

SECTION XI
NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1 Independence Hill, Suite 201
Farmingville, NY 11738

THOMAS COMBS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PETE BLIEBERG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CONFERENCE/COUNCIL AGENDA
January, 2025

I. NOTICES

Meetings & Significant Dates

Jan.	13	First Practice – All Modified Late Winter Sports
Jan.	13	Executive Board, 4 PM, Section XI Office
Jan.	14-17	Coaches’ Mtgs. – Modified Late Winter Sports
Jan.	14	Conference III, 9 AM, Section XI Office
Jan.	15	Conference IV, 9 AM, Section XI Office
Jan.	16	Conference I, 9 AM, Section XI Office
Jan.	17	Conference II, 9 AM, Section XI Office
Jan.	18	CONSIDERED “NEXT AVAILABLE DATE” and every Saturday thereafter
Jan.	21	Wrestling Seeding, 10 am, Section XI Office
Jan.	22	Athletic Council - 9 AM, Section XI Office
Jan.	23	Athletic Directors - 9 am, Section XI Office
Feb.	4-5	NYSPHSAA Executive Committee, Saratoga
Feb.	7	Placement Committee – 9 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	10	Modified Committee – 9 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	10	Policy Committee – 10 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	11	Tournament Committee – 9 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	11	Sportsmanship Committee – 10 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	11	Basketball Seeding, 11 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	12	Safety Committee - 9 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	14	DEADLINE for spring Eligibility data
Feb.	26	Eligibility Committee - 9 AM, Section XI Office
Feb.	26	Executive Board – 4 PM, Section XI Office
Feb.	27	Athletic Directors - 9 am, Section XI Office
Feb.	28	DEADLINE for Modified Spring Schedule Corrections

II. NYSPHSAA INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

- (I) Football 8-Man Regional Rotation/Championship
- (I) Boys/Girls Lacrosse Possession Clock Update
- (I) Girls Wrestling Freestyle Status Update
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee
- (D) Consider approval NYSPHSAA DEI Definitions to be included in the NYSPHSAA Handbook. (*see attached information)

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2024

Pathways to Promote Diversity on Committees

- Action Item
- Discussion Item
- Informational Item

Presenter:

Dr. Carlos Cotto, DEI Committee Chair

Proposal:

Consider approval for NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address representation on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as NYSPHSAA Sport Committees, Standing Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees. See attachment.

Effective Start Date:

Fall 2025

Rationale:

The current NYSPHSAA committee structure requires Sections to elect representatives to serve on the Executive and Central Committees, sport committees, standing committees, and ad hoc committees. As an association working for the betterment of all students within the structure of NYSPHSAA, providing representation for the Big 5 to have a voice on NYSPHSAA committees will ensure all students truly represented.

The Big 5 currently has representatives from the five large city school districts of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers and Affiliate Members Albany, Mount Vernon and Utica. Note: New York City schools would not have the ability to serve on NYSPHSAA committees since New York City schools are not part of the NYSPHSAA membership structure.

Proposal Originated:

NYSPHSAA DEI Committee.

Budgetary Impact:

Additional representation at 3 Executive Committee meetings and 1 Central Committee per year; approximately \$3000-\$4000 annually.

Any expenses associated with Sport Committee representation will be incurred by the Big Five as the NYSPHSAA Constitution states:

“Necessary expenses for each delegate to attend sports committee meetings shall be paid by the section.”

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2024

Notes:

This proposal would require a revision to the NYSPHSAA Constitution. The procedures for revisions to the Constitution are clearly stipulated in the NYSPHSAA Constitution (Article VIII):

"ARTICLE VIII

Constitutional Amendments

1. A majority vote of the Central Committee or Executive Committee at any duly authorized meeting is required to propose an amendment to the Constitution.

Amendments may be initiated by the Central Committee, Executive Committee, a section athletic council, or the officers of the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Proposals shall be submitted to the executive director by January 15 to allow sectional athletic councils adequate time for their consideration.

