	26	$3,900	$100	$100			$8,820		$8,300.00	$520
WESTFIELD	C	$4,345	22	$3,300	$100				$7,745		$7,235.00	$510
WEST SENECA:												
EAST	A	$4,720	32	$4,800	$100	$100	$100		$9,820		$9,290.00	$530
WEST	AA	$4,850	32	$4,800	$100	$100	$100		$9,950		$9,420.00	$530
WEST VALLEY	D	$4,215	16	$2,400	$100				$6,715		$6,205.00	$510
WILLIAMSVILLE:												
EAST	AA	$4,850	36	$5,400	$100	$100	$100		$10,550		$10,020.00	$530
NORTH	AA	$4,850	36	$5,400	$100	$100	$100		$10,550		$10,020.00	$530
SOUTH	A	$4,720	36	$5,400	$100	$100	$100		$10,420		$9,890.00	$530
WILSON	C	$4,345	20	$3,000	$100	$100			$7,545		$7,025.00	$520
CUBA-RUSHFORD			4	$600					$600		$600.00	$0
FRIENDSHIP			2	$300					$300		$300.00	$0
HINSDALE			6	$900					$900		$900.00	$0
LYNDONVILLE			1	$150					$150		$150.00	$0
BOLIVAR			2	$300					$300		$300.00	$0
TOTALS:									**$621,085**		**$583,940**	**$37,145**

SECTION VI COORDINATION FEES																
School	Class	Class Fee + Assessment	# Sports	# Sports x $150	Foot Fee	BLAX Fee	GLAX Fee		S6 25-26 Fee	Was Class	25-26 Coord Fee	Difference				
CHARTER SCHOOLS:																
BASCS	A	$4,720	11	$1,650	$100				$6,470		$5,960.00	$510.00				
CSAT (NFL)	A	$4,720	16	$2,400					$7,120		$6,620.00	$500.00				
GLOBAL CONCEPTS	B	$4,515	10	$1,500	$100				$6,115	C	$5,435.00	$680.00				
HEALTH SCIENCES	A	$4,720	12	$1,800	$100				$6,620	B	$5,905.00	$715.00				
TAPESTRY	B	$4,515	14	$2,100	$100				$6,715		$6,205.00	$510.00				
WNY MARITIME	C	$4,345	5	$750	$100				$5,195		$4,685.00	$510.00				
TOTALS:									**$38,235**		**$34,810.00**	**$3,425.00**				
BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS:																
ALTERNATIVE #131	D	$4,215	11	$1,650	$100	$100	$100		$6,165		$5,635.00	$530.00				
PERFORMING ARTS #192	B	$4,515	27	$4,050	$100	$100	$100		$8,865		$8,335.00	$530.00				
BURGARD HS #301	A	$4,720	24	$3,600	$100	$100	$100		$8,620		$8,090.00	$530.00				
CITY HONORS #195	A	$4,720	30	$4,500	$100	$100	$100		$9,520		$8,990.00	$530.00				
EAST HS #309	B	$4,515	21	$3,150	$100	$100	$100		$7,965		$7,435.00	$530.00				
EMERSON #302	B	$4,515	23	$3,450	$100	$100	$100		$8,265		$7,735.00	$530.00				
HUTCH TECH HS #304	AA	$4,850	30	$4,500	$100	$100	$100		$9,650		$9,120.00	$530.00				
I. PREP. HS #198	A	$4,720	25	$3,750	$100	$100	$100		$8,770		$8,240.00	$530.00				
LAFAYETTE HS #207	A	$4,720	23	$3,450	$100	$100	$100		$8,470	B	$7,735.00	$735.00				
DA VINCI HS #212	B	$4,515	25	$3,750	$100	$100	$100		$8,565		$8,035.00	$530.00				
LEWIS J. BENNETT #363	A	$4,720	25	$3,750	$100	$100	$100		$8,770		$8,240.00	$530.00				
MCKINLEY #305	A	$4,720	27	$4,050	$100	$100	$100		$9,070	AA	$8,670.00	$400.00				
M.E.C. #335	B	$4,515	26	$3,900	$100	$100	$100		$8,715		$8,185.00	$530.00				
MST HS #197	B	$4,515	23	$3,450	$100	$100	$100		$8,265		$7,735.00	$530.00				
OLMSTED HS #156	B	$4,515	30	$4,500	$100	$100	$100		$9,315		$8,785.00	$530.00				
O.T.C. #42		#N/A	2	$300					$300		$300.00	$0.00				
PATHWAYS #357	D	$4,215	15	$2,250	$100	$100	$100		$6,765		$6,235.00	$530.00				
RIVERSIDE HS #208	B	$4,515	24	$3,600	$100	$100	$100		$8,415		$7,885.00	$530.00				
SOUTH PARK HS #206	AA	$4,850	24	$3,600	$100	$100	$100		$8,750	A	$8,090.00	$660.00				
BUFFALO CULINARY #355	B	$4,515	23	$3,450	$100	$100	$100		$8,265		$7,735.00	$530.00				
RESEARCH LAB HS #366	C	$4,345	25	$3,750	$100	$100	$100		$8,395		$7,865.00	$530.00				
BUFFALO TOTALS:									**$169,880**		**$159,075**	**$10,805.00**				
SECVI INVOICE TOTALS:								Charter & BPS	**$208,115**		**$193,885**					
GRAND TOTAL					$9,600	$5,500	$5,200	Charter/BPS/ Coser	**$829,200**		**$777,825**					

APPENDIX F

At-Large Pathway into the State Tournament

The Sectional Intersectional Committee recommends that in all sports without a split classification, the Sectional winner determines their state championship pathway. Teams competing in the Sectional Final must submit a form signed by the coach, athletic director, and superintendent, indicating which pathway they will follow if they win. They will receive the form at the completion of the Semifinal game and must complete it within the outlined timeline prior to the Sectional final contest.

For sports with a split-classification, the committee recommends following the same format used for a single classification. The Sectional crossover winner determines their state championship pathway. Teams competing in the Sectional Crossover must submit a form signed by the coach, athletic director, and superintendent, indicating which pathway they will follow if they win. They will receive the form at the completion of the Sectional Final game and must complete it within the outlined timeline prior to the Sectional Crossover contest.

Split Classification Proposal

The Sectional Intersectional committee recommends adding the following language to the policy manual pertaining to the process of splitting classifications. Add the following sentence to Policy # 160.1

This split will occur after all opt outs are determined.

APPENDIX G

To: NYS Public School District Superintendents
From: Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents
RE: Policy Proposal to Restrict Participation in Championship Play
Date: 12/26/2025
CC: NYS Public School Athletic Directors

We have approached NYSPHSAA with a policy that addresses superintendent concerns about competitive imbalance stemming from differing school enrollment models.

The proposed Equitable Classification Framework aims to create a fair, transparent postseason athletic system for all New York State Public High School Athletic Association schools by distinguishing between District Resident Schools and Open Enrollment Schools (including private, parochial, charter, and public schools with out-of-district enrollment).

We have asked NYSPHSAA to partner with us to help develop a framework that represents the collective feedback from across New York State. We seek to stand in unity with NYSPHSAA as we correct an issue that has the potential to place every public school in New York State at a competitive disadvantage. Regardless of the number of championships won, no student athlete should be placed in an inequitable and inherently unfair situation based on their decision to attend a public school. It is our belief that our proposal creates additional opportunities for student athletes across the state, regardless of the school they choose to attend.

NYSPHSAA – Equitable Classification Framework for All Sports

I. School Classification Structure

Schools shall be divided into two categories for postseason athletic competition based on the proportion of high school students who are residents and attend without paying tuition:

Category A – District-Resident Public Schools
Schools in which **70% or more** of students enrolled in grades 9–12 reside within the school district and attend without paying tuition or receiving financial aid tied to recruitment or enrollment.

Category B – Open Enrollment, Parochial, Tuition-Based, and Charter Schools
Schools in which **more than 30%** of students enrolled in grades 9–12 are nonresidents or tuition-paying. This includes:

- Private and parochial schools
- Public or nonpublic charter schools
- Public schools that enroll students outside their boundaries through tuition agreements or recruitment (see exemptions below)

II. Applicability and Duration

- This policy applies to **all NYSPHSAA-sanctioned sports, both team and individual, and all levels of postseason play**, **including sectional, regional, and state competitions**.
- This policy goes into effect upon adoption and remains in force **without sunset**, subject to biannual review.

III. Competition Restrictions

- Category B schools shall **not participate in postseason sectional, regional, or state competition against Category A schools**.

- Category B schools shall be broken up into a “large school” and “small school” bracket, using a threshold determined by NYSPHSAA. Postseason competition brackets shall be created by a statewide committee, which shall determine appropriate criteria based on competitive scheduling and other factors as determined by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. Sections will work with NYSPHSAA to select objective measures that will be used to determine seedings.

IV. Exceptions for Public Schools

Public schools shall retain Category A status even if enrolling tuition-paying students when:

1. They are participating in merged teams due to insufficient enrollment to field a team under NYSPHSAA rules.

2. They accept tuition students to maintain academic programs, district operations, and/or maintain fiscal solvency, provided that:

    - Enrollment is documented and tied solely to sustaining academics programs and/or school operations; **and**

    - No athletic recruitment occurred in connection with the tuition enrollment.

3. They accept tuition students from K–8 public school districts that do not operate a high school, providing those students with access to a public high school.

V. Annual Reporting and Verification

- Schools must annually certify the percentage of resident versus tuition or nonresident students enrolled in grades 9–12. Certification will be made directly to NYSPHSAA on a timeline set by NYSPHSAA.

- We will advocate that this reporting requirement become part of the existing BEDS reporting system.

- Documentation must be available for NYSPHSAA review upon request.

- NYSPHSAA reserves the right to audit enrollment, tuition, and financial aid records.

VI. Enforcement

- Schools that fail to comply or misrepresent status shall face sanctions, including disqualification from postseason play, fines, or suspension from NYSPHSAA membership.

- In the event of a disagreement regarding classification or verification criteria, the NYSPHSAA Oversight Committee shall determine whether a different classification is warranted and reserves the right to place a school into a more appropriate classification, based on the documentation they receive. The Oversight Committee shall have the ability to determine whether recruitment violations have occurred.

- At a Section’s discretion they may institute more restrictive classification policies.

This is how you can help and advocate for change with NYSPHSAA.

- Acknowledgement that this inequity currently exists and that no public high school student in New York State should be placed at a competitive disadvantage, based on the fact they decided to attend a public school.
- Consider the role that socioeconomic status, ENL status, or Special Education status play in the selection and recruitment of students to open enrollment schools. Are these schools providing equitable access to ALL students in New York State?
- Contact the members of the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee, Officers, and Executive Director **in writing** to express your support for our proposal.
- Encourage your athletic director to advocate for this change with the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee and your Section leadership.
- Work with fellow Superintendents within the section to build consensus and provide unified written feedback to NYSPHSAA.

