

Program Review – Outdoor Track and Field

The NJSIAA Outdoor Track and Field Committee unanimously proposed to change in the structure of the Outdoor Track and Field Program: **Approved FIRST reading 10/7/09 by Executive Committee. Final reading November 9, 2009.**

Present Structure:

- Level 1: Sectional Meets for Public Schools only – average 16 teams per group per section, at 8 sites, 2 per section (North I, North II, Central, South)
- Level 2: State Group Meets
- A. Public Groups advance a total of 24 competitors per event (6 from each section)
 - B. Entry level for Non-Public groups A and B averaging 32 schools per group and 40+ contestants per event.
 - C. Conducted at 2 sites with three groups at each site.
- Level 3: State Championships – 42 competitors per event (6 advancing per group + 6 wild cards)

Proposed Changes:

Add a sectional level to the Non-Public meet structure by dividing Non-Public schools with outdoor track programs into four divisions of equal number: North A , North B, South A and South B. First the programs would be halved into A (large) and B (small) divisions, with the odd number going to the B division,* then halving each division into North and South, with an odd number going to the North Division.* [Should average 16 schools per division]

**Schools with 10th through 12th grade enrollments of 150 or less will be removed before the halving, then placed in the B division geographically.*

To keep the financial impact to a minimum, these four divisions will run concurrently with the public divisions as listed below:

- *Buena will host Sectional for South Gr. 2, Gr. 3, and Non-Public South B
- *Egg Harbor will host Sectional for South Gr. 1, Gr. 4 and Non-Public South A
- Hillsborough will host Sectional for Central Gr. 1 and Gr. 4
- Monmouth Regional will host Sectional for Central Gr. 2 and Gr. 3
- *South Plainfield will host Sectional for North II Gr. 1, Gr. 3, & Non Public North A
- Parsippany will host Sectional for North II Gr. 2 and Gr. 4
- *Randolph will host Sectional for North I Gr. 1, Gr. 4 and Non-Public North B
- Mahwah will host Sectional for North I Gr. 2 and Gr. 3

*These sites were chosen because they have multiple field event venues, particularly pole vault and discus.

Group Meets

South Plainfield will host Group Meet for Groups 1, 3, and Non-Public A
Egg Harbor will host Group Meet for Groups 2, 4, and Non-Public B

Public schools will have six qualifying in each event from each section therefore having a maximum of 24 competitors per event.

Non-Public schools will have eight qualifying in each event from each section, therefore having a maximum of 18 competitors per event.

Note: All sections will continue to award medals to the top 6 only

Meet of Champions

No changes in structure.

This financing (approximately \$5,000 in additional expenses) for the new alignment was approved by the NJSIAA Finance Committee at its September meeting. The only additional costs under this proposal will be for awards for the four new sectional groups.

Rationale:

The number of non-public teams and the size of these teams have been steadily increasing over the years to the point that the State Group Meet level of competition has become cumbersome to handle for the site that hosts the non-public groups. With 40+ competitors in each event, the meet hosting these groups are running several hours longer than its counterpart. In addition, many in the track and field community for several years have felt that it is inherently unfair for some athletes to go through two qualifying meets to reach the Meet of Champions, while others have to go through one meet.