

**Center for Interscholastic Athletics
Section One, Inc.**



Executive Committee Meeting

September 23, 2020

Attendance:

Dr. Brendan Lyons, Putnam/Northern Westchester Supt., President
James Mackin, Principal, 1st Vice President
Joe Sigillo, Athletic Director, 2nd Vice President

Matt Cameron, Conference I
Roman Catalino, Conference II
John Bauerlein, Conference III
Michael Cring, At-large Athletic Director

Dr. Marc Baiocco, Southern Westchester Supt. Rep
Dr. Joe Ricca, Southern Westchester Supt. Rep
Dr. Harold Coles, SWBOCES Supt. Rep
Dr. Kris Felicello, Rockland Supt. Rep
Dr. Matt Landahl, Dutchess Supt. Rep
Anthony DiCarlo, Supt. Liaison to Athletic Council

Todd Santabarbara, Executive Director, CIA/Treasurer Section One, Inc.
Jesse Merchant, Assistant Director, CIA/Assistant Treasurer Section One, Inc.
Brian Howard, Director of Communications

I. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting was called to order at 2:02pm

II. Approval of the Agenda

(A) Consider approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the agenda: Ricca / Cameron

Approved: Unanimous

III. Approval of the Minutes

(A) Consider approval of the **September 2, 2020** Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the September 2, 2020 minutes: Ricca / Sigillo

Approved: Unanimous

IV. Treasurer's Report

(A) Consider approval of Jesse Merchant, Assistant Director, as the Assistant Treasurer (effective 9/1/20)

Motion to approve Jesse Merchant as the Assistant Treasurer of Section One, Inc.: Ricca / Bauerlein

Approved: Unanimous

V. Sport Chair Recommendations

(A) Consider approval of the following Sport Chair Recommendations for a three-year term (2020-2023)

- Rebecca DiSisto – Girls Lacrosse
- Maureen Myers – Boys Outdoor Track & Field

Motion to approve the Sport Chair Recommendations: Cring / Ricca

Approved: Unanimous

VI. General Action/Discussion/Information Items:

- (A) Consider approval of the postponement of **Girls Swimming & Diving** to Fall Season II (March 1st)
Recommended by Sport Chairs and Athletic Council, Unanimous

Discussion:

Based on feedback from the Girls Swimming & Diving Sport Chairs, survey data collected from Athletic Directors, and as a result, the recommendation from Athletic Council to postpone girls swimming and diving due to the lack of pool facilities around the region.

Motion to postpone the girls swimming season to Fall Season II, March 1st: Lyons /Bauerlein
Approved: Unanimous

- (A) Consider approval of the cancelation of **Fall Season I** modified sports for all member schools
Recommended by Athletic Council, Carried 8-6

OR

Consider approval of postponing modified sports to **Fall Season II** for all member schools

OR

Consider approval of allowing modified sports start date to be a local decision

Discussion:

- *Athletic Council made the recommendation to cancel modified sports in Fall Season I with an 8/6 vote in support of the recommendation.*
- *A modified survey was distributed to the Superintendents of the Lower Hudson Council. Survey questions and results are included. Response rate of 68%. Three questions were asked:*
 - o *Plans for the fall season:*
 - *46% reported under consideration*
 - *41% plans to offer low/mod risk sports*
 - *13% plan to cancel*
 - o *Should this be a local decision:*
 - *64% prefer Section I render a universal decision on behalf of all member schools*
 - *36% want the flexibility to decide on their own*
 - *Of the 64% that responded to this question, the following was supported:*
 - *52% supported the Section postponing modified Fall Season I to March 1*
 - *38% supported the Section cancelling Fall Season I*
 - *8% supported the Section offering modified sports*
- *Dr. Baiocco – At the last Superintendent meeting there was somewhere around a 55-45 split in favor of running modified athletics. A survey given out to SWBOCES Superintendents had a 62% response rate. About 55% of the respondents would be in favor of running modified. There was a lot of concern around masks, spectators, and with transportation and the effect on budgets.*
- *Dr. Felicello – Expressed concerns around transportation. The majority of his Rockland colleagues would support modified moving forward as long as there is flexibility in contests and leaving ambiguity up to the various districts.*

