

# NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 8, 2024

**Roll Call** - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Jason Corley, at 11:14 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Jeremy Braverman, Maria Crowley, Danielle Dayton, Jorge Diaz, Al Dyer, Daniel Finkle, Judy Finch-Johnson, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Kurt Karcich, Raymond Kiem, Dr. Michael Kuchar, Jason Miller, Russell Petrocelli, Dave Ryden, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Jeffrey Steele, Paul Vizzuso, Tammy Wagner, Barry Walker, Tripp Welborne and Cynthia Wilks. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; Al Stumpf and Derryk Sellers, Assistant Directors; Steven Goodell Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Jake Aferiat, *NJ Advance Media* and Darren Cooper, *The Record*. Also in attendance: Michael O'Connell, Esq. of Pringle Quinn Anzano, P.C.

**Approval of Minutes** - A motion was made by Mohammed Abdelaziz, seconded by Russell Petrocelli, to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2024 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Annual Meeting** – Jason Corley summarized the results from the annual meeting, which took place on Monday, 5/6. Both proposals on the ballot passed. Results below:

Ballot #1 - Girls ice hockey will be an official sport next year. Final Vote Yes-275; No-0; Abstain-11.

Ballot #2 - Amend the classification process by excluding charter schools and cooperative sports programs when initially classifying schools into groups and sections for each sport. Once the classifications are set, and the varsity status of their program is confirmed, charter schools and cooperative sports programs will be added to the appropriate group and section based on their enrollment and northing number. Final Vote: Yes-273; No-14; Abstain-1.

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**Legislative Update (Michael O'Connell)** – Mr. Anzano's associate, Michael O'Connell, Esq., gave a legislative update. Senator Sarlo and the budget committee are working on the state's budget, which is due 6/30. On 5/6, Bill S1114 was passed unanimously, which will establish a task force to examine issues and make recommendations involving youth sports, including abusive coaching, confrontational parents and bullying of players. The task force will most likely be housed in the Department of Education.

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### **Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire**

**Drug Free Sports 2024-2025 Banned Substances List/Testing Protocols – One Reading – Voice Vote** – The recommended 2024-2025 list of banned drug classes and testing protocols from Drug Free Sports was distributed. There are no changes to the banned substances list from this past year, and nothing major was changed on the protocols – only minor wording changes.

A motion was made by Daniel Finkle, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to approve the 2024-2025 Drug Free Sports Banned Substances List and Testing Protocols. Motion carried unanimously.

**Spectator Code of Conduct Proposal – revised – First Reading – Voice Vote** – Based on feedback from last month’s meeting, a revised spectator policy was presented, which incorporated the committee’s recommendations from last month’s meeting. The following additions were added to the proposal detailed in the minutes of the 4/10/24 Exectuive Committee meeting.

1. Under Spectator Code of Conduct – Recommendation, the following text was added “The list of covered persons should also include school staff and school security – this is in addition to officials, opposing coach, player, or spectator currently identified by the NJSIAA Sportsmanship Rule/Policy.”

2. In the same section, after “This list of unsportsmanlike actions is a minimum. In addition, NJSIAA recommends a member school’s policy also prohibit the following”, all underlined text below was added:

- Use of profanity, threatening comments, or biased language before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Verbally harasses an official or ~~opponent~~ participant (i.e., coaches or players from any participating school) by using names or uniform numbers.
- Entering the field of play – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Physical altercation with an official, coach, player, school staff, school security, or spectator – before, during, or after an interscholastic event.
- Use of artificial noisemakers or other instruments intended to disrupt the interscholastic event or distract the participants during an interscholastic event.

Discussion took place. A motion was made by Judy Finch Johnson, seconded by Mo Abdelaziz, to approve the modified Spectator Code of Conduct proposal in first reading. Motion passed first reading unanimously. Second reading will take place in June.

**Article X Penalties Proposal – First Reading Voice Vote** – NJSIAA staff recommended updates to Article X – Penalties – Section 1 to equitably treat the use of an ineligible student across all sports and the NJSIAA Finance Committee recommended updates to Section 4 – Executive Director Imposed Fines.

The proposal is outlined below. Forfeiture penalties for sports that had previously identified as an individual sport – such as swimming and track and field – will be treated the same as a team sport – such as football and basketball. The proposal also more clearly defines an individual tournament as one in which no team score is calculated, nor team champion declared. As for the fines, at its April 10, 2024 meeting, the Finance Committee approved a \$200.00 fine for any coach who receives a disqualification from an official – this represents an increase from the previously approved fine of \$100.00.

These proposed updates are included below – additions are underlined, and deletions are stricken.

## **Article X PENALTIES**

PENALTIES SHALL BE ASSESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONTROVERSIES COMMITTEE, OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR INFRACTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, ~~OR RULES~~ AND REGULATIONS, AND TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS, AND SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO:

### **Section 1**

To ensure that member schools make certain that all Student-Athletes comply with eligibility standards, or that they obtain appropriate waivers where necessary prior to competition, the following forfeiture penalties will be imposed: (1) If the ineligible student participates as a member of a team, the team will forfeit any contest in which the ineligible student participated, regardless of how long the

~~ineligible student participated in the contest. (2) If the ineligible student participates as an individual, in an event or tournament at which no team score is calculated or team champion declared, the ineligible student will forfeit any contest won. The following forfeiture penalties will be imposed. If the ineligible student participated in a TEAM SPORT, then that team will forfeit any games that it has won, irrespective of how long the ineligible student participated in that contest. This is because it is impossible to calculate the impact made on a team contest by one or more individual players. In cases where the ineligible player participated in an INDIVIDUAL SPORT, then the team will only forfeit the events in which that player participated, since the impact of individual players can be calculated with some certainty. These penalties are mandatory and are not subject to appeal.~~

*CL 1: Although the penalty of forfeiture for the use of an ineligible player is mandatory and not appealable to the Executive Committee, the school may appeal the determination of eligibility.*

## **Section 2**

### **Controversies Committee Imposed Fines:**

After conducting a hearing and subject to an appeal to the Executive Committee, as set forth in Article XIII of the Bylaws, the Controversies Committee may impose the penalties set forth in this Section.

