



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2025

Submitted by: Dr. Robert Zayas



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Synopsis of Actions

#	Page	Action Item																																	
1.	7	Approved the October 21, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Agenda.																																	
2.	7	Approved the July 29-30, 2025 Central Committee Meeting Minutes.																																	
3.	16	Approved Oneida High School’s (Section III) waiver of the NYSPHSAA 7-Day Rule for the remainder of the Fall 2025 season and the entirety of the 2025–2026 Winter season, or until such time as the school is able to return to its primary building.																																	
4.	18	Approved to change letter a, under “Senior All-Star Contest” to “These contests must be approved and recorded by the Section in which they are held.”																																	
5.	19	Approved to change #2, under “Combining of Teams” to “Sections must keep records of approvals.”																																	
6.	22	Approved to establish Sectional Criteria for classifying nonpublic/charter schools and an appeal procedure to the NYSPHSAA Oversight Committee.																																	
7.	23	Approved waivers of the Representation Rule for various sections. <table><tr><th>Section</th><th>Sport</th><th>Waiver</th></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Indoor Track/Field (B/G)</td><td>6 to 3</td></tr><tr><td>IV</td><td>Indoor Track/Field (B/G)</td><td>6 to 3</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Wrestling (G)</td><td>6 to 3</td></tr><tr><td>V</td><td>Wrestling (B) Duals</td><td>6 to 3</td></tr><tr><td>VI</td><td>Wrestling (B) Duals</td><td>6 to 4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Indoor Track/Field (B/G)</td><td>6 to 4</td></tr><tr><td>VIII</td><td>Indoor Track/Field (B/G)</td><td>6 to 4</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Wrestling (G)</td><td>6 to 1</td></tr><tr><td>IX</td><td>Gymnastics</td><td>6 to 3</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Indoor Track/Field (B/G)</td><td>6 to 3</td></tr></table>	Section	Sport	Waiver	2	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 3	IV	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 3		Wrestling (G)	6 to 3	V	Wrestling (B) Duals	6 to 3	VI	Wrestling (B) Duals	6 to 4		Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 4	VIII	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 4		Wrestling (G)	6 to 1	IX	Gymnastics	6 to 3		Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 3
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8.	23	Approved Friend & Neighbor and new member schools. <i>Friend & Neighbor</i> <table><tr><th>Section</th><th>School Name</th></tr><tr><td>No section</td><td>Pharos Academy Charter School</td></tr><tr><td>No section</td><td>Fieldston School</td></tr><tr><td>IV</td><td>Otsego Christian Academy</td></tr><tr><td>IX</td><td>New York Military Academy</td></tr><tr><td>IX</td><td>Tuxedo Park School</td></tr><tr><td>XI</td><td>Harrow International School New York</td></tr></table> <i>New Member</i> <table><tr><th>Section</th><th>School Name</th></tr><tr><td>V</td><td>Rochester Academy of Science Charter School</td></tr></table>	Section	School Name	No section	Pharos Academy Charter School	No section	Fieldston School	IV	Otsego Christian Academy	IX	New York Military Academy	IX	Tuxedo Park School	XI	Harrow International School New York	Section	School Name	V	Rochester Academy of Science Charter School															
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9.	23	Approved of the 2026-2027 School Enrollment numbers.																																	
10.	24	Approved the 2026-2027 Classification Cut-Off numbers for the 6-Classification sports (Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball, and Girls Volleyball).																																	



11.	24	Approved adopting the use of the backstroke ledges on an optional basis for Girls & Boys Swimming beginning in Fall 2026.
12.	24	Approved Queensbury High School as host of the 2027-2029 NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships.
13.	24	Approved Vestal HS (IV)(2026, 2028)/Cicero-North Syracuse HS (III) (2027) as hosts of the NYSPHSAA Football West Semifinals.
14.	24	Approved Middletown High School (IX) as host of the 2026-2028 NYSPHSAA Football East Semifinals.
15.	24	Approved JMA Wireless Dome, Syracuse University (III) as host of the 2026-2028 NYSPHSAA Football Championship Finals.
16.	25	Defeated a motion to approve association adoption, if utilizing the 35-second shot clock, players may dribble the ball for more than five seconds” for the 2025-2026 school year.
17.	26	Approved girls be allowed to wrestle in a maximum of 7 matches per day.
18.	26	Approved adding the language to the NYSPHSAA Handbook under Girls Wrestling for multi-school meets in Girls Wrestling.
19.	26	Approved of an expansion of the appeal procedure by coaches to include all rounds of the NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championships.
20.	26	Approved breaking the current Competitive score sheets into 3, rather than 2.
21.	27	Approved to revise the current NYSPHSAA Appeals Procedure to allow “Officials Only” the ability to review video replay to determine if a scoring situation occurred after time had expired at the end of a period at the Boys Wrestling State Championships.
22.	27	Approved expanding the current NYSPHSAA Appeals Procedure to allow the Appeals Committee to review video during the Blood and Placement Rounds at the Boys Wrestling State Championships.
23.	27	Approved revising the current penalty for getting caught on the hydration test, which is part of the NYSPHSAA Weight Management Program. The revised penalty would be ineligibility to participate in a match until after January 1st and all post season events in Boys Wrestling.
24.	27	Approved revising the current penalty for going over the maximum number of tournaments in a season. The revised penalty would mirror the current penalty of going over the maximum number of points/games in a season for all sports (in boys wrestling).
25.	27	Approved approval of the following penalty for a team that does not provide a Track Wrestling Weigh-In Sheet at a dual meet. <i>“The team without the Track Wrestling Weigh-In Sheet will forfeit the dual meet. The host school will make every effort to provide the school without the weigh-in sheet to print one.”</i>
26.	27	Approved Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex as the host of the 2027-2029 NYSPHSAA Indoor Track/Field State Championships.
27.	29	Approved waiver of Representation Rule for Section VII Girls Tennis from 6 to 0.
28.	29	Approved Adjournment.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Embassy Suites, Saratoga Springs and via ZOOM
October 21, 2025

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Tim Mullins at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, October 21, 2025. Dr. Robert Zayas led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Zayas introduced the individuals in attendance to ascertain a quorum of section representatives, officers, staff, section executive directors and guests.

Attendance

Officers

President	Tim Mullins
First Vice President	Adam Stoltman
Second Vice President	Debra Ferry
Past President	Russell Bartlett

Past Presidents

Julie Bergman (phone)
Paul Harrica
Jim Osborne
Patrick Pizzarelli
Eileen Troy

Staff

Executive Director	Dr. Robert Zayas
Assistant Director	Joe Altieri
Assistant Director	Todd Nelson
Assistant Director	Kristen Jadin
Director of Foundation & Marketing	Chris Joyce
Director of Finance	Lisa Hand
Director of Sports Information & Digital Content	Lexi Swatt-Sheerin
TPG	Zach Betkowski
Distribution Director	Jill Gregorius (phone)

Section Representatives

Section I	Stephen Luciana	Susan Reid
Section 2	Kathleen Russell	Matthew Ronca
Section III	Monica Tooley	Chris Doroshenko
Section IV	Patricia Murphy	Jeffrey Ferrara
Section V	Jennifer Lapinski	Anthony Carusone
Section VI	Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty	Jeffrey Roth
Section VII	Kendra McCoy	Josh Harrica
Section VIII	Jennifer Keane	Patrick Pizzarelli (proxy)
Section IX	Suzanne Lenzian	David Coates
Section X	Erika Backus	James Cruikshank
Section XI	Kathleen Masterson	Tim Horan



Section Executive Directors/Section Guests

Section I	Todd Santabarbara
Section 2	Doug Gejay, Risë Van Iderstine
Section III	Jason Czarny
Section IV	Bill Bryant, Jeffrey Ferrara
Section V	Kathy Hoyt, Jennifer Lapinski
Section VI	Mark DiFilippo
Section VII	Matthew Walentuk
Section VIII	Patrick Pizzarelli
Section IX	Jim Osborne
Section X	Mark Wilson
Section XI	Tom Combs

Standing Committees

Modified Committee	Jim Rose
Officials Coordinating Committee (OCF)	Louie Stellato
Student-Athlete Advisory Committee	Michael Silva
NYSPHSAA Foundation	Gavin Regan

Ex-Officio Members/Consultants

NYSAAA President	Jennifer Keane
NYSAAA Executive Director	Dr. Jim Wright
Council of Administrators (COA)	Darren Phillips
Pupil Benefits, Inc.	Michael Graney
Statewide Public Affairs	Brian Quiara

State Sport Coordinators

Baseball	Al Roy
Flag Football	Jen Lapinski
Softball	Dr. Jim Wright
Gymnastics	Marbry Gansle
B. Outdoor Track/Field	Tom Wells (<i>phone</i>)
G. Outdoor Track/Field	Dan Doherty (<i>phone</i>)
B. Wrestling	Marty Sherman
G. Wrestling	Ryan Palmer



Approval of Agenda

(A) A motion to approve the October 21, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Agenda.

Horan/Pizzarelli

Carried

Approval of Minutes

(A) A motion to approve the July 29-30, 2025 Central Committee Meeting Minutes.

Reid/Murphy

Carried

Officers Reports

President – Tim Mullins

President Tim Mullins shared attended NFHS Section I meeting. He thanked Robert and staff for their work. New York will host NFHS Summer Meeting in 2027.

First Vice President – Adam Stoltman

Adam expressed he is looking forward to state championship season.

Second Vice President – Debra Ferry

Deb thanked all sport coordinators. She also thanked staff and everyone who volunteers their time.

Past President – Russell Bartlett

Russ shared Principal Rep position information. Please pass information. Link below to the application information. Applications are due January 16, 2026.

[NYSPHSAA Officer Position Announcement](#)

Staff Reports

Executive Director – Dr. Robert Zayas

Dr. Robert Zayas referenced many things occurring throughout the association. The 3-Region rotation format has been greatly discussed and is now fully implemented. Going well, consistent geographic opponents for all sections. Emphasized brand new system. Going to be challenges. Discussed some questions and unanticipated issues. Work through those as the process allows. Membership driven. Record high participation, mostly attributed to girls sports. Following NY by implementing Girls Wrestling and Flag Football.

Dr. Zayas noted the high level of current activity within the Association. Updates were provided on the Championship Philosophy Committee, DEI Committee aligning with the strategic plan, and the Schools Without Boundaries Committee led by Adam Stoltman. Additional details were included in the meeting packet.



Dr. Zayas also reported that the three-region rotation, approved by the Central Committee this past summer, has been successfully implemented. The new format provides consistent geographic opponents, greater equity, and is expected to reduce travel costs and missed instructional time. While the system is new and some challenges have emerged, the Association is addressing issues collaboratively with Section Executive Directors. Overall, the model represents a significant improvement, offering a clear, objective, and membership-driven process compared to the previous structure.

He also reported nationally, high school sports participation has reached record highs, driven largely by the growth of girls sports such as flag football and wrestling initiatives that New York has helped pioneer.

Dr. Zayas referenced the NFHS Network, which continues to benefit schools across the state. Members were asked to report any Pixellot camera issues directly to Dr. Zayas. With more than 20,000 cameras in use nationwide, occasional technical problems are expected, and assistance is available to resolve them promptly.

Dr. Zayas' full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).

Questions? – Pat P. said that Section VIII is not saving money with their at-large teams. Dr. Zayas emphasized that if at any point in time a section wants to forego their at large opportunity, they can certainly do that. It would rotate to the next section in order. So, there's no requirement to fill the at large if a school has concerns about the extended travel that they may encounter.

Assistant Director – Joe Altieri

Joe reported that there are 11 state championships up for bid this year, not nine as previously noted. Five of these bids will be discussed later in the meeting. Sections are encouraged to submit bids, and staff is available to assist with the process. Joe emphasized the importance of receiving bids from member sections to ensure strong championship host sites.

Joe also reported, for the second consecutive year, both boys and girls individual and team tennis championships will be held at the USTA National Tennis Center, beginning with meetings on Sunday and competition starting Monday. Hosting both events at the same location promotes gender equity, though weather can be a challenge in June.

In girls soccer, no games will be played at SUNY Cortland or TC3 this year due to facility conflicts and turf conditions at TC3. Instead, games will be hosted at Homer, Dryden, and Cortland High Schools.

Joe thanked Jamie Harter, Susan Reid, and Dr. Carlos Cotto for their service on the Championship Advisory Committee and welcomed Kristin Frazer, Stephen Luciana, and Matt Ronca as new members.



He also noted the passing of Peter Hugo, longtime Boys Swimming and Diving Coordinator, on September 29. Scott Warner has been serving as interim coordinator and will be considered, along with other applicants, through the formal appointment process in May or June.

Joe reminded members that the Hall of Fame nomination deadline for the Class of 2026 is January 9. The website now includes a “Future Consideration” feature allowing nominations of individuals not yet meeting the minimum age requirement of 35. These submissions will be retained for future eligibility. Joe’s full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).

Questions? – None.

Assistant Director – Todd Nelson

Todd highlighted the NFHS Coaches Recognition Program and the coaches being honored this year. He commended Ron Woodruff for his efforts in collecting nominations and coordinating with committees, sections, and schools in identify deserving candidates.

All recognized coaches will receive an NFHS State Certificate Award and will also be considered for Section Awards (Section I within the NFHS) and National Awards. Todd extended congratulations and best wishes to all honorees as they advance through the selection process. Todd’s full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).

Questions? - None.

Assistant Director – Kristen Jadin

Kristen reported that the 2024–2025 Participation Survey is now available on the NYSPHSAA website. The Association continues to collaborate with Final Forms to streamline the process, supported by the previously distributed readiness checklist for athletic directors. The survey achieved a strong 93% submission rate.

Kristen, along with Jen Lapinski, provided an update on Spalding flag football. The official game ball for state, regional, and sectional championships will be the Spalding Advance Pro Youth Size (Composite). Schools may use a Spalding Advance Pro Youth Leather ball of the same size during sectionals, regionals, and states, provided it meets specifications. Approval of NFHS rules is anticipated in February.

Kristen reminded schools that the Student Leadership Conference application is open through December 12, with section selections due January 20. The Scholar-Athlete program will open October 27.

Finally, the 2026-2027 Executive/Central Committee meeting sites were shared.

Kristen’s full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).



Questions? – Josh Harrica presented a concern from Section VII regarding the rotation of the Central Committee meeting, noting that his understanding was Lake Placid would be considered as a potential host location.

Dr. Robert Zayas noted that scheduling conflicts persist in Lake Placid due to the annual lacrosse tournament held during that same time period. He also added that Rivers Casino and Resort, which hosted the most recent meeting, received positive feedback regarding facilities, logistics, and accommodations. Due to increasing hotel demand and rapidly filling venues, it was necessary to secure contracts several years in advance. Officers were informed of the 2027 meeting contract with Rivers Casino.

Previous practice has been for staff and officers to identify and secure locations to ensure competitive rates. Additionally, Dr. Zayas noted that, historically, the Central Committee meeting rotation has included hosting in the section of the incoming President and, in alternating years, selecting a centrally located, fiscally responsible venue. In the past, this location was Turning Stone, but the Rivers Casino now provides greater cost savings while maintaining a high-quality meeting environment. Dr. Zayas encouraged sections to share any concerns; no additional concerns were presented.

Director of Finance - Lisa Hand

Lisa reported that the Association remains in a strong financial position, closing the fiscal year with a surplus of \$425,000. As of August 31, the Association held \$1.7 million in cash and just over \$6 million in investments, reflecting an increase of approximately \$440,000 from the previous year. Accounts receivable totaled \$189,000, including \$100,000 due from CP Sportswear, and \$1 million in advance dues has already been collected for the 2025–2026 school year.

Total revenues reached \$2.65 million, exceeding budget projections by \$146,000. Income from CP Sportswear contributed \$320,000. While winter championships were profitable, fall and spring championships recorded modest losses, resulting in a net championship deficit of about \$26,000.

On the expense side, both administrative and program costs came in under budget. Before investment income, there was a small operating loss of \$81,000; however, strong investment gains exceeding \$500,000 produced a solid year-end surplus.

Lisa confirmed that auditors completed fieldwork last month and no major adjustments are anticipated. The actuarial report has been finalized and incorporated into the financial summary. Overall, the Association remains financially sound, ahead of budget, and well positioned for the 2025–2026 school year.

Lisa's full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).

Questions? – None.



Director of Foundation & Marketing – Chris Joyce

Chris announced that the new contract with GoFan officially began this fall. Participating sections will receive their guarantee payments each February, with potential revenue share distributions in July following the annual audit. Sections also receive a one-time allotment of Box Office packages as a bonus; any sections that have not yet collected theirs should contact Tyler at GoFan.

All fall event tickets are available on GoFan, except for the football finals, which remain on Ticketmaster due to venue requirements at the JMA Wireless Dome. Walk-up ticket sales are available to avoid online fees.

A Dropbox link with current NYSPHSAA logos has been shared with sections.

Chris emphasized the need for increased participation in championship bid submissions, noting that recent RFPs have received limited responses. Most NYSPHSAA events will be open for bid over the next 18 months, and sections are encouraged to promote opportunities within their areas.

Finally, work is underway to transition many website pages from PDFs to live documents, allowing for real-time updates and improved accuracy. Chris concluded by noting that the Foundation Tournament held over the summer was successful, with Gavin to provide a detailed update. Chris's full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).

Questions? – None.

Director of Sports Information & Digital Content – Lexi Swatt-Sheerin

Lexi provided an update on record report form submissions, noting a recent increase and encouraging continued use to keep record books current and to recognize outstanding student-athlete achievements.

She shared updates from the NFHS Network, including new technical support contacts and the appointment of Austin McCullough as the Content Acquisition Manager for New York, reflecting the state's high volume of broadcasted events. The fall postseason is expected to exceed 450 total events, surpassing last year's numbers.

For championship credentials, Lexi reminded members to contact Kristen during her upcoming absence.

Lexi commended SAAC leaders Michael and Sarah for their proactive work on social media, which has significantly increased engagement, particularly in promoting the Student Leadership Conference.

She also highlighted NFHS initiatives such as Protect the Purpose, Become an Official, and Bench Bad Behavior, encouraging schools to participate.



Lastly, Lexi reminded everyone to stay vigilant against fake social media accounts impersonating NYSPHSAA and to verify any suspicious pages before engaging. Lexi's full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).

Questions? – None.

Zach Betkowski - TPG

Zach provided an update on sponsorships, noting strong regional and national interest in partnering with New York high school athletics. He credited this to the state's reputation for excellence and emphasized the goal of connecting visionary brands with school communities.

NYSPHSAA expects to surpass 2024–25 sponsorship revenue, with several current, prospective, and negotiating partners outlined for transparency. Zach thanked section directors and coordinators for supporting both state and sectional-level partnerships, which help tailor opportunities to specific regions.

He also expressed appreciation to all sections and schools that participated in the New York State Department of Health Suicide Prevention Campaign in September, noting the importance of aligning sponsorships with meaningful initiatives. Zach's full written report can be found in the [NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting Packet](#).

Questions? – None.

Legal Counsel - Renee James

Renee provided a legal update, beginning with Education Law 2-d compliance. The Association continues to ensure that all contracted companies and school vendors meet data privacy requirements. Recent State Education Department guidelines clarified the definition of directory information and reminded schools not to include opt-out notices that conflict with FERPA. Sections should confirm that all schools use the FERPA definition of directory information (name, address, etc.) and verify that companies do not sell or misuse student data. One outstanding vendor contract remains under review to achieve full compliance.

Renee also reviewed current legal developments regarding transgender participation laws. About 25 states have enacted restrictions based on biological sex; however, federal injunctions have paused enforcement in many cases. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear a case involving a West Virginia high school athlete, while a related Idaho case may be dismissed. These rulings are not expected to impact New York, where State Education Department guidance continues to allow students to compete according to their gender identity. Additionally, the Maine Department of Education faces a federal Title IX and Equal Protection lawsuit over similar policies. Renee will continue to monitor all developments.

She also reminded members of the assumed name rule, prohibiting athletes from competing under false names to conceal participation from outside organizations. This issue has arisen recently in soccer, where some club teams restrict high school play.



Finally, Renee noted ongoing national litigation around transfer rules and Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) rights. In Alabama, a court blocked enforcement of transfer restrictions tied to public funding for private schools. Only six states still prohibit high school NIL activity, and a recent injunction challenges one of those bans. Renee confirmed that NYSPHSAA remains compliant and proactive in addressing these legal matters.

Questions? – None.

Information Items

None at this time.

NYSPHSAA Foundation Report

Gavin welcomed new board members Amanda (Section IX) and Patrick (Section XI), along with Zach from TPG. Mike Robbins (Section 2) will begin his term as Treasurer.

He reported that the Golf Tournament at Mohawk River Country Club was a success, raising over \$12,000 for the NYSPHSAA Foundation. Gavin thanked all participants, sponsors, and donors, and gave special recognition to Chris Joyce for his excellent coordination. Plans are underway to secure a Buffalo-area course for the next tournament on July 27.

The GoFan ticket donation initiative, which adds a voluntary \$1 contribution per ticket, generated over \$7,000 last year.

Gavin reminded sections that the Board has an ongoing responsibility to support Foundation fundraising, not necessarily through large efforts, but by helping increase awareness of the Foundation's work. The Foundation recently awarded grants to Brentwood (Section XI) and Brookfield (Section III) to assist with athletic equipment needs.

He noted that \$1,000 grants are available to schools and partner organizations on a rolling basis, and the reimbursement scholarship program remains open for students completing RefReps officiating certification. Additionally, the USTA tennis venue is offering grant opportunities for schools with tennis programs.

Gavin encouraged members to visit the Foundation webpage to explore donation options and available grant programs.



Ex-Officio Reports

Pupil Benefits – Michael Graney

No report.

New York State Education Department (NYSED) – Dr. Gemma Rinefield

No report.

New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA) – Jennifer Keane

Jennifer reported that the NYSAAA Executive and Report Meeting was productive and focused on updates to the Constitution and Bylaws. Several new committees have been formed, including the Health, Physical Education, and Wellness Committee, co-chaired by Suzanne.

Open positions include a Co-Membership Chair to support statewide membership efforts and a State Liaison to the NIAAA, as Danny Fries will be retiring from his representative role. Applications for the Hall of Fame and Wall of Honor have been reopened, with a deadline of November 15. Members are encouraged to submit nominations for deserving individuals within their sections.

Planning is well underway for the 45th Annual NYSAAA Conference, which begins on March 17 (St. Patrick's Day). The event will feature a commemorative challenge coin in celebration of the milestone. Jennifer noted that work continues on the organization's strategic plan, with several initiatives in progress to strengthen the Association's future.

Consultants Reports

Director of Government Affairs – Brian Quiara, Statewide Public Affairs

Brian reported that state government activity remains steady but relatively quiet as the Legislature is out of session. The Governor currently has several hundred bills awaiting signature or veto, though major legislative action will resume in January when the new session begins.

He noted that 2025 will be a busy election year, with all 213 legislators and the Governor up for election. Brian reminded members that a new bill does not automatically become law and encouraged communication with Robert Zayas or his team regarding any legislative concerns. He and Robert remain in regular contact to monitor state developments and address potential impacts on the Association.

Council of Administrators (COA) – Darren Phillips

Darren reported that the COA Conference will be held next month, with 40 directors registered and a goal of reaching 50–60 attendees. Attendance has improved compared to recent years, and the conference will feature a strong lineup of speakers and the debut of the updated Physical Education and Health Professional Certification Course, developed by Dr. Jim Wright. For the first time, the conference will also offer two LTC courses, thanks to Jim Wright and Greg Warren.



A free registration program remains available for first-year directors, and sections are encouraged to promote this opportunity. The COA recently sent a statewide letter to superintendents, emphasizing the value of professional development in health and physical education.

The conference business meeting will focus on finalizing the five-year strategic plan, updating bylaws, and forming a conference planning committee. Darren also highlighted efforts to update the digital handbook and explore resources addressing online gambling addiction among students. Lastly, Membership continues to grow, increasing from 280 to 350 members this year.

NYS Coaches Association – Ron Woodruff

No report.

NYS Council of Superintendents (NYSCOSS) – Dr. Angelina Maloney

No report.



Sectional Concerns

<u>Section</u>	<u>Concern</u>
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Section I	Girls Wrestling Modified – Reduced wait period. Safety.
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Section 2	No concerns.
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Section III	Section III presented the Advance Sectional Concern for Swimming/Diving mergers. The entire concern was in the meeting packet. <i>President Tim Mullins directed the concern to the Combining of Teams committee.</i>
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Section III also requested a waiver of the 7-Day rule for Oneida High School, which was flooded. Their high school moved to the middle school. They cannot access their high school at all. The waiver of 7-Day rule will allow them to arrange practices.

Dr Zayas explained that, historically, the Executive Committee has not granted waivers to single schools, as such exceptions have only been approved when requested by an entire section. He did note that Section III could choose to bring a formal motion for a waiver or request a decision from the officers, but emphasized that flexibility is limited since the seven-day rule is an NYSPHSAA policy.

(A) A motion to approve Oneida High School's (Section III) waiver of the NYSPHSAA 7-Day Rule for the remainder of the Fall 2025 season and the entirety of the 2025–2026 Winter season, or until such time as the school is able to return to its primary building.

Doroshenko/Murphy

Questions? Pat – How does that help? Chris D. explained further about the struggles the school is going through, not only athletically, but academically. The school is half day middle school and half day high school. Kathy asked what size school it was. It is a B. This would be for the winter season only. Further discussion ensued.

CARRIED.

Section IV	No concerns.
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Section V	Section V requested some assistance in getting Flag Football and Girls Wrestling added to the APP chart that Medical Directors reference. Tim noted Dr. Zayas will work with NYSED regarding this topic.
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Section VI	No concerns.
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- Section VII Section VII reported ongoing difficulties with NFHS support. Dr. Zayas advised that any issues be sent to him directly, and he will work with NFHS to help resolve them.
- Section VIII Section VIII's concern is regarding cheerleading, which still has out of season restrictions with choreography that no other sport has. President Mullins directed the concern to the Handbook Committee.
- Section IX No concerns.
- Section X No concerns.
- Section XI No concerns.



Standing Committee Reports

Budget/Audit Committee – Adam Stoltman, 1st Vice President

Adam referenced the written report on behalf of the Budget/Audit Committee. He noted the base fee of the dues will continue to increase \$50 annually. The full budget/audit committee written report can be found in the Executive Committee Meeting packet.

Questions? – None.

Championship Advisory Committee (CAC) – Greg Ransom

Joe Altieri provided an update on the Championship Advisory Committee (CAC). He reported that four proposals were reviewed: three in track and one in bowling. All were approved unanimously (8–0) for recommendation. Additionally, five championship sites were proposed, with no concerns raised by the committee; both staff and the CAC agreed on all selections, noting that each tournament had only one bidder. Joe also shared that the status of the Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving Team Championship was discussed. No action was taken, as the designation has not yet been voted on by the Philosophy Committee. The CAC will revisit the item following the Philosophy Committee’s next meeting. The full meeting report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet.

Questions? – None.

Handbook Committee – Pat Pizzarelli

Pat reported on behalf of the Handbook Committee, noting that the lacrosse committee raised a proposal to revise the forfeit rule, similar to football, where a forfeit does not count as a contest. The committee held a thorough discussion, recognizing that this change could affect multiple sports beyond lacrosse. Additional information has been requested from sport coordinators, and the committee will revisit the issue once that data is received. The full meeting report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet. Pat also shared that the committee discussed adding sport-specific information to the Handbook, which Renee advised would provide legal clarity in potential future cases. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet. The following items were presented for discussion and action.

(D) Consider approval to add language to the NYSPHSAA

Representation rule so it reads , ““A contestant or athletic team shall not represent a school in a **game, contest, or scrimmage**, except in conformance with all rules and regulations.”

(A) A motion to approve to change letter a, under “Senior All-Star Contest” to “These contests must be approved and recorded by the Section in which they are held.”

Doroshenko/Masterson **Carried**



(A) A motion to change #2, under “Combining of Teams” to “Sections must keep records of approvals.”

Harrica/Keane

Carried

Questions? – None.

Student-Athlete Development Committee (SADC) – Kristen Jadin

Kristen thanked the SADC for their service and help preparing for the SAAC Summit and Leadership Conference. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet.

Questions? – None.

Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) – Michael Silva

Michael provided an update on behalf of the SAAC. He shared that this is his second year serving on the committee and that the group held its first meeting of the year, focusing on welcoming new members and helping them become comfortable with the meeting format. Additionally, the committee began discussions about participation on other NYSPHSAA committees, such as the Safety and Handbook Committees, noting the value of those experiences and appreciation for how student input is welcomed and respected. Michael shared SAAC is also preparing for Mental Health Awareness Week, brainstorming activities and outreach ideas. Looking ahead, the committee will attend the SAAC Summit in Syracuse on December 6–7, which will be the first travel experience for many members, and is also planning for the Student Leadership Conference in April. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet.

Questions? – None.

Sportsmanship Committee – Todd Nelson & Kristen Jadin

The Sportsmanship Committee is currently discussing how to address lopsided scores across sections. Section VIII was commended for its early efforts in this area, and the committee is considering whether to include recommendations in the Handbook or on the website for statewide guidance. Todd also shared that he and Kristen are reviewing the Sportsmanship Promotion Program, noting it may be time to refresh and reinvigorate the initiative based on committee feedback. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet.

Questions? – None.

Safety Committee – Todd Nelson

Todd highlighted a new NFHS Learn course, Emergency Action Planning for After-School Activities, which is free and encouraged for coaches, administrators, and staff. This resource complements the Anyone Can Save a Life program and supports NYSED guidance requiring schools to include after-school activities in their safety plans. Lastly, the committee will review a Section 2 proposal in the spring regarding the start date for pitchers and catchers in baseball. Section 2 also provided supporting data emphasizing pitcher development, and the topic will be discussed further at the next Safety Committee meeting. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet.

Questions? – None.



Modified Committee – Jim Rose

Jim reported several action items for consideration. He recommended Matt Lipinski (Section V) as the first Modified Flag Football Coordinator and Dean Berardo (Section I) as the Modified Ice Hockey Coordinator, noting that Dean previously served in the role and the Association is pleased to welcome him back. Jim also presented a proposal to revise the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule. The proposal passed 12–6–1, with some concerns expressed about the appropriate use of APP procedures. Looking ahead, the committee will review several upcoming items, including wrestling weight classifications, a proposal to adjust the kickoff yard line in modified football, and a field hockey period time modification. These topics will be discussed at the next meeting. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet. The following items were presented for discussion and action.

(D) Consider approval of Matt Lapinski (Section V) as the Modified Flag Football Coordinator.

(D) Consider approval of Dean Berardo (Section I) as the Modified Ice Hockey Coordinator.

(D) Consider approval of revising the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule to, ***“With Section approval, contestants may be promoted to a higher classification within the modified program or to a junior varsity or varsity team at any time during their modified schedule.”***

Discussion: Some concerns who voted against. How using APP? Are they using it appropriately. Wrestling – decreasing wait time...may have action there. Section interested in looking yard line for modified football. Field Hockey – period proposal and time.

Deb F. asked for clarification on if a student can be moved up after the modified season? Jim indicated they could not based on this language. Kathy M. asked if the intent is to fill rosters.

Todd N. said the intent of rule to mirror freshmen rule. They do have 7th and 8th graders that do have the ability, but schools are keeping them at the modified level to keep the program alive.

Matt W. – If a school wants to use APP to fill rosters, they will do it. He explained that 50% is an arbitrary number.

Adam asked if there are cases where modified season is different. Todd N. said it does not change the one season rule. Those games at modified level still count to maximum number of games.

As a result of the discussion, the proposal language will be amended to:



(D) Consider approval of revising the NYSPHSAA Promotion Rule to, *“With Section approval, contestants may be promoted to a higher classification within the modified program or to a junior varsity or varsity team at any time.”*

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee – Dr. Carlos Cotto

Dr. Robert Zayas reported on behalf of Dr. Cotto, who was unable to attend due to an unforeseen district conflict. Dr. Zayas noted that DEI remains one of the four main priorities of the NYSPHSAA strategic plan and that the DEI Committee continues to play an active role in advancing those efforts. The committee recently reviewed outcomes from the Central Committee meeting, including breakout discussions on the Big Five and statewide DEI initiatives. Moving forward, the DEI Committee will review Executive and Central Committee proposals and agendas prior to meetings, similar to the CAC, to ensure all items are viewed through a DEI lens. The committee also discussed the Championship Philosophy Committee’s work, emphasizing that no steps should be taken that reduce current opportunities for girls. Sections shared updates on their own emerging DEI committees, with Section VI’s efforts highlighted as a model. Dr. Zayas also noted that all members have now completed implicit bias training and that the sportsmanship rule was updated to allow sections to sanction schools that fail to address incidents of harassment or derogatory behavior. Additionally, the Big Five serves as an ex officio member of the DEI Committee. Finally, Dr. Zayas shared that the Big Five is pursuing legislation for voting representation on the Executive and Central Committees. While the Association supports ensuring their voice is represented, member concerns remain regarding communication flow and governance structure, as representation is currently organized by sections, not by individual districts or groups. Dr. Zayas also shared the Big Five expressed concerns with the increased ticket prices, but did note the Budget/Audit Committee noted NYSPHSAA cannot continue to provide the same level of services if revenue did not increase. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet.

Questions? – Pat P. asked if the Big Five was in attendance today. Dr. Robert Zayas confirmed they were not in attendance.

Transfer Committee – Dr. Robert Zayas

Dr. Zayas shared the next meeting is March 30th. He shared that it is up to us to review the transfer rule to ensure it continues to benefit students. He asked that Sections present proposals for consideration on March 30 for potential revisions or amendments to the NYSPHSAA Transfer Rule.

Championship Philosophy Committee

Dr. Zayas reported on behalf of the Championship Philosophy Committee. The committee reviewed the 5–8% participation guideline for individual sports, noting that some exceed the limit (e.g., skiing and girls’ cross country), while others fall well below it (e.g., tennis). Members discussed whether the guideline remains practical and agreed that participation limits should be flexible and sport-specific rather than uniform across all activities. Proposals were reviewed to reduce participant numbers in indoor and outdoor track, while swimming and diving will remain unchanged at this time. The committee decided not to recommend reclassifying swimming and



diving as a team/individual sport but will revisit the topic in the future. Dr. Zayas shared the next steps include having members gather feedback from their sections on the 5–8% guideline and explore potential revisions, such as an 8% ceiling with a waiver option. Section should come to the meeting with proposals for consideration. The full written report can be found in the Executive Committee meeting packet.

Questions? – Pat said to remove the percentage and only allow a certain number of people per race. Dr. Zayas emphasized sending in proposals for consideration.

Schools Without Boundaries Ad Hoc Committee – Adam Stoltman

No report. The follow items were presented as action.

(A) Consider approval to establish Sectional Criteria for classifying nonpublic/charter schools and an appeal procedure to the NYSPHSAA Oversight Committee.

Horan/Keane

**Carried
20-2**

**Section I
– 2 No**

Unified Sports Committee – Todd Nelson

No report.

Officials Coordinating Federation (OCF) – Louie Stellato

Louie presented on behalf of the OCF, noting that the new structure is still being finalized. The goal is to have an in-person meeting in December that includes representatives from each section and each sport, with plans to present the finalized re-structure at that time.



General Discussion & Action Items

(A) A motion to approve waivers of the Representation Rule for various sections.

Harrica/Fallacaro

Carried

Section	Sport	Waiver
2	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 3
IV	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 3
	Wrestling (G)	6 to 3
V	Wrestling (B) Duals	6 to 3
VI	Wrestling (B) Duals	6 to 4
	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 4
VIII	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 4
	Wrestling (G)	6 to 1
IX	Gymnastics	6 to 3
	Indoor Track/Field (B/G)	6 to 3

(A) A motion to approve of Friend & Neighbor and new member schools.

Horan/Coates

Carried

Friend & Neighbor

Section	School Name
No section	Pharos Academy Charter School
No section	Fieldston School
IV	Otsego Christian Academy
IX	New York Military Academy
IX	Tuxedo Park School
XI	Harrow International School New York

New Member

Section	School Name
V	Rochester Academy of Science Charter School

(A) A motion to approve of the [2026-2027 School Enrollment numbers](#).

Keane/Doroshenko

Carried

Discussion:

Todd N. shared two or three schools were removed from the list because they were already part of a district and one was a nonmember school. Any other changes would be made for clerical error only.



(A) A motion to approve the [2026-2027 Classification Cut-Off numbers](#) for the 6-Classification sports (Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Baseball, Softball, and Girls Volleyball).

Keane/Reid

Carried

Discussion:

Todd N. clarified in Girls Soccer Class D, it is 101 schools.

Fall Sports Discussion/Action Items

(A) Consider approval to adopt the use of the backstroke ledges for Girls & Boys Swimming beginning in Fall 2026.

Discussion: Section IX would like to change the proposal to be optional for 2026-2027.

(A) A motion to approve adopting the use of the backstroke ledges on an optional basis for Girls & Boys Swimming beginning in Fall 2026.

Ronca/Murphy

Carried

Discussion:

Marisa asked what would occur at state championships. Dr. Zayas shared they would be used because the pool can accommodate them.

(I) Consider approval of a Team Championship in the Boys/Girls Swimming/Diving State Championships.

Discussion:

This was shared to keep the committee informed. It is not moving forward until Championship Philosophy has the opportunity to discuss the overall philosophy regarding percentages.

(A) A motion to approve Queensbury High School as host of the 2027-2029 NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships.

Harrica/Pizzarelli

Carried

(A) A motion to approve Vestal HS (IV)(2026, 2028)/Cicero-North Syracuse HS (III) (2027) as hosts of the NYSPHSAA Football West Semifinals.

Tooley/Murphy

Carried

(A) A motion to approve Middletown High School (IX) as host of the 2026-2028 NYSPHSAA Football East Semifinals.

Coates/Pizzarelli

Carried

(A) A motion to approve JMA Wireless Dome, Syracuse University (III) as host of the 2026-2028 NYSPHSAA Football Championship Finals.

Coates/McCoy

Carried



Winter Sports Discussion/Action Items

(A) A motion to approve adopting the note under rule 9-10-art 1a which states, “By state association adoption, if utilizing the 35-second shot clock, players may dribble the ball for more than five seconds” for the 2025-2026 school year.

Keane/Masterson

**Defeated
10-10-2**

Discussion:

Todd explained that while the NFHS historically did not include a shot clock, New York has always used one. The NFHS rulebook also includes a closely guarded rule, which allows a five-second count when a player is stationary and closely guarded. Todd noted that a provision was added allowing NYSPHSAA to determine how to apply the rule. Under the current interpretation, if a player begins dribbling laterally, the five-second count no longer applies.

**Sections
2, III, V,
VI, VII – 2
No**

**Section
IX – 2
Abstain**

Marisa questioned the timing of the change, asking why it was being addressed now, and Keane inquired whether the section coordinator should bring the matter back to the sections for feedback.

This will be action in February to begin in the 2026-2027 school year.

(D) Consider approval to require the school team in each division to have a minimum of five (5) athletes on its roster for the state tournament and begin competition with at least five (5) athletes.

(D) Consider approval to revise the current NYSPHSAA Representation Rule that allows female wrestlers to participate in both male and female events during the regular season and then choose to participate in the female NYSPHSAA Championship. The revision would prohibit any female that participates on a boys team during the regular season from participating in the girls post season. ****This is the 2nd time this will be discussion***

Discussion:

Ryan reported that data is being collected to support recent discussions, focusing on two key areas: the number of teams in each section and the number and certification levels of officials. He explained that gathering team data is important, as concerns have been raised about regional differences, and several sections continue to add new teams with the season approaching. Data on officials will be collected after USA Wrestling’s October elevation process, which determines M2 and M1 status, which is the certification levels required for postseason events. Ryan plans to distribute surveys to sections and officials and expects to compile and present the information for further discussion at the winter meeting.

Todd N. said the data will be provided at the beginning of December. Therefore, sections will have the necessary information to vote in February.



Pat P. said they need more discussion. Why treated different than girls golf?

Susan said if data is available in a timely manner, Section I is okay with action in February. Monica supported this.

Ryan also explained that girls and boys wrestling are considered two distinct sports, noting that girls compete in freestyle, while boys compete in folkstyle. The two have different rule sets, scoring systems, and period structures, with freestyle matches generally moving at a faster pace. He emphasized that the switch to freestyle has significantly supported growth, with a 56% increase in participation over the past year.

Ryan acknowledged that earlier concerns suggested the change might slow growth, but current data shows the opposite. He added that many girls continue to practice with boys, which helps bridge the competitive gap while maintaining fairness in competition. Girls may still opt to compete in the boys' postseason if they choose.

He reiterated that freestyle and folkstyle are fundamentally different sports, just as girls and boys golf differ by design. For schools without separate teams, he recognized the challenge of limited matches but noted substantial progress and some sections, such as Section VIII, have quadrupled their number of teams since last year. Ryan concluded that maintaining the current approach helps ensure competitive integrity and avoids issues like those seen at last year's seeding meeting, where limited competition data complicated fair rankings.

President Mullins reiterated this will be action in February.

(A) A motion to approve girls be allowed to wrestle in a maximum of 7 matches per day.	<i>Horan/Tooley</i>	Carried
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(A) A motion to approve adding the language to the NYSPHSAA Handbook under Girls Wrestling for multi-school meets.	<i>Fallacaro/Tooley</i>	Carried
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Discussion:

Todd N. noted the proposal should say minimum of three (3) schools and fifteen (15) wrestlers.

(A) A motion to approve an expansion of the appeal procedure by coaches to include all rounds of the NYSPHSAA Girls Wrestling Championships.	<i>Keane/Luciana</i>	Carried
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(A) A motion to approve to break the current Competitive score sheets into 3, rather than 2.	<i>Keane/Murphy</i>	Carried
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(A) A motion to approve to revise the current NYSPHSAA Appeals Procedure to allow “Officials Only” the ability to review video replay to determine if a scoring situation occurred after time had expired at the end of a period at the NYSPHAA State Championships.	Russell/Reid	Carried
(A) A motion to approve to expand the current NYSPHSAA Appeals Procedure to allow the Appeals Committee to review video during the Blood and Placement Rounds at the NYSPHAA State Championships.	Keane/Horan	Carried
(A) A motion to approve to revise the current penalty for getting caught on the hydration test, which is part of the NYSPHSAA Weight Management Program. The revised penalty would be ineligibility to participate in a match until after January 1st and all post season events.	Harrica/Fallacaro	Carried 20-2 Section V – 2 No
(A) A motion to approve to revise the current penalty for going over the maximum number of tournaments in a season. The revised penalty would mirror the current penalty of going over the maximum number of points/games in a season for all sports.	Russell/Reid	Carried
(A) A motion to approve of the following penalty for a team that does not provide a Track Wrestling Weigh-In Sheet at a dual meet. “The team without the Track Wrestling Weigh-In Sheet will forfeit the dual meet. The host school will make every effort to provide the school without the weigh-in sheet to print one.”	Pizzarelli/Luciana	Carried 20-2 Section V – 2 No
(A) A motion to approve Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex as the host of the 2027-2029 NYSPHSAA Indoor Track/Field State Championships.	Horan/Pizzarelli	Carried



Spring Sports Discussion/Action Items

(D) Consider approval to adopt the NFHS Rules for Flag Football with waivers.

Discussion:

Jen L. shared that the NFHS rulebook was received in late June, and since then, she has been working with the committee and officials' groups to review the rules.

(D) Consider approval to add language to the NFHS Rules to require dead ball flag checks.

Discussion:

Jen L. explained the proposal. There were no questions.

(D) Consider approval of an onside play option.

Discussion:

Jen L. explained the proposal. Matt W. asked if plays were unlimited. Jen shared that in the proposal it states, "There is no limit to the amount of onside plays a team may use as long as the provisions of lines 1, 2, and 3 of this section are still valid."

(D) Consider approval to set in place when using the super standard to qualify for the Outdoor Track/Field State Championship meet, an athlete must finish in the top five in the state qualifier meet, effective 2026.

Discussion:

The committee asked why not the top 3? Tom Wells explained going down to three may eliminate a top-notch athlete. The Super Standard is based on the average of the 4th place finisher.

(D) Consider approval to not allow performances using the super standards (obtained after the state qualifier meet) toward the entry into the Outdoor Track/Field State Championship meet.

(D) Consider approval to utilize the three-year average for the formula for qualifying standards using the seed performances.

Discussion:

Dan Doherty explained In past it used to be a five-year average. A three- year average would be more current and eliminates the COVID era.



(D) Consider approval of making it optional to utilize a double first base for the 2026 season (regular and postseason).

Discussion:

Al Roy explained that the NFHS will mandate the use of a double first base beginning in 2027. Several schools have reached out with questions, and the goal is to provide schools the option to implement it early as a safety measure.

Renee asked whether a specific safety rule exists to address potential concerns during the transition period? Al noted early adoption could help minimize risk.

Michael Silva expressed support for offering schools the option ahead of the 2027 requirement.

Good of the Order

(A) A motion to approve waivers of the Representation Rule for Girls Tennis, Section VII, 6 to 0.

Harrica/Coates

Carried

President Tim Mullins thanked Patti Murphy for her many years of service as it was her last meeting. She has made significant impact in the lives of countless student-athletes, as well as the association as a whole.

Adjournment

(A) A motion to adjourn.

*Murphy/
Cruikshank*

Carried