

**SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**New York State Public High School Athletic Association**  
**April 29, 2021                      9:30am   Video Conference**

**MINUTES**

**1) Call to order and attendance**

- a) Officers: B. Norcross, J. Barnhart, J. Dann
- b) Staff: M. Walentuk
- c) MVAC: M. Douglas, M. Mills, D. Snide, A. Gonyo
- d) CVAC: W. Larrow, G. Myers, J. Manchester
- e) Executive Committee: J. Harrica, T. Farrell, M. Lawrence S. Broadwell,
- f) Guests: R. Zayas, T. Nelson, K. Jadin – NYSPHSAA
- g) Absent Excused – K. Lopez, V. McMillan, C. Mazzella
- h) Proxies: R. McAuliffe for C. Mazzella – **Harrica, Myers**                      **APPROVED**

**2) Approval of January 21<sup>st</sup> Minutes – Harrica, Myers**                      **APPROVED**

**3) Financial Report – Walentuk – Douglas, Graney**                      **APPROVED**

a) 2020-21 Budget to Date

- i) Received our Spalding Ball Adoption Money shortly after our 1/21 Meeting.
- ii) The Interest Rate on our checking account has dropped.
- iii) Expenses are typical, we are running our 1<sup>st</sup> Aid courses and paying our accountant.
- iv) We are in the process of registering with the NYS Bureau of Charities.
  - 1. Carl Koenig, Section IV treasurer inquired if we were registered and after talking with him, I reached out to Brendan Owens.
  - 2. Brendan Owens recommended this as we will hopefully begin to receive sponsorships that we should receive as part of our agreement with TPG.
  - 3. Any expenses for this process will come out of our audit line.
- v) We may order trophies depending on the outcome of the Council for Spring Sectionals.

b) Proposed 2021-22 Budget – **Dann, Harrica**                      **APPROVED**

- i) Revenue
  - 1. Dropped our earned interest line to reflect the dropping interest rates.
  - 2. Increased Souvenir Sales line to reflect Off the Field Sports agreement
  - 3. Added a Corporate Sponsor line to reflect the agreement with TPG.
  - 4. Decreased the NYSPHSAA Revenue Share to reflect the reduction in the Spalding Ball Adoption Monies.
- ii) Liabilities

1. We need to keep some money in the Assignors line because the Section has to pay for any Assignor errors. An official will receive ½ game fee if they show up and there is no contest.
2. Arbitrator is zeroed out because we use rschooltoday to assign officials.
3. Increased chairpersons line as we have more chairpersons and more state championships.
4. Increased championships as there will be more cost for hotel rooms as we anticipate on going to double occupancy.

#### 4) Conference reports/concerns

- a. CVAC
  - i. Finishing up Fall Season 2 and getting ready for the Spring season.
- b. MVAC
  - i. Beginning baseball and softball next week.
  - ii. No MVAC championship just games.
  - iii. Most schools are choosing the 200 spectator limit.
  - iv. Concern about putting four in a hotel room at Fall State Championships.
  - v. There is not a Sectional schedule yet for soccer, trying to get feel on if neutral sites will be ok.
  - vi. Reminder will go out for schools to update their spectator policy.

#### 5) Executive Director Report – Walentuk

- a. [NYSPHSAA Covid-19 Guidance](#) – most up-to-date guidance
- b. [NYSDOH Guidance](#) – most up-to-date guidance
- c. Actions of the Section VII Executive Committee
  - Approved High Risk Sports Preparedness Plan Template
    - i. So schools could use the template and then send their plans to their local DOH.
  - Approved Section VII Guidelines for Indoor High-Risk Sports
    - i. Did this so all schools are following the same protocols.
  - Approved dates for the following seasons:
    - i. Winter Season End Date: 4/17
    - ii. Fall Season 2 Dates: 3/22-5/8
    - iii. Spring Season Dates: 4/19 – TBA
  - Approved the following language for indoor sports:
    - i. In consultation with local health departments and school districts with appropriate approvals and protocols followed; for one home contest, 2 spectators per senior athlete will be permitted at an indoor event for the 2020-21 school year.
  - Conducted a hearing for a violation of NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Rule 28.b.2