- A. Probation – A probationary period not to exceed two years may be imposed, which may include a requirement that a member school submit appropriate reports to the Association, certifying that the violations are not continuing. The Controversies Committee may determine that an offending school may not participate in championship contests in the sport in which the violation occurred.
- B. Forfeit of Games – Under such terms and conditions as the Controversies Committee shall provide.
- C. Forfeit of Championship Rights – A school may be required to forfeit championship rights as determined by the Controversies Committee.
- D. Suspension of Coaches and Players – In addition to any disqualifications imposed for unsportsmanlike and flagrant verbal or physical misconduct during an interscholastic contest a coach or player may be suspended for a violation of the Constitution and Bylaws or Rules of this Association, or for violations of the rules of good sportsmanship or the rules of a particular game.
- E. Fines – Member schools, Principals, Athletic Directors, and/or coaches may be fined by the Controversies Committee in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00 per party. Member schools may also be required to pay any property damages caused by their improper behavior and for the transcript and court stenographer costs of the Controversies Committee hearing, which would be payable within sixty (60) days.

*\* This amendment approved by letter from Commissioner of Education dated July 6, 1987 and published in the September, 1987 NJSIAA Bulletin.*

## **Section 3**

### **Major Fines and Expulsion:**

The Controversies Committee may recommend for approval by the Executive Committee, the imposition of major fines against member schools, principals, athletic directors and coaches exceeding \$5,000.00 per party for serious violations of the Bylaws or Rules of the Association and/or the expulsion of member schools and/or coaches for serious violations of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the Association after a hearing or review on appeal by the Executive Committee, pursuant to Article XIII of the Bylaws.

## **Section 4**

### **Executive Director Imposed Fines:**

- A. The Executive Director shall have the authority to impose fines for violations of

tournament regulations, including but not limited to: missing deadlines for entering state tournaments, withdrawing from state tournaments, failing to enter participants prior to an event, and failing to timely report scores or results as required. All such fines shall be set forth on a violations schedule that is approved annually by the Executive Committee. No such fine shall exceed \$300. There shall be no appeal from the Executive Director's imposition of a fine under this section.

- B. Any coach disqualified by an official shall be fined \$200. There shall be no appeal from the Executive Director's imposition of a fine under this section.

A motion was made by Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Barry Walker, to approve NJSIAA's staff recommendation to update Article X – Penalties – Section 1 and Section 2 to equitably treat the use of an ineligible students across all sports (Section 1) and update language (Section 2) and approve the NJSIAA Finance Committee recommendation to update Article X – Penalties –Section 4 – Executive Director Imposed Fines to allow the Executive Director the authority to impose fines for violations (not exceeding \$300) of tournament regulations, including but not limited to: missing deadlines for entering state tournaments, withdrawing from state tournaments, failing to enter participants prior to an event, and failing to timely report scores or results as required, and increase the \$100 fine for any coach who receives a disqualification from an official to \$200. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

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### **Program Review**

Twelve Program Review Committee members met on 5/3, and unanimously endorsed the following five proposals.

**Home/Away Uniform Policy – One Reading – Voice Vote** – The following sports utilize home and away uniforms: football, field hockey, soccer, basketball, ice hockey, and lacrosse. NFHS rules require uniforms for each sport listed to be either white or a dark color; however, state associations have autonomy to establish their own policies to designate which colors are to be worn by home and away teams. Currently, NJSIAA is inconsistent in its designation of home and away colors across the sports listed so in effort to bring consistency across all sports listed and to minimize confusion among athletic directors and coaches, NJSIAA staff recommends that home teams wear dark and away teams wear white. This policy will take effect for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Joseph Ursino, seconded by Dave Ryden, to require home teams wear dark and away teams wear white in the sports that utilize home and away uniforms, beginning with the 2024 – 2025 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

**NCAA Recruiting Guidelines– One Reading – Voice Vote** – NJSIAA staff recommended the following updates to the Basketball NCAA Evaluation Period Guidelines and Football NCAA Open Recruiting Period Guidelines in the NJSIAA Policies and Procedures handbook. NJSIAA staff continues to receive numerous inquiries regarding advertisement/promotion of these evaluation sessions and whether schools can join with a neighboring school when hosting these workouts. These updates will allay any confusion and misunderstanding on the part of athletic directors and coaches moving forward – specifically regarding the use of social media to promote the evaluation sessions. These are not spring practices in place to help the student-athlete. If a college coach calls with interest, then schools can schedule the practice but cannot pre-schedule it and then use social media to promote the practice asking college coaches to reach out if they want to see said student-athlete. Also, rules are clarified to protect and help student-athletes abide by the NCAA's limited number of permitted visits.

