



News Release

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Section One Athletic Council Approves Changes to Soccer, Field Hockey, Boys Tennis

HARRISON, N.Y. — The Athletic Council of Section One, Inc., of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) met on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, to review proposals related to multiple sports and consider the creation of new awards that meet and further the mission and vision of the section as a whole.

BOYS AND GIRLS SOCCER

Effective in the fall of 2024, the Athletic Council approved a proposal to eliminate overtime in boys and girls soccer for the regular season. The decision was made to provide relief to athletes and prevent an unnecessary risk of injury. The elimination of overtime periods will reduce the need for additional playing time during the fall season, when weather-related postponements can cause the schedule to result in athletes playing as many as 320 minutes or more in a given week. This increase often occurs as teams lead into the Section One tournament, potentially leaving them at a disadvantage when moving through sectional and regional play.

FIELD HOCKEY

Also beginning in the fall of 2024, there will be one, 10-minute overtime period added in field hockey during the regular season. This change will be for the varsity level only.

The overtime period will consist of 7-on-7 play, which will better prepare teams for postseason play. Through information gathering from other sections, it was determined that Section One was the only section in the NYSPHSAA that did not play any form of overtime during the field hockey regular season.

BOYS TENNIS

The Athletic Council also approved league realignment and the creation of a new team seeding system for the 2024 and 2025 boys tennis seasons. The new league alignments will be strength-based and allow for greater competitive balance across all leagues. The regular season will be extended to provide more teams with an adequate number of matches.



The league realignment will coincide with a reduction of the postseason team tournament fields from twelve teams to eight. In addition to allowing for more regular season matches, it will reduce the number of days required to complete the tournament, which will be scheduled between the end of the regular season and the beginning of the individual tournaments.

The league realignment and new postseason qualifying and seeding standards were adopted for spring 2024 and 2025 as a two-year pilot program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Athletic Council voted to create a Section One Community Service Award to better recognize the work being done by coaches and their student-athletes. The Sportsmanship Committee believes this new award, which will go into effect in the fall of 2024, will help honor and promote the student-athletes of Section One for a wider range of their work in the area of civility and sportsmanship. The Sportsmanship Committee also believes this award will complement other existing awards, which honor certified officials, teams and individual athletes for their outstanding displays of sportsmanship. All forms of service, including volunteerism, donation, and mentoring, will be honored and valued by this new award.

There will be one winner selected by the Sportsmanship Committee each season. Administrators, coaches and student-athletes are eligible to apply on behalf of their team or school. Only teams from NYSPHSAA-sanctioned sports will be eligible, but teams will not need to be in-season to apply for the award.

POSTSEASON AWARDS

Additionally, it was approved that athletes who participate on teams who seek competitive relief during the regular season will now be eligible for postseason awards. It was determined that those athletes being previously ineligible for awards was detrimental to those who were worthy of consideration.

The Athletic Council is scheduled to meet again on March 19, 2024.

The Center for Interscholastic Athletics, a division of Southern Westchester BOCES, serves 77 high schools in Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester counties, providing support with the organization and management of athletic programs. Section One is part of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Inc., a non-profit organization that provides equitable and safe competition for the students of public, private and parochial member schools.

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