- i. The Section can ban the athlete is from all competition for at most 1-year. We would like to see more clarity in the rule and will bring it up to NYSPHSAA.
- d. Consider approval of Combining of Schools – **Mills, Myers** **APPROVED**
  - Baseball – Bolton & Schroon Lake (mod & varsity)
  - Softball – Bolton & Schroon Lake (mod & varsity)
  - Boys Track & Field – AuSable (host) w/ Willsboro
  - Boys Tennis – Beekmantown (host) w/ Chazy
  - B&G Track & Field – NCCS (host) w/ Chazy
  - Girls Track & Field – AuSable (host) w/ Adirondack Christian School
  - B&G Track & Field – Moriah & Boquet Valley
  - Baseball – Boquet Valley (host) w/ Willsboro (mod & varsity)
- e. Winter Sports Update
  - Hosted bowling and skiing the whole season with the exception for some of the month of January when schools were on pause.
  - Once we received authorization for high-risk sports, some schools chose to contest basketball, ice hockey and cheerleading.
  - The MVAC had an end of the season tournament in basketball.
  - We had some teams that had to pause due to school quarantines
  - We are at end of Fall Season 2 currently.
  - It's been tough on coaches, ADs and the assignor, but we have made it work.
- f. Potential dates of 2021-22 Athletic Council Meetings –**Dann, Douglas** **APPROVED**
  - Thursday, October 7, 2021
  - Thursday, December 9, 2021
  - Thursday, **January 20**, 2022
  - Thursday, April 28, 2022
  - Thursday, June 2, 2022
- g. Conflict of Interest Form
  - Each Athletic Council member has to fill out this form yearly.
- h. Mandatory AD's Workshop – Tuesday, 9/21/21
  - Looking to host this at a venue in Lake Placid
  - NYSPHSAA will make changes to the format if the pandemic dictates.
- i. Discussion Items
  - Proposal to Increase Sectional Prices for 2021-2022 (moving to an action item in June)
    - i. Utilizing digital tickets henceforth
    - ii. Neutral site semifinals \$5
    - iii. Section VII finals \$6 - \$7 if there is a rental fee
    - iv. Regional contests - \$8

- v. Children 10 & under – no admission fee
- vi. We have to be aware of wifi/cell service issues?
- vii. What do we do with people who aren't able to obtain a digital ticket?
  - 1. Have a cashbox on hand with a roll of tickets when we first start. We won't advertise this, but will never turn anyone away at the gate.
- viii. Digital tickets allow us to track capacity and ticket sales in real time and avoid long lines of people.
- ix. We do have credit card acceptors, but we will strongly push fans to purchase their tickets ahead of time.
- x. NYSPHSAA is using the same model next year. Some other states have moved to the same process. We hope to take some of their feedback and put into motion for when we roll this out in the fall.
- Proposal to extend Section VII Championship Souvenirs Agreement
  - i. We have a current agreement in place, this will extend our agreement to 2025/26 and in turn we receive more guaranteed revenue.
  - ii. **Motion to approve the proposal – Harrica, Manchester**  
**APPROVED**
- TPG – Potential Corporate Sponsorships
  - i. We have potential sponsorships from a credit union and a local trade union.
- Principal Rep to the NYSPHSAA Central Committee
  - i. Looking for letters of interest. Hope to have a nominee/candidate at our June meeting.
  - ii. As per our Section VII constitution if two or more candidates are interested the nominee “shall be elected by a majority vote of the member schools.”
- Upcoming Sport Coordinator Vacancy – Softball
  - i. Concern about article published in newspaper in Boys Hockey that had “Section VII” on the trophy and the Athletic Council did not grant approval or permission.
  - ii. Concern about consistency between sports and trying to keep things equitable between sports.
- Modified Committee Rep
  - i. Motion to approve John Burdick as a Section VII Modified Committee Representative – **Myers, Graney**  
**APPROVED**
- Classification Committee
  - i. Created a form that Section VII Open Enrollment (private) schools can fill out on a yearly basis. The classification committee would then

make a recommendation to the Athletic Council for their classifications for the upcoming school year.