The proposed updates are underlined in each sport's guidelines below.

## BASKETBALL NCAA EVALUATION PERIOD GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are for member schools to adhere to during the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Evaluation Period which occurs during the fall months prior to the start of the NJSIAA basketball season:

1. NJSIAA-member high schools may host no more than two basketball-specific evaluation sessions per week at the request of an authorized NCAA athletic department staff member. No evaluation session may occur without an authorized staff member in attendance. Any evaluation session without an authorized staff member in attendance is a direct violation of these guidelines.
2. These basketball-specific evaluation sessions may only occur on the premises of the member high school; they may not take place at a third-party facility.
3. High school coaches shall be permitted to be in attendance and administer these evaluation sessions in a manner requested by the authorized staff member.
4. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may create promotional materials to notify college coaches that they have prospects to be evaluated – this includes the use of social media. Promotional materials may include the head coaches' contact information in order to schedule evaluation sessions. However, the use of promotional materials shall not list predetermined dates and times of evaluation sessions that will be hosted.
5. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may use social media to thank college programs and college coaches for attending an evaluation session. However, any communications interpreted as promoting and advertising a school's program for recruiting purposes.
6. The workouts to be observed by the authorized staff member may include:
  - a. Strength training
  - b. Agility, speed, and endurance training
  - c. Drills to highlight specific position skills (see details below)
  - d. Small-sided, competitive games such as 3v3
  - e. No more than 15 minutes can be used for 4v4 or 5v5 scrimmaging
7. Drills to highlight specific skills, include shooting drills, ball handling drills, lay-up drills, rebounding drills and low-post drills.
8. The workouts SHALL NOT resemble any form of organized practice. Therefore, no diagrammed plays may be executed, and no defensive shell drills or simulation of offensive plays are permitted.
9. Each onsite visit/workout may not exceed one hour in length.
10. High schools are NOT permitted to join with another high school nor comingle student-athletes from different schools for these evaluation sessions. High schools must independently host evaluation sessions at the request of a college coach.

**A high school coach that violates any part of these guidelines will receive an automatic four-game suspension, such suspension to be served during the first four regular season games during the immediate next season.**

## FOOTBALL NCAA OPEN RECRUITING PERIOD GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are for member schools to adhere to during the NCAA Open Recruiting Period:

1. When a college coach is onsite at a NJSIAA-member high school, the high school coach shall be permitted to administer a football-specific evaluation session at the request of a college coach.
2. These football-specific evaluation sessions may only occur on the premises of the member high school; they may not take place at a third-party facility.
3. High school coaches shall be permitted to attend and assist with any workout observed by the college coach.

4. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may create promotional materials to notify college coaches that they have prospects to be evaluated – this includes the use of social media. Promotional materials may include the head coaches' contact information in order to schedule evaluation sessions. However, the use of promotional materials shall not list predetermined dates and times of evaluation sessions that will be hosted.
5. High schools, and any member of its coaching staff, may use social media to thank college programs and college coaches for attending an evaluation session. However, any communications that go beyond a courtesy thank you may be interpreted as promoting and advertising a school's program for recruiting purposes.
6. The workouts to be observed by a college coach may include:
  - a. Strength training
  - b. Agility, speed and endurance training
  - c. Position specific skills workouts (see details below)
7. Position specific skills workouts include, but is not limited to, throwing, blocking (with the use of bags, shields, and sleds only), running routes, kicking/punting, or defensive positioning.
8. The workouts SHALL NOT resemble any form of organized practice. Therefore, no diagramed plays may be executed, no individual skills training may occur, and no scrimmaging of any kind regardless of the number of players participating in the workout.
9. Each onsite visit/workout may not exceed one hour in length.
10. No player protective gear may be used. Protective gear includes, but is not limited to, helmets, shoulder pads, rib pads or thigh/knee pads.
11. THUD or live contact with another student-athlete is not allowed at any time. The only football-specific equipment that may be in use are blocking/tackling dummies, blocking/tackling sleds or hand-shields.
12. High schools are NOT permitted to join with another high school nor comingle student-athletes from different schools for these evaluation sessions. High schools must independently host evaluation sessions at the request of a college coach.

**A high school coach that violates any part of these guidelines will receive an automatic two-game suspension, such suspension to be served during the first two regular season games during the immediate next season.**

On behalf of the Program Review Committee, a motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Jeff Pierro, to update the Basketball NCAA Evaluation Period Guidelines and Football NCAA Open Recruiting Period Guidelines in the NJSIAA Policies and Procedures handbook to clarify both the use of social media to promote evaluation sessions and the permissible rules for these evaluations. Motion passed unanimously.

**Winter T&F Wildcards / Girls Bowling Classifications – One Reading – Voice Vote** – In June 2023, the Executive Committee approved a proposal to decrease the number of entries for its public school sectional meets. The change decreased the number of entries per school from 3 individuals to 2 individuals per event. However, the proposal did allow each school the flexibility to enter a wildcard entry in up to 3 events. These changes did help with normalizing the meets across sections and moving the meets towards a better time frame for everyone involved. The winter track and field committee is now requesting an increase to the number of wildcard entries from 3 events to 5 events. The increase will allow schools to increase participation at the meets, with minimal impact on the total time of the meet.

