



## Athletic Council Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

**(A)** Action

**(D)** Discussion

**(I)** Information

Voting Members	Representative
President	Joe Sigillo
Conference I Athletic Director	Lindsay Zekus
Conference I Athletic Director	Chris Galano
Conference I Athletic Director	Steve Luciana <i>(Absent)</i>
Conference I Principal	David Seipp <i>(Absent)</i>
Conference II Athletic Director	Mike Arias
Conference II Athletic Director	Anthony DeRosa
Conference II Athletic Director	Dean Berardo
Conference II Principal	<i>Vacant</i>
Conference III Athletic Director	Joe Ceglia
Conference III Athletic Director	Chris Drosopoulos
Conference III Athletic Director	Denise Kiernan
Conference III Principal	Joe Palumbo
At-Large Athletic Director (Class D)	Anthony Nicodemo
Championship Committee Co-Chair	Tom Baker <i>(Absent)</i> Adam Lodewick <i>(Absent)</i>
Non-Voting Members	Representative
Executive Director, CIA/Treasurer	Todd Santabarbara
Assistant Director, CIA/Assistant Treasurer/ Recording Secretary	Jesse Merchant
Guests	Representative
NYSPHSAA Executive Director	Robert Zayas
NYSPHSAA Female Athletic Director Rep	Susan Reid-Dullea
NYSPHSAA Male Athletic Director Rep	Rob Pollok <i>(Absent)</i>

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

*Meeting was called to order at 9:38am.*

**II. Approval of the Agenda**

**(A)** Consider approval of the agenda

*Motion to approve the agenda: Kiernan / Arias*

**Carried:** Aye=11      Nay=0      Abstention=0

**III. Approval of the Minutes:**

**(A)** Consider approval of the **October 12, 2023** meeting minutes

*Motion to approve: Ceglia / Zekus*

**Carried:** Aye=11      Nay=0      Abstention=0

#### IV. Treasurer's Report:

##### (A) Consider approval of the Financial Report

- *Cash Balance: \$937,709.44*
- *Reserve Balance: \$79,545.25*

*Motion to approve the Financial Report: Sigillo / Drosopoulos*

**Carried:** *Aye=11      Nay=0      Abstention=0*

#### V. Officer's Reports: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

- *President – Joe Sigillo posed a question regarding reconditioning and its requirements. The Safety Committee will review and brainstorm ways to support the schools.*
- *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – absent*
- *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – absent*

#### VI. Sponsorship Presentation: N/A

#### VII. Section One Report

##### (I) Basic Concepts of Athletic Alignment Ballot Results

*The ballot was due Friday October 27<sup>th</sup> and required the signature of the School Superintendent, High School Principal and Athletic Director. The ballot was **Defeated:** Yes – 30; No – 31*

*The alignment will remain in the existing format for the lifetime of the current document which expires in June 2025.*

##### (I) 2024-25 HS/MS Start Dates

*The NYSPHSAA Football Committee may likely craft a proposal to establish an earlier start date for the 2024-25 Fall Football season. The Football coordinators are canvassing the coordinators of other sports to see if there is support across the Fall season.*

#### VIII. NYSPHSAA Report: Dr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director

##### (I) Results of action items from the October 18<sup>th</sup> NYSPHSAA Executive Committee agenda

*Susan Reid & Rob Pollok, NYSPHSAA Female & Male AD Reps*

*Brief discussion occurred around the following Executive Committee items occurred:*

- *School Enrollment numbers*
- *6 classifications numbers*
- *3<sup>rd</sup> Division*
- *Change to the Combining of Teams formula*
- *The NYSPHSAA increase to membership dues*

##### (I) 2024-25 School Enrollment Numbers

##### (I) NYSPHSAA Ad-Hoc Committee – Regional Rotations and State Championship Format

*Tom Baker, Hendrick Hudson HS*

*The Section One Championship Committee recently met to work on a proposal to NYSPHSAA in an effort to make regional rotations fairer and more equitable between sections. Tom Baker recently presented to the Ad-Hoc Committee to collect feedback from around the state. NYSPHSAA staff is expected to attend the next championship committee meeting.*

**IX. Mergers/Combining of Teams:**

**(A)** Consider approval of the proposed mergers/combining of teams for the 2023-24 school year

*Motion to approve: Luciana / Zekus*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

*Motion to approve the New Rochelle & Bronxville combined team application for Boys Swim:*

*Kiernan / Derosa*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

**X. Outside Agency Requests:**

**(A)** Consider approval of the Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational (*Somers HS*)

*Motion to approve: Zekus / Drosopoulos*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