- ii. Who would make up this classification committee?
- iii. Decided 2 MVAC reps and 2 CVAC reps
- iv. Currently the reps would be:
  1. Jim Manchester - CVAC
  2. Greg Myers – CVAC
  3. Rob McAuliffe – MVAC
  4. Mike Douglas - MVAC

j. Action Items

- Spring Sectionals & Proposed Dates – **Harrica, Myers**                    **APPROVED**
  - i. B/C dates for baseball and softball are tight due to the length of the CVAC season and trying to work around the 6/17 Regents exam.
  - ii. Both leagues have seen these dates
  - iii. Some concern about lack of participation in some sports this spring. We will need to keep promoting the benefits of interscholastic athletics as we continue to get through and past the pandemic.
  - iv. Robert states that some kids are tired of playing club and may want to play multiple sports as compared to one sport.

k. Important Dates:

- May 5<sup>th</sup> – NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting
- May 11<sup>th</sup> – CVAC AD's Meeting
- June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Athletic Council Meeting
  - i. Question on whether this will be in-person or remote?
  - ii. Question about 90 days after vaccination will we potentially have to be quarantined?
  - iii. Can we offer a virtual link to an in-person meeting?
  - iv. Will look to add a potential golf outing

l. Other

**6) NYSPHSAA Reports**

- a) NYSPHSAA Office Report – R. Zayas
  - i) A goal of NYSPHSAA was to preserve the seasons of as many student-athletes as possible. They have been able to accomplish this.
  - ii) NYC is fully reopening 7/1, Yankee Stadium and Citi Field will be 100% capacity. This sets us up well for the 2021-22 school year.
  - iii) NYSPHSAA plans on offering State Championships as scheduled for the 2021-22 school year.

- iv) Hotels are going to be a concern with limiting the amount of people stay in a hotel room. Joe Altieri is working to book additional hotels.
- v) Fall Sports start date is Monday, 8/23.
- vi) Spectator limitations – you can have up to 200 spectators or 2 spectators/player. Received clarification that 200 spectators in not inclusive of players, coaches and officials.
- vii) Working with Classification ad-hoc committee that is trying to take a look at how we classify schools to see if there are better ways to classify our schools. Have heard from 3 other states as to how they classify their schools. Additionally we conducted a survey regarding number of classifications that each state has for their state championships. What we found is that NY does not offer as many opportunities as the majority of other States.
  - 1. The findings of the ad-hoc committee will be shared at the July Central Committee Meeting.
- b) Central Committee Report - Nothing
- c) Committee Reports
  - i) Modified Committee Report – McMillan
  - ii) CAC Report – Curry, Broadwell
    - 1. In favor - Want to extend Spring Championships for a year.
    - 2. In favor - Cross Country reclassifying their numbers.
    - 3. In favor - Boys/Girls Volleyball changing the way officials are selected.
    - 4. Girls golf – Executive Committee will have to pick a Championship venue.
  - iii) Handbook Committee Report – Walentuk
  - iv) SAAC Report – Douglas
    - 1. Looking for one rising junior (current sophomore) female for the SAAC. Application is online.
    - 2. Hoping to have SAAC summit at the football championships this fall.
  - v) Classification Committee Report – Walentuk
    - 1. Looking at different proposals for classifying and using breakdowns.
    - 2. Focusing on number of programs instead of number schools.
    - 3. Looking at what numbers would be if there were 6 classifications.
    - 4. Will have some proposals moving
- d) February 3, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting: Virtual
  - i) **Action Items**
    - 1. Consider approval of only utilizing digital tickets starting with 2021-2022 NYSPHSAA State Championship with the following ticket fees - \$10/ticket (21-22) - **Yes**
    - 2. Consider approval of the 2021-2022 NYSPHSAA Budget - **Yes**
    - 3. Consider approval to annually report Combining of Teams to the NYSPHSAA staff. - **Yes**