Then in June 2023, the Executive Committee approved a proposal to overhaul the boys and girls bowling state tournament. The proposal included a classification model for both the boys and girls tournament that is based on four groups (I – IV) and four sections (NI, NII, Central, and South). This model worked well for the boys tournament but did not provide for a competitively balanced tournament for the girls due to decreased participation compared to prior years. The significantly lower number of teams entering the girls state tournament, as compared to the boys, resulted in NJSIAA staff combining groups in order to provide consistent brackets across all groups and sections.

As a result, NJSIAA staff is going to wait until the 2024 – 2025 season has started in order to determine the best classification model for the girls tournament. It is too difficult to identify a classification model when the number of schools hosting the sport can significantly vary from season to season. The classification model may provide for less groups and/or less sections as compared to the boys tournament, but it will be based on classification models in place in other sports with similar numbers of participating schools.

A motion was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by Dan Finkle, to 1-increase the number of wildcard entries from 3 events to 5 events for the winter track sectional meets and 2- wait until the 2024 – 2025 season has started in order to determine the best classification model for the girls bowling tournament. Motion passed unanimously.

**Volleyball Best of 5 – One Reading – Voice Vote** – NFHS rules currently allow states to adopt a best of 5-match or best of 3-match format for both regular season and post-season competition. NJSIAA is currently one of three state associations that has adopted a best of 3-match format with all other state associations utilizing a best of 5-match format.

Both boys and girls volleyball continues to be one of the fastest growing sports within the Association. Since the 2018-2019 school year, boys volleyball has seen a 37% increase in the number of teams (currently 198 teams) and a 52% increase in the number of participants (currently 6,850 student-athletes) while girls volleyball has seen an 11% increase in the number of teams (currently 323 teams) and a 15% increase in the number of participants (currently 11,687 student-athletes).

According to NJ.com, the Association’s Official Statistics Partner, over the past two complete seasons, 75% of total boys and girls regular season contests ended after 2 matches – the final score reported as 2-0. Many contests last approximately 30 – 40 minutes, which is a significantly less period of time to provide participation opportunities per contest than sports with a comparable regular season maximum number of contests, such as basketball, baseball and softball.

NJSIAA staff believes that it is time for the Association to move to a best of 5-match format that will reflect the tremendous growth of the sport but to also provide additional match/matches to increase participation opportunities for student-athletes. However, NJSIAA staff recognizes that there may be logistical challenges for some member schools to adopt a best of 5-match format without adequate notice. Therefore, this proposal provides both flexibility for those schools interested in hosting best of 5-matches to increase participation opportunities and adequate notice that the state tournament will be moving to a best of 5-match format in two years.

In order to provide member schools with flexibility and increase participation opportunities, NJSIAA staff recommends the following policy for varsity regular season contests.

1. Starting with the 2025 – 2026 school year, the NJSIAA state tournament will move to a best of 5-match format for all rounds.
2. Starting with the 2024 – 2025 school year, schools will be permitted to mutually agree in advance to play a best of 5-match format. The host school must notify their assignor in advance and agree to the fee that will be paid to the officials when a best of 5-match format will be played. There is no limit to the number of contests played under the best of 5-match format during the regular season. The results for these contests should be reported to NJ.com as played (i.e. 3-0, 3-1, 3-2).

It is important to note that there is no impact on the power point calculations when reporting results for matches played under a best of 3-match or best of 5-match format. Leagues and Conferences have the autonomy to use either a best of 3-match or best of 5-match format for their tournaments starting with the 2024 – 2025 school year. Lastly, NJSIAA staff may seek approval to adopt a best of 5-match format for

all varsity regular season competition starting with the 2026 – 2027 school year at a later date – this will allow time to solicit feedback on the best of 5-match format.

Questions were raised. Would officials receive more money if officiating five matches v three. The answer is yes but the state fee has not been assigned yet. Mo Abdelaziz shared concerns about the warmup period, which unfortunately the Association can't do anything about, because it's a NFHS rule. Jeremy Braverman expressed concerns that people may complain about advantages/disadvantages since schools may play different formats, but Ms. Maguire explained that a win is a win and power points are the same, regardless of format utilized.

A motion was made by Dave Ryden, seconded by Jason Corley, to move to a best of 5-match format for all rounds of NJSIAA's volleyball state tournaments, starting with the 2025 – 2026 school year, and permit schools starting with the 2024 – 2025 school year, to play a best of 5-match format if both schools participating mutually agree in advance. Motion carried unanimously.

**Boys Wrestling District/Region Realignment – One Reading – Voice Vote** – Ms. Maguire thanked Dr. Troxell and Kurt Karcich for attending the boys wrestling realignment committee, who met on April 29, 2024, to review the current rating criteria and the 2023 – 2024 season results.

The committee has one recommendation which is to change the previously approved rating criteria from a 60% team power point/40% returning state wrestle back round 1 participant split to a 50% team power point/50% returning state wrestle back round 1 participant split. The committee believes that increasing the percentage assigned to returning state wrestle back round 1 participants will continue to improve the quality of the rankings used when aligning the Districts/Regions. There are no other changes to the previously approved realignment plan. The committee will finalize the realignment for the 2024-2025 school year and have it available for member schools no later than June 1, 2024.

A motion was made by Jeremy Braverman, seconded by Jason Miller, to change the previously approved rating criteria from a 60% team power point/40% returning state wrestle back round 1 participant split to a 50% team power point/50% returning state wrestle back round 1 participant split. Motion carried unanimously.