- *Mr. DiCarlo – PNW wants uniformity so schools are not making decisions on their own. There were discussions around screenings and masks as well.*
- *Dr. Landahl – Dutchess has the same concerns that were shared by the others.*
- *Conference 3 – Had a vote regarding running modified Fall sports: 12 No; 5 Yes; 3 Abstentions – Abstentions came from schools that do not have MS sports.*
- *Conference 2 – Collected data prior to recent discussions: 17 said wanted to offer modified. Other questions around offering intramurals and no modified at all. Approximately 3-4 were in favor. 2 said they are not offering at all, which were Yorktown (no MS sports) and Ardsley (budget).*
- *Conference 1 – There are a lot of concerns around starting modified. There are 19 AA schools, 7 said to cancel, 3 wanted it postponed to March 1. Majority was in favor of cancelling fall modified season.*
- *Clarification: If the season was cancelled, districts would be allowed to offer intramural activities.*

Motion to support the Athletic Council's recommendation to cancel Fall Season 1 modified sports for all member schools: Ricca / Cameron

Approved: 9 / 2 / 0

(I) Status of Return to Play

- **NYSPHSAA Sections**
 - *Sections 2,3,5,6,7 & 10 all moving forward with September 21st date and Section 1 starting September 29th*
 - *Section 4 & 9 moved fall sports to March, Winter beginning November 30th*
 - *Sections 8 & 11 have postponed till January*
- **Section One**
 - *Districts have been asked to communicate with the Section One office if they have made a decision to not begin on the 29th. Yonkers (B/G Soccer) and Pawling has elected to postpone fall sports until March. Wappingers is starting October 1 and Arlington October 2. Still trying to obtain Poughkeepsie's status as they do not have an Athletic Director.*

(D) Consideration to authorize off-season conditioning workouts (all sports) beginning October 13th
Athletic Council

Discussion:

- *There was discussion around pushing the date further out. Moving forward with off-season workouts after cancelling modified could be an issue.*
- *The Conferences will discuss at their upcoming meetings. A recommendation from Athletic Council will be brought back to the Executive Committee on October 5th.*

(D) Consideration of Championship Committee Post Season Philosophy
Championship Committee

Discussion:

- *The Championship Committee is working on a proposal in support of offering a championship/culminating event at the end of Fall Season I. The Championship Committee has*

been working with the Sport Chairs to review this concept and plan the details.

VII. Section One Update

- Contingency Planning (if fall is interrupted)
 - *In the event we find ourselves needing to shut down, we will have to begin thinking about a contingency plan. The two options appear to be moving all Fall Season I sports to Fall Season II and begin Winter on November 30th, OR delay winter until January 4th. The decision will most likely depend upon where we are in the season.*

VIII. NYSPHSAA Update: Dr. Robert Zayas

(D) Return to Interscholastic Athletics – Hot Topics

Dr. Zayas from NYSPHSAA joined the meeting and shared several updates and clarification on several topics below.

- **Masks/Face Coverings – DOH guidelines vs. Section policy vs. Local decision**
The NYSDOH guidance states that if six feet cannot be maintained, a face covering is REQUIRED, unless the student cannot tolerate a face covering during physical activity. Some schools have inquired about being more restrictive of the NYSDOH guidance and only allowing students not to wear a face covering if they have medical authorization. Because the NYSDOH guidance does not reference medical authorization, I have been recommending that schools work with their school medical director and local department of health if there is interest in making the NYSDOH more restrictive. Following consultation with the NYSPHSAA's attorney, insurance agent and governmental affairs representative, I have recommended sections not support or endorse more restrictive NYSDOH guidance if it is not in writing from the NYSDOH. I am seeking clarification from state officials on this topic.
- **Athletic Cohorts vs Instructional Cohorts**
When at practice it is possible to keep students divided into cohorts for the majority of a practice session. Students can stretch, condition and conduct skill development separately and come together only for a intersquad scrimmage or team instruction.
- **Contact Tracing**
Any questions pertaining to contact tracing should be directed to the local department of health. If there are questions about a potential confirmed COVID case, the local department of health will lead an athletic administrator and school district through the protocol and procedures.
- **Spectators**
The NYSDOH guidance states no more than 2 spectators per participant. Some local health departments are saying "no more than 50 in a venue." I recommend consulting with your local department of health. For spectators a school and/or section could be more restrictive, but notification of any policies will be critical prior to a game or contest. I have heard from some school districts that they are not going to be able to monitor or restrict specific spectators; this is an issue schools are certainly being faced with. I am seeking clarification from state officials on this topic.
- **Health Screenings**
The NYSDOH guidance is specific for screening; students, players and officials should be screened. Spectators are not required to be screened. According to state officials, visiting teams are encouraged to be screened on site, but it is not required.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Cameron / Felicello

Approved: Unanimous

*Next Meeting Date
October 5, 2020*