

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

AGENDA

February 12, 2026, 8:30 a.m.

Brookside School, 1260 Meadowbrook Rd. N. Merrick, NY 11566

- I. Good & Welfare
- II. Attendance
- III. Review and approval of agenda with the right to re-order APPROVED
- IV. Approval of High School Association minutes APPROVED
- V. GUEST SPEAKERS
 - a. Karen Acompora- [Louis J. Acompora Memorial Foundation](#)
 - i. CPR/AED in Schools Kit Grant
 - ii. [Outdoor AED Stations Grant](#)
 - b. Marissa Caty- [Mental Health Collaborative](#)
 - i. Mental Health Literacy- [for coaches](#)
 - 1. Training for coaches by organization- 75 minute program
 - 2. For AD & mental health professional within school- Train the trainer- 2.5 hrs
- VI. Section VIII Report.....Pat Pizzarelli - Executive Director
 - a. Pat Pizzarelli
 - i. Thank you to all schools who are hosting playoff championships!
 - ii. Must send supervisors to all playoff contests.
 - b. Justin Jonas
 - i. HOF nominations deadline closed. Thank you to all who nominated candidates.
 - ii. Championship buses have been reserved for the upcoming winter.
 - iii. Modified level- Girls are permitted to wrestle against boys.
 - iv. Send out [GoFan](#) links prior to playoffs and tickets need to be made in advance.
 - v. Supervisors on the gate list must have t-shirt/jackets identifying they are working otherwise the district will be charged.
 - vi. Modified spring schedules come out soon.
- VII. NYSPHSAA Report.....Jennifer Keane/Mike Bongino
 - a. Double first base for baseball was passed as optional. Section VIII is requiring double first base for this spring.
 - b. MS students can be moved up at any time. More conversation at AC.
 - c. Girls wrestling will not be allowed to choose which championship tournament they will compete in next year.

- i. If a girl wrestles against a boy in a competition they will be ineligible for the girls tournament and will compete in the boys championship tournament.
- ii. Girls can practice with boys and compete with girls (tournaments/matches) and be eligible to compete in the girls championship tournament.
- d. Volleyball- pool play will continue to be discussed.
- e. At large bid- requesting clarification on a clear definition of the path in which they follow in the championship brackets.
- f. School without boundaries conversation happening in March.

VIII. Report from Male and Female Vice Presidents.....Jennifer Keane/Matt McLees

a. No Report

Winter Sport Reports

- a. Indoor Winter Track- State qualifier this evening. Must get bus requests tomorrow for States. Since overnight- students will be prioritized based on need. Congratulations to all conference champions!
- b. Girls Basketball- Last week of the regular season. Seeding meeting Sunday morning all brackets available that afternoon. End of season awards meeting Feb. 23rd.
- c. Boys Basketball- Last week of the regular season. Seeding meeting Sunday morning all brackets available that afternoon.
- d. Fencing- Congratulations to all Conference Championships and County Champions.
- e. Cheerleading- Championship starts at 2:45pm. Do not arrive before 2:15pm, they will not be permitted into the facility.
- f. Bowling- Had a perfect game 300 during the county championship. Congratulations to all the championship teams and individuals who qualified for the State championship.
- g. Wrestling- Congratulations all conference champions! Congratulations to Massapequa DI Dual Meet Champions! Thank you to all host schools for the playoffs. Counties DI- Saturday/Sunday at Hofstra, DII- Friday/Saturday at Cold Spring Harbor HS- True Second will apply to all county championships. State Championships Feb 28-March 1st in Albany.
- h. Girls Wrestling- 31 different schools participated in Nassau county. Recruitment and participation has increased tremendously and the State Championships on February 26th in Albany. Congratulations to all athletes who have qualified. For future conversation, having middle school girls possibly in winter I season. Girls Wrestling Awards Dinner this year.
- i. Swimming- No Report
- j. Rifle- No Report
- k. Gymnastics- No Report

IX. Conference Reports.....

- 1. Boys Golf approved. JV girls shot clock- option by home school. Conferences by classification and impact on development leagues. Ability based works for some varsity but difficult for JV schedules. Hockey- some districts support in some way and others do not but Newsday covers games which is causing difficult conversations because it is not a sanctioned sport in Section VIII & XI.
- 2. Overviews:

Boys Soccer Overview

- Vote- approved
- Friends Academy has a pending appeal of classification.

