

**MINUTES**  
**Suffolk County Public High School Athletic Association**  
**Section XI – Athletic Council**

**NYSPHSAA, Inc.**

**October 18, 2005**

**Section XI Office**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

The meeting was called to order by President Shierant at 9:10 am. The following were in attendance:

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President:	W. Shierant	<u>X</u>	Central Comm.:	N. DeCillis	<u>X</u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres:	L. Lally	<u>X</u>		P. Ferenz	<u>X</u>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres:	R. Goldin	<u>X</u>		P. Nickerson	<u>abs</u>
Past Pres:	A. Dignam	<u>X</u>		J. Ruck	<u>X</u>
Supt Rep:	L. Schwartz	<u>X</u>			
Supt Rep:	J. Finello	<u>abs</u>			
<b><u>Ex-officio:</u></b>					
Treasurer:	L. Light	<u>abs</u>	Executive Director:	E. Cinelli	<u>X</u>
Counsel:	K. Seaman	<u>X</u>	Assistant Director:	J. Sexton	<u>X</u>

**CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES**

I.	T. O'Brien	<u>X</u>	II.	K O'Connell	<u>X</u>
	J. Nolan	<u>abs</u>			<u>abs</u>
	J. Thode	<u>X</u>		P. Blieberg	<u>X</u>
	D. Webster	<u>X</u>		J. Pennacchio	<u>X</u>
	C. Clifton	<u>abs</u>		D. Vertovez	<u>X</u>
	G. Curiale	<u>X</u>		G. McCarthy	<u>abs</u>
III.	E. Casswell	<u>X</u>	IV.	D. James	<u>abs</u>
	N. Zarcone	<u>abs</u>		R. McIntyre	<u>X</u>
	C. Delargy	<u>X</u>		R. Mayo	<u>X</u>
	S. Reh	<u>X</u>		M. Huey	<u>X</u>
	K. McGeehan	<u>X</u>		M.A. Jules	<u>X</u>
	M. Higuera	<u>X</u>		G. Ruppert	<u>X</u>

Also in attendance: Walter Eaton, Assistant Director, NYSPHSAA; Thad Mularz; Bayport-Blue Point Athletic Director Tim Mullins; Bayport-Blue Point Superintendent Anthony Annunziato; Bayport-Blue Point HS Principal Peter Sellitto.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** J. Thode

**Second:** R. Mayo

"to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2005, Athletic Council Meeting."

**Motion Carried**

A. **NYPHSAA Scholar-Athlete School of Distinction Presentation** – New York State Public High School Athletic Association Assistant Director, Walter Eaton, presented Bayport-Blue Point administrators, Superintendent Anthony Annunziato, High School Principal Peter Sellitto, and Athletic Director Tim Mullins, with the NYSPHSAA Scholar-Athlete School of Distinction Award. This award is presented to a school district that has received scholar-athlete recognition (90 or above average) for team members in each varsity sport during the 2004-05 school year. This is the first time that a school from Section XI has been recognized with this honor.

- B. Scholar/Athlete Teams – The listing of Section XI Scholar/Athlete Teams for the Spring 2005 sports season was distributed to the Athletic Council