APPENDIX H

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

Handbook Committee – Addition to Representation Rule

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

Action FEB

Presenter:
Pat Pizzarelli, Chairmen of Handbook Committee

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Handbook Committee is recommending the following addition to the letter a. of the Representation Rule:

"A contestant or athletic team shall not represent a school in a game, contest, or scrimmage, except in conformance with all rules and regulations."

Effective Start Date:
2025-2026 school year

Rationale:
This recommendation clearly states the that all students must meet all rules and regulations before representing their school in a game, contest, or scrimmage.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Handbook Committee

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
None

Attachments:
None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

Modified Committee – Flag Football Coordinator

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

ACTION FEB

Presenter:
Jim Rose, Co-Chairmen of NYSPHSAA Modified Committee

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Modified Committee is recommending Matt Lapinski from Section 5 as the Modified Flag Football Coordinator.

Effective Start Date:
2026

Rationale:
This is an open position on the Modified Committee.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Modified Committee

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
None

Attachments:
None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

Modified Committee – Ice Hockey Coordinator

____ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

ACTION FEB

Presenter:
Jim Rose, Co-Chairmen of NYSPHSAA Modified Committee

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Modified Committee is recommending Dean Berardo from Section 1 as the Modified Ice Hockey Coordinator.

Effective Start Date:
2026

Rationale:
This is an open position on the Modified Committee.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Modified Committee

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
None

Attachments:
None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

Modified Committee – Revision to the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

ACTION FEB

Presenter:
Jim Rose, Co-Chairmen of NYSPHSAA Modified Committee

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Modified Committee is recommending revising the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule in the NYSPHSAA Handbook with the following language:

*"**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,** ~~during their modified schedule.~~"*

Effective Start Date:
2026-2027 school year

Rationale:
Several Sections have indicated that many 7th and 8th graders do have the ability to move up to the high school level but are kept down on the modified level to support the numbers at the modified level. This revision would allow the 7th and 8th graders the ability to complete the modified season and then be brought up to the high school level as long as they have completed the APP process.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Modified Committee

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
None

Attachments:
None

DATE REVISED: September 25, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

BOYS BASKETBALL: Adopt new 5-second closely guarded NFHS rule (by State Association adoption)

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

ACTION Feb

Presenter:
Bob Mayo, NYSPHSAA Boys Basketball Coordinator

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Boys Basketball Committee is seeking approval to adopt the note under rule 9-10-art 1a which states – *"By state association adoption, if utilizing the 35-second shot clock, players may dribble the ball for more than five seconds."*

Effective Start Date:
Winter ~~2025-26~~ 26-27

Rationale:
The NYSPHSAA State Committee felt strongly about this rule which would encourage offensive movement and maintain game flow. The rule applies in the frontcourt only. Other key points to this rule:

- A player holding the ball in the frontcourt must pass, shoot, or dribble within five seconds while being closely guarded by a defender in a legal guarding position.
- The closely guarded count ends if the offensive player starts a dribble, the defender ceases to be within six feet, or a switch in defenders occurs.
- The rule emphasizes player and ball movement and rewards strong on-ball defense.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA State Committee at its October 2025 meeting.

Budgetary Impact:
None

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

Attachments:
None

CAC Feedback:
N/A

DATE REVISED: October 7, 2025

BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING – Establish minimum roster size of five (5) bowlers on the school team at the State Tournament

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

ACTION FEB

Presenter:
Mike O'Connell, NYSPHSAA Boys Bowling Coordinator
Eileen Shultis, NYSPHSAA Girls Bowling Coordinator

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Boys and Girls Bowling State Committee is seeking approval to require the school team in each division to have a minimum of five (5) athletes on its roster for the state tournament and begin competition with at least five (5) athletes.

Effective Start Date:
Winter (March) 2026

Rationale:
Currently, six athletes compete on a school bowling team at the state tournament with five of them scoring. If a school brought less than five athletes, they would create a multitude of logistical and equity issues during competition. First, pace of play would be significantly faster than the other lanes if only four athletes bowled. Second, the oil pattern would break down at a much different rate. Third, the integrity of scoring would be compromised with just four bowlers and thus that team would have no chance to compete for a state title.

At this time, there is no rule on a minimum # of athletes on a school team required for state tournament play. This proposal would require a section to ensure it advances a team with at least five bowlers but still can allow any number of bowlers for its section tournament. If a team endures an injury during competition, they still may participate, however a pacer will fill their spot. The pacer score will not be counted but the team score will be.

Proposal Originated:
State Committee at its September 26, 2025 meeting.

Budgetary Impact:
There is no cost to NYSPHSAA or member sections in this proposal.

Notes:
The Bowling State Committees supported this proposal with a 10-0 girls vote and 9-1 boys vote at their September 26th meeting.

CAC Feedback:
Voted 8-0 in support of this proposal at its October 8th meeting

DATE REVISED: October 8, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

Girls Flag Football NFHS Rule Adoption

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Action Feb

Presenter:
Jen Lapinski- Co- Flag Football Coordinator

Proposal:
Adopt the NFHS Rules for the 2025-26 Season with the following waivers.

1. Request a waiver to not allow the Field Goal option
2. Request a waiver to continue to follow our current Flag Belt rules: 2 pop belts minimum 14' in length, add the width minimum from the NFHS Rule book of 1 ½ ' in width
3. Request a waiver to specify a 1 Yard Neutral Zone
4. *Request a Waiver to the Uniform specifications as outlined in the NFHS Rule Book for Items Jersey: a-5.2.b3, a-5.2.b4, a-5.3.b3, a-5.3.b4, NUMBERS: 5-b3, b4 (Page 14 & 15) the 25-26 Season.*
   *5-d: *Note: If schools have shorts are not a solid color for he 25-26 season, the flag must be a clearly contrasting color to the shorts and any striping or patterns on the shorts.*

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2026

Rationale:
The NFHS Rules provide consistency for our committee recommended the waivers to avoid any additional cost to schools (ex. Purchasing new belts) and maintain consistency in the progress we've made in out sport thus far, which we feel these waivers accomplish. Additionally, the waivers ensure access to all needs for teams to maintain and add new teams throughout the state (ex. Not allowing the field goal as many teams do not play on fields with field goals currently.) Specific to the uniform waiver, the committee would like to provide a one year buffer for schools to plan accordingly to update uniforms as needed.

Proposal Originated:
Sectional concern brought to the NYSPHSAA Flag Football Committee. This was also discussed with and supported by officials groups.

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
The NYSPHSAA Flag Football Committee voted in favor of this change 9-0.

DATE REVISED: October 7, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

Girls Flag Football Rule Request: Dead Ball Flag Checks

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

Action Feb

Presenter:
Jen Lapinski- Co- Flag Football Coordinator

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Flag Football Committee is requesting to add language to the NFHS Rules to require dead ball flag checks. The process will be as follows:

Officials will conduct one dead ball flag check per half at the end of one quarter per half. The athlete will be selected at random by the official.

If a belt is found to be not within the NYSPHSAA Waiver Standards, the flag check would result in an unsportsmanlike penalty.
Belt Specifications: Flag Belt rules: 2 pop belts minimum 14' in length, add the width minimum from the NFHS Rule book of 1 ½ ' in width

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2025

Rationale:
There is currently no process for confirming legal equipment specific to the flag belts. There have been concerns raised specific to belt lengths and belt connection apparatus.

Proposal Originated:
Sectional concern brought to the NYSPHSAA Flag Football Committee and continued discussion amongst the Flag Football committee relative to belts.

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
This proposal was discussed with the official's association and rules interpreters as well to ensure consistency and feasibility of implementation.
The NYSPHSAA Flag Football Committee voted in favor of this change 9-0.

DATE REVISED: October 7, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

Girls Flag Football Pilot: Onside Play

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Action Feb

Presenter:
Jen Lapinski- Co- Flag Football Coordinator

Proposal:
Consider approval of an Onside Play Option.

The option is only available to the team behind in score during the final 5 minutes of the second half and only immediately after the trailing team has scored a touchdown or field goal.

This is a timed down.

This option is not available after the trailing team has scored a safety.

This option is never available to the team ahead in points.

Ather the trailing team has scored and attempted the extra-point, the team captain of the trailing team must inform the referee they intend to attempt an onside play.

The ball is placed on the teams 20 yard line, going out.

This play is treated exactly like a 4th down play including the assessment of penalties with one exception. If a foul occurs that includes an automatic first down (ie. roughing the passer) the offense will not receive a new set of downs. They will receive the 15 yard penalty and replay the down, (ie, fourth and five from the 35 yard line, line to gain is the 40 yard line.)

The offense must advance the ball to the 40 yard line or beyond, after all live ball penalties have been accessed in order to retain the ball.

Dead ball penalties will not be considered in determining if the line to gain was achieved.

If the offense retains the ball the next zone-line-to-gain will be determined.

If the offense does not retain the ball the defense will take possession of the ball where it became dead (end of the run or previous LOS) and the next zone-line-to-gain will be established.

Interceptions returned to the end zone by the defense during an onside play are worth 6 points and a PAT attempt.

There is no limit to the amount of onside plays a team may use as long as the provisions of lines 1, 2, and 3 of this section are still valid.

Once the team reaches the 20 yard conversion, the play is blown dead. The team will receive the ball first and zone at their own 20 yard line. If the team does not convert, the ball is spotted where the play is blown dead.

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2026

Rationale:

Based on feedback from several teams across the state, there is a need to provide the opportunity for a team to obtain possession when down two scores at the end of the game. Additionally, it was discussed at the NFHS Rules

Proposal Originated:
Sectional concern brought to Flag Football Committee.

Budgetary Impact:
None

Notes:
This would only apply to the regular season, and Sections could choose to implement this pilot. If this is successful in the 2026 season, our committee would discuss and obtain feedback to add this to post season play.

The Flag Football Committee is in favor of this pilot 9-0.

Attachments:

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

OUTDOOR TRACK – TO UTILIZE THE SUPER STANDARD, AN ATHLETE MUST FINISH TOP FIVE IN THE STATE QUALIFIER MEET, EFFECTIVE 2026

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

Action Feb

Presenter:
Dan Doherty, NYSPHSAA Girls Outdoor Track Coordinator
Tom Wells, NYSPHSAA Boys Outdoor Track Coordinator

Proposal:
The Boys and Girls Outdoor Track Committees are seeking approval to set in place when using the super standard to qualify for the state meet, an athlete must finish in the top five in the state qualifier meet.

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2026

Rationale:
This proposal addresses the concern from membership about the number of participants at the state meet which was also going to be addressed by the Championship Philosophy Committee for all individual sports.

In 2025 (2,593 athletes), the event went to three divisions but only saw a modest increase comparing 2024 (2,008 athletes) considering an entire division was added. It is anticipated that 2026 will see reduction to 2,300 participating athletes. However, the changes proposed will result in a decrease in quality athletes at the state meet.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Staff and Boys & Girls Outdoor Track State Committees at their September 9, 2025.

Budgetary Impact:
If this is approved, there will be fewer athletes to transport to the state meet which will save sections travel expenses.

Notes:
The boys committee voted 11-0 and girls committee voted 9-1 in favor of this proposal at its September meeting.