Field Hockey Overview

- Vote- approved

Girls Volleyball

- Vote- approved
- Any Questions or discussion
- Pilot- Home and Away for varsity and jv.
- Play everyone 1x.
- All teams are ranked- then the schedule is snaked.

Girls Soccer

- We did not see the overview
- Vote- NA
- Discussion about strength of the jv girls' soccer schedule.
- Generally, philosophy- ability across classification causes problems at the JV.
 - Teams should play the schedule they are given.

Discussion Items:

- Girls Lacrosse Shot Clock
 - Survey was sent out
 - Coaches want to have a shot clock.
 - Three options
 - Motion made to make the shot clock mandatory in girls jv lax- Approved
 - Teams opting out of section ability-based schedules (Syosset JV Lacrosse).
 - G Lax committee will continue to review
 - Class conferences coupled with Ability within Class
- Football-
 - FYI. Discussion in the coach's association.
 - Working on a new proposal for this year.
 - Cross over proposal and JV schedule

Proposal by Ed Ramirez

- Enrollment based conferences
- Ability within enrollment
- Smaller or larger conferences

Discussion Points:

- What are the Sport Coordinator's perspective
- Is this a discussion item or an action item?
- Wrestling model- the ability to free schedule?
- Every sport is different. All schools are different.
 - Girls Basketball discussion- huge discrepancy between teams
 - Developmental league similar to baseball

- zero chance of playoffs
 - No All County Awards
 - There seems to be support for this concept.
 - Emphasis on programs and kids
 - The new bottom is real
 - Very hard regular season for top programs and the elite players- wear and tear on the body.
3. All overviews approved. JV Shot clock- split on mandatory/optional. Some Softball game changes denied, are there any official issues?
 4. All overviews approved. JV shot clock- majority supported with home school decides. Ability vs enrollment.

X. Sport Overviews

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| Field Hockey | Barbara Sellers |
| a. APPROVED. Conversation regarding Varsity and JV back to back concerns with fields without lights. Similar to JV Girls Lacrosse this is due to official shortage. Back to back for field hockey will only be scheduled for September. | |
| (B) Soccer | Al Freeman |
| b. APPROVED | |
| (G) Soccer | Mike Bongino |
| c. Proposal presented at meeting. Cannot go enrollment only. Will be presenting to the coaches association based on feedback at this meeting. | |
| (B & (G) Cross Country | Neal Levy & Adam Mckenzie |
| d. APPROVED- awards dinner PO's must match the number of guests and all information updated with new mailing address. Going back to all three courses now that Bethpage is available again. Friends will have to be a Class C in State competitions for next year. | |
| Girls Tennis | Shai Fisher |
| e. APPROVED | |
| (G) Volleyball | Cathleen Dnyprowsky |
| f. APPROVED | |
| (B) Volleyball | Brett Kornblum |
| g. APPROVED | |

Approval of Sport Alignment/Schedules

- a. All approved except girls soccer which will be voted on at a later meeting.

XI. Standing Committees

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|---|---------------|
| Appeals | David Viegas |
| a. No Report | |
| Awards | Mike Scaturro |
| b. Schools are required to pay for the additional t-shirts for championships. | |
| By-Laws & Policies | Dave Zawatson |
| c. No Report | |
| Student Athlete Development | Pat Maguire |

d. Schools with students going to April conference, email will go out with information.

Modified Athletics Cathleen Dnyprowsky

e. Modified schedules will be available right after winter break.