2. A referendum is required to approve amendments. During a referendum, each school shall have one vote on a signed ballot. To be valid, this vote shall represent the collective judgment of and include the signatures of the chief school officer, principal, and the director of athletics. An Executive Committee member representing the section shall serve as teller to canvass all ballots to amend the Constitution or amend any other rule or regulation, which was put forth for the referendum.

3. During the referendum, a majority vote of the member schools voting in each section shall be required for the adoption of the amendment in the section. Approval of at least seven sections and approval of two-thirds of the member schools casting valid ballots shall be required for the final adoption of the amendment as a statewide rule or policy or as an amendment to the Constitution, as the case may be.

4. All amendments to this Constitution, which are approved by a referendum vote, shall not become effective until August 1 of the next school year."

The Conference of the Big 5 currently has voting representation on the New York State School Boards Association as well as the New York State Coalition of School Superintendents.

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts was founded in 1958 as a membership organization representing the school systems of New York State's five largest cities of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers. The Big 5 organization was expanded in 2014 to include Affiliate Members that are other urban school districts with comparable student demographics and local fiscal capacity issues.

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts was founded for the purpose of identifying both the common and unique problems of the large city school districts and to advance solutions to such problems. Central to the Big 5's uniqueness is the diversity among the students they serve, the high concentrations of poverty in which they live, and the fiscal constraints imposed to meet their educational needs.

New York State Public High School Athletic Association



Executive Committee Meeting – February 5, 2024

The Conference of Big 5 School Districts seeks to promote a more equitable and adequate funding system and the delivery of a high quality education to all children.

The Big 5 mission is accomplished by a strong advocacy and public information campaign representing the needs of urban education systems. Advocacy efforts include representation before all appropriate governmental entities as a proactive organization presenting budget initiatives and policy recommendations and reactive in analyzing and responding to various proposals.

In carrying out their mission, the Conference of Big 5 School Districts also acts as a public relations center communicating with State and local media and networking with other advocacy organizations in the promotion of urban school districts. The Big 5 maintains a data information center for collection and dissemination of information for member districts and act as a research center conducting fiscal and programmatic analyses and reporting on urban education issues.

Representatives of the five large city school districts of Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers and Affiliate Members Albany, Mount Vernon and Utica, work together through the organization of the Conference of Big 5 School Districts to speak with one voice on the needs and strengths of urban education in New York State.

Attachments:

Proposed Constitutional revisions.

DRAFT

DRAFT

Proposed NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address diversity on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as Sport Committees.

ARTICLE III

Central Committee

1. The corporation shall be administered by a board of directors, known as the Central Committee, consisting of representatives from each of the sections and representatives of the Big Five, elected from the NYSPHSAA member schools in accordance with the following plan:
 - a. The state shall be divided into geographic areas called sections, each of which shall elect four representatives to the Central Committee: one chief school officer, one principal, one male representative of athletics and one female representative of athletics from the member schools of the section.

The Big Five shall also appoint four representatives to the Central Committee: one chief school officer, one principal, one male representative of athletics and one female representative of athletics from the member schools of the section.
 - b. On or before December 15th of each year, each section secretary shall inform the section athletic council as to the branch of service in which a vacancy by expiration of term shall occur, and each section shall elect a replacement by a method of their choice.
 - c. In the event of the positive unwillingness to serve on the part of any duly elected person, election shall go to the nominee having the second highest number of votes.
 - d. Newly elected Central Committee representatives will assume their positions September 1.
 - e. In case of a vacancy in the membership on the Central Committee arising in any section, it shall be the duty of the three remaining members in such section to choose, with the advice and consent of the section athletic council, the fourth representative from a member school in the section and from that position of service in which the vacancy has occurred. Appointments shall be made for the full period of the unexpired term. The Big Five shall determine their process for filling a vacancy.
 - f. Persons retiring from active public education employment, currently serving on the NYSPHSAA Central Committee, shall be permitted to continue for the duration of their tenure and also be permitted to serve in that capacity if so elected by the section.
 - g. Should any member of the Central Committee be unable to attend a meeting of the Central Committee, then a section athletic council officer shall be designated to represent that section. If a Big Five representative is unable to attend a meeting, then the Big Five shall designate a representative.