Attachments:
None

CAC Feedback:
Voted 8-0 in support of this proposal at its October 8th meeting

DATE REVISED: October 8, 2025

OUTDOOR TRACK – NO ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES USING THE SUPER STANDARD (OBTAINED AFTER THE STATE QUALIFIER MEET) WILL COUNT TOWARD ENTRY INTO THE STATE MEET

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

Action Feb

Presenter:
Dan Doherty, NYSPHSAA Girls Outdoor Track Coordinator
Tom Wells, NYSPHSAA Boys Outdoor Track Coordinator

Proposal:
The Boys and Girls Outdoor Track Committees are seeking approval to not allow performances using the super standards (obtained after the state qualifier meet) toward entry into the state meet.

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2026

Rationale:
This proposal helps address the concern from membership about how athletes qualify.

In 2025 (2,593 athletes), the event went to three divisions but only saw a modest increase comparing 2024 (2,008 athletes) considering an entire division was added. It is anticipated that 2026 will see reduction to 2,300 participating athletes. However, the changes proposed will result in a decrease in quality athletes at the state meet.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Staff and Boys & Girls Outdoor Track State Committees at their September 9, 2025.

Budgetary Impact:
If this is approved,

Notes:
The boys committee voted 8-3 and girls committee voted 9-1 (Section 1 not present) in favor of this proposal at its September meeting.

Attachments:
None

CAC Feedback:
Voted 8-0 in support of this proposal at its October 8th meeting

DATE REVISED: October 8, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

OUTDOOR TRACK – UTILIZE THE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE FOR THE FORMULA FOR QUALIFYING STANDARDS USING THE SEED PERFORMANCES

Action Feb

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

Presenter:
Dan Doherty, NYSPHSAA Girls Outdoor Track Coordinator
Tom Wells, NYSPHSAA Boys Outdoor Track Coordinator

Proposal:
The Boys and Girls Outdoor Track Committees are seeking approval to utilize the three-year average for the formula for qualifying standards using the seed performances.

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2026

Rationale:
This proposal helps address the concern from membership about how athletes qualify and additionally provided for more up-to-date data being used. Previously, the five-year average was being used for the formula.

In 2025 (2,593 athletes), the event went to three divisions but only saw a modest increase comparing 2024 (2,008 athletes) considering an entire division was added. It is anticipated that 2026 will see reduction to 2,300 participating athletes. However, the changes proposed will result in a decrease in quality athletes at the state meet.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA Staff and Boys & Girls Outdoor Track State Committees at their September 9, 2025.

Budgetary Impact:
If this is approved, it will reduce the size of the state meet thus saving sections money on athlete/coach travel to the state tournament.

Notes:
The boys committee voted 11-0 and girls committee voted 9-1 (Section 1 not present) in favor of this proposal at its September meeting.

CAC Feedback:
Voted 8-0 in support of this proposal at its October 8th meeting

DATE REVISED: October 8, 2025

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Executive Committee Meeting – October 21, 2025

BASEBALL: Make it optional to utilize a double first base during the 2026 season (regular & postseason)

___ Action Item
_X_ Discussion Item
___ Informational Item

Action Feb

Presenter:
Al Roy, NYSPHSAA Baseball State Coordinator
Tim Harkness, NYSPHSAA Baseball Assistant Coordinator

Proposal:
The NYSPHSAA Baseball Committee is seeking approval of making it optional to utilize a double first base for the 2026 season (regular and postseason).

Effective Start Date:
Spring 2026

Rationale:
If this proposal is approved, it would allow schools to prepare this coming spring for the 2027 season mandate as well as exercise safety in the process. Sections, leagues and schools have the option of installing and using the double first base for 2026. The NFHS double first base rule is mandatory for the 2027 season and numerous NYSPHSAA member schools have contacted our office making inquiries about implementation.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA State Committee on September 25, 2025

Budgetary Impact:
There will be a budget impact for member schools and potentially NYSPHSAA. Schools will be required to buy the double first base unit (or separate half) and possibly dig/install new plugs on their fields if this is chosen to be used by the section, league or school. If NYSPHSAA chooses to implement it for the State Final Four, the purchase would be necessary.

Notes:
This NYSPHSAA State Committee voted 10-0 in favor of supporting this proposal at its September meeting.

Attachments:
None

CAC Feedback:
Not necessary

DATE REVISED: September 25, 2025

APPENDIX I

NYSPHSAA Softball State Committee Meeting
12/3/2025

NYSPHSAA Staff: Dr. Robert Zayas, Joe Altieri, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce
COMMITTEE: Jim Wright (State Chair), Mike Cring (1), Mike Glenn (2), Jeff Cantor (3), Ed Swartwout (4), Lynn Rotola (5), Jay Hall (6), Amie Marshall (7), Rachel Barry (8), Joe DiMattina (9), Tim Brown (10), Bill Bennett (11)
GUESTS: Brad White (Umpires), Aileen Durant (Umpires), Lynn Nemeth (Umpires)

Summary:

The Softball Committee convened to address various operational and logistical issues affecting the sport. Joe Altieri raised the topic of proxy attendance, specifically regarding Mike Cring, while Dr. Jim Wright confirmed the presence of attendees and emphasized the need for updates on committee and directory information. The discussion then shifted to hosting responsibilities for the three-region format, with Robert Zayas noting that sections could adjust their hosting duties and that declarations for at-large teams would occur in October, which would influence future formats.

Concerns regarding the declining number of registered umpires were highlighted by Brad White, who reported a drop to 1,068, the lowest in 20-30 years. He pointed out that excessive pregame warm-up times were causing games to start late, contributing to the departure of umpires from the sport. In response, Dr. Jim Wright initiated a conversation about standardizing warm-up times for regionals and state finals, with Joe Altieri suggesting that the Committee could either recommend a state-wide policy or allow sections to create their own.

Jeffrey Cantor addressed the challenges posed by busing issues affecting game start times, advocating for a 30-minute window from when players arrive at the field. Dr. Wright supported this, stressing the need for clear guidelines regarding the start of this period. A motion was proposed by Cantor to establish a 30-minute warm-up period for visiting teams, with discussions on the implications for teams that fail to adhere to this rule.

The meeting also covered logistical concerns for the state tournament, including accommodation issues in Binghamton. Joe Altieri confirmed the opening of a new hotel to help with lodging shortages and expressed openness to alternative options like Airbnbs. Dr. Wright proposed a name change for the committee and discussed safety improvements, including the installation of barricades at fields and acquiring better speakers for announcements. The meeting concluded with a review of agenda items and the importance of timely communication regarding proposals and changes.

Chapters & Topics:

Hosting Responsibilities and At-Large Team Declarations
Dr. Jim Wright addressed concerns from Section IX about hosting multiple contests under the new three-region format. Robert Zayas clarified that sections can collaborate on hosting responsibilities and that the declaration of at-large teams will occur in October, which will influence the competition format. Zayas also noted the importance of communication among section executive directors to avoid confusion regarding hosting changes.
* Three-region rotation process and hosting responsibilities.

Staff Updates and Announcements
Joe Altieri thanked Section VI and Green Light for their contributions to the successful state tournament in Binghamton. He announced that Lexi is on maternity leave and introduced Zach Betkowski as the new staff member handling sales and sponsorship. Additionally, he reminded everyone about the upcoming Hall of Fame nomination deadline on January 29th.
* Updates on staff changes and maternity leave.
* Nominations for the Hall of Fame and deadlines.
* Coordination of shipping for tournament materials and logistics.

Discussion on Umpire Registration and Game Warmup Policies
Brad White expressed concern over the declining number of registered umpires, which has fallen to 1,068, the lowest in decades. He pointed out that teams are turning warmups into lengthy sessions, causing games to start late and frustrating umpires. He suggested that a uniform state policy on warmups might be necessary to address these issues.
* Safety measures for tournament events
* Warm-up policies and their impact on game start times.

Discussion on Standardizing Warm-Up Times
Dr. Jim Wright raised the issue of establishing uniform warm-up times for regionals and state finals, seeking input from the Committee. Joe Altieri indicated that the Committee could either recommend a state-wide standard or allow individual sections to develop their own policies. Dr. Wright highlighted the necessity for consistency and asked if anyone would like to propose a motion for further discussion.

Busing Issues and Game Start Times
Jeffrey Cantor addressed ongoing busing issues that impact game schedules, stating that players have a 30-minute period from their arrival to prepare for the game. He explained that this rule is designed to prevent athletes from being penalized for transportation delays. Dr. Jim Wright supported this view, mentioning that as the northernmost school, he frequently faces similar timing challenges and suggested the need for clarity on who initiates the 30-minute countdown.

Proposal for Fast-Tracking Softball Policies

Joe Altieri outlined the timeline for proposals, indicating that any recommendations would be discussed at the February 4th meeting and potentially approved in May. Dr. Jim Wright raised concerns about the lack of officials and proposed fast-tracking a motion for immediate action. Altieri clarified that while fast-tracking is possible under Robert's rules, it may upset some members.

* Proposal for discussion at the February meeting

Warm-Up Time Regulations for Softball Games

Jeffrey Cantor outlined a motion for a 30-minute warm-up period for visiting teams, with Dr. Jim Wright clarifying that the home team must finish their warm-ups beforehand. Brad White raised concerns about delays caused by late arrivals, stressing the importance of starting games on time. Lynn inquired about consequences for teams that frequently violate the warm-up regulations.

Review of Meeting Agenda and Upcoming Items

Dr. Jim Wright led a review of the meeting agenda, confirming unanimous approval for several sections. He emphasized the importance of discussing agenda items with executive committee members to potentially elevate them to action items for the February meeting. Kristen Jadin raised a point about the timing of changes needing to be addressed before the October meeting, which Joe Altieri supported.

* Scheduling of future meetings

Hotel Accommodations in Binghamton

Lynn raised concerns about hotel availability in Binghamton due to both the softball and baseball teams traveling there. Joe Altieri reassured the committee that a new hotel has been contracted, which should help with accommodations. He also welcomed feedback on alternative lodging options, including Airbnbs, while noting that he has most hotel contracts secured but is still working on finalizing all rooms.

* Hotel accommodations for the tournament

Field Setup and Equipment Discussion

Dr. Jim Wright emphasized the importance of having a barricade for safety during games and discussed the use of police tape as a temporary solution. Bill Bennett raised concerns about the quality of speakers used for announcements, suggesting that dedicated speakers be arranged for each field. Ed Swartwout agreed to investigate speaker availability from local schools.

* Merchandise planning for the upcoming season

2026 Fall Meeting – To get proposals approved in time for the season, it was suggested to meet before the October Executive Committee meeting therefore the committee will now meet **Wednesday, September 23rd at 10:00 am.**

Action Items:

* Joe Altieri will send a summary recap of the minutes in a more readable format.
* Robert Zayas will provide a Zoom session to explain the new three-region rotation process to coordinators and coaches.
* Joe Altieri will share a sheet for local sectional dates after the first of the year.
* Joe Altieri will ensure that the nominations for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame are submitted by January 29th.
* Kristen Jadin will coordinate the shipping of Spalding Dudley balls for sectional tournaments and state championships.
* Coordinators will discuss the item with their sections and request their executive committee members to bring it off the floor as an action item.
* Dr. Jim Wright will clean up the language of the proposal with Joe Altieri and send it to all participants to trigger the discussion.
* Lynn will double-check with her executive committee about the hosting arrangements for the sub-regionals and regionals.
* Ed will look into the availability of portable fencing for the fields to improve safety during events.
* Rachel Barry will handle the rotation of team colors for the merchandise for the upcoming season.
* Joe Altieri will send the proposal form to Dr. Jim Wright to help frame it out for the upcoming meeting.