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### **Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)**

**International Student Policy Proposal – Second Reading – Voice Vote** – This was tabled for the June meeting.

**Bylaw Changes and Clarifications Proposal – First Reading – Voice Vote** – Mr. Popadiuk reviewed the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures to ensure accuracy and consistency. There are a number of areas that are out of date or not worded correctly within the spirit of the rule. Additionally, there are areas that need to be amended in order to address new areas of need or to clarify our practices. In consultation with NJSIAA staff and counsel, Mr. Popadiuk recommends the following changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures. Each recommended change is supported by a brief rationale statement.

### **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

[Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.]

#### **Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 D (Athletic Recruitment)**

5. Any evidence that a student has moved to a residence associated with, leased, or provided by anyone associated with the school or acting at the direction of the school,



including but not limited to administration, staff, coaches, students, parents, booster clubs, or any organization having a connection with the school, shall be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting.

CL 1: Boarding at a boarding school shall not be considered prima facie evidence of recruiting. A boarding school is defined as a school which has an enrolled boarding school population in grades 9 through 12 of at least 25 students or five percent of the full student enrollment, whichever is larger. Boarding students must spend at least an average of five days per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session.

**Rationale:** This provides a definition of a boarding school and eligibility criteria for its students.

## **Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 K (Transfers)**

### 2. Definitions:

**Transfer:** A “transfer” occurs when a student who has previously enrolled in a secondary school leaves that school and enrolls in a new one. The date of transfer shall be the earlier of the first day of class or the first day of sports participation at the new school.

CL1: It is considered a transfer if a homeschooled student moves from homeschooling to a high school or from a high school to homeschooling. If the student’s home district has a Board of Education policy that permits homeschooled students to participate in sports, the student will be exempt from the penalty sit when transferring from homeschooling to the home district or from the home district to homeschooling.

**Rationale:** This defines homeschooling as a school and permits students to play without penalty when transferring from homeschooling to home district and vice versa if the district allows homeschoolers to play. It makes sense to do this as they would have been able to play for the home district if they did not transfer.

### 9. Exceptions:

Immediate eligibility, without penalty, will be granted for transfers resulting from DCP&P placement, court placement, HIB transfers, and military transfers.

**Rationale:** Court placement is not necessary as it is redundant with DCP&P exception.

## **Bylaws, Article VIII (Contest Rules-Championships-Officials)**

### **Section 3**

All baseball, basketball, field hockey, fencing, football, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, volleyball, and wrestling officials working in any NJSIAA interscholastic baseball, basketball, field hockey, fencing, football, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, or volleyball game, gymnastics or swimming meet, or wrestling match, must be registered with the Association.

All officials working in any NJSIAA interscholastic competition must be registered with the Association.

**Rationale:** This covers us for all of our sports, and future sports, rather than listing individually.

## **Rules and Regulations**

### **Section 7 Practices/Scrimmages/Games/Meets**

A student shall not be permitted to participate in a scrimmage or a game (interschool) in any

strenuous sport until he/she has completed six days of practice in that sport (days of 24 hours, not sessions) and one day of rest. ~~Practices during the Summer Recess prior to the official opening of the Sports Season cannot be counted to fulfill this requirement. The above restriction will be waived for Student-Athletes who are members of a team participating in competition after the start of the next season provided the athlete becomes a practicing member within three (3) practice days. The six (6) days of practice and one (1) day of rest do not have to be consecutive but must adhere to the seven (7) day time frame. This requirement applies to all three seasons.~~

~~CL 1: Summer Recess practices do not count for "six-day" interschool scrimmage or game provisions. Only those practices from the official opening of the Sports Season may be counted to fulfill this requirement. Any workouts, including summer recess, prior to the first official day of practice for a particular sport cannot be counted to fulfill this requirement.~~

~~CL 2: Sunday practices may be counted only if approved by the local Board of Education. The six (6) day practice rule begins on the first official day of practice for each sport excluding bowling and golf.~~

~~CL3: The six (6) day practice rule will be waived for Student-Athletes who are members of a team participating in an NJSIAA competition after the start of the next season provided the athlete becomes a practicing member within three (3) practice days.~~

~~CL 34: A practice is defined as a session where a team is assembled and involved in physical activity to enhance the participant's physical condition. Practices of any kind for individuals, partial or entire teams, on days when the team is involved in interscholastic scrimmages or games-meets will not count toward satisfying the six (6) day rule.~~

~~CL 4CL5: It is a local option for schools to permit ineligible students to practice or compete in interscholastic scrimmages. An ineligible student may not participate in an interscholastic regular season contest or scrimmage. Such practices will count to satisfy the six (6) day practice rule. The above is applicable provided the school meets the medical examination and parental permission as required by the State Board of Education.~~

~~CL 56: Any lapses consisting of four (4) or more days, a restart of the six (6) day rule must occur.~~

~~CL 67: If a student was eligible to participate in a team practice after three (3) consecutive days off but missed the fourth day because of a situation beyond the student's control (i.e., the school closed for a holiday, Sunday, weather, etc.) a restart is not needed if the student practices the next available day.~~

~~CL 8: Only practices with the school team count toward the six (6) day practice rule. No national/club practices will count toward the six (6) day practice rule.~~

~~Interscholastic scrimmages, are not subject, excluding baseball, tennis, softball and golf, are to be limited to the any number of games, meets, or matches. However, permitted in the sport during the regular season. The rule regarding numbers of contests on consecutive days will be enforced.~~

**Rationale:** *This clarifies and organizes the existing rule so that it reads more clearly to ADs. It was approved by the Executive Committee and SMAC.*

### **Interpretive Guidelines for Student-Athlete Eligibility, Most Commonly Applied Eligibility Rules (Transfers)**

If the Principal and Athletic Director of the student's former school do not complete ~~refuse to sign~~ a

Transfer Form in a timely manner, then the Chief Compliance Officer shall rule on the student's eligibility based on available evidence and documentation. If necessary, a hearing shall be held at the next scheduled meeting of the Eligibility Appeals Committee and an oral decision reached on that date, which shall thereafter be expressed more fully in writing by either the Committee within ten days. Until the Chief Compliance Officer has made a ruling, or the hearing is concluded, the transferring student shall be ineligible.

