

**MINUTES**  
**Suffolk County Public High School Athletic Association**  
**Section XI – Athletic Council**  
**NYSPHSAA, Inc.**

**January 22, 2025**

**Section XI Office**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

The meeting was called to order by President Cox 9 am. The following were in attendance:

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President:	R. Cox	X	Central Comm.:	T. Horan	X
1st Vice Pres:	M. Reggio	X		K. Masterson	X
2nd Vice Pres:	J. Mercado	X		L. Lohman	X
Past Pres:	K. Masterson	X		F. Pugliese	X
At Large:	D. Ferry	X		T. Mullins	X
At Large:	J. Polanski	Abs			
At Large:	T. Gulluscio	X			
At Large:	R. Haas	Abs			
Supt Rep:	J. Quinn	X			
Supt Rep:	J. Cummings	X			
Ex-Offico:			Executive Director:	T. Combs	X
Treasurer:	S. Leister	X	Assistant Director:	P. Blieberg	X
Counsel:	K. Seaman	X	Consultant:	K. O'Reilly	Abs

**CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES**

I.	N. Taylor	Abs	II.	R. Rose	Abs
	M. Keltos	X		C. Cobb	X
	D. Barth	X		M. DeVincenzo	X
	G. Beutel	Abs		S. Restivo	X
	K. Mitchell	X		L. Dolson	X
	T. Lectora	X		A. Beyersdorf	X
III.	S. Lipshie	Abs	IV.	S. Petretti	X
	S. Bricker	X		J. Ruggero	X
	D. Butler	X		D. Phillips	X
	S. Reh	X		M. DeJoseph	X
	A. Shannon	X		A. Reed	X
	A. Daleo	X		M. Foard	X

Also in attendance: Carol Lovrich

Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

Mr. Zayas reviewed the DEI, SWOB, Mixed Competition and 3 region rotation with the Section XI Athletic Council.

**Approval of Minutes**

"to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2024 Athletic Council Meeting."

Motion: S. Reh

Second: D. Butler

Motion: **Approved**

## **2. REPORTS**

The Executive Board met on Monday, January 13, 2025, In attendance: President R. Cox, M. Reggio, J. Mercado, K. Masterson, D. Ferry, J. Polansky, T. Gulluscio, T. Horan, L. Lohman, F. Pugliese, J. Quinn, J. Cummings, k. Seaman, T. Mullins, R. Haas. Also in attendance was T. Combs and P. Blieberg. (abs K. O'Reilly and S. Leister).

- I. **WELCOME** – President Ryan Cox
  - A. Internal Claims Auditor – Ryan Cox reviewed the monthly Internal Auditor's reports for September, October, November and December with the Executive Board.
- II. **FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Tom Combs, Executive Director
  - A. The Section XI Finance Committee Report from December 5, 2024 including the proposed 2025-26 budget was reviewed by the Executive Board.  
Executive Board **Approved**
- III. **TREASURER'S REPORT**
  - A. Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual Report  
The Executive Board reviewed the Section XI Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report for the period July 1, 2024 through January 2025 and provided information regarding the income and expenses within that budget period.
- IV. **COUNSEL** – Kevin Seaman Discussed Kentucky – Civil rights discrimination – title IX case with the Executive Board.
- V. **NYSPHSAA REPORTS** – K. Masterson/T. Horan
  - A. Executive Committee Report  
Kathy Masterson and Tim Horan provided a synopsis of the October 2024 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.
- VI. **SPONSORSHIP/MARKETING**
  - A. The Executive Board was updated on the 2 new sponsors, LI Jester LAX and Snap Raise. We now have 18 sponsors.
- VII. **COMMUNICATIONS COORIDATOR**
  - A. The Executive Board reviewed the website Metrix thru January 2025
- VIII. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Tom Combs
  - A. Tom Combs provided the Executive Board with an Executive Director Report for January 2025
  - B. Section XI Quarterly Expenses – Tom Combs provided the Executive Board with the Meals and Refreshment expenses for the period of September 2024 thru January 2025
  - C. New Member Application – The Academy Charter School has applied for new membership. **Approved**
- IX. Meeting Adjournment –The Executive Board meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

### **3. NYSPHSAA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

#### **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)
- (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.

Motion: S. Bricker      Second: D. Barth

Motion: **Approved**

##### 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.

Motion: S. Reh      Second: K. Mitchell

Motion: **Defeated**

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

Motion: D. Barth      Second: T. Lectora

Motion: **Defeated**

- (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."

Motion: M. DeJoseph      Second: L. Dolson

Motion: **Approved**

(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."

Motion: S. Petretti     Second: K. Mitchell

Motion: **Approved**

(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).*

Motion: A. Shannon     Second: T. Lectora

Motion: **Approved**

(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.

Motion: S. Reh     Second: D. Butler

Motion: **Defeated**

(A) Fall sport start date August 18, 2025

Motion: S. Reh     Second: D. Barth

Motion: **Approved**

(A) Spring sports to start 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in March 2026

Motion: S. Bricker     Second: M. Foard

Motion: **Approved**

#### **4. SECTION XI ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Tournament:

1. Post season facilities
2. Sport Chair requirements
3. Football playoffs

B. Safety

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

C. Finance

1. 2025-26 Budget

Motion: T. Lectora      Second: M. DeVincenzo

Motion: **Approved**

D. New Member

1. Approval of New Member school, The Academy Charter School.

Motion: C.Cobb      Second: A. Beyersdorf

Motion: **Approved**

E. New Appointments – Boys Soccer Chair – Rob Franco, Harborfields

Motion: A. Daleo      Second: A. Shannon

Motion: **Approved**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

Adjournment: 10:45 am

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas Combs*

Thomas Combs  
Executive Director