Key Questions:

* What adjustments will be made if a section has fewer teams than declared in October?
* How will the travel logistics be handled for teams participating in regional events?
* What will be the repercussions for sections that do not comply with the new warm-up policy?
* Will the new hotel in Binghamton accommodate the needs of the teams during the tournament?
* What is the timeline for sending out the proposal to the committee members?

2025 NYSPHSAA FOOTBALL STATE COMMITTEE MEETING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6 @ 9:00am @ JMA Dome
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Dr. Rober Zayas, Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri- NYSPHSAA Staff; Gary Vanderzee- NYSPHSAA FB Chairman, Ken Stoldt- Asst. Chairman; Tim Arden, Patrick English-Officials; Steve Luciana, Mike Cring- Section 1; Sean Colfer-Section 2; Keith Kempney, Joe Corley-Section 3; Matt Haferle, Jeff Paske-Section 4; Tyler Winter-Section 5; Ken Stoldt-Section 6; Pat Keleher-Section 7; Section 8-absent; Dave Coates, Tom Cassata, Jason Semo-Section 9; Matt Tessmer- Section 10; Section 11-absent

NYSPHSAA REPORTS: Joe Altieri reported football needs to do a better job reporting game results and schedule/site/times for Sectional Finals and Regional games so that the website can be updated and media can be informed. Numerous sections did not report their regional sites and scores which forced the NYSPHSAA office to research results and schedules. He suggested coordinators designate someone in their section to update the Google Sheet each week if they can't do it. (He intended to report on roster submissions at the meeting… It is noted that several schools did not submit their rosters after regionals either. Section Coordinators must get their teams to submit rosters or they will be left out of the tournament media guide in the future.

Dr. Robert Zayas reported that there continues to be discussions brought to him regarding the possibility of reclassifying private schools within our NYSPHSAA classifications. He reminded the committee that NYSPHSAA organized an Ad Hoc committee that met five times over the course of a year to examine concerns related to private and charter school participation. One possibility that has continued to be considered is to create a new classification for Sections to place non-public and charter schools using NYSPHSAA's current system. He asked the committee their opinion on this concept and many positive comments were made about it.

2025 SEASON CONCERNS: Ken asked if there were any concerns about the 2025 season. None reported. In response to Joe's concern about reporting results and games sites, Gary Vanderzee led a discussion about the possibility of using a stat program for semifinal and championship games. He stated he and Joe had been discussing hiring a stat crew at each semifinal site. Gary annually brings a crew to work at the Dome doing stats for all games and this year they transitioned to a new program. Joe and Gary will huddle to discuss but the ideal scenario is everyone at every level uses the same program so there is compatibility.

SEMIFINAL/CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW: Ken inquired about the finances and attendance at the state semifinals. Joe reported attendance was down significantly at both. Weather, matchups and streaming capabilities were listed as possible factors. Joe indicated the Association receives annual rights fees from the NFHS Network for streaming games. He also noted NYSPHSAA and sections will begin receiving new money from the Network for the Variable Performance Share (VPS) program that is based on viewership in each section.

Ken asked each semifinal chairmen to report on their semifinals. In the east, Dave Coates, Middletown, reported things went very smooth and thanked Sections 1 and 2 for the help on site. The west reported it went as good as it could go considering the heavy snow forcing Friday games to be moved to Sunday. Todd reported despite NYSPHSAA incurring a significant bill for snow plowing in the west, the Association is in good financial health.

Ken surveyed the committee about ambulance/EMT at football games being required. Numerous sections said it is in some places. Todd reported that the NYSPHSAA recommendation is that medical staff must be present at the game which includes some kind of doctor or trainer

8 MAN REVIEW: The amount of schools competing in 8-Man Football was down this year. NYSPHSAA's current Championship Philosophy is there must be four sections with at least four programs for there to be a culminating Regional Championship in any sport. Currently, there are three with four programs and one with ten programs, however, it is not yet final all programs will return for 2026. If any section drops below four programs, then there

will not be an 8-Man Regional Championship in 2026. Sections should continue to report to the committee and NYSPHSAA on number of programs in their section.

Additionally, there was a concern about roster sizes since 11-Man schools are losing games because schools are playing 8-Man football with large rosters. A couple of solutions were mentioned. Schools are permitted to play both 8-Man one week and 11-Man in another if it would help fill byes. The other solution would be for sections to cap roster size for 8-Man teams. The committee discussed possibly proposing a statewide roster maximum, however NYSPHSAA typically does not get involved in roster sizes. Todd suggested to develop a plan for rosters within your section.

2026 CLASSIFICATIONS: Ken reviewed the classification numbers.

AA-1025-above, A- 651-1024, B-402-650,C-273-401, D-0-272

Chairman were reminded to get their BEDS classifications to Keith Kempney ASAP so he can start building projections for the 2027-28 classifications. Joe stated team sports typically introduces proposals for revised classification numbers at the February meeting (deadline January 16th) then its voted on in May, however if the committee has good rationale to propose it in May then get it voted on in July, it is acceptable.

2026 AT-LARGE SECTION: Ken reported that Section 6 will be the At-Large section for 2026. The At Large Classes will be AA & A. There is an outside possibility that a need could also arise in Class D. We will know more this summer.

There was discussion about football adopting the 3-Region Concept that other sports are using. Dr. Zayas explained the concept, rationale for the model and how it could work for football but it was decided that since this is the final year of the At-Large rotation, we will follow the same format that we have used throughout this process to be fair. The possibility of changing will be revisited again after next season. As a result, Section 6 will travel to Section 1 in 2026 to fill the bye. The new rotation in 2027 will start with Section 3 as the At-Large Section. Todd suggested at the next meeting the committee discuss if they are in favor of sections having autonomy to let their champion choose where in the bracket they would like to be placed if they were to get an at-large berth. This is what would happen in the 3-region concept.

OFFICIALS: Tim Arden reported that there has been much better consistency this year throughout the state working on items such as the short pants rule. He highlighted the strong recruiting efforts including this weekend at the dome in which they've already secured dozens of new leads. The NFL "Crew of the Month" Program has been positively received as well. Crews are being recognized by both the Bills and Giants.

NYSHSFCA: Paul Sealy reported that there has been an effort to improve relationships between coaches and officials. He also requested the possibility of using a backdrop with the NYSHSFCA logo for photos of the player awards at the state finals. Dr. Zayas noted this could be a concern with sponsor conflicts and will get back to Paul with an answer.

MODIFIED: Joe Corley inquired about the rules-changing process while discussing a Modified topic. It was noted to submit all proposals through your section modified chairman.

ROUND TABLE: Section 3 noted that CBA is looking for games for 2026. Reach out to Keith if interested. Gary canvassed the committee about purchasing a heavy winter Nike coat (Section VII Pat Kelleher's) for each member next year and forfeiting the $750 allowance for the next 4-5 years to pay for it. Section VII bought the coats for $200 each. Joe said he would talk with Gary about this and also reach out to Don K at CP Sportswear.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY FEBRUARY 9TH. 1:00pm. Joe Altieri sent out the link during the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Gary Vanderzee, NYSPHSAA FB Chairman
Ken Stoldt, Asst. Chairman **12/9/25**

NYSPHSAA GIRLS & BOYS TENNIS COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Tuesday, December 9, 2025 @ via Zoom

GIRLS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES:
NYSPHSAA Staff: Joe Altieri, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce
GIRLS COMMITTEE: Chris Horgan (Girls State Coordinator), Jesse Merchant (1), Deb Murray (2), Todd Hicks (3), Terry Price (4), Cheryl Conroy/Dillon Hirsch (5), Chris Horgan (6), Adam Khater (7), Shai Fisher (8) Matt Hayden/Urvashi "Tutu" Gupta (9), and Mark Mensch (11).

1. Attendance & Welcome
Meeting called to order at 11:04 am by Coordinator Chris Horgan. Joe Altieri shared the screen with the girls tennis directory and made numerous changes.

2. Recap of 2025 Girls State Tournaments
Chris H. noted both girls events were excellent and efficiently run. No other comments were made.

3. UTR/Challenge Match Reporting & Sanctions
Joe suggested this topic be moved to the joint meeting. Due to time remaining before the joint meeting, some discussion began on this. Deb had a concern about the timing of reporting challenge matches at the end of the season or in sectionals. Chris H. clarified challenge matches should be played in advance of sectionals. Deb stated there are challenges with court time, daylight and focus on postseason. Matt agreed and added weather as a factor as well.

4. 3-Region Rotation & At-Large Process
Joe screenshared the 3-region process, declaration dates and at-large rotations. He explained it and answered questions noting there will no longer need to be an approval for a regional rotation and the at-large rotation.

5. UTR vs WTN Ranking System
Joe suggested this topic be moved to the joint meeting.

6. UTR/Randomizer Draw Process
Chris H. noted he'd like to use this process if we can get the full rankings from Jonathan Hicks (UTR) before the seeding meeting. He noted 6 of the 8 singles seeded players medaled. All top 8 ranked doubles medaled. Mark inquired about a way to avoid same section singles/doubles to play each other in the second round (same concern as Section 1 at the seeding meeting). A discussion ensued on how to solve this. Joe/Shai felt it may not be feasible to accomplish and perhaps this year was an outlier unique year. Joe and Chris suggested continuing with the procedure. MOTION by Chris to continue with the current seedings process for 2026. SECOND by Terry. Carried 10-0.

7. Section Concerns
Todd Hicks asked about the bye rotation and when it ends. It will be Sections 1 & 2 for singles and Sections 3 & 4 in doubles in fall 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris Horgan & Joe Altieri

JOINT TENNIS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 11:45 AM

ATTENDEES:
NYSPHSAA Staff: Joe Altieri, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce, Zach Betkowski
BOYS COMMITTEE: Mike Scaturro (Boys State Coordinator), Kolby Flach (2), Todd Hicks (3), Steve Tibs (4), Cheryl Conroy/Dillon Hirsch (5), Chris Horgan (6), Tyler Chase (7), Michael Scaturro (8), Matt Hayden/Urvashi Gupta (9) and Mark Mensch (11)
GIRLS COMMITTEE: Chris Horgan (Girls State Coordinator), Jesse Merchant (1), Deb Murray (2), Todd Hicks (3), Terry Price (4), Cheryl Conroy/Dillon Hirsch (5), Chris Horgan (6), Adam Khater (7), Shai Fisher (8) Matt Hayden/Urvashi "Tutu" Gupta (9), and Mark Mensch (11).
GUESTS: Julie Beal (USTA Eastern)

1. Attendance & Welcome
Meeting called to order at 11:46 am by Joe Altieri. He turned it over to Zach Betkowski who introduced Julie Beal from USTA Eastern. Julie presented a slide show on USTA initiatives and discussed the longstanding partnership with NYSPHSAA. This included the new relationship with the NYSPHSAA Foundation where schools can apply for grants to receive funding for court repairs. Julie will send the Powerpoint to Joe/Zach to send to the committees.