**Rationale:** *This more accurately describes our practice. When prior schools don't fill out the transfer form, we clear the athlete (after a period of time).*

### **Section 13 Tournament Entry-**

Member schools are to download the appropriate entry forms from [www.njsiaa.org](http://www.njsiaa.org) for state tournament competition. Tournament regulations will be posted no earlier than four weeks before the tournament date. NO entries **or Tournament Refusal Forms** which are postmarked after the cut-off date will be accepted unless accompanied by a late fee established by the NJSIAA.

*~~CL 1: A late fee charge of \$50.00, when a school's game or meet schedule or tournament entry form is late (beyond the established deadlines but prior to the pairings, seeding or heat meeting), is to be paid before the contestant or team is allowed to participate. If the entry is received after the seeding but prior to the first game of the tournament, an administrative fee of \$150 will be assessed the school.~~*

**Rationale:** *This is addressed elsewhere.*

### **Section 16 Withdrawal/NJSIAA Tournaments**

Any member school and/or Student-Athlete withdrawing from competition after having officially entered an NJSIAA tournament in any sport will be disqualified from all remaining NJSIAA tournament competition in that sport in that season and may be barred from participating in NJSIAA tournament competition in that sport during the next school year unless truly extraordinary circumstances were present.

**Rationale:** *The punishment of barring from the following year should be viewed on a case-by-case basis.*

## **Specific Sport Regulations**

### 4. Disqualification

*CL 4: Student-athletes, grades 9-11, who are disqualified from their last game or next to last game will serve the penalty in that sport in the subsequent school year. If the student-athlete does not participate in that sport in the subsequent school year, the penalty will carry over to the next sports season in which the student participates, according to the penalty provision of that subsequent sport. If the student-athlete is unable to fulfill the penalty, member schools are required to take proper administrative action to discipline the student.*

**Rationale:** *This clarifies end of the year disqualifications for grades 9-11 and is consistent with grade 12 penalties.*

- j. Any player that leaves the bench area during an altercation, regardless of whether the player engages in the altercation ~~whether to intervene or participate~~, shall be disqualified, and will be subject to the disqualification penalty (automatically disqualified from the next two contests.) Only coaches can leave the bench with the purpose of restraining players and stopping the altercation.

**Rationale:** This clarifies that a player who leaves the bench and does not participate or intervene will be disqualified.

## Ice Hockey

Section 1 Rules National Federation Ice Hockey Rules, with the following exceptions, shall govern all NJSIAA games.

1. The game shall consist of three periods of 15 minutes. An exception may be allowed when participating out of state.
2. On a disqualification penalty, the player shall be put in the custody of the coach on the bench.
3. ~~There shall be no overtime periods, except in playoffs, regular season tournaments, or when playing out of state.~~

~~CL: Overtime will be permitted during the regular season only when playing out of state for purposes of complying with the host state's rules.~~

**Rationale:** Executive Committee approved overtime for ice hockey.

### All Section 8s in each Specific Sport

~~Section 8 Maximum Games A member school may play eighteen (18) regular scheduled games, plus one (1) county or league/conference based tournament, plus the State Tournament, including regular season interschool scrimmages and postponed games from the start of the Regular Schedule to the end of the State Tournament. Provided for in Program Regulations, Section 8.~~

**Rationale:** Format is consistent with other sections.

## Soccer

Section 16 Championship Eligibility A student competing on an interscholastic soccer team must play as a member of his/her high school team in at least 50% of the school's total games to be eligible for the NJSIAA State Tournament.

~~CL: This means a student must be eligible to play in at least 50% of the school's games up to and including cut-off date while he/she was properly enrolled and eligible at said school according to NJSIAA regulations. Extraordinary circumstances (i.e. injuries or participation on US National teams) will be reviewed on a case by case basis for the purposes of this clarification.~~

CL: Students who experience Extraordinary Circumstances, which are limited to injuries/medical reasons or return from academic ineligibility, must play in at least 50% of the school's games, up to and including the cut-off date, less those games in which the student was not able to compete due to the Extraordinary Circumstance. Extraordinary Circumstances shall be reviewed on a case- by-case basis by the NJSIAA upon request by the school.

**Rationale:** Makes language consistent with other sports.

### Guidelines, Policies and Procedures

#### Recruiting Violations Chart

- Direct recruiting contact/communication with a 9-12 grade student-athlete, or their family, from another high school by a district approved person including, but not limited to: paid coaches, volunteer coaches, students at the behest of their coach, or any district employee.

