



## Athletic Council Meeting Minutes

October 12, 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
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 / Adam Lodewick <i>(Absent)</i>
Non-Voting Members	Representative
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Superintendent	Dr. Marc Baiocco <i>(Absent)</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Principal	<i>Vacant</i>
Superintendent Liaison to Athletic Council	Dr. Jeremy Luft <i>(Absent)</i>
Executive Director, CIA/Treasurer	Todd Santabarbara
Assistant Director, CIA/Assistant Treasurer/ Recording Secretary	Jesse Merchant
Guests	Representative
NYSPHSAA Executive Director	Dr. 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 9:41am.*

### II. Approval of the Agenda

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

*Motion to approve the agenda: Kiernan / Ceglia*

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

### III. Approval of the Minutes:

(A) Consider approval of the **April 25, 2023** meeting minutes

*Motion to approve the April 25, 2023 meeting minutes: Galano / Zekus*

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

(A) Consider approval of the **August 9, 2023** meeting minutes

*Motion to approve the August 9, 2023 meeting minutes: Luciana / Drosopoulos*

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

### IV. Treasurer's Report:

(A) Consider approval of the Treasurer's Report

- *Cash Balance: \$1,081,757.49*
- *Reserve Balance: \$79,543.88*

*Motion to approve the Financial Report: DeRosa / Arias*

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

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

- *President – Joe Sigillo highlighted the challenges faced by schools regarding this Fall's weather. He also applauded the collaboration and cooperation that Athletic Directors throughout the Section have displayed. Joe Sigillo also shared that the Pearl River and Nyack communities were returning to competitions at Pearl River in all sports and at all levels. On behalf of his district, Joe Sigillo thanked the Council for their work within Section One and NYSPHSAA as part of their effort to address meaningful policy changes or proposals.*
- *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 – due Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

*Discussion:*

*Todd Santabarbara reminded the members of the Athletic Council that the Athletic Alignment Ballot was sent out a number of weeks ago and again included in the October Conference agenda packet. The due date for the alignment ballot is Friday October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If the ballot does not pass, the section would remain in the existing structure until the end of the current alignment document.*

## **(I) NYSED Mixed Competition Forum – October 19<sup>th</sup>**

### Discussion:

Todd Santabarbara shared that SWBOCES is responsible for hosting a forum to collect information regarding the NYSED Mixed Competition rule. Several members of the Athletic Council have already volunteered to participate in the NYSED Mixed Competition forum. Todd has also reached out directly to Section 9 to encourage their participation in the upcoming forum. A representative from a Section One member schools pupil personnel services is currently being solicited to help provide a well-rounded group of stakeholders.

## **(I) Officials Ratings**

### Discussion:

Todd Santabarbara spoke to the process of officials' ratings and their use for postseason assigning. The Athletic Council explored ways to improve the reliability, accuracy and timeliness of the submission of ratings by coaches. Steve Luciana requested that rSchoolToday build a secondary access point for Athletic Directors on the web platform because currently the only way to rate officials is while using the app. Denise Kiernan shared a strategy that North Salem has used in the past which included a high level of coordination by her Athletic Office. Todd Santabarbara reviewed the Center for Interscholastic process of blending ratings with an association's peer ratings for the purpose of postseason assigning.

## **(I) NYSPHSAA Report: Dr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director**

- NYSPHSAA Softball Championships are shifting from Moriches Athletic Complex to the Martha Avenue Complex for the period of one year.
- The NYS Federation Basketball Tournament has been cancelled. The reason is that there has been a lack of interest and viable hosts. Robert shared that the organizations that exist within the Federation often lose money on these championship events. NYSPHSAA offered to act as tournament director during the 2022-23 winter season. According to Dr. Robert Zayas, while the event was successful, it still lost money. Last year NYSPHSAA member schools demonstrated a lack of interest in participating in the event. CHSAA presented a proposal which was seconded by the PSAL to cancel the Federation Basketball Tournament. NYSPHSAA currently hosts a number of other Federation events including T&F and Wrestling.
- The Budget & Audit Committee is examining membership dues from year to year. Currently, a \$50/year increase is being examined.

## **(A) Consider approval of action items on the October 18<sup>th</sup> NYSPHSAA Executive Committee agenda Susan Reid & Rob Pollok, NYSPHSAA Female & Male AD Reps**

- Consider approval of changing the Combining of Teams formula.

Motion to approve: Zekus / Baker

**Defeated:** Aye=5      Nay=8      Abstention=0

- Consider approval of adding a third Class/Division for individual sports at 601 or above.  
*Motion to approve: Kiernan / Ceglia*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of adding a fifth Class/Division for team/individual sports at 601 or above.  
*Motion to approve: Ceglia / Kiernan*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of the waivers of the Representation Rules.  
*Motion to approve: DeRosa / Baker*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of the 2024-25 school enrollment numbers.  
*Motion to approve: Kiernan / Zekus*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of the 6 class sport classification numbers.  
*Motion to approve: Kiernan / Zekus*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of changes to the scoring and deduction sheets for Game Day Cheer and Competitive Cheer.  
*Motion to approve: Arias / Baker*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of updated to the state standards for the first non-qualifier for Indoor T&F.  
*Motion to approve: Zekus / Luciana*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of the 6 class sport classification numbers.  
*Motion to approve: Kiernan / Zekus*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of rescinding the pound allowance for a wrestler participating in the Dual Meet Championship.  
*Motion to approve: Zekus / Derosa*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of SRC Arena for the 2025-27 Dual Meet Championship.  
*Motion to approve: Luciana / Arias*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of NYSPHSAA girls to wrestle free style.  
*Motion to approve: Luciana / Zekus*  
**Defeated:** Aye=0      Nay=13      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of the following rules changes to girls wrestling to transition to freestyle.  
*Motion to approve: Luciana / Derosa*  
**Carried:** Aye=9      Nay=4      Abstention=0

- Consider approval to conduct a NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling State Championship on Week #34.

*Motion to approve: Luciana / Baker*

**Defeated:** Aye=6      Nay=7      Abstention=0

*Discussion:*

*Robert Zayas shared the discussions by the Boys Wrestling & Girls Wrestling Committees regarding the pros and cons of holding the Girls NYSPHSAA Championship the day of the Boys Wrestling practice time.*

*Consider the approval of having the NYS Male & Female Reps split their vote at the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.*

*Motion to approve: Kiernan / Luciana*

**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0

*Based upon information that was not available in the Conference meeting when the original vote was conducted, the Athletic Council would like to consider the approval of conduct a NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling State Championship on Week #34.*

*Motion to approve: Arias / Derosa*

**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0

- Consider approval of the new regional rotation for 2024-28 with 6 classes in the sport of Girls Basketball.

*Motion to approve: Zekus / Nicodemo*

**Defeated:** Aye=0      Nay=13      Abstention=0

*Discussion:*

*Steve Luciana shared that approving this multiyear rotation will directly oppose our efforts to establish equitable regional rotations. This concern was echoed by Tom Baker. Discussion amongst the Athletic Council in support of a one-year approval while the state committees work on equity within the regional rotation.*

- Consider approval of Hudson Valley Community College as the host of the 2025-27 Girls Basketball Championships.

*Motion to approve: Luciana / Galano*

**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0

- Consider approval of the regional rotation for 2024 in the Sport of Boys Basketball.

*Motion to approve: Luciana / Derosa*

**Defeated:** Aye=3      Nay=9      Abstention=0

*Discussion:*

*The regional rotations being voted upon does not reflect the need for changes to rotation to accommodate Section Ones concerns regarding equity.*

*Consider the approval of a 1-year regional rotation.*

*Motion to approve: Zekus / Luciana*

**Carried:** Aye=8      Nay=4      Abstention=0

- Consider approval of LECOM Harborcenter as the host of the 2025-27 Boys Ice Hockey Championships.  
*Motion to approve: Zekus / Berardo*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval to allow each flag football team to have two timeouts per half.  
*Motion to approve: Luciana / Zekus*  
**Carried:** Aye=11      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of the additions to the NYSPHSAA Flag Football rules regarding the clock.  
*Motion to approve: Derosa / Zekus*  
**Carried:** Aye=11      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval to adding language to the NYSPHSAA Flag Football rules regarding punts.  
*Motion to approve: Derosa / Baker*  
**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of Cortland & Homer HS as the hosts of the 2024-26 NYSPHSAA Flag Football Championships.  
*Motion to approve: Arias / Luciana*  
**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of the regional rotation for 2024 in the sport of Softball.  
*Motion to approve: Luciana / Derosa*  
**Defeated:** Aye=5      Nay=8      Abstention=0

Discussion:

*Susan Reid Dullea shared that the Championship Advisory Committee (CAC) requested that the Softball committee postpone their proposal based upon a roughly 10% of student participation. Todd Santabarbara shared with Robert Zayas the sections frustration that the CAC is choosing to enforce certain areas of their philosophy document (% of participating athletes) but ignoring others (equity).*

- Consider approval for Boys Tennis D1 Team Tournament 3/4 format.  
*Motion to approve: Zekus / Arias*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval for Boys Tennis D2 Team Tournament 2/3 format.  
*Motion to approve: Derosa / Zekus*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval to seed the state tournament final four teams using the strength of team criteria (UTR).  
*Motion to approve: Baker / Arias*  
**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0
- Consider approval of a "Battery Week".  
*Motion to approve: Nicodemo / Zekus*  
**Carried:** Aye=7      Nay=4      Abstention=2

- Consider approval of Wild Wood Country Club as the 2025-2027 host for the Girls Golf Championships.

*Motion to approve: Kiernan / Nicodemo*

**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0

**(A)** Consider approval of a waiver of the representation rule for the following sports:

- i. Skiing: 6 to 3
- ii. Wrestling (Dual Meet Tournament): 6 to 0

**(D)** Sectional Concerns:

- Increase the number of carryover practices for teams that play in the NYSPHSAA Football finals

*Discussion:*

*Susan Dullea Reid shared that there is an additional burden for wrestlers who may be football players with extended seasons due to NYSPHSAA state championships as it impacts the Section One Wrestling Dual Meet tournament. Discussion occurred around the need to potentially revisit the Section One constitutional rule restricting athletes to one sport in a season.*

**(I/D)** NYSPHSAA Ad-Hoc Committee – Regional Rotations and State Championship Format

*Tom Baker, Hendrick Hudson HS*

*Discussion:*

*NYSPHSAA Ad-Hoc Committee rep Tom Baker shared that he would be providing all AD's with the minutes from the most recent meeting.*

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

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

*Motion to approve: Baker / Drosopoulos*

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

**IX. Outside Agency Requests:**

**(A)** Consider approval of the WRPD Cross Country Coaches Invitational (*Arlington HS*)

*Motion to approve: Nicodemo / Baker*

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

**(A)** Consider approval of the WPDRCCA Fall Cheerleading Invitational (*Port Chester HS*)

*Motion to approve: Baker / Derosa*

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



**X. Self-Reports:**

- a. Carmel Varsity Football – Violation of NYSPHSAA Football Rules  
*Chris Salumn, Carmel Athletic Director*

Discussion:

*The self-report included an admission that the Carmel Football team used a football sled on the first day of practice. The Head Coach served the NYSPHSAA prescribed penalty of sitting out the next game.*

- b. North Salem JV Field Hockey – Use of ineligible player  
*Denise Kiernan, North Salem Athletic Director*

Discussion:

*The self-report included an admission that the North Salem JV Field Hockey team used an ineligible player in a scrimmage. The Athletic Director spoke about meeting with the coach and reflecting the incident within a post-season evaluation.*

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

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

- (A)** Consider approval of the FOOTBALL Senior All-Star contest (*Clarkstown North HS*)

*Motion to approve: Dean / Luciana*

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

- (A)** Consider approval of the FIELD HOCKEY Senior All-Star contest (*Horace Greeley HS*)

*Motion to approve: Sigillo / Berardo*

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

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

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

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

- (A)** Consider approval of the point system used for individual and team seeding for WRESTLING  
*Jamie Block, Wrestling Sport Chair*

*Motion to approve: Palumbo / Baker*

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

**XVI. Standing Committee Proposals**

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

- (I)** Approved 2023-24 winter tournament calendar (***Championship Sites: TBD***)

Modified Committee, *Dean Berardo, Chair*

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



Sportsmanship Committee, Jesse Merchant, Chair

**(A)** Consider approval of the Section One student-athlete sportsmanship award

*Motion to approve: Palumbo / Drosopoulos*

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

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***

Combining of Teams / Merger Committee, Austin Goldberg, Chair

**(A)** Consider approval of the amended team/individual and individual sports merger parameters – v.2

*Motion to approve: Palumbo / Drosopoulos*

**Carried:** Aye=8      Nay=3      Abstention=0

## **XVII. Conference Reports**

**(D)** Conference II – Consider a three-team track league for Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field

*Tom Baker, Hedrick Hudson HS & Joe Sigillo, Conference President*

Discussion:

*Tom Baker shared the basic league alignment for Conference II for Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field. Currently, one of the leagues in Conference II is out of alignment with the Alignment Document. Conference II reps will need to revisit the Indoor & Outdoor Track and Field alignment to match the alignment document.*

## **XVIII. Membership Concerns**

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

*Austin Goldberg, Peekskill HS*

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

## **XIX. Old Business**

## **XX. New Business**

Discussion:

*Antony Nicodemo shared an upcoming PRIDE event at Sarah Lawrence for Boys & Girls Basketball.*

## **XXI. Good of the Order**

## **XXII. Adjournment**

*Motion to Adjourn: Baker / Luciana*

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

**Next Meeting:**

**November 14, 2023 at 9:30am at SW BOCES**