2. NYSPHSAA Reports
Joe Altieri, Assistant Director

a. Staff update – He noted Lexi Swatt (Director of Sports Information) is on maternity leave until February and Zach Betkowski (TPG Sales) has replaced Joe deGuzman handling sales/ sponsorships.
b. UTR vs WTN Ranking System – Joe and Zach stated we will continue with the UTR ranking system even though we have had multiple conversations with USTA Eastern about their WTN system. It was noted WTN encompasses UTR but UTR is not ready to make a proposal for this yet. Matt asked with their pilot program, is it possible to use that program if they are Ed Law 2D compliant (privacy). Joe stated schools can do what they want but they are mandated to report scores to UTR since we are in an exclusive contract with them. Chris Joyce clarified WTN is not Ed Law compliant but some districts may still allow their teams to utilize it.
c. Joe reported Terence McMahon was inducted into the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame last summer and encouraged committee members to send nominations. Deadline is Jan. 29th for the Class of 2026.
d. HOTEL UPDATE – Not reported at the meeting, Joe has signed contracts with the Hampton Inn LaGuardia as the host hotel for the 2026 Boys Individual and Team Tournaments in June and the 2026 Girls Individual and Team Tournaments in Oct/Nov. Reservations can be made now if sections would like to reach out to the hotels. Contact: Naomi Perez, Naomi.Perez2@Hilton.com

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director

a. No report

Kristen Jadin, Assistant Director

a. Student Leadership Conference – Will be April 15-16, 2026 in Albany. A student survey will be distributed for application. Please encourage students to apply. https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2022/3/25/Leadership.aspx
b. She asked for feedback on the official ball, Diadem, since she handles the order each season and works with Zach/TPG on the partnership. Joe indicated there's been no negative feedback by coaches or athletes.

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing & Foundation

a. He noted Julie already discussed the NYSPHSAA Foundation partnership with USTA Eastern but he also reported from a general Foundation standpoint we had a great year of fundraising in 2024-25. There is a strong pool of money for grant funding for member schools. Rolling applications with no hard deadline are accepted on our website at: https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2021/6/9/nysphsaa-foundation.aspx . Please pass to your schools.

3. Joint Committee Business

a. UTR/Challenge Match Reporting

Chris Horgan brought up that clarification is needed for reporting challenge matches. This means team tennis participants must have their challenge matches reported. Mike Scaturro, Mark and Shai noted they held their coaches accountable and made sure they reported their matches. Joe shared the language on the screen about challenge matches. Todd Hicks was concerned some sections did not follow the rule that was in effect for fall 2025. Mike, Mark, Kolby and Matt expressed the importance of all matches being reported but understand the obstacles of this with timing and if some matches get neglected because they are not going to make the state tournament for either team or individual. Chris Horgan canvassed the committee about all matches being counted since it is valuable information for states and at the local level. The rule is for lineups for NYSPHSAA postseason but as Mike S stated, challenge matches and state rankings go hand in hand from the beginning of the season. Chris said there were concerns from some sections being able to conduct and report challenge matches all season long. Those sections did not speak up in the meeting about concerns. Chris H. polled sections on if they required challenge matches or not this past **Girls** season.

Section 1 – uncertain (going through coordinator transition)
Section 2 – did not require it
Section 3 – only required for teams winning sectionals
Section 4 – yes for teams; required to show scores
Section 5 – required all matches be reported all season
Section 6 – only required for teams winning sectionals
Section 7 – no team program
Section 8 – required all matches be reported all season
Section 9 – required all matches be reported all season; lock in their lineups after 4th league match
Section 10 – no team program
Section 11 – required all matches be reported all season with forfeits being administered for not complying B

Todd Nelson suggested, like wrestling, if a team doesn't have its challenge matches in the system before the postseason then they are simply not eligible to compete. Joe stated we move forward and be better in the spring with boys and in the fall with girls. We have data on who required all matches and who didn't regardless of reason and now know improvements have to be made. Mike stated challenge matches will come into play during a formal protest. Coordinators cannot check everyone's challenge matches on the UTR site throughout the section and/or state.

Both committees unanimously voted a year ago that all challenge matches must be reported to UTR, as the rule states, for the local regular season matches in a section through the completion of the state team championships. Joe Altieri stated that he will direct the section executive directors that coaches in their sections must do a better job of ensuring compliance.

4. 2026 Meeting - Tuesday, December 8th – Girls at 11:00 am, Joint at 11:45 am, Boys at 12:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mike Scaturro, Chris Horgan & Joe Altieri

BOYS TENNIS MEETING MINUTES – 12:30 PM

ATTENDEES:
NYSPHSAA Staff: Joe Altieri, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce
BOYS COMMITTEE: Mike Scaturro (Boys State Coordinator), Kolby Flach (2), Todd Hicks (3), Steve Tibs (4), Cheryl Conroy/Dillon Hirsch (5), Chris Horgan (6), Tyler Chase (7), Michael Scaturro (8), Matt Hayden/Urvashi Gupta (9) and Mark Mensch (11)

1. Attendance & Welcome
Meeting called to order at 1:07 pm by Coordinator Mike Scaturro. Joe Altieri shared the screen with the boys tennis directory and made numerous changes.

2. 3-Region Rotation & At-Large
Joe screenshared the 3-region process, declaration dates and at-large rotations. He explained it and answered questions noting there will no longer need to be an approval for a regional rotation and the at-large

3. Discussion of Regional Matchups between 4, 5, 6, 11
Mike brought up the concern in Sections 5, 6, and 11 regarding the regionals this spring where Section 11 is at 4 and the winner is scheduled to play the Section 5/6 winner at 5/6. All sections agree a mid-week Regional Final with 11 going to 5 or 6 is not practical with the distance. Section 11 proposed they go to 4 on Saturday, May 30th then stay overnight if they win and play the winner of 5/6 in Section 4 at an indoor facility. This idea would be feasible if 5/6 winner was determined by May 30th. The host section would be responsible for setting this up. Section 4 could offer suggestions where to play. Chris Horgan stated he cannot vouch for Terence McMahon or the Section office in setting up regional matches but recognized that Section 5 has only three indoor courts and Section 6 has one indoor court open that time of year.

4. Section Concerns
Section 9 - Tutu inquired if indoor courts are secured for states in June. Joe reported the BJK National Tennis Center allows us to hold indoor courts on Friday that week because they are open however, on Saturday and Sunday they have youth programming they cannot cancel so there's very little available court time. He noted Mike and Shai suggested nearby indoor courts that may be able to help us in the event we have poor weather. Joe will be making calls to those courts to explore.
Section 9 - Matt asked if APP will ever change for tennis. Joe and Todd indicated we have advocated for change but were told no there won't be change. A discussion ensued about the differences tennis has with other sports.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mike Scaturro & Joe Altieri

Championship Philosophy Committee Meeting Report
Date: December 10, 2025 @ 1:00pm - ZOOM

Attendees:
Dan Belfi, proxy for Tom Baker (I), Mark Bubniak (2), Scott Sugar (III), Eric Race (IV), Jen Lapinski (V), Mark DiFilippo (VI), Matt Walentuk (VII), Brett Kornblum/Pat Pizzarelli (VIII), Greg Ransom (IX), Mark Wilson (X), Joe Mercado (XI), Tim Lincoln (Team Sports), Dan Doherty (Individual Sports), NYSPHSAA – Dr. Robert Zayas, Tim Mullins, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Joe Altieri, Chris Joyce, Adam Stoltman, Debra Ferry
Not Present:

Status Updates/Items Discussion/ Action Taken:

1. **Welcome:** Dr. Zayas opened the meeting, welcoming members and introducing Eric Race (Section IV) as a new representative. He reiterated that the committee convened due to continuing concerns from multiple sections regarding excessive numbers of athletes qualifying for state championships via at-large standards.

2. **Qualifying Process Proposals**
   Section V: Jen L. stated Section V proposes that all qualifiers, team or individual, must qualify at the sectional/state qualifying event. Athletes should not qualify during the regular season by hitting state standards. The rationale is the current system is inconsistent across sports. Jen emphasized the proposal is philosophical, not driven by reducing numbers.

   Section VIII: Pat Pizzarelli presented Section VIII's proposal, emphasizing this would allow only two athletes per event, per section should qualify (champion & runner-up). He suggested eliminating all at-large qualifiers. State championships should be elite, not participation driven.

   Dan D. raised concerns that weather and facility differences do not impact all athletes equally, noting that qualification systems relying on performance standards can disadvantage sections with less favorable conditions. He highlighted a past example from Section XI, where three athletes had cleared seven feet in the high jump, placing them among the top performers in the state, yet only two were permitted to advance because of sectional limits. Joe M. supported efforts to reduce championship field sizes, he encouraged a more gradual, phased approach to avoid significant disruption. He explained that Section XI has already implemented meaningful changes, including a requirement that athletes who meet a regular-season standard must also finish in the top five at the state qualifier to advance. Based on early projections, this change alone is expected to reduce Section XI's qualifiers by approximately 20–25 athletes. Dan D. added that track and field has already undergone substantial adjustments, such as shifting qualifying standards to three-year post-COVID seed averages, with additional reductions planned for the 2026 season.

   NYSPHSAA Staff: Establishing standard qualifying criteria for championships in which athletes qualify by time. Todd N. explained the proposal.

   Scott expressed concerns about the complexity of the proposed qualification system, noting his preference for a single standard rather than multiple layers. He also cited an example from swimming in which lane assignments can limit athletes' chances of winning. Todd N. clarified that swimming's preliminary rounds allow all athletes an opportunity to advance to the championship heat, ensuring that anyone can ultimately win the state title. Greg R. added

broader philosophical concerns, emphasizing that under some proposals, an athlete could finish second at the state qualifier yet fail to advance, while another athlete who once ran a faster time earlier in the season could qualify instead. Chris J. said that performance standards are designed to advance the highest-performing athletes overall, not just those who happen to perform best on one particular day.

Jen L. reiterated concerns about inconsistencies across sports, noting that activities such as golf, gymnastics, and bowling do not have mechanisms allowing athletes to qualify through regular-season standards. She emphasized the need for any adopted philosophy to avoid creating sport-specific inequities. Todd N. explained that sport committees would need to develop appropriate standards. Dan B. questioned whether such an approach would be feasible given the significant variability among ski courses.

Joe M. stressed that every individual sport is unique, cautioning against the application of blanket rules that may not fit the realities of each discipline. He also reiterated that track and field has already implemented substantial reforms that should be evaluated before additional changes are considered. Brett K. said that weather should not play a role in determining advancement, noting that no other sport uses weather conditions as a criterion for state qualification. Kristen suggested that the charge of the Championship Philosophy Committee is not to solve issues solely within track and field, but to establish a consistent statewide philosophy that applies to all timed sports.

NYSPHSAA staff will revise the proposal to the following:
Consider approval to create standard criteria for how athletes may qualify for state championships in which athletes qualify by time. The criteria would state:

- A qualifying standard must be set by the committee each year prior to the start of their season, with approval from the Central/Executive Committee.
- Only automated timing results may be used for qualifying standards; no hand timing results may be used.
- Athletes may only qualify for the state championships at a state qualifier meet. The following athletes would qualify in each event:
    - The first-place finisher
    - Any place finisher within the top 5 that achieved the qualifying standard at any time during the season
- No exceptions or waivers would be granted for athletes that did not compete in the state qualifier meet.

NYSPHSAA Staff: Amend Championship Philosophy Regarding Percentage of Championship Participation.

The committee discussed the 5–8% participation guideline, with Chris J. providing the NYSPHSAA Staff recommendation of removal of the 5% minimum. In some sports, such as tennis, function well below it and expanding them to meet 5% would unnecessarily inflate their tournaments. He emphasized keeping the 8% cap as a benchmark for event quality, while noting that being under 8% should not automatically justify expansion; logistics, venue capacity, finances, and event quality must also be considered. Chris also pointed out that some sports, like skiing, exceed 20% and will need to review their qualification processes. Mark D. questioned the purpose of having a percentage at all if it is not a primary criterion. Chris clarified that the percentage serves as a guiding tool, especially for individual sports, rather than a strict requirement. Todd N. added that

sports exceeding 8% will be asked to make appropriate reductions. This proposal will also be shared with Sections and committees to consider.

3. **Next Steps:** Sections will review the revised proposal and the percentage proposal. NYSPHSAA staff will share both with sport committees impacted. Tentative timeline of proposal is below.
    - Winter/Spring 2026: Continued discussion across sections and sports.
    - October 2026: Discussion item on Executive Committee Agenda, pending a proposal from Championship Philosophy committee
    - February 2027: Possible Action Item Vote
    - Fall 2027: Targeted implementation

Future Meeting:

1. TBD

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Championship Philosophy - Establish Standard Qualifying Criteria for Championships in Which Athletes Qualify by Time

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Todd Nelson, Assistant Director
Joe Altieri, Assistant Director
Chris Joyce, Director of Foundation & Marketing

Proposal:
Consider approval to create standard criteria for how athletes may qualify for state championships in which athletes qualify by time. The criteria would state:

- A qualifying standard must be set by the committee each year prior to the start of their season, with approval from the Central/Executive Committee.
- Only automated timing results may be used for qualifying standards; no hand timing results may be used.
- Athletes may only qualify for the state championships at a state qualifier meet. The following athletes would qualify in each event:
    - The first-place finisher
    - Any place finisher within the top 5 that achieved the qualifying standard at any time during the season
- No exceptions or waivers would be granted for athletes that did not compete in the state qualifier meet.

Effective Start Date:
Fall 2027

Rationale:
The membership has expressed concerns with the number of athletes qualifying in events for individual championships. Each sport has different qualifying standards, and many allow athletes to qualify at any time during the year, which makes it difficult to control the number of qualifying athletes in each event from a particular section. The criteria listed in the proposal would help limit the number of athletes within an event without sacrificing the quality of the meet. A majority of the time a section will send two athletes per event, with allowances for exceptional athletes that may bring the total number of qualifiers up to five.

By requiring athletes to qualify only at the state qualifier meet, it ensures quality competition with a field of athletes that have all earned their right to participate.

DATE REVISED: December 10, 2025

For clarity, an example of who may qualify in a race is provided below:

100M Dash
Athlete 1: 10.69
Athlete 2: 10.81 – qualifying standard during the year
Athlete 3: 10.96
Athlete 4: 11.03 – qualifying standard during the year
Athlete 5: 11.14
Athlete 6: 11.32
Athlete 7: 11.58
Athlete 8: 11.70

A race contains 8 athletes. Athlete 1 qualifies as the winner of the race. Athletes 2 and 4 qualify for hitting the qualifying standard during the year and finishing in the top 5. No other athletes qualify from this race.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA staff at the request of the Championship Philosophy Committee

Budgetary Impact:
A change in costs to sections will likely occur but will vary by sport and by section.

Notes:
This would currently apply to Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving, Skiing, Indoor Track & Field, and Outdoor Track & Field. Diving and field events would be included because they are events within a championship in which athletes qualify by time.

<u>Current qualification processes are:</u>

Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving:
A qualifying standard is the 5-year average of the 20th place finisher in that event. Adjustments may be made to keep the total number of participants at or below the 8% threshold.

Skiing:
In each Alpine and Nordic: one school team per section, three individuals per section, and at-large competitors selected based on a formula considering the number of programs in a Section and the winning Section from the previous year's meet.

Indoor Track & Field:
Each section may send the top two competitors per event, plus the third-place finisher if they have met the qualifying standard. The qualifying standard is the 5-year average of the 6th place finisher. Sections are permitted one entry per relay event.

Outdoor Track & Field:
A qualifying standard and super standard must be set by the committee each year prior to the start of their season, with approval from the Central/Executive Committee.
Athletes may only qualify for the state championships at a state qualifier meet. The following athletes would qualify in each event:

- The first place finisher
- The next highest place finisher that achieved the qualifying standard at any time during the season
- Any place finisher within the top 5 that achieved the super qualifying standard at any time during the season
- No exceptions or waivers would be granted for athletes that did not compete in the state qualifier meet.

Attachments:
None

New York State Public High School Athletic Association

Championship Philosophy - Amend Championship Philosophy Regarding Percentage of Championship Participation

____ Action Item
__X__ Discussion Item
____ Informational Item

Presenter:
Todd Nelson, Assistant Director
Joe Altieri, Assistant Director
Chris Joyce, Director of Foundation & Marketing

Proposal:
Consider approval to amend the designated participation range in the NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy to a recommended maximum of 8% of varsity participation in that sport. Sports could exceed 8% with Central/Executive Committee approval. The 5% floor would be removed. Percentage of participation would be one of several criteria used to determine tournament expansion, along with logistics, scheduling, venue capabilities, financial impact, etc.

Effective Start Date:
Fall 2027

Rationale:
The current criteria of 5-8% no longer meets the needs or fits the operations of the association. An upper limit is necessary to ensure high-quality competition, but the lower limit has not been followed nor does it contribute to achieving the goal of a quality championship event. Removing a minimum percentage of participation will also prevent the unnecessary expansion of tournaments in pursuit of reaching the 5% minimum. If a sport felt there was a legitimate reason to exceed the 8% limit, they could provide justification and submit a proposal for review by the Championship Advisory Committee and approval by the Central/Executive Committee. The 8% recommended limit should be one of several factors when considering expanding tournaments, and is not intrinsically a reason to expand. Other factors such as event logistics, scheduling, venue capabilities, financial impact, etc will be considered when evaluating proposals regarding the number of participants in championship tournaments.

Proposal Originated:
NYSPHSAA staff at the request of the Championship Philosophy Committee

Budgetary Impact:
Reduction in costs in events where participants may shrink, and increased awareness of financial impact with future participation proposals from sport committees.

Notes:
The following sports are currently over the recommended 8% threshold and would need to revise their criteria or provide justification for approval: skiing, gymnastics, boys swimming & diving, girls wrestling.

DATE REVISED: December 2, 2025

NYSPHSAA BOYS/GIRLS SKIING
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 11, 2025 @ 3:00 pm via Zoom

ATTENDEES:
NYSPHSAA Staff: Joe Altieri, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce
COMMITTEE: Megan Bates (Alpine), Steve Besler (Nordic), Jessica Anthony (1), Joe Skufca (2), Rob Hinsdall/Matthew Macaulay (3), Jo Hinkley (4), Todd Bialecki/Brian Lilly (5), Jason Lehmbeck (6), Absent (7), Janet Carey (9)

1. Attendance & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 3:06 pm by State Coordinators Megan Bates and Steve Besler.

2. NYSPHSAA Reports

Joe Altieri, Assistant Director

a. Staff update – He noted Lexi Swatt (Director of Sports Information) is on maternity leave until February and Zach Betkowski (TPG Sales) has replaced Joe deGuzman handling sales/ sponsorships.
b. NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame - Deadline is Jan. 29th for the Class of 2026.
c. Reported the Championship Philosophy Committee met Wednesday to discuss numerous items pertaining to championship participation. A major focus was the 5-8% (created over 25 years ago) which is the benchmark of state tournament participation percentage based on the total # of varsity athletes participating in the sport each year. Todd Nelson reported on the figures noting Nordic is approximately 20% and Alpine is 18% based on approximately 1,100 student athletes participating in varsity skiing and 218 total competitors at states. Chris Joyce added its about 1 in 5 kids participate in the state tournament and that is what the Championship Philosophy Committee is looking at. He noted the Philosophy has a formula for qualification and that's how sections should send athletes to states.

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing & Foundation

a. Reported we had a great year of fundraising in 2024-25 for the foundation. We raised over $12,000 from our inaugural golf tournament this past summer. Grants are now available for schools. They can apply on the NYSPHSAA website.
GRANT APPLICATIONS: https://form.jotform.com/NYSPHSAA/SchoolGrantApplication

3. **2026 State Championship / Zoom Planning Call with Bristol Mountain & Harriet Hollister**
   a. Megan highlighted items pertaining to Alpine while Steve highlighted Nordic:
      - Bibs secured for both; volunteer needed to help collect
      - Alpine: Lift tickets $145/athlete for both days; $52 per day for fans; 1 lift ticket per coach.
      - Bibs, tickets distributed on Sunday at 7:00 pm at the annual tournament meeting.
      - Hotel Canandaigua & Holiday Inn Express will be the host hotels. QUESTION: Jo Hinkley reserved rooms for her section and asked Joe Al about a response from the hotel. He noted due to the composition of room types at Hotel Canandaigua it made it challenging to fit everyone into one hotel so the Holiday Inn Express was secured for additional rooms.
      - Alpine - Practice will be offered but it will be a "free" ski
      - Nordic – Sunday practice available at Bristol, full course may not be available, more details to follow
      - Bus parking plan will be in the Operations Packet to be distributed after New Year
      - Awards procedures will be the same as 2025

- TD's and Gatekeepers set but may need additional volunteers. Brian and Todd are working on some from Section V.
- Zoom planning call will be about a month out to handle final details
- Moving both Nordic races to Bristol due to Harriet Hollister being too narrow
- Bob Underwood has been contracted for timing for the 2026 event. He will also loan us a PA system for awards.

b. Awards – Chris Joyce brought up a choice the committee had to make on awards this year due to a Championship Philosophy Committee recommendation. The committee unanimously decided on recognizing the Top 3 High School Teams at States. Megan discussed the idea of scoring and ties and addressing that in the near future. Todd stated if you don't have a formal rulebook you can always recommend something for approval then it would be a NYSPHSAA rule for all schools participating in that sport.

4. **Sectional Concerns**

Section 3 - Joe A. indicated a Section 3 concern was brought up in April that eventually went to the Executive Committee regarding the smaller sections having a disadvantage competing at states. Section 4 noted they have similar challenges. Megan suggested looking at the at-large qualifiers and reducing or eliminating them. Rob shared a speed points model used in New England that could help with the numbers. Matt stated he would go back to his section and report it was discussed and we will wait for possible changes from the Philosophy Committee first. Joe said we would report it back to the Executive Committee.

Section 4 – Jo Hinkley has an alpine team of one female racer from Corning Painted Post to compete in a league play in Section 5. She also reported on a female racer from Catskill to compete in Section 4. She was under the impression both athletes will need to go back to their home section for postseason. However, Todd Nelson said in a merged team situation then the athlete is part of that host team and that's where they compete. The Catskill racer would stay with the Section 4 team and compete with them in the postseason. The CPP racer was only approved for the merger by Section 5 if she goes back to Section 4 for postseason.

5. **2026 Tournament Meeting –** Sunday, February 22nd @ 7:00 pm at Hotel Canandaigua
2026 Annual Meeting – Megan proposed meeting in the spring right after the season to give more time to discuss items and potentially have rules approved in time for the season.

Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm

Minutes as of 12/12/25 respectfully submitted by Megan Bates, Steve Besler & Joe Altieri

NYSPHSAA CHEER
STATE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 11, 2025 via Zoom

ATTENDEES:
NYSPHSAA Staff: Joe Altieri, Kristen Jadin, Todd Nelson, Chris Joyce
COMMITTEE: Jen Simmons (State Coordinator), Alice Granger (1), Rihannah Johnson (2), Tanya VanOrnum/Tiffany Rutledge (3), Andrea Guccia (4), Stacey Pike (5), Justina Grudzinski (6), Vicki Nephew (7), Jen Keane (8), Patti Archiere (9), Missie Cutler (10), Brianne Hyer (11)

1. **Attendance & Welcome**
   Meeting called to order at 10:04 am by State Coordinator Jen Simmons

2. **Bid for Game Day Cheer State Championship 2027-29**
   Joe indicated there was just one bid submitted by Hudson Valley Community College (2). He noted the bid had all the required elements to be considered, a slight increase in expenses and the venue has done a great job in the past hosting this event. He asked if there were any questions or concerns with the bid. None were identified. Rhiannah stated they were tweaking the sound system and working with the NFHS Network to make the broadcast better.
   MOTION by Jen K. to recommend HVCC for 2027-29. SECOND by Andrea. Carried 11-0.

   Joe stated the staff recommendation was for HVCC for 2027-29 as well. Next steps will be the bidder will be notified, a bid comparison document will be compiled and both recommendations will be forwarded to the Championship Advisory Committee in January and to the Executive Committee on February 4th for a vote.

3. **NYSPHSAA Reports**

   Joe Altieri, Assistant Director
   a. Thanked Rhiannah, Jen and Section 2 for a great Game Day State Championship in November and thanked Andrea and Section 4 for a great Competitive Championship in March.
   b. Staff update – He noted Lexi Swatt (Director of Sports Information) is on maternity leave until February and Zach Betkowski (TPG Sales) has replaced Joe deGuzman handling sales/ sponsorships.
   c. He noted hotels for competitive will be going out to everyone after Christmas, there's new hotel Spark in Binghamton that will be contracted (just opened this month). He asked for feedback on hotels for Game Day Cheer States.

   Todd Nelson, Assistant Director
   a. Reported school enrollment #'s for 2026-27 were approved at the October Executive Committee meeting and on our website. If cheerleading wants a change, then it should be presented at the February Executive Committee meeting and it will be in effect for 2027-28.

   Kristen Jadin, Assistant Director
   a. Operations Packets – She continues to improve the packets for each tournament especially being able to attend the 2025 Game Day State Tournament.
   b. Student Leadership Conference – Will be April 15-16, 2026 in Albany. A student survey will be distributed for application. Please encourage students to apply.
   https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2022/3/25/Leadership.aspx

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing & Foundation

a. Reported we had a great year of fundraising in 2024-25 for the foundation. We raised over $12,000 from our inaugural golf tournament this past summer. Grants are now available for schools. They can apply on the NYSPHSAA website.
GRANT APPLICATIONS: https://form.jotform.com/NYSPHSAA/SchoolGrantApplication

4. Committee Business

a. Cut-off numbers with the new beds #'s. Are they still accurate or do they need to be adjusted-(Justina) Discussion was had about the current numbers from representatives. It was decided jen would work with Todd and distribute the current numbers with each section. The representatives are going to highlight what schools compete in Winter Competitive cheer so the numbers can be reviewed to see if they are still relevant.

b. Number of game day teams per Section (Alice & Andrea)-three divisions still? -----All sections sent their information to Andrea prior to the meeting It was reported that the current numbers are still balanced. It was also determined that we do not have enough for a fourth classification.

c. Is situational call still needed and relevant (Jen K) ----This was discussed and it was determined to keep the situational call

d. Awards at both State Championships - only 4 places, not 5..how do we want to handle (Jen)-----After much discussion, it was decided that for the Winter season we would move the five teams forward as we have done in the past, but only award the top three positions. All agreed. It was recommended that this is included in the Championship operations packet as well.

e. Tie-breaker----This was a very current topic due to the ties this past Fall. The discussion was held and all representatives agreed that Sections should have a tie breaker (Cheer off similar to State Competition) to determine Sectional Champions. As other sports, only one team should represent each section in the State tournament. A method to break ties needs to be adopted at the Sectional level to avoid multiple teams coming.

F. Exceeding the maximum number of athletes on the mat.------(Jen K.) Jen brought the discussion to the group for clarification. It was determined, no team should intentionally enter competitions with more than the maximum number of athletes on the mat. If a team enters the mat with more than the maximum number of athletes, they will not be allowed to start the competition routine until the required number is met. If it is caught after the routine has started, they will be given a deduction and warned of the issue. The committee is recommending that the judges association is made aware of this issue and to look for numbers prior to the start of the routine. Tournament directors are also asked to check.

5. Next Meeting – May 14, 2026 @ 10:00 am via Zoom (link was sent to committee)

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jen Simmons & Joe Altieri

NYSPHSAA Girls Lacrosse
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 15, 2025 via Zoom

ATTENDEES:
NYSPHSAA Staff: Dr. Robert Zayas, Joe Altieri, Todd Nelson, Kristen Jadin, Chris Joyce
COMMITTEE: Liz Parry (State Coordinator), Rebecca DiSisto-Leslie (1), Nicole Dixson (2), Caitlin Byrne (3), Bill Berg (4), Mara Karpp (5), Rick Schmitt (6), John Kostcowitz (8), Taryn Brechbiel (9), Sarah Bullard (10), Jeremy Thode (11)
GUESTS: Jason Brightful (Officials), Machell Phelps (Cortland RSC/Tournament Host)

1. Attendance & Welcome

Meeting called to order at 9:05 am by State Coordinator Liz Parry.

2. NYSPHSAA Reports

Dr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director

a. Gave an overview of the 3-region rotation now in place for 2025-26. The 2026 regional rotation for girls lacrosse was shared. **QUESTION**: When does the at-large comes into play. When there is an odd # of sections. The link to all 2025-26 regional rotations is below. https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2025/8/6/3RegionRotations.aspx

Joe Altieri, Assistant Director

a. Thanked Machell, Cortland and Section III for a great job on the 2025 state tournament. In 2026, we enter the second year of a new three-year bid this spring. Next year at this time we will be discussing bids for 2028-30.
b. NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame - Deadline is Jan. 29th for the Class of 2026. There are currently no girls lacrosse coaches, athletes or officials nominated for or in the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame.
c. Staff update – He noted Lexi Swatt (Director of Sports Information) is on maternity leave until February and Zach Betkowski (TPG Sales) has replaced Joe deGuzman handling sales/sponsorships.
d. He again proposed to the committee adjusting their meeting date to before the October Executive Committee meeting so they can get rule changes in place prior to the upcoming season. A meeting in December does not allow for the approval process in time for the season. The committee agreed to move the meeting. **NEW MEETING DATE: Monday, October 5, 2026 @ 9:00 am**
e. Google Form – He mentioned the importance of the Google Reporting Form Lexi Swatt sends out to coordinators for time, site, location and scores of regional games. Please be sure to update it so NYSPHSAA brackets are accurate.

Todd Nelson, Assistant Director

a. Reported school enrollment #'s and cutoff #s for 2026-27 were approved at the October Executive Committee meeting and on our website.
   For girls lacrosse: Class A 1036 & up; Class B 1035-728; Class C 727; Class D 449 & down
b. He has submitted an extension of the experiment for the shot clock to the NFHS and is waiting to hear back from them. He stated at the NFHS Summer Meeting Chris Joyce met with other state associations and many other states are interested using a shot clock in the near future like New York. Todd expects to hear something in February.

   QUESTION/DISCUSSION: Committee plans to revisit this topic in June and possibly make changes for Spring 2027. The main consideration was equity between boys and girls lacrosse, since the possession clock for boys includes both the varsity and JV levels. Suggestions included:

- Making it optional on the JV level, given the differences/limitations in talent, fields, facilities, personnel, budgets, etc between sections and schools
- Leaving it up to agreement between coaches - both must agree, otherwise it won't be used
- Jason Brightful articulated that the officials will support what the committee wants, and can expand their training if needed.

Kristen Jadin, Assistant Director

a. Awards – Only Regional Champion plaques will be presented starting this year for all team sports (no runner up). The host section of the subregional (3/4 & 5/6) will receive the plaque by mail. The winner must bring the plaque to the regional final since we do not know who will host the regional final until the subregional is played.

b. Student Leadership Conference – Will be April 3, 2025 in Albany. A student survey will be distributed for application. Please encourage students to apply.
https://nysphsaa.org/sports/2022/3/25/Leadership.aspx

Chris Joyce, Director of Marketing & Foundation

a. Reported we had a great year of fundraising in 2024-25 for the foundation. We raised over $12,000 from our inaugural golf tournament this past summer. Grants are now available for schools. They can apply on the NYSPHSAA website.
GRANT APPLICATIONS: https://form.jotform.com/NYSPHSAA/SchoolGrantApplication

3. Officials Report – Jason Brightful

a. Rule Changes - Jason summarized the rule changes for 2026 that came in July. Jason will send the changes to Joe/Liz to include with the minutes. A discussion ensued about some of the changes

4. Committee Business

a. 2025 Sectional & Regional information
- Send information for Regional contests (date/time/site) to Liz P and the state office ASAP. Joe noted Lexi Swatt will send out the Google Reporting Form to make it easier for sections to report this spring.
- Be aware that Saturday, June 6 is an SAT date.
- Order of games for 2026 state tournament will be A-B-C-D this year (rotates each year).

5. 2026 State Tournament and Regional Rotations

a. Section 10 noted they will host regional games on two different days because of lack of officials available in the section.

b. No report from Machell regarding the State Tournament other than mentioning the shot clock operator will not be doing all four games and she will have different people doing it. Caitlin emphasized the importance of having an experienced High School level possession clock operator that has been doing high school level all season. She is willing to bring down a Section 3 person who did a great job for Section 3 last season. Machell said she would look for people as well to fill those roles.

6. Sectional Concerns – None

7. Next Meetings

COACHES ZOOM CALL – Thursday, June 11, 2026 @ 7:00 pm
ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING - Monday, October 5, 2026 @ 9:00 am

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 am

Minutes as of 12/17/2025 respectfully submitted by Taryn Brechbiel, Liz Parry & Joe Altieri



GIRLS LACROSSE POSSESSION CLOCK

Possession Clock Summary

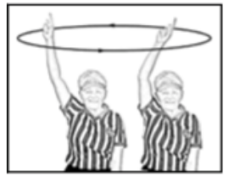
NYSPHSAA 90-Second Possession Clock Rules

The possession clock is being piloted for the 2025 season on Varsity contests only.

1. Two visible 90-second possession clocks shall be located at each end of the field visible to players, coaches, and game officials.
   a. If only one clock is available, then it shall be located at midfield.
   b. If the possession clock malfunctions:
      - Possession clock and operator must be at the table.
      - Digital handheld countdown timer is recommended.
      - Refer to game clock if handheld timer is not available.
      - Verbally countdown final 10-seconds to officials and coaches.
      - Horn should sound the expiration of the shot clock.
2. The home team shall provide a trained possession clock operator.
   a. If the possession clock is not operated at field level, the home team must ensure that direct two-way communication is available at all times between the table and the clock operators.
3. 90 Second possession clock operation
   a. After a team has gained possession of the ball, a visible 90 second possession clock will start.
   b. At the EXPIRATION of the 90-seconds:
      - Possession will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the ball.
      - No player may be closer than 4 meters to the free position.
      - The player taking the free position may self-start.
      - If the ball is in the air at the time of the violation, the free position is administered relative to where the ball lands.
   c. The possession clock STOPS:
      - Any time the game clock is stopped
      - Any defensive foul in the Critical Scoring Area
      - Offsides
      - Team timeouts (no reset)
      - Officials' timeouts
   d. The possession clock RESETS on the following:
      - Shot on goal that is saved by the goalkeeper, inside or outside of the goal circle, and whether possessed or deflected off the goalkeeper.
      - Shot on goal that hits a goal pipe.
      - Any green, yellow or red card issued to the team without possession.
      - Offside violation.
      - Change of possession.

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4. Officials' Reset Signal
   a. Officials will signal all possession clock resets with one arm raised above their head in a circular motion.
   b. Clock operator must not reset unless the officials have clearly signaled reset.



5. Shot on goal requirements and situations:
   a. The ball must be released from the shooter's stick:
      - PRIOR to the expiration of the possession clock.
      - From above the Goal Line Extended.
   b. If a shot occurs during a flag situation and the officials judge the foul affected the shot and administer a free position, then the possession clock STOPS and DOES NOT RESET (even if shot is saved or deflected by goalkeeper or hits a goal pipe).
   c. If officials signal reset and the ball is loose, clock operators shall reset and hold the possession clock at 90-seconds and restart possession clock when a team gains clear possession.
6. Offsides
   a. Stop game clock. Reset possession clock. Restart both clocks on the official's restart whistle.
   b. Offsides by the defense MAY be a held whistle. Officials must evaluate if the attack is on a scoring play/maintaining advantage. A goal scored while the defense is offside shall count and play is resumed with a draw (pg 52).
   c. Repetitive or multiple offsides by the defense will result in a verbal warning and a green card. Any subsequent violation will be a green/yellow card (major foul and player must leave the field for 2-minute penalty).
   d. Offsides by the offense and the defense gains possession of the ball before the foul can be called, the official may hold the whistle and not penalize the offside (pg 51).

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2026 Possession Clock

- Request submitted to NFHS to continue Possession Clock in 2026
- No Change to Girls Possession Clock Rules
- Coach and Officials Survey to collect data from the NYSPHSAA Championship

NYSPHSAA State Committee Meeting

Monday, December 15th, 9:00am


For New York State Varsity Girls' Lacrosse contests, a 90-second possession clock will be piloted for the 2026 season.

Possession Clock

Two visible 90-second possession clocks shall be located at each end of the field visible to players, coaches, and game officials.

If only one clock is available, then it shall be located at midfield.

If the possession clock malfunctions:

- Possession clock and operator must be at the table.
- Digital handheld countdown timer is recommended.
- Refer to game clock if handheld timer is not available.
- Verbally countdown final 10-seconds to officials and coaches.
- Horn should sound the expiration of the shot clock.

Possession Clock Operators

The home team shall provide two trained clock operators: one for the possession clock and one for the game clock.

If the possession clock is not operated at field level, the home team must ensure that direct two-way communication is available at all times between the table and the clock operators.

Possession Clock

After a team gains possession of the ball, the visible 90-second possession clock will start.

At the expiration of the 90-seconds:

- Possession will be awarded to the opposing team at the spot of the ball.
- No player may be closer than 4 meters to the free position.
- The player taking the free position may self-start.
- If the ball is in the air at the time of the violation, the free position is administered relative to where the ball lands.

Possession Clock Stops

The possession clock STOPS:

- Any time the game clock is stopped
- Any defensive foul in the Critical Scoring Area
- Offsides
- Team timeouts (no reset)
- Officials' timeouts

Possession Clock Resets

The possession clock will reset to 90-seconds when:

- Shot on goal that is saved by the goalkeeper, inside or outside of the goal circle, and whether possessed or deflected off the goalkeeper.
- Shot on goal that hits a goal pipe.
- Any green, yellow or red card issued to the team without possession.
- Offside violation.
- Change of possession.

Officials' Reset Signal

Officials will signal all possession clock resets with one arm raised above their head in a circular motion.

Clock operator must not reset unless the officials have clearly signaled reset.





Shot on Goal

The ball must be released from the shooter's stick:

- PRIOR to the expiration of the possession clock.
- From above the Goal Line Extended.

If a shot occurs during a flag situation and the officials judge the foul affected the shot and administer a free position, then the possession clock STOPS and DOES NOT reset (even if shot is saved or deflected by goalkeeper or hits pipe).

If officials signal reset and the ball is loose, clock operators shall reset and hold the possession clock at 90-seconds and restart possession clock when a team gains clear possession.

Offsides

Stop game clock. Reset possession clock. Restart both clocks on the official's restart whistle.

Offsides by the defense MAY be a held whistle. Officials must evaluate if the attack is on a scoring play/maintaining advantage. A goal scored while the defense is offside shall count and play is resumed with a draw.

Repetitive or multiple offsides by the defense will result in a verbal warning and a green card. Any subsequent violation will be a green/yellow card (major foul and player must leave the field for 2-minute penalty).

Offsides by the offense and the defense gains possession of the ball before the foul can be called, the official may hold the whistle and not penalize the offside.



Direct questions to your Section's rule interpreter. Have a great season!

2026 NFHS Rule Changes

- **Primary Focus of NFHS Rules Committee:** Improving flow and pace of play.
- **Draw Restarts:** If a draw is illegal or paused, **any player** on the opposing team can take the free position restart, improving game flow.
- **Goal Circle Fouls:** For goal circle fouls, the offender moves **4 meters away** from the player taking the free position (**not behind**) for quicker restarts.
- **Goalie Restarts:** After a team timeout in the goal circle, **restart at the closest dot,** and **any player** can take it.
- **Stick Checks (Coach-Requested):** Coaches can only request stick checks between quarters, during timeouts, before overtime, or right after a goal.
- **Player Electronics:** Players cannot wear audio or video devices (like helmet/body cams) during play.
- **Jersey Numbers:** Numbers on the back of jerseys must now be at least 8 inches tall.
- **Equipment:** Cones are required at team area corners, and a working horn is needed at the scorer's table.

NYSPHSAA GIRLS WRESTLING Committee Meeting

Friday, December 19, 2025 @10:15am
Meeting Link

1. **Welcome, Introductions & Announcements –** Ryan Palmer (State Coordinator)
   a. Meeting Called to Order at:

   Roll Call:
   Section I – Jamie Block
   Section 2 – Frank Fronhofer
   Section III – Rick Spicer
   Section IV – Kristin Canedo, Greg Lehr
   Section V – Andrea Gabel
   Section VI – Brad Rowe, Tom Shifflet
   Section VII – Rob Witkiewicz, Gareth Edwards
   Section VIII – Sean Severin
   Section IX – Eric Hartmann
   Section X – Randy Morrison
   Section XI – Martino Sottile
   NYSPHSAA – Todd Nelson, Joe Alteri, Dylan Shields, Chris Joyce, Kristen Jadin, Lexi Swatt-Sheerin, Dr. Robert Zayas
   NYSWOA – Thomas Fauvell, Matt Smith, Frank Marotta, Gene Tracy
   Coordinator – Ryan Palmer
   USA Wrestling - Derrick Smith, Kevin Maxwell
   NYSWC - Marty Sherman

   Committee Directory: Click Here

2. **PINS Update**
   a. PINS Committee Update
   b. Action Item: Motion to APPROVE adjusting PINS Rating Calculations to include NYSPHSAA Girls Freestyle Wrestling matches only; removing out of season matches from the calculation.
      i. Motion Made by: Jamie Block (Section 1)
      ii. Seconded by: Tom Shifflet (Section 6)
      iii. Voting:

Section	"Yes" Vote	"No" Vote	Abstain	Absent
1	x			
2	x			
3	x			

4	x			
5	x			
6	x			
7	x			
8		x		
9	x			
10	x			
11	x			

	Total "Yes"	Total "No"	Total "Abstain"	Total "Absent"
Vote Tally	10	1	0	0
Vote Result	PASS			

3. **Section Concerns:**
    a. Section I – Does Track have a "Medical Forfeit" option for match results? Do we need to create a NYS Wrestling Guidebook for Girls Wrestling - something to do this offseason.
    b. Section 2 –
    c. Section III – How far off are we on expanding the sizes of the brackets at the state tournament? A second division?
        i. A proposal would have to be presented, with a target of 8% of eligible athletes participating in the state tournament. Currently, with 13 weight classes and bracket sizes of 16, roughly 8% of eligible athletes are participants at the state tournament.
    d. Section IV – Would like Track to have a "Medical Forfeit?"
    e. Section V –
    f. Section VI – Concerns over mergers and combining.
    g. Section VII – Can girls on merged teams still choose to represent a non-merged boys team for the post season?
        i. Yes, she is part of approved teams. She will have to choose the Boys postseason OR the Girls Postseason.
    h. Section VIII – Creating the Dual Meet Championship created more girls teams. The number of teams grew from 3 teams to 9 teams.
    i. Section IX – Concerns that Varsity B brackets/matches are being counted towards PINS, but Varsity forfeits are not.
    j. Section X –
    k. Section XI – Can we do State Qualifiers on the same weekend?
    l. Chairman - Shadowing is an option - teams can practice together but compete separately, score separately.

Upcoming Meetings

- January 8, 2025 - Winter Meeting - Remote @10:00am