## **II. REPORTS**

### **A. NYSPHSAA – Assistant Director, Walter Eaton**

1. Conference – Eligibility and Standards - Once again the NYSPHSAA and NYSAAA are partnering to organize a two-day conference scheduled for November 28-29, 2005 at the Holiday Inn – Turf, Albany. The NYSAAA will be offering NIAAAA Leadership Training Courses on November 28th.  
On November 29th the NYSPHSAA will conduct a seminar on rules, regulations and eligibility.
2. Coaches Clinics (*Brochures are in the mail*)
  - The Cutting Edge for Training High School Athletes (all sports) - October 21, 2005 Holiday Inn – Turf, Albany
  - Wrestling Coaches Clinic - November 4, 2005 Friedman Wrestling Center, Cornell University. This clinic is conducted by the Cornell Staff including NCAA Coach of the Year, Rob Koll and his staff of All Americans.
3. Boys' Lacrosse Championships – The East semi-finals are scheduled for June 8, 2006 at Michie Stadium, USMA, West Point in Section IX. The championship finals are scheduled for June 10, 2006 at LaValle Stadium, Stony Brook University in Section XI.
4. Hall of Fame - Pupil Benefits has sponsored the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame since its inception three years ago. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals for their outstanding contribution to high school athletics in the categories of administrator, coach, athlete, official and contributor. Nominations must first receive the endorsement of the Section and be received by the NYSPHSAA by the December 15th deadline. Nomination forms are available from the section and state association office.
5. Scholar Athlete Team Award - The Fall 2005 deadline date to file is Friday, December 2nd.
6. Future Meeting Dates (*NYSPHSAA Office unless noted*)
  - October 5 - Girls Lacrosse Committee
  - October 11 - Girls Golf Committee
  - October 13 - Championship Advisory Committee
  - October 14 - Modified Committee (*Holiday Inn – Turf*)
  - October 17 - Girls Basketball Committee
  - October 19 - Safety Committee (*Holiday Inn – Turf*)
  - October 19 - Budget & Finance Committee
  - October 20 - Handbook Committee
  - October 22/23 - Officials Coordinating Federation (*HI—Turf*)
  - October 24 - NYSPHSAA Executive Committee (*HI—Turf*)
  - November 2 - Softball Committee
  - November 7 - Boys Tennis Committee
7. Future Section Meetings
  - October 6 - Section 7
  - October 18 - Section 9 and Section 11
  - October 25 - Section 1
  - November 3 - Section 3 and Section 10

8. Sport Committee Progress

- Track and Field—The committee is investigating three proposals:
  1. To include the hammer and javelin events in the state tournament
  2. Holding the state and federation championships on two separate weekends
  3. Adding a second qualifier to each division
- Wrestling - The committee has proposed a process for filling the byes in the state tournament to provide for an equitable competitive opportunity for all competitors and to assure the better wrestlers are included in the tournament.
- Rifle - The committee is proposing to increase air rifle competition from 20 shots to 30 shots to equal the cartridge competition format.

9. New Office Location – On September 12, 2005, the Executive Committee approved the acquisition of 8 Airport Park Blvd, Latham, to become the NYSPHSAA new office. A thorough inspection of the office will be made to assure the building is safe and structurally sound.

10. Classification of Schools 2006-2007 - Schools are reminded to forward their 2005 BEDS (9-11 plus ungraded) enrollment figures to their Executive Director by November 30th. Send a copy of the Building Report Form that will go to SED. School classifications are set at the January 2006 Executive Committee meeting.

11. NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame – Applications for the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame nominations are due December 15, 2005.

12. Registration Regulation – Mr. Eaton provided information to the Athletic Council regarding the Commissioner of Education Registration Regulation and how it differs from the NYSPHSAA Transfer Rule.

B. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Board met on Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 4:00 pm, at the Section XI Office. In attendance: President W. Shierant, L. Lally, R. Goldin, A. Dignam, N. DeCillis, P. Nickerson, P. Ferenz, J. Ruck, L. Light, and E. Cinelli. (Absent: J. Finello, L. Schwartz, K. Seaman).

1. President Wayne Shierant called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.
2. President – Wayne Shierant announced the following appointments:
  - Charlie Delargy – Boys' Swim Chair
  - Charlie Delargy – Girls' Golf Chair
  - Tim Mullins – Boys' Lacrosse Chair
3. Evaluation of Executive Director – President Wayne Shierant provided the Executive Board with the Evaluation of the Executive Director.
4. Proxy Voting – The Executive Board approved Executive Director, Edward A. Cinelli, to be entitled to proxy voting rights at NYSPHSAA Executive and Central Committee meetings.
5. Officials Coordinating Federation – The Executive Board approved Executive Director, Edward A. Cinelli, as the Section XI representative to the NYSPHSAA Officials Coordinating Federation.
6. Goals and Objectives – The Executive Director reviewed his Goals and Objectives for the 2005-06 school year.

7. NYSPPHSAA Reports – Paula Nickerson & Nick DeCillis reported on items addressed at the NYSPPHSAA Central Committee Meeting of August 3-4, 2005. Paula Nickerson provided information on the Executive Committee Meeting held on September 12, 2005. The NYSPPHSAA Executive Committee approved the acquisition of 8 Airport Park Blvd., Latham, to become the NYSPPHSAA's new office.
8. Litigation – In the absence of Kevin Seaman, the Executive Director provided an update on the litigation *Devine v Section XI and the NYSPPHSAA*.
9. NYSPPHSAA Hall of Fame Nominations – The Executive Board approved the support of the nomination of the following to the NYSPPHSAA Hall of Fame:
  - Joe Cuozzo – Ward Melville High School Boys' Lacrosse Coach
  - Bob Kersch – Section XI Boys' Swim Official
10. Credit Card Policy – The Executive Board established a credit limit for the use of the Section XI credit card by the Executive Director.
11. Senator Ken LaValle – The Executive Director provided correspondence from New York State Senator Ken LaValle regarding the "Fairness in High School Athletic Competition Act." According to Senator LaValle, no action was taken on this measure prior to the end of the 2005 session on June 24, 2005. He also indicated that "many individuals involved with high school athletics expressed opposition to the bill."
12. NYSPPHSAA Wrestling Committee Proposal – The Executive Director provided correspondence from NYSPPHSAA Assistant Director, Walter Eaton, regarding the proposed changes in the NYSPPHSAA Wrestling Championship. This proposal provides a method of "filling in the four byes" at each weight class in both Division 1 and 2 at the NYSPPHSAA Wrestling Championship. The Executive Board discussed the financial implications to the Section, considering that a Section could be sending at total of 90 wrestlers to the tournament. This item will be discussed at the October 24, 2005 NYSPPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.
13. Section XI Tournament Costs – The Executive Director provided information regarding fees charged by Section XI schools to host Section tournaments as a neutral site. Superintendent Representative, J. Ruck, will discuss this item with the school district superintendent.
14. Spring 2004-05 Finance Sport Chart – The Executive Director reviewed the Financial Chart for the Section XI 2004-05 spring sports.
15. Admission Charge for Section XI Tournaments – The Executive Director presented a letter he received from a coach complaining about the admission charge at Section XI Boys' Lacrosse Championships.
16. Football Championships – The Executive Director provided a 9/11/05 Newsday article from Jason Molinet supporting Section XI and Section VIII involvement in the New York State Football Championships. Section XI President, W. Shierant, and Executive Board Member, N. DeCillis, provided information on this topic.
17. Notice of Subsequent Arrests – The Executive Director provided a chart outlining the number of subsequent arrests involving Section XI officials that have been fingerprinted by the New York State Education Department. The Section received a "Denial of Clearance" for an official that was fingerprinted. This official will not be assigned to officiate in Section XI.

18. Eligibility of Hurricane Evacuees – The Executive Director provided correspondence from NYSPHSAA Executive Director, Nina Van Erk, regarding the athletic eligibility status of Hurricane Katrina evacuees. These students must be treated as transfer students and waiver requests must be made. The Section has received one of these requests. Appropriate information from the school and student was provided. The student was granted a waiver of the NYSPHSAA transfer rule and is participating in interscholastic athletics during the 2005-06 school year.
  19. Section XI Sports Participation – The Executive Director provided two charts outlining the sports participation in Section XI. Sports participation has declined at the JV and modified program levels due to budget defeats and reduction of district funding for interscholastic athletics.
  20. 2005-06 NYSPHSAA Championships – A May 31, 2005 memo from NYSPHSAA Assistant Director, Walter Eaton, was provided. The NYSPHSAA has approved the Nassau Coliseum to host the 2005-06 Wrestling Championships on February 24-25, 2006. This is the first time that Long Island will host the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Championship. Additionally, the Winter Track and Field Championships were moved from the Carrier Dome in Syracuse to Barton Hall at Cornell University.
  21. Future Dates/Sites for NYSPHSAA Championships – A chart was provided that indicated the dates/sites of the future NYSPHSAA Championships. At this time, sites have not been determined for the 2006-07 championships in Girls' Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls' Swimming, Wrestling, Track and Field, Girls' Lacrosse, and Boys' Lacrosse. This makes it difficult to prepare the Section's 2006-07 budget.
  22. Boys' Gymnastics – The Executive Director provided correspondence from a parent of a Boys' Gymnastics competitor at Mt. Sinai. The parent is concerned about the future of Boys' Gymnastics in the Section.
  23. Cheerleading – The Executive Director provided a copy of a letter received from a "Cheerleading Consultant" interested in promoting cheerleading in our member schools. This letter will be shared with the Section Athletic Directors.
  24. Misconduct Follow-Up – A letter was received from the Half Hollow Hills Athletic Director regarding the ejection and misconduct of a Half Hollow Hills West baseball coach on April 29, 2005. The Half Hollow Hills School District accepted the recommendation of the Section XI Executive Board to suspend the coach for the remainder of the 2004-05 baseball season, including playoff games.
  25. Additional Items – The Section XI Executive Board received copies of the following handouts:
    - "Recognizing and Managing Concussions" from the CDC Center of Disease Control and Prevention
    - 2005-06 NYSPHSAA Section Sport Seasons
- C. NYSPHSAA CENTRAL COMMITTEE – N. DeCillis, P. Nickerson, P. Ferenz, J. Ruck  
At its annual meeting of August 3-4, 2005, at the Hyatt Wind Watch, Hauppauge, the NYSPHSAA Central Committee effected the following:
1. Commissioner of Education Registration Regulation - Approved for the NYSPHSAA to write a letter to the Commissioner of Education requesting an amendment to the Commissioner's Registration Regulation that would delete the words "first 15 days of the semester" and "80 percent of the school time" due to the conflict with the NYSPHSAA Transfer Rule.

2. Sport Seasons - Approved the 2005-2006 Section Sports Seasons.
3. Girls' Lacrosse - Approved the reappointment of Jacquie Gow as Girls' Lacrosse State Coordinator and Dr. Robert Christenson as her Assistant State Coordinator for a 5-year term effective September 1, 2005.
4. Boys' Tennis - Approved to extend the current term for Joe Thyroff as Boys' Tennis State Coordinator until the nomination process for selecting the next state coordinator can be completed.
5. Championship Site Selection - Approved the Championship Site Selection document.
6. Strategic Plan - Approved the new Strategic Plan for the next five years.
7. Girls' Soccer - Approved for the NYSPHSAA to continue to sponsor 5 classifications in the Girls' Soccer State Championship Tournament.
8. Boys' Basketball
  - Approved for the NYSPHSAA to continue to sponsor 5 classifications in the Boys' Basketball State Championship Tournament.
  - Approved the denial of presenting a Finalist plaque award in Regional competition in Boys' Basketball.
9. Girls' Basketball - Approved for the NYSPHSAA to continue to sponsor 5 classifications in the Girls' Basketball State Championship Tournament.
10. Softball
  - Approved for the NYSPHSAA to continue to sponsor 5 classifications in the Softball State Championship Tournament.
  - Approved to reduce the bench personnel to 20 and the support personnel to 4 in Softball.
11. Boys' Soccer - Approved for Boys' Soccer to continue the use of 3-man diagonal officiating for the State Tournament effective 2005-2006.
12. Boys' Swimming - Approved for Boys' Swimming/Diving to continue to maintain the qualifying standards for entry into the State Championships.
13. Bowling - Approved for the Boys'/Girls' Bowling State Championships to schedule high school team competition for Saturday, March 4, 2006 and to schedule Section team competition for Sunday, March 5, 2006.
14. Baseball - Approved the denial of a 2-day State Championship tournament for Saturday and Sunday, June 2007 in Baseball.
15. Wrestling
  - Approved in Wrestling for a timeline to be utilized in moving to centralized testing sites and the use of a body composition analyzer for establishing wrestling minimum weight certification 2005-2006: each Section will be encouraged to conduct pilots by utilizing central sites; 2006-2007: Centralized Assessment Sites will be mandated for the minimum weight assessment of all wrestlers (other than those utilizing hydrostatic testing); 2007-2008: A Body Composition Analyzer (such as the Tanita) will be utilized instead of the skin fold calipers in establishing the percentage of body fat and the minimum weight.

- Approved the reintroduction of the 50% rule in Wrestling by mandating that in the 2005-2006 season each wrestler be required to have at least one-third of his/her weigh-ins during the season at the minimum weight he/she will wrestle during the state tournament series. In 2006-2007 and after, 50% of the weigh-ins during the season must be at the minimum weight he/she will wrestle during the state tournament series.

16. Hall of Fame – N. DeCillis congratulated Catherine Gallagher on her being inducted into the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame.

D. COUNSEL – Kevin Seaman

1. Extension of Eligibility – Kevin Seaman provided his opinion on the Extension of Eligibility appeal to the Section XI Athletic Council by the Harborfields School District. The question continues, does the Section have the right not to grant an Extension of Eligibility to a student if the Section feels that the student has not made every attempt to graduate from high school at the end of their senior year.
2. Devine vs. Section XI and the NYSPHSAA – As of this date, the Section and the NYSPHSAA have not received a complaint from counsel to the plaintiff regarding this pending action. At this point, Mr. Seaman feels the case is closed.
3. California Lawsuit – Mr. Seaman reported on a lawsuit filed by a parent of a high school baseball player in California's Corona del Mar High School. The parent felt that the baseball coach was making his son pitch too many innings, damaging his arm, and allegedly making false statements in a newspaper article about the youngster's performance. Both suits were dropped. The coach filed a \$1 million countersuit for malicious prosecution and slander. The Orange County civil jury awarded the coach \$700,000 in damages.

III. INPUT FOR NYSPHSAA

A. Action Item

Motion: M. Huey

Second: S. Reh

to approve the following:

"Shall the NYSPHSAA Wrestling Committee's Proposal to "Fill the Byes" beginning with the 2006-07 NYSPHSAA Championships be approved."

Motion Defeated

IV. SECTION XI ACTION ITEMS

A. Placement

To approve the following:

1. Boys' Tennis (2005/06)

Motion: R. Mayo

Second: J. Pennacchio

DIVISION I

League I	League II
Half Hollow Hills East	Hauppauge
Half Hollow Hills West	Smithtown
Harborfields	Huntington
Commack	Northport
Walt Whitman	Brentwood
Elwood/J. Glenn	Kings Park



B. ModifiedMotion: P. BliebergSecond: J. Thode

To approve the following:

1. Regulations for B Level Programs

- If one team has fewer than the minimum number of players (basketball=12; field hockey=24; football=26, lacrosse=26, soccer=24, and volleyball=14), both teams will play the five-period format, with the A squad playing periods 1 & 3 and the B squad playing periods 2 & 4. When this happens, the 5<sup>th</sup> period will only be played if both teams agree upon it.
- The five-period format will be played by all teams which have selected five-period play (within the four-period format) regardless of the number of players a team may have.

Motion CarriedC. TournamentMotion: J. ThodeSecond: C. Delargy

To approve the following:

1. Boys' Lacrosse – End of one-year experiment:
  - a. The Boys' Lacrosse Class B and Class C state qualifying games will be played at Stony Brook University.
  - b. There shall be a 3-class tournament ending with a Class Champion (A, B, and C) effective with the 2005-06 school year. (Semi-finals in each class will be played at higher seeds.)
2. Girls' Lacrosse – Tournament Format
  - a. There shall be a 3-class tournament ending with a Class Champion (A, B and C) effective with 2005-06 school year. (This will eliminate the Large and Small School Championship games). Semi-Finals in each class will be played at higher seeds.

Motion Carried**V. NEW BUSINESS**

1. The Executive Director reminded the Athletic Council that page 3 of the Building Level BEDS report is due into the Section XI office by November 1, 2005. This information is used by the NYSPHSAA and Section for placement.
2. The Executive Director announced that all future Conference/Council agendas and minutes will be placed on the Section XI website (private access) for Athletic Directors. Additionally, agendas and minutes will be e-mailed to superintendents, principals and Athletic Council representatives. There will be no more mailings.

Motion to Adjourn: J. PennacchioSecond: C. DelargyMotion Carried

Adjournment: 10:10 am

Respectfully submitted,

Edward A. Cinelli  
Executive Director