

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

AGENDA

April 16, 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. Section VIII Report.....Pat Pizzarelli - Executive Director
 - Schools Without Boundaries
 - Section I- spearheading efforts to have schools without boundaries removed from our leagues/championships. Topics of discussion: lawsuits involved, adding classifications for non-public/charter schools (possibly one or two based on BEDS numbers) where they will have their own championships. At this time, each section is taking votes independently on schools without boundaries. Charter schools by definition currently are public schools who can join while paying dues.
 - Voting:
 - Option 1- Follow current alignment (examine each year and move private schools up/down based on the oversight committee). In favor for 1- 0
 - Option 2- Examine potential revision(hybrid model, additional classifications, separation in selected sports, separation in teams sports. In favor for 2- 1
 - Option 3- Complete separation for the post season. In favor for 3- 55
 - Results- Option 3
 - InsideOut Follow Up – Including Coaches, August 25th
 - Recommending a combination of zoom with coaches on August 25th and then coaches will have to complete independent work. Will follow up with organization.
 - Justin Jonas
 - Tully Award recommendations are due soon to get them into Justin ASAP. Information will be resent emailed.
 - NCAA Eligibility Seminar tomorrow. Register through email and will get a copy of the video if you cannot attend.
 - Drop Teams- Please only email Section Office and Teams impacted by drop. Do not send to all districts. Developing a dropped team spreadsheet for AD's.

- Officials- girls lacrosse lack of officials due to the catholic league starting earlier and they are taking those games first. If you have lights, consider starting games later.
- Coordinators- handbooks are being evaluated. Forms are going to be removed and added to the Forms portion of Section VIII in effort to minimize length of handbooks.

Spring Sport Coordinators.....

- a. Baseball- Officials coverage has been good so far because of the spread of conferences and playing six days a week. Tuesdays are the heaviest day where JV is impacted. Notify JV coaches are putting extra hitters in the line up. There are no extra hitters at the JV level- an email will be sent out. Regional Schedule AA at large teams is being sent for the first time ever. Right before spring break Section 5 & 6 decided to change their regional games to different dates. This has never happened. All games following were based on June 4th and 6th. This decision will impact our AA as the at-large team as Section 4 (who we play) will be moving their games to the same as section 5/6. This could force our AA team to play back to back games while traveling a large distance. If they win they will have to play again across State two/three days later. This will be brought up as a Sectional Concern at the State meeting.
- b. Softball- County championship at Farmingdale State. Coaches meeting/post season meeting information will be emailed out. Games must be completed which is end of 5 innings not in a tie.
- c. Girls Lacrosse- Seasons are progressing. Couple issues with lack of officials. Coaches must complete ratings.
- d. Boys Lacrosse- All good so far. Coaches meeting April 27th.
- e. Flag Football- All going well so far. May 11th coaches meeting for seeding/awards. Notify Gary if you are adding a team for next year at any level.
- f. Boys Golf- Eisenhower is now reopened. Check your emails for Practice Rounds information, first come first serve. County Championship May 19th.
- g. Girls Golf- Good place currently. More information will be emailed out about the County tournament soon.
- h. Boys Tennis- Frozen rosters begin next week through playoffs. Email will be sent out. The next available date is in effect for rain only, wind is not a valid reason.
- i. Girls Badminton- Mid-season meeting is April 26th via zoom. Review the game day guidelines before all matches as there are no officials.
- j. Girls Track & Field- Same as Boys report.
- k. Boys Track & Field- Reminders- at league meets- field events are covered by teams/coaches as officials are not placed on those events. Results must be entered or will impact postseason eligibility. State Meet at Rochester on Saturday and Sunday.
- l. Unified Sports- After much discussion with our Unified Sports coaches, we have decided to offer Unified Bocce as a fall offering. The season would run from 9/21 - 10/13. The regular season matches will take place at Eisenhower Park scheduled on 9/29, 10/1, 10/6, 10/8 and the culminating event taking place on

10/13. (All dates are pending approval by the Eisenhower Parks Department). We need at least 4 schools to start Unified Bocce. And thank you to Carle Place and Wheatley who have signed on to be part of the pilot season. Please let Pat Maguire know if you are interested.

VI. NYSPHSAA Report.....Jennifer Keane/Mike Bongino

- a. Voting Items
 - i. Two year pilot for 9v9 for JV/MS- APPROVED
 - ii. Cut off numbers for competitive cheer- APPROVED
 - iii. Cortland host for NYS Girls Soccer- APPROVED
 - iv. Softball pregame protocol for warm up- APPROVED

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

- a. No Report

VIII. Conference Reports.....

- a. Conference I- schools without boundaries, philosophy around alignments, like the baseball model of ability within enrollment.
- b. Conference II- schools without boundaries, completed survey regarding alignment, championship transportation policy- who is checking for seatbelts per new law.
- c. Conference III-Schools without boundaries, participation surveys via finalforms, Tully awards nominations, Elementary PE awards. Rescheduling questions for illness vs vacation. Process for preventing vacations during the season..
- d. Conference IV- schools without boundaries, baseball on Saturdays officials issue regarding different sets of officials when they have to play back to back. Newsday Top 100-requesting if sports coordinators can be sent to ADs as well as coaches so we can follow up with our coaches.