Nominations Don Lang

f. No Report

Safety Committee Jennifer Keane

g. No Report. Meeting in upcoming weeks to review the Fall season. Doctor coverage at all winter Farmingdale post season games.

Sportsmanship Justin Jonas

h. Any spectator that enters the field of play during a conflict will be suspended for a FULL calendar year.

Team Up for Unity Kru Patel

i. No Report

Sport Seasons Michael Brostowski

j. No Report

Officials Peter Cardone/Ed Wallace

k. Boys shot clock is now 70 seconds, no change to shot clock operators role.

Championship Advisory Ed Ramirez

l. No Report

Combining of Team Report Mike Pelan

m. Section III requested information regarding individual sports being able to combine with other teams which have the ability to create dominant teams. Section VIII currently does not permit independent competitors but has the ability to combine. Will be brought up as a section concern for the next state meeting.

Classification Committee John Kostkowicz

n. Will reach out to coordinators.

Ethics Glen Zakian

o. No Report

Association Reports

NYSAAA Eric Caballero

a. Conference March 17th- Section VIII is hosting, please attend and support.

b. Scholarship recipients: Ava Smith from Freeport & Joe Nickleson from Wantagh.

COA Tom Lehman

c. March 20th google form for PD, if school is not in session. Only 100 seats will be available.

XII. Unfinished Business

a. Boys Lacrosse- Jim Amen/Ed Wallace

i. Boys 70 Second Shot Clock

1. Once the ball gets over the midline, 70 seconds starts and on all restarts.

- ii. Whistle Stop System
 - 1. If you have a Daktronics shot clock, this company will donate 6 systems for a device to be worn by officials which gives alerts and used by coaches at practice for timing.
- b. Girls JV Shot Clock
 - i. Motion: Mandatory JV girls shot clock - APPROVED
- c. Badminton- Mavis 300 Shuttles are on backorder, HL Condor is recommended until Mavis is available.
- d. Spring Golf availability at Eisenhower. Submit needs to Anthony asap.
- e. Congratulations to Pat McGuire for winning the NYS Liam Frawley Emerging AD Award.

XIII. New Business

- a. Collaboration with NCPD- POP officers should be making a meeting with all ADs for a brief meeting to discuss your specific school needs, support and representation at games of need. Also provides Heroin Task Force education.
- b. Ability vs Enrollment survey results were split.
 - i. Boys Lacrosse- enrollment would impact the sport because better teams struggle to get to the NL because no one wants to play them.
 - ii. Motion: Section VIII makes it the primary philosophy that scheduling for all sports is ability within enrollment.
 - First: ER
 - Second: JF
 - Discussion: All conference secretaries must send their feedback regarding this discussion item to Mike Bongino by March 6th. Set up a meeting with all sports coordinators and committee officers who are directly impacted to get feedback for what is best for their sports.
 - Motion: To table the vote and follow the process outlined for further discussion. APPROVED
- c. JV Girls Lacrosse JV- is there any ability to split games if schools agree.
 - i. No.

XIV. Announcements

All announcements must be written and given to Shannon McEntee, Secretary

Next Meeting
March 12, 2026

- XV. The Field Hockey Varsity Coaches, their Coaches' Association and I, as coordinator, are opposed to aligning Field Hockey by enrollment. With only 20 teams, alignment by ability has worked best for all 20 teams in our sport for well over 20 years. The coaches and I agree

that aligning by enrollment will be detrimental to the sport and programs will fold. One example: having two of the consistently top teams in the section (Massapequa and Garden City) playing the four lowest ranked teams in the section (Long Beach, Great Neck South, Great Neck North and Sewanhaka), makes no sense in any sport. And....the stronger teams would not be able to play a strength of schedule season preparing them for Sectionals and beyond. And this is what would happen if field hockey aligned by enrollment. I contacted my fellow Field Hockey Coordinators across the state.

Of the nine sections playing Field Hockey: The sections align —by geography, by ability, by enrollment and ability and enrollment. Only two Sections with a large number of teams competing align strictly by enrollment.