

**SECTION SEVEN ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING**  
**New York State Public High School Athletic Association**  
**October 8, 2020      9:30am   Video Conference**

**MINUTES**

**1) Call to order and attendance**

- a) Officers: B. Norcross, J. Barnhart, C. Mazzella, J. Dann
- b) Staff: M. Walentuk
- c) MVAC: M. Douglas, M. Mills, D. Snide, A. Gonyo
- d) CVAC: V. McMillan, W. Larrow, G. Myers, J. Manchester
- e) Executive Committee: J. Harrica, T. Farrell, M. Lawrence S. Broadwell,
- f) Guests: R. Zayas – NYSPHSAA
  - 1. R. McAuliffe – MVAC Executive Secretary
  - 2. B. Denis – Sportsmanship Chairperson
  - 3. R. Sutphen – Unified Sports Chairperson
  - 4. J. Drucker – Safety Chairperson
- γ) Proxies – R. McAuliffe for K. Lopez
- h) Absent Excused – K. Lopez

**2) Approval of September 14, 2020 Minutes – Myers, Douglas -**

**APPROVED**

**3) Financial Report – Walentuk – Farrell, Myers**

**APPROVED**

**a) Review of 2019-20 End of Year Budget**

- i) Not having the Spring Championships decreased our expenses as well as not having teams travel to State Championships in basketball or ice hockey.
- ii) Deposited NYSPHSAA Revenue Share Checks in June.

**b) Review 2020-21 Budget**

- i) GoFan Ticket Revenue was deposited which was down around \$300 from last year
- ii) Ran Coaches First Aid Course – it was our only expense
- iii) We will not hit our projected revenues nor expenses this year.

**4) Conference reports/concerns**

**a. CVAC**

- a. The CVAC voted unanimously to not worry about Sectional championships but rather to schedule as many games as possible.
- b. The CVAC will charge dues (\$40/sport) based on the sports that they compete after the season concludes. Potentially 3-4 times a year.

**b. MVAC**

- a. Going to talk about dues at next meeting.
- b. Going to talk with schools about their thoughts on Sectionals

**5) Executive Director Report – Walentuk**

- a. Actions of the Executive Committee
  - Approved combing of teams:
    - Football – Plattsburgh w/ Seton
    - Gymnastics – Plattsburgh w/ AuSable Valley and Seton
    - Cross Country – Moriah and Boquet Valley
    - Girls Soccer – AuSable w/ Adirondack Christian School
    - Cross Country – AuSable w/ Adirondack Christian School
    - Girls Swim – AuSable w/ Adirondack Christian School
    - Boys Soccer – AuSable w/ Adirondack Christian School
  - Approved Soccer and Cross Country expectations
  - Approved request to NYSPHSAA for reduction in practice days
- b. Fall Sports Update
  - Discussed the expectations in Soccer, Cross Country, Swimming and Gymnastics.
  - Athletes may go to their benches for soccer mask/hydration breaks.
  - Cross Country will be using staggered starts for their races.
  - In swim all athletes and coaches on the pool deck will have to wear masks. Anyone swimming in the pool is not to wear a mask.
  - In gymnastics athletes will not have to wear a mask while on an apparatus as long as they are at least 12' apart. Any spotter will have to wear a mask and shield.
  - Concern about dehydration with student-athletes who are wearing masks during the school day. They need to be sure to hydrate throughout the day.
  - All scheduling and assigning will be done with rschooltoday
  - Question about officials' vouchers. School business offices can choose which voucher works best for them, whether it's their old voucher, a Section VII voucher or the Officials Contract that rschooltoday generates.
  - Cross Country competed on Saturday 10/3. They have a 6-week schedule set on Saturdays.
  - Girls Swim Schedule finalized 10/7 waiting for CVAC approval.
  - This fall Peru and Plattsburgh are competing in gymnastics this fall.
  - There's still potential seasons for those schools not competing this fall but would want to compete in a Fall 2 season.
  - We cannot lock in a Fall 2 season until we know what's happening with our Winter Season.
  - Going to ask NYSPHSAA why do they set the dates of a Fall 2 season if they are not having any regional or State Championships in those sports? Why not let the Sections set the dates that work best for them.
- c. Health Department Update
  - Talked again to Nichole Louis of the Clinton County Department of Health. Asked about mask vs no mask in sports, should we wear masks even if we

may still be quarantined? Her answer was absolutely because a mask significantly reduces the likelihood of contracting the virus.

- d. NYSPHSAA Covid-19 Guidance
  - Section VII has added expectations to the NYSPHSAA sport-specific Covid guidance.
- e. Consider approval of Combining of Schools – **McMillan, Myers**      **APPROVED**
  - Football (JV/Mod) – AuSable w/ Willsboro
  - Boys Hockey – Beekmantown w/ Chazy and AuSable
  - Boys Hockey – Plattsburgh w/ Seton
  - Boys Hockey – Saranac w/ Peru and NAC
  - Girls Hockey – PHS w/ Saranac, Peru, Seton and Willsboro
  - Girls Hockey – Saranac Lake and Lake Placid
  - B/G Nordic Skiing – Lake Placid w/ Keene
  - Boys Swim – Plattsburgh w/ Seton Catholic
  - Football Cheer – Plattsburgh w/ Seton Catholic
  - B/G Tennis – Lake Placid w/ Saranac Lake
- f. Mandatory AD Meeting – Online this year
  - A webinar setup this year. Every NYSPHSAA school Athletic Coordinator/Director has to complete this training.
- g. BEDS Numbers update
  - Provided an update. The cutoffs will remain the same. In the 5-sport classifications we have:
    - i. Class B:
      - 1. Plattsburgh
      - 2. Peru
      - 3. Beekmantown
      - 4. Northeastern Clinton
      - 5. Saranac Lake
      - 6. Saranac
    - ii. Class C
      - 1. AuSable Valley
      - 2. Ticonderoga
      - 3. Northern Adirondack
      - 4. Moriah
      - 5. Lake Placid
    - iii. Class D
      - 1. Boquet Valley
      - 2. Chazy
      - 3. Schroon Lake
      - 4. Johnsburg