ARTICLE V

Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of ~~twenty-two~~ twenty-four members, each of eleven sections and the Big Five being represented by one member of the Central Committee who shall receive the position in any manner the section and the Big Five shall determine, and by the female representative of athletics on the Central Committee. This selection shall be made prior to the annual meeting of the Central Committee. The NYSPHSAA President and Vice Presidents shall not represent their respective sections. Sectional and Big Five representatives constitute the voting body of the committee and the president, first vice president, and second vice president shall not be entitled to vote except in the case of a tie with only one of said officers being entitled to vote in the order indicated. Should any member of the Executive Committee be unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee, then another member of the Central Committee from the section or Big Five not so represented, or a section athletic council officer or Big Five representative shall be designated to represent that section.
2. The Executive Committee shall have general management of the affairs of the association in the interval between meetings of the Central Committee and shall have the power to act in all matters not covered by this constitution and bylaws. It shall have jurisdiction in all appeals, protests, and questions of eligibility when the Central Committee is not in session.
3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times each year. A majority of the members of the Executive Committee eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the president or at the request of a majority of the members.
4. Any action which needs the approval of the Executive Committee may be taken without a meeting, if authorized by the president, by conducting mail or electronic vote.
5. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for properly administering meets, tournaments, or games in which individuals or teams, determined as winners of sectional contests from two or more sections, participate. The secretaries of the sections to be represented in regional, intersectional, and state contests shall provide a complete list of sports in which that section intends to compete in the ensuing year to the NYSPHSAA, Inc. Executive Director for the approval of the Executive Committee at its spring meeting. Notice of withdrawal from a regional intersectional and state contest must be received at least sixty days prior to the date of the contest. Otherwise the section will be required to pay the proportionate share of the administration and insurance charges involved in the program.

ARTICLE VII

State Sport Committees

1. Each section and the Big Five may elect or appoint one representative to each state sports committee. Necessary expenses for each delegate to attend sports committee meetings shall be paid by the section and the Big Five.
 - a. Each state sports committee shall hold an annual meeting and shall elect a vice chairman, and a secretary, who will be representatives on that state's sports committee, and who will hold office for the ensuing year. State sports committee meetings must have

the approval of Association staff. Notice of the time and place of state committee meetings shall be given to members at least two months prior to the meeting.

b. Minutes of all meetings shall be provided to committee members, association officers and staff, section presidents and section executive directors/secretaries.

c. The coordinator of the state sports committee shall submit an annual written report to the Central Committee. If requested to attend, the necessary expenses to attend the Central Committee meeting will be paid by the association.

d. There shall be a biennial meeting of all state sports coordinators.

2. Each state sports committee shall encourage participation in that sport, require observation of the rules, regulations, and sports standards, provide measures of safety, answer questions and receive suggestions pertaining to that sport.

a. Each section sports committee representative shall conduct studies when needed, review games rules, conduct interpretation meetings, present demonstrations, secure the cooperation of officials, improve game administration in the section, and act as the liaison between the section and the state sports committee coordinator.

b. Each state sports committee may make investigations and surveys, and conduct other research to ensure that playing rules are adapted to the needs and abilities of the high school student and submit recommendations to the Executive Committee.

c. Each state sports committee shall be responsible for informing the sections of the correct procedure to be followed in making changes in policy, regulations, rules or sports standards in that sport.

(D) NYSPHSAA Constitutional revisions to address representation on the Central and Executive Committees, as well as NYSPHSAA Sport Committees.

(D) Consider approval to create a consistent approach to championship awards for NYSPHSAA Championship events, enhancing clarity, equity, and recognition across all sports.

(D) Consider approval of providing only a Regional Finalist plaque.

(D) Fall Sport Start Date

(D) Spring Sport Start Date

GENERAL ACTION ITEMS

Fall Sport Discussion/Action Items

(A) Consider approval to continue allowing NYSPHSAA member football programs to start high school football practice on Monday of Week #7.

