NEW COACHING CERTIFICATION CHILD ABUSE LAW

In early August, it was reported that Governor Cuomo signed a law that will further protect children by requiring coaches who currently hold or are applying for a temporary coaching license or professional coaching certificate to complete two hours of training on potential child abuse.

The NYSPHSAA has been assured this is will not result in any “additional” courses to be taken to meet this requirement since coaches already take this course. Furthermore, it is the understanding of NYSPHSAA that coaches were not on the previous mandated reporter list; the new law will now add coaches to the mandated reporter list.

EDUCATIONAL WAIVER

The Executive Committee voted 19-2 at the October 23, 2014 Executive Committee meeting to eliminate the educational waiver to begin with the 2015-2016 school year. The membership of the NYSPHSAA believed many students/ schools were gaining an “athletic” advantage by receiving “educational” waivers.

The following will be added to the NYSPHSAA Handbook:

“Note: Educational waivers will not be considered as an undue hardship.”

READY TO VOTE?

Sections should be prepared to vote on the following items at the January 30, 2015 Executive Committee meeting; the official agenda and packet will be released on Monday, January 13th:

- Maximum number of contests and standard week calendar.
- Volleyball, Tennis, Wrestling and Cheer Championship sites.
- Adding the “guidelines” for transfer hardships and mixed competition to the Handbook
- Transgender Policy
LEGAL SEPARATION
At the October 23, 2014 Executive Committee meeting the following was approved as a revision to the 4th exemption of the Transfer Rule to read: “4. A student from divorced or 'legally' separated parents who moves into a new school district with one of the aforementioned parents. Such transfer is allowed once every six months. The legal separation agreement must address custody, child support, spouses support and distribution of assets and be filed with the County Clerk or issued by a Judge.” This revision will take effect with the 2015-2016 school year.

TRANSFER RULE
The Executive Committee voted on October 23, 2014 to revise the language of the transfer rule by adding the “shaded” language below:

a. A student in grades 9-12 who transfers, with a corresponding change in residence of his/her parents (or other person with whom the student has resided for at least six months) shall become eligible after starting regular attendance in the second school. A residence change must involve a move from one school district to another. For athletic eligibility a residency is changed when one is abandoned by the immediate family and another residency established through action and intent. Residency requires one’s physical presence as an inhabitant and the intent to remain indefinitely. The purpose of this addition was to provide clarity to the meaning of “residency.”

NYSPHSAA MOBILE APP
The NYSPHSAA has launched a FREE mobile app to provide more effective communication with member schools, student-athletes, parents and fans. The mobile app includes state championship locations, brackets, results and other details pertaining to the 32 NYSPHSAA sanctioned events. Other information accessible on the app is photo galleries, calendars, staff directory and sport specific information. Be sure to download the NYSPHSAA App Today!

SCHOLAR/ATHLETE TEAM AWARD
This is the 24th year of the Scholar/Athlete Program. Each year the number of students, schools and teams recognized continues to increase. The deadline to apply for this Fall is Friday, December 5, 2014. It is great to see that not only do our student-athletes excel on the field, courts and in the pools but they excel in the classroom as well.
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NYSPHSAA JEWELRY RULE REMAINS FOR TRACK & FIELD

In June the NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee voted to remove the prohibition of the wearing of jewelry in track & field and cross-country. The NYSPHSAA Handbook specifically prohibits the wearing of jewelry in ALL sports with the exception of Golf and Bowling.

The NYSPHSAA Safety Committee met in early October and rejected the exemption. The request for the exemption was placed on the October 23rd Executive Committee agenda and not approved. The Executive Committee voted 13-6 not to add the sports of track & field and cross country to the exemptions of the NYSPHSAA jewelry rule; jewelry continues to be prohibited in the sports of track & field and cross country in New York.

COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING

Competitive Cheerleading is to be a fully recognized sport starting with the sectional start date of the winter season. The NYSPHSAA and the NYSED will recognize two different types of cheerleading: (1) Traditional Cheer and (2) Competitive Cheer. The difference between the two is whether or not a cheer squad stunts and/or tumbles as defined by AACCA. Traditional cheer squads will not stunt and/or tumble and will not be subject to the rules and regulations of the NYSPHSAA nor the NYSED. Competitive Cheer squads will be able to stunt and/or tumble and will be subject to all NYSPHSAA and NYSED rules and regulations whether they attend competitions or not during the season.

The NYSPHSAA Executive Committee voted on the Specific Sport Standards for Competitive Cheerleading, as well as some other items recommended by the Cheerleading Committee, at the October 23rd Executive Committee meeting. A full list of these approved items can be found on the Cheerleading landing page on the NYSPHSAA website at www.nysphsaa.org.

NYSPHSAA RULE INTERPRETATION:

**Question:** How many games must a basketball player be an eligible participant in order to play in the post season?

**Answer:** A basketball player must be an eligible participant (in uniform/ listed in the official book) for 6 games in order to play in the post season, as per the NYSPHSAA representation rule. In “team” sports a student must be an eligible participant; however in individual sports the student must actually represent their school six times.
COACHING CERTIFICATION
NYSPHSAA and NYSAAA recently teamed up to provide the New York State Education Department with a proposal seeking an alternative option for coaching certification. The proposal is requesting five NFHS online courses be considered the equivalent to the three current required coach certification courses.

The proposal, included information pertaining to the NFHS online training programs that are currently utilized by nearly 40 states throughout the country. The 100+ page proposal document also provided information concerning the rationale for these recommendations, a quantitative data analysis of a survey of 522 New York High School Athletic Directors, and a detailed crosswalk between the current course offerings and the proposed option.

“I am extremely optimistic the work of the NYSAAA and NYSPHSAA will be positively received by the New York State Education Department. This initiative is focused on encouraging more individuals to get involved in coaching the youth of New York State” said, Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director.

LOOKING AHEAD:
November 8 Girls/ Boys Cross Country Championships
November 14 Boys Volleyball Championships
November 15-16 Girls Volleyball Championships
November 15-16 Girls Soccer Championships
November 15-16 Boys Soccer Championships
November 15-16 Field Hockey Championships
November 15 NYS Federation Cross Country Championships
November 19-22 NYS AHPERD Conference
November 21-22 Girls Swimming & Diving Championships
November 21-22 Football East/ West Semi-Finals
November 29-30 Football Championships
December 5 Deadline Fall Scholar Athlete
January 12, 2015 Deadline for “Battle of the Fans” submissions

QUOTE TO REMEMBER:
“Whatever you do, strive to do it so well that no man living and no man dead and no man yet to be born, could do it any better.”

— Benjamin Elijah Mays
NYSPHSAA SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION