

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

January 21, 2026

Section XI Office

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by President Cox 9:05am. 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-Officio:			Executive Director:	T. Combs	X
Treasurer:	S. Leister	Abs.	Assistant Director:	P. Blieberg	X
Counsel:	K. Seaman	Abs.	Consultant:	K. O'Reilly	X
			Officials Rep:	Carol Lovrich	X

CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES

I.	N. Taylor	Abs.	II.	A. O'Farrell	X
	M. Keltos	X		C. Cobb	X
	D. Barth	X		M. DeVincenzo	X
	G. Beutel	X		S. Restivo	X
	K. Mitchell	X		L. Dolson	X
	M. Vaccaro	X		A. Beyersdorf	X
III.	S. Lipshie	Abs.	IV.	S. Petretti	Abs.
	S. Bricker	Abs.		J. Ruggero	Abs.
	J. Cohen	X		D. Phillips	X
	S. Reh	X		M. DeJoseph	X
	A. Shannon	X		A. Strickland	X
	A. Daleo	X		R. Mott	Abs.

Also in attendance: Robert Zayas

Approval of Minutes

"to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2025 Athletic Council Meeting."

Motion: K. Mitchell Second: A. Beyersdorf

Motion: **Approved**

2. REPORTS:

- I. **FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Tom Combs, Executive Director

A. The Section XI Finance Committee Report from December 4, 2025 including the proposed 2026-27 budget.

II. **NYSPHSAA REPORTS** – K. Masterson/T. Horan

A. Executive Committee Report

Kathy Masterson and Tim Horan provided a synopsis of the October 2025 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.

3. ROBERT ZAYAS

I. State Items

II. Non-public / charter schools in state tournaments.

4. NYSPHSAA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- (A) 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.
- (A) 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.

SPRING ITEMS:

- (A) Consider approval to adopt the NFHS Rules for Flag Football with waivers
- (A) Consider approval to add language to the NFHS Rules to require dead ball flag checks
- (A) Consider approval of an onside play option in Flag Football.
- (A) 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.
- (A) 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.
- (A) 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.
- (A) Consider approval to utilize the three-year average for the formula for qualifying standards using the seed performances for outdoor track and field.
- (A) Consider approval of making it optional to utilize a double first base for the 2026 season (regular and postseason).

MISC ITEM:

- (A) 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." - **defeated**

5. SECTION XI ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- (D) sport chairs needed: BVB, B & G tennis, others
- (D) individual competitors bowling, buddy school

(A) ticket prices- now \$7 & \$8, move to \$8 & \$10 – **approved**

(D) basketball- semis at higher seed

- B & G county champ- AAA, AA, A AT SBU
- G county champ- B, C, D AT SCCC
- B county champ- B, C, D AT ST JOES
- At large- AAA B & G

(D) Boys' lacrosse semis June 11 in Middletown, states Sunday June 14 at Hobart

- due to amended regents' dates

(A) LTI course- section pays, bills back the school

Motion: M. Keltos Second: G. Beutel

Motion: **Approved**

(D) scheduling updates

(D) technology committee- update

A. Modified:

(D) Roster size with two teams in one school

2. Play 5 Periods

3. Modified Devices Review

4. NYSPHSAA Modified Committee – agenda items for February Executive Board

- New sport chair coordinators – Matt Lapinski for Modified Girls Flag Football and Dean Berardo as Modified Ice Hockey
- Consider approval of revising the NYSPHSSA Promotion rule to “With Section approval, contestants may be promoted to higher classification within the modified program or to junior varsity or varsity team at any time during the modified schedule.”

A. Policy:

1. Baseball – game ending procedures, with section approval, the game will end with a run differential of 10 runs after 5 innings (or 4 ½ if the home team is winning. -

approved.

2. Softball – 10 batter rule for JV – **approved**

3. Transportation – state championships, at-large contests – same as state playoffs

(D) At-large concept 4A

C. Finance:

1. 2026-27 Budget; 1% increase dues/services, 4% increase officials' fees

Motion: M. DeVincenzo Second: A. Strickland

Motion: **Approved**

6. NEW BUSINESS

Adjournment: 10:35am

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Combs

Thomas Combs
Executive Director