Spring Discussion/Action Items

(D) Softball Waivers/Rules adoption

(A) Consider approval for a set of Super and At-Large Standards for the NYSPHSAA Outdoor Track/Field Championships.

(A) Consider approval for a new at-large rotation to fill byes for 2026-30 NYSPHSAA Boys Tennis Team Championships.

(A) Consider approval to add language to the current rules identifying a minimum belt length that reads: "Flag length is 14 inch minimum from the bottom of the belt (including the clip) to the bottom of the flag as a measuring point."

(A) Consider approval of changing flag football rule from, "The ball is spotted where the ball was when the player is deflagged" to "The ball will be spotted where the flag is pulled."

(A) Consider approval to change the spot of the ball to the 14-yard line after the following:

- The visiting team will have the choice before the toss – heads or tails.
- The team who wins the coin toss has the option to defer, select offense (a 20-yard line start)- Change to 14-Yard lined start).
- *After a touchdown, touchback or safety- any play that results in a team starting at the first possession line (14 Yard Line).*

(A) Consider approval for a new regional rotation in the sport of Girls Lacrosse for 2025-29 using the guiding principles approved by the Executive Committee.

III. SECTION ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Conference Presidents

1. Update Section XI Conference and Organization Representatives for 2025-26. Hauppauge moved to Conference II, ESM moved to Conference III and SWR moved to Conference IV. (See attached Basic Conference placement for 2025-26)

B. Tournament – The Tournament Committee met on December 4, 2024, at 9 am in the Section XI office. In attendance: Chair: D. Butler; Conference I: P. Friel, C. Agostino; Conference II; J. Lambert, J. Mercado; Conference III: B. Denniston, J. Sparacio; Conference IV: D. Phillips, A. Sherrard. Also in attendance: P. Blieberg, T. Combs.

1. Post season facilities
2. Sport Chair requirements

C. Safety – The Safety committee met on December 6, 2024 at 9 am in the Section XI office. In attendance: M. Mensch, Anthony Cracco, J. Mercado, B. Bennett, P. Hayes, E. Bramoff, R. Petrie, J. Thode, B. Toussaint, M. Mensch, P. White, J. Paci, A. Rizzi. P. Underwood A. Donatelli. Also in attendance: P. Blieberg. (Absent, T. Combs, P. Schrank, and T. Mullins)

1. Guardian Helmet Pads – Survey Results
2. March 20, 2025 – ATC Invites at the AD Meeting

D. Finance

The Committee met on Thursday December 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm at the Section XI Office.
In attendance were:

Lance Lohman	Abs	Don Murphy	Abs
Gary Beutel	X	Kathy Masterson	X
Robert Hauser	Abs	Rob Franco	X
Bill Bennett	X	Pete Pramantaris	Abs
Chris Agostino	X	Timothy Hearney	Abs
Roberta Gerold	X	Jeremy Thode	X
Matt DeVincenzo	X	Todd Gulluscio	Abs
Steve Restivo	X	Anthony Mauro	X
Tim Horan	X	Mike DeJoseph	Abs
Christopher Hender	Abs		

Also in Attendance:

- A. Groveman, Chairman
- T. Combs, Executive Director
- P. Blieberg, Assistant Director
- S. Leister, Treasurer
- M. Leone, Cullen & Danowski, LLP

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Committee Chairman Alan Groveman.
2. Alan Groveman reviewed the role of the Finance Committee.
3. Executive Director Tom Combs presented to the Committee the services provided by Section XI.
4. Mike Leone, auditor, reviewed our financial status in a positive manner.
5. Alan Groveman reviewed the proposed 2025-26 budget including
 - a. Dues and Service charges increase of 3%.
 - b. Officials’ fees – increase of 6%.
6. The Committee unanimously approved the 2025-26 budget.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Expenditures	2025-26 Proposed	2024-25 Adopted	2023-24 Actual
General Services	\$1,578,986	\$1,534,825	\$1,496,674
Sport Expenses	857,500	690,500	769,217
Total	\$2,436,486	\$2,225,325	\$2,265,891
Revenues			
Dues & Service Charges	1,245,000	\$ 1,188,825	\$ 1,229,729
Sport Receipts	700,500	650,000	640,524
Interest	70,267	2,500	70,267
Self-Sustaining	200,000	175,000	193,308
Other Income	192,500	204,000	185,488
Officials Penalties & Fees	5,000	5,000	3,888
Appropriated From Fund Balance	23,219.00	0	(54,309)
Total	\$2,436,486	\$2,225,325	\$2,268,895

General Services	2025-26 Proposed	2024-25 Adopted	2023-24 Actual
Payroll & Benefits	\$940,453	\$908,381	\$887,512
Professional Services	100,000	90,500	105,505
Meetings & Staff Travel	20,000	25,000	18,655
Sport Chair	75,000	70,000	72,471
Insurance	30,000	55,000	29,179
Postage	3,500	3,500	2,946
Telephone	7,500	7,500	7,168
Printing	9,500	10,000	8,476
Rent	72,033	70,000	67,897
Leased Equipment	12,500	12,500	11,345
Purchased Equipment	5,000	5,000	-
Office Supplies	8,500	10,000	7,693
Computer Services	60,000	62,000	55,701
Misc Expenses	5,000	5,444	3,454
Self-Sustaining	200,000	175,000	193,308
Depreciation	30,000	25,000	25,364
TOTAL	\$1,578,986	\$1,534,825	\$1,496,674
Sports Receipts	2025-26 Proposed	2024-25 Adopted	2023-2024 Actual
Individual Sports			
Bowling - Boys & Girls	4,000	3,500	3,640
Fencing - Boys & Girls	2,500	2,000	1,770
Gymnastics - Girls	2,500	2,500	2,284
Swimming - Boys	5,000	5,000	3,984
Swimming - Girls	5,000	4,500	4,595
Track - Boys & Girls	9,500	12,500	8,914
Winter Track - Boys & Girls	5,500	6,000	4,965
Wrestling - Boys & Girls	57,500	55,000	54,983
Team Sports			
Baseball	25,000	25,000	23,219
Softball	12,500	8,000	11,790
Basketball - Boys	110,000	125,000	102,523
Basketball - Girls	75,000	45,000	71,667
Field Hockey	15,000	10,000	10,116
Football	150,000	140,000	142,266
Lacrosse - Boys	50,000	61,000	42,054
Lacrosse - Girls	35,000	25,000	29,980
Soccer - Boys	50,000	35,000	47,220
Soccer - Girls	28,500	20,000	27,292
Volleyball - Boys	14,500	15,000	13,555
Volleyball - Girls	17,500	25,000	16,790
Cheerleading	15,000	10,000	13,584
Game Day Cheer	5,500	10,000	-
Unified Basketball		-	-
Girls Flag Football	5,500	5,000	3,333
TOTAL	\$700,500	\$650,000	\$640,524

DUES AND SERVICE CHARGES

I. Membership Dues	2025-26
A. High School	\$2278.00
B. Junior High/Middle School	\$1645.00
II. Service Charges	
A. Each Varsity team	\$309.00
B. Each JV/JV9 team	\$227.00
C. Each Junior High/Middle School team	\$227.00
D. Individual Competitors (one or more)	\$309.00

III. Payments**A. Dues and Service Charges**

Annual dues and service charges are due September 1st. Schools not having paid these fees by October 15th will not be considered members. Teams and athletes representing these schools will not be eligible for Section XI competition (regular season and Section/State Tournaments).

Any school which is unable to commit district funds for the athletic program but complies with the Section XI Austerity Policy by notifying of its intent to compete by the prescribed deadline will be fully liable for payment of dues and fall season team service charges by the October 15th deadline. The deadlines for winter and spring season team service charges respectively are December 30th and April 15th.

B. Officials Fees

Officials fees as estimated for each district by Section XI will be billed in two equal amounts. Payments are due by October 15th and February 1st of each school year.