IX. Sport Overviews

- Gymnastics Kim Rhatigan
 - a. 20 teams, 2 conferences ability aligned. There will be no conference champions, tie breaker process will be implemented. Thank you to all the schools that host our championships. Hosting State Meet at CSH next year. MS only has 4 teams left. Contact Kim if you are interested in adding a team.
- (G) Swim Christin Snow
 - b. No changes to conferences and schedules.
- (B) Swim Matthew McGrane
 - c. No changes to conferences and schedules.

Approval of Sport Alignment/Schedules

- (G) Soccer Mike Bongino

- a. APPROVED
- (B) Badminton Jenna Cavuto
- b. APPROVED
- JV Football Joe Martillotti
- c. APPROVED
- d. MOTION to approve Boys Swim, Girls Swim & Girls Gymnastics.
- i. APPROVED

Standing Committees

- Appeals David Viegas
 - a. No Report
- Awards Mike Scaturro
 - b. Contact BSN rep for more t-shirts.
- By-Laws & Policies Dave Zawatson
 - c. No Report
- Student Athlete Development Pat Maguire
 - d. No Report
- Modified Athletics Cathleen Dnyprowsky
 - e. The fall schedule will be emailed later today.
- Nominations Don Lang
 - f. Will present nominations to AC.
- Safety Committee Jennifer Keane
 - g. Concussion management law update- NP & PA's being added to clear for return to play. Discussed MS Wrestling moving from 30 minutes to 25 minutes. Looking into liability. Girls Wrestling weight classification increased body fat percentage from 14% to 17%. Baseball pitchers and catchers starting one week before players due to preparedness and 10 practices requirement.
- Sportsmanship Justin Jonas
 - h. Ejections/Lopsided Scores must be reported by completing the form. If an official tells a coach that they will not complete the form after an ejection must be reported to Section immediately. Officials need to understand consequences of ejections and use it when truly necessary rather than loosely. Have a decision with the coach if there is a minor offense first so they can try to correct it before just throwing them out.
- Team Up for Unity Kru Patel
 - i. State DEI meeting on Tuesday decided that Cheer should be treated as all other sports in reference to bringing in outside companies, inviting only certain players to training. AD's are responsible for overseeing implementation of rules and consequences.
- Sport Seasons Michael Brostowski
 - j. No Report
- Officials Peter Cardone
 - k. Officials do not have access to LeagueMinder, only Zebra. Not the officials responsible to disescalate, they must report to staff of that school. Any official escalating events should be reported to Section.

Championship Advisory	Ed Ramirez
l. No Report	
Combining of Team Report	Mike Pelan
m. No Report	
Classification Committee	John Kostkowicz
n. Meeting is coming up. Appeals must be filed on time to be heard.	
Ethics	Glen Zakian
o. No Report	

Association Reports

NYSAAA Eric Caballero

- a. Thank you to Jennifer Keane who ran an incredible NYSAAA conference this March. Thank you to all those who supported and assisted with the event.

COA Tom Lehman

- b. Darren Phillips-NYS COA President/Southampton Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics. Summer planning meeting at the NYSAPHERD conference. Looking to develop a committee and looking for Athletic Directors to join. The goal is to promote achievements and excellence in Physical Education and Health Education. Seeking one representative per Section to attend present at the NYSAPHERD conference on behalf of the COA. Also seeking to present at the NYSAAA conference as well for the upcoming year. NYSED is requesting information regarding how PE is structured across the State. This is in effort to partner with schools with success and how to help schools that may be struggling. Need to be at the forefront of curriculum development and adapting to the needs of our students regarding addiction (gambling, marijuana, social media, screen time). Summer planning conference is July 21st and July 22nd will be at Little Falls, NY. Contact Darren at dphillips@southamptonschools.org.
- c. May 5th next COA meeting. Jericho PE department will be presenting and Lacrosse in PE presentation.
- d. Todd Heimer POs due must give a final count for the workshop.

X. Unfinished Business

- Ability vs Enrollment
 - All conferences submitted information.
- NL Games in ALL TEAM SPORTS
 - All Games scheduled by the coordinator **can** have an impact on the post-season or seeding. Crossover games or out of conference games scheduled by the coordinator can impact post-season or seeding.

- Non-league games scheduled by the coaches, **cannot** have an impact on post-season or seeding.
- Team Handbooks must be updated to reflect this for Fall 2026. Language will be shared from Section to all coordinators.

XI. New Business

- a. Badminton Uniforms - Recommendation
 - i. Uniforms are within the handbook. Schools should be wearing tops representing their school.

XII. Announcements

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

Next Meeting
May 14, 2026