5. Crown Point
6. Willsboro
7. Bolton
8. Wells
9. Indian Lake
10. Seton Catholic\*
11. Keene
12. Newcomb
13. Minerva
14. Long Lake

iv. \* Seton competes Class C in 5 sport classification.

h. Important Dates:

- October 8<sup>th</sup> – Athletic Council Meeting
- *October 21<sup>st</sup>* – NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting – *Embassy Suites Saratoga*
- November 15<sup>th</sup> – Appeals Committee Meeting
- November 30<sup>th</sup> – Winter Sports Start Date

i. Other

**6) NYSPHSAA Reports**

a) NYSPHSAA Office Report – R. Zayas

- i) Update on Covid Response – biggest question is when can Winter Sports start? The start date was pushed to November 30<sup>th</sup>. The guidance from NYSDOH says that higher risk sports can practice but not play games and that this will be reevaluated before December 31<sup>st</sup>. We are seeing increased Covid cases in NY currently and it's difficult to reach out to State officials given our current circumstances. Instead of waiting for State DOH, we can show them what it will look like. We can't send that until we see a decrease. Questions coming in about face coverings and screenings, NYSPHSAA does not recommend being stricter than the NYSDOH. Question about face masks vs gaiters what has Robert seen? All across the board. Robert is frustrated with the Youth Sports activities and their lack of compliance as compared to interscholastic athletics. Robert has not heard of any outbreaks linked to interscholastic athletics at the national level. Outbreaks have been linked to club sports.

b) Central Committee Report

- i) Boys Ice Hockey period length was changed to 17 mins. As a Section we can choose to keep it at 15 minutes

c) Committee Reports

- i) Modified Committee Report – McMillan
  1. Meeting 10/9

- ii) CAC Report – Curry, Broadwell
    - 1. Robert covered everything
  - iii) SAAC Report – Douglas
    - 1. Talked about sending out scholar athlete certificates electronically
  - iv) Championship Philosophy Committee – Staves
    - 1. Nothing
  - v) Safety Committee – Drucker
    - 1. Touched on Covid, but nothing new
  - vi) Sportsmanship Committee – Denis
    - 1. Discussion about having 6 Sections with 4 schools in order to have State Championships
    - 2. Coaches Appreciation Days 10/6-10/8
    - 3. Officials Appreciation Days – week of 10/20
    - 4. Adding language of non-discriminatory to the pre-game NYSPHSAA Sportsmanship Meeting
- d) October 21, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting: Embassy Suites, Saratoga Springs
- i) Action Items**
- 1. Consider approval of 2021-2022 school enrollment numbers **Yes**
  - 2. Consider approval of Patti Perrone as the Girls Volleyball State Coordinator for a 1-year term. **Yes**
  - 3. Consider approval to adopt Girls/Boys Tennis Team Championship **We don't have much success in this sport.**
  - 4. Consider approval in Boys Volleyball – Use of two libero system **Yes**
  - 5. Consider approval to advance all 2020 Fall regional and state tournament rotations to 2021 for all fall team sports plus girls tennis. **Yes**
  - 6. Consider approval to extend bid terms for all 2020 Fall State Championships for an additional year as a result of the cancelation of these state championships **Yes**
  - 7. Consider approval to add additional value parts for Uneven Bars in Gymnastics Handbook **Yes**
  - 8. Consider approval to adopt pilot structure, training, scoring in Competitive Cheer. **Yes**
  - 9. Consider approval of modifications to State Scoresheet in Competitive Cheer - **Yes**
  - 10. Consider approval to implement Game Day Cheer Regional Competitions in the fall of 2021 to be held during week #17 on the NYSPHSAA calendar. - **Yes**
  - 11. Consideration of approval to be permitted to annually approve sites to host Boys Ice Hockey regional contests. (will be tabled for further discussion) -
  - 12. Consider approval of the LECOM HarborCenter as the host of the 2022-2024 NYSPHSAA Boys Ice Hockey State Championships. – **Need to talk with Coordinator. The Aud in Utica did not bid.**

13. Consider two-year pilot of automatic qualifying procedure in Wrestling - **Yes**
14. Consider approval to rebid the 2022-2024 NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Championships - **Yes**

ii) **Discussion Items**

1. Consideration of approval to use the “COHORT” numbers for the NYSPHSAA classifications. **NYSPHSAA does not have the ability to get these numbers, it would be contingent on each school reporting this accurately.**
2. Consideration of approval to remove merged team requirement from the School of Distinction and Excellence applications.
3. Consideration of approval to modify the current appeals procedure used in NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Championships (Dual & Individual) **Video replay will be utilized.**
4. Consideration of approval to add “No racial or non-discriminatory comments or slurs” to the Sportsmanship Official’s card that is read at the beginning of each NYSPHSAA contest.

7) **Other**

- a) Question on honoring past members
- b) Question on can teams play during after being eliminated from Sectionals? The answer is Yes.
- c) Can we inform the public

8) **Adjournment – Harrica, Mazzella**

**APPROVED**

- a) We can meet in the upstairs of the Ski Jump Complex and be spaced properly.
- b) Going to check with ORDA to see how much notice we would need to give them if we need to cancel to a full virtual meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2020**