**Rationale:** Adding family eliminates the loophole of recruiting by talking directly to an athlete's family members.

## Waivers

Member schools must be aware of the fact that waivers are only intended to equalize opportunities among otherwise eligible students who cannot strictly comply with the eligibility rules because of circumstances beyond their control and is not intended to provide such students with an actual advantage over the great majority of students who maintain appropriate academic standards over the normal eight semester secondary program. Accordingly, waivers of these rules are never granted where it would allow a student to participate in more than four seasons in any one sport, or where a student has repeated an academic semester or year of secondary school for academic reasons. reasons, or where a student repeats a grade that the student has demonstrated proof of passing grades and earned enough credits to advance to the next academic grade level.

**Rationale:** This emphasizes the NJSIAA's stance on redshirting.

## Vaping

### **~~INTERIM VAPOR/E-CIGARETTES POLICY (under review)~~**

~~It has come to the attention of NJSIAA that vapor/e-cigarettes maybe/are being used by student athletes and/or coaches prior to, during, or after interscholastic events. The NFHS rule book(s) state "the use of tobacco products" results in a flagrant disqualification, but there is no mention of vapor/e-cigarettes. When contacted, the NFHS replied that vapor/e-cigarettes are to be treated as a traditional cigarette, which is identified as a tobacco/and or nicotine product, and therefore means any use of the vapor/e-cigarettes shall be enforced as a flagrant disqualification. The NJSIAA position on this matter is that we will adhere to the ruling stated above. We will refer this matter to the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee for further study and after receiving the Medical Advisory Committees' recommendation(s), we will develop a permanent policy and will distribute such to the member schools of NJSIAA.~~

**Rationale:** It will be referenced in the Statute on page 1.

A motion was made by Daniel Finkle, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to amend the NJSIAA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Guidelines, Rules and Procedures, as outlined above. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

**Eligibility and Cooperative Sports Program Update** – The Eligibility Committee met on 5/1 for its last meeting of the year. Mr. Popadiuk thanked the Athletic Directors who submitted their fall waiver requests early instead of waiting until the August meeting.

The Cooperative Sports Committee will meet next week to review 86 winter sport requests (majority being ice hockey cooperative sports waivers). Mr. Abdelaziz asked if there's data showing how often schools go back to having independent programs. Mr. Popadiuk shared that there tends to be a couple each year, but with budgets dwindling and participation in youth sports decreasing, there is a need for these programs. Also, the applications now are more comprehensive and require schools to answer what they are doing to build their programs. Due to the growth of ice hockey cooperative sports programs, ice hockey cooperative sports programs now have their own state championship division and do not compete against single-school programs in the NJSIAA state tournament.

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### **Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)**

**Power Point Proposal (Revised) – First Reading – Voice Vote** – A power point proposal was presented to the Executive Committee in April, but after presenting it to Leagues and Conferences officers, Mr. Maselli

made several changes based on recommendations and feedback from NJSIAA's Leagues and Conference officers. The formula/calculations originally proposed were not changed, but more detailed information about the proposal was included for transparency of the calculations. Mr. Maselli presented the following revised power points proposal for approval.

### NJSIAA PowerPoint Calculation Procedure

The PowerPoints earned from each game are based on the sum of Quality Points and Residual Points, which is then multiplied by a strength of schedule factor (OOWP). The sum of each game's power points will then be averaged, and the result will be your team's PowerPoints.

#### Notes:

- All games played from opening day to the cutoff date will count, regardless of how many games are played.
- Each sport has a predetermined minimum number of games (see chart). All teams that fall below this minimum number are still eligible for the playoffs, however their points will be divided by the minimum number according to the chart.
- Games completed after the cutoff date will not count even if they were started before the cutoff date.
- Residual points will be awarded based on your opponents' first "N" games – the variable of "N" is sport- specific (see chart).
- Ties will be calculated only for sports where the regulations state ties are acceptable outcomes.

Sport	Minimum number of Games	Residual Points (First N Games)	Out of State / Non-Member Assigned Records
Baseball	16	16	8-8
Basketball	16	16	8-8
Field Hockey	12	12	6-6
Ice Hockey	14	14	7-7
Soccer	12	12	6-6
Softball	16	16	8-8
Tennis	8	8	4-4
Volleyball	16	16	8-8

The minimum number of games and first "N" games are determined by multiplying the maximum number of games permitted by 70%. The following are exceptions to this formula:

- Ice Hockey – These numbers need to be an even number, so we rounded down to the nearest even number (14).
- Tennis – Because of weather concerns, we adjusted the percentage to 34% to reflect a third of the season.

### NJSIAA PowerPoint Calculation

#### Formula:

Step 1: (Quality Points + Residual Points) x OOWP = Game PowerPoints

Step 2: (Sum of Game PowerPoints) / Number of Games = Team PowerPoints

Note: All PowerPoints will be rounded to three (3) decimal places where applicable.

#### Components of the formula:

1. **Quality Points** – Based on the outcome of that game
  - WIN = 6 points
  - TIE = 3 points (If applicable)

2. **Residual points** – Based on that opponent’s wins in their first “N” games (see chart).
  - WIN: 3-points x number of opponent’s wins
  - LOSS: 1-point x number of opponent’s wins - minus 1 point.
    - *Note: the 1-point subtraction will be applied regardless of when the game occurred or how many times you played that opponent.*
  - TIE (If applicable):
    - 1.5 points x number of opponent’s wins
    - 0.75 x number of opponent’s ties (not including the outcome of your game).
  
3. **Strength of Schedule Adjustment (OOWP)** – The OOWP is a factor based on your opponent’s opponents winning percentage. The OOWP is based on the average of their win%, for the first “N” games of the season (see chart). Take the average win% and add .500 to it to give you the OOWP value for your game against that team.
  - **Examples:**
    - a. if the average of that team’s opponents’ opponents win% is .650 – then the OOWP = 1.15
    - b. if the average of that team’s opponents’ opponents win% is .350 – then the OOWP = 0.85

**Out of State / Non-Member Opponents** – Games against out-of-state or non-member opponents will count for power points and will follow the same calculation procedure as games against member schools except they will be assigned a .500 record (see chart) for the purposes of residual points and OOWP calculations.

- **Example:**
  - a. If “N” = 16, the opponents record will be set at 8-8 (see chart) and you’ll earn residuals based on the OOS/NM opponent having 8 wins.

**PowerPoint Tie Breaking Procedure**

1. Head-to-Head Competition. Any ties involving 3 or more teams, move to step #2
2. Average quality points per game.
3. Average residual points per game.
4. Average OOWP for all opponents.
5. Common Opponent(s)
  - a. Example: Team A is 3-0 vs. team C and team B is 2-0 vs. team C, go to #6
  - b. Example: Team A is 2-1 vs. team C and team B is 1-1 vs. team C, go to #6
  - c. Example: Team A is 1-1 vs. team C and team B is 2-0 vs. team C, Team B wins tiebreaker.
  - d. Example: Team A is 2-0 vs. team C and team B is 3-1 vs. team C, Team A wins tiebreaker.
6. Winning %
7. Coin Toss

The tie breaking procedure above includes all contests from the competition start date to the cutoff date.

**Seed Jumping Procedure** (if used)

1. Seed jumping will receive consideration only when a lower-ranked team has defeated the team ranked immediately above (higher).
2. Any split of head-to-head matches will be dropped from the discussion.
3. Movement in the seed may occur one step at a time on the basis of the Head-to-Head criterion (i.e., If as defeated 5th in rank/seed, then they switch positions; if 6th in rank defeats both #5 and #4 then a double jump.

Mr. Welborne asked questions about the strength of schedule points as it related to federated members. Mr. Maselli explained that games against federated schools will count for power points and will follow the same calculation procedure as games against member schools except they will be assigned a .500 record (see chart) for the purposes of residual points and OOWP calculations, so there’s still some incentive to play federated member schools.

A motion was made by Russell Petrocelli, seconded by Paul Vizzuso, to move to the new revised powerpoint system starting with the 2024-25 school year, for all sports using the current powerpoint system. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

**Sports Medical Advisory Committee (SMAC) Meeting Recap** – The two topics below were the big discussions at the last SMAC meeting:

1. The Department of Education has created a new PPE Form but has not given the Association any information about it so Mr. Maselli doesn't know when it will be released. Some procedures will change with the new form, but Mr. Maselli isn't clear how yet, but is working on gathering information about it, and will provide educational guidance when possible.
2. The committee has concerns if baseline testing concussions becomes mandatory, so they were being proactive making plans for this possible scenario.

**Baseball, Girls Lacrosse and Boys Tennis Update** – There's been a great stretch of weather for spring sports. Most sports will seed on Monday, 5/20.

Currently, Mr. Maselli has been interviewing several companies to be NJSIAA's officials assignment company. Zebraweb is contracted through June 2025.

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### **Al Stumpf**

**Golf Update** – The sectional golf meets took place on 5/6 and 5/7. There were concerns about schools not having a minimum of six matches, but when Mr. Stumpf checked, most had 12-14 matches. Megan Meng from Hopewell Valley Meng won the boys Central/South Group 2 sectional title. And Natalya Slonis from Paul VI hit a hole in one, in front of her dad, who is the golf coach. The championships will take place on 5/13 and 5/14 at the Raritan Valley Country Club.

**Spring Track & Field Update** – MileSplit is now open.

**Unified Spring Track & Field** – 16 teams have committed to participating in the Unified Spring Track Championship Meet, which is an increase from past years, and there are four more potential schools interested. The championship meet will take place at Franklin HS on Thursday, June 6 at 5 pm.

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### **Derryk Sellers**

**Boys Volleyball Update** – The Group 1 & 3 finals will take place on 6/5, while the Group 2 & 4 finals will be on 6/6.

**Softball Update** – The non-public finals will take place at Kean University on 6/6, while the public finals will take place at Ivy Hill Park on 6/7.

**Boys Lacrosse** – The non-public finals will be on 6/6 at Kean University, while the publics will play on 6/08 at Hunterdon Central HS or Ridge HS.

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### **Finance Committee Update – Jason Corley**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The April 9, 2024 through May 6, 2024 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Paul Vizzuso



made a motion, seconded by Barry Walker, to approve the April 9, 2024 through May 6, 2024 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Report of Counsel (Steven Goodell)** – There is currently no ongoing litigation. Last month, Mr. Goodell and Ms. Maguire attended the NFHS Legal Meeting and did a presentation about NJ's new transfer rules. Many states were interested and look forward to a future update to see how well it is working.

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**Old Business / New Business** – none.

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**Closed Session** – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Tammy Wagner to enter closed session at 12:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

In closed session, a motion was made by Tammy Wagner, seconded by Jason Miller, to enter open session at 1:23pm. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made by Daniel Finkle, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, at 1:23 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire  
Executive Director

CEM: In