**XI. Self-Reports:**

- Horace Greeley Varsity Girls Soccer – Use of an ineligible player  
*Jamie Block, Horace Greeley Athletic Director*

*The self-report included the use of an ineligible player in the final game of the 2023 regular season. The school embraced the NYSPHSAA prescribed penalty requiring the forfeiture of the contest and suspended their coach for a semifinal playoff game. No further action was taken by the Athletic Council.*

**XII. Friend & Neighbor Applications:** N/A

**XIII. Senior All-Star Applications:**

**(A)** Consider approval of the Girls Volleyball Senior All-Star contest (*White Plains HS*)

*Motion to approve: Drosopoulos / Derosa*

**Carried:** Aye=11      Nay=1      Abstention=0

**XIV. New Member School Presentations / Applications:** N/A

**XV. General Action/Discussion/Informational Items (Proposals):** N/A

**XVI. Sports Action/Discussion/Informational Items (Proposals):**

**(D)** Consider approval of the **BOYS TENNIS** seeding/qualifying structure

*Based upon feedback, two power leagues have been proposed to address the concerns associated with the qualifying and seeding standards previously used for the sport of tennis. In addition, the Boys Tennis Sport Chair, Chris Galano shared recent issues with Tennis coaches adding the results of their contests into the UTR system for seeding the team tournament.*

**XVII. Standing Committee Proposals**

Championship Committee, Tom Baker & Adam Lodewick, Co-Chairs

**(I)** Proposed 2023-24 winter championship tournament sites (Section & Regional)

*The proposed 2023-24 winter championship tournament sites were shared in advance of the Executive Committee meeting on Monday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The use of College/University sites was brought up but various committee members shared the challenges they have experienced since the pandemic with securing these facilities for their community or in their capacity as Sport Chairs.*

Modified Committee, Dean Berardo, Chair

**(A)** Consideration of permitting one 30-second sudden victory period for the sport of wrestling

*Motion to approve: Berardo / Sigillo*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

Merger / Combining of Teams Committee, Austin Goldberg, Chair

**(I)** Merger / Combining of Team Parameters / Timeline

*Jesse Merchant provided a brief outline of the parameters and timeline for the proposal. Additional resources will be provided to Athletic Directors in the coming weeks to help support the transition to the approved proposal.*

Sportsmanship Committee, Anthony Nicodemo, Chair

**(I)** Section One Sportsmanship Award Certificate / All Sportsmanship Team Criteria

*Anthony Nicodemo shared the new process for designating a Section One All Sportsmanship Award.*

**(D)** Consideration of a Section One Community Service Award

*Anthony Nicodemo provided an update on a new award which is intended to highlight the work being done throughout the section in the area of community service.*

Safety Committee, Jesse Merchant, Chair

**(I/D)** Consideration of adding a Certified Athletic Trainer to the Safety Committee

***\*needs to be reviewed by the Constitution Committee***

Standards Committee, Chris Galano, Chair

**(I/D)** Consideration of permitting dual participation for athletes that participate in the football state championships (carryover practices)

***\*needs to be reviewed by the Standards & Constitution Committee***

## **XVIII. Conference Reports**

### **XIX. Membership Concerns**

**(I/D)** Consideration of permitting schools seeking relief to be eligible for post-season awards

*Austin Goldberg, Peekskill*      ***\*needs to be reviewed by the Standards Committee***

**(I/D)** Consideration of aligning the definition of a modified athlete to the NYSPHSAA standard

*John Buonamano, Irvington*      ***\*needs to be reviewed by the Modified Committee***

*The recently authored proposal speaks to aligning our Section One alignment at the Modified level with the NYSPHSAA Handbook language. Steve Luciana shared concerns from the perspective of the largest schools that this change may be problematic.*

### **XX. Old Business**

### **XXI. New Business**

**(D)** Establish Independent Declaration Deadline – Football

*Motion to adopt December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as the deadline for submitting an independent declaration in the sport of football: Sigillo / Derosa*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

*Motion to establish a two-year commitment to independent status, beginning in the 2024 season, with an option to renew for a two-year period: Ceglia / Galano*

***Carried:*** Aye=10      Nay=2      Abstention=0

*Motion to require that all requested change to a school's football independent status (in or out) beyond the December 11<sup>th</sup> deadline must be appealed to the Section 1 Athletic Council within 15 calendar days of the approved declaration deadline of December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Luciana / Derosa*

***Carried:*** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

**XXII. Good of the Order**

**XXIII. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn: Berardo / Arias*

***Carried:*** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

**Next Meeting:** January 23, 2023 at 9:30am at SW BOCES