4. Consider approval to annually report Senior All-Star Contests to the NYSPHSAA staff. - **Yes**
  5. Consider approval to modify the selection process for State Sport Coordinators. - **Yes**
  6. Consider approval to eliminate “or a private school within that district’s boundaries” from the NYSPHSAA Transfer Rule. – **No**
    - (a) Did not get recommendation from Transfer nor Handbook Committee
  7. Consider approval of sections intent to participate in 2021-2022 NYSPHSAA State Championships. - **Yes**
    - (a) Do we want to offer a Girls Tennis Tournament in the Fall so female tennis players can qualify for the NYSPHSAA Individual Tennis Tournament?
      - (i) State Tournament may conflict with girls soccer semifinals, it will not conflict with volleyball or cross country sectionals.
      - (ii) Tournament is a 3-days (if student-athlete makes the finals) in Albany.
      - (iii) Section VII will run a qualifying tournament in the fall
  8. Consider approval of changing the Boys and Girls Cross Country Classification cut-off numbers. - **Yes**
  9. Consider approval of USTA Tennis Center in Flushing as host of the 2021-2023 Girl Tennis Team Championships. - **Yes**
  10. Consider approval of (various venues) as the 2022-2024 Girls Golf Championships.
    - (a) Section IV Course is a \$0 bid, but lacks elements need for a championship course.
    - (b) Section 2 and Section V courses are similar, but Section 2 is significantly less after a donation.
    - (c) We will vote for the Section 2 Courses.
  11. Consider approval of USTA Tennis Center in Flushing as host of the 2022-2024 Boys Tennis Team Championships. - **Yes**
  12. Consider approval to advance all Spring 2020 regional rotations and state tournament rotations to 2022 for all spring team sports, plus boys tennis (ind) - **Yes**
  13. Consider approval to extend bid terms for all 2021 Spring State Championships for an additional year as a result of this year’s cancellations. - **Yes**
- ii) **Discussion Items**
1. Consideration of approval to modify the selection process of officials for the NYSPHSAA Boys and Girls Volleyball State Championships.
    - (a) This would allow each section to send 2 officials instead of 1
  2. Consideration of approval to revise the language in the NYSPHSAA Handbook regarding the TASC (GED) students.

- (a) GED is no longer used, it is called TASC. The handbook will include the generic response it gives when asked for an interpretation.
  - 3. Consideration of approval of adding an overtime procedure for Modified Field Hockey.
  - 4. Consideration of approval for Michael Gordon as the Modified Tennis Coordinator.
  - 5. Consideration of approval for NYSPHSAA to allow schools to use a School Based Official.
    - (a) Been discussed for a year now. A school-based official would have to go through the certification process to be an official and their first-year dues would be waived. Once the assignments go out, the school-based official can work a sub-varsity game at their school if needed. Hopefully this will increase membership and increase the number of officials.
  - 6. Consideration of approval to amend the Friend & Neighbor application and approval process.
  - 7. Consideration of approval to adopt a new Lineup Rule for the Girls & Boys Tennis Team Championship at Regional and State tournament levels for a two-year experiment.
  - 8. Consideration of approval of removing #9 under Boys Volleyball in the NYSPHSAA Handbook for a 1-year trial.
  - 9. Consideration of approval of a 1-year extension of the two-libero rule in the sport of Boys Volleyball.
- 7) Officials Report – Walentuk**
- a) We have low numbers of officials especially during the pandemic. May be an issue covering some baseball/softball games this spring.
- 8) Other**
- a) The Section offers its condolences on the passing of Clarke Herdic a former soccer assignor. +
- 9) Adjournment – Harrica, Graney** **APPROVED**

**NEXT MEETING**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2021**