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February 2015

**MAXIMUM CONTESTS:**

On January 30<sup>th</sup> the NYS PHSAA Executive Committee approved a method to balance the maximum number of contests based on the actual length of the three (3) respective sports seasons, starting with the 2015-2016 school year. In January 2009, all sports seasons were reduced because of fiscal reductions.

**Approved Maximum Contest:**

- FALL:** 9 Contests (Football)  
16 Contests (Field Hockey, Soccer, Cross Country, Girls Swimming & Diving, Girls Tennis)  
20 Contests (Volleyball)
- WINTER:** 12 Contests (Cheer)  
16 Contests (Rifle, Skiing, Boys Swimming & Diving, Indoor Track & Field)  
20 Contests (Basketball, Ice Hockey, Bowling)  
20 Points (Wrestling)
- SPRING:** 16 Contests (Golf, Lacrosse, Outdoor Track & Field, Boys Tennis)  
20 Contests (Baseball, Softball)

**STANDARD CALENDAR (WEEK NUMBERS):**

On January 30<sup>th</sup> the Executive Committee voted to approve the NFHS standardized procedure for numbering calendar weeks to ensure consistency and uniformity in establishing NYS PHSAA Championships dates and a common sport season start date. The consistent method for establishing annual calendar events (i.e. regional and state championship dates, start & end dates, meeting dates, etc.) will begin with the 2015-2016 school year.



The benefits of the Standardized Calendar include:

- Easily provide the ability to publish annual calendar dates in advance.
- Eliminates the need for discussion pertaining to “when” an event will be scheduled.
- Establishes a fair and consistent starting date for all NYS PHSAA member schools.
- Reduces the amount of overlap of sport seasons.

### STATEWIDE BALL ADOPTION:

The NYSPHSAA staff distributed the RFP (Request for Proposal) for the potential implementation of a statewide ball adoption program on December 1, 2014; with a due date of February 11, 2015. The revenue generated from the ball adoption program will be shared with the participating Sections through the NYSPHSAA Revenue Share program. All eleven Sections agreed to be a part of the RFP.



Once all RFPs have been opened, the NYSPHSAA staff and Officers will make a recommendation to the Sections (no later than February 17<sup>th</sup>) for the selected ball manufacturers. Sections will have a deadline of April 17, 2015 to provide NYSPHSAA with their intent to be a part of the statewide ball adoption program.

The statewide ball adoption program will only impact Sectionals, Regionals and State Championships; schools “could” decide to play with a different ball for regular season play.

### DURATION OF COMPETITION REGULATION REVISION:

The Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department approved a revision to the Commissioner’s Duration of Competition Regulation during its January 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commissioner’s Duration of Competition Regulation will no longer permit an extension of eligibility based upon “*other similar circumstances beyond the control of the student.*” Effective immediately, students may only be granted an extension of eligibility based upon an illness or accident which will require the student to attend school for one or more additional semesters in order to graduate.



The proposed amendment, which the NYSPHSAA lobbied NYSED for, was necessary to clarify when a student’s eligibility for senior high school athletic competition may be extended because of illness or accident. Such clarification is intended to ensure safe and equitable competition.

### NYSED ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS:

The NYSED recently informed NYSPHSAA of changes to the Selection Classification process to be implemented in the Fall 2015. For the past three years, NYSED has been reviewing their Selection Classification process; at the end of December



changes were approved by NYSED. Members of the NYSPHSAA staff recently met with the leadership of NYSED to express concerns with the newly approved process pertaining to the lack of waivers, mixed competition testing and tanner scores. NYSED has assured NYSPHSAA they will consider these concerns and provide a response as soon as possible.

### **WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP TICKETS NOW ON SALE:**

Don't wait in line at the box office or admission table this winter! Advanced NYSPHSAA State Championship tickets are now on sale online at [ticketleap.com](http://ticketleap.com) for all winter sports excluding wrestling. Just search which winter championship you are looking to buy tickets for and you will have your tickets in hand before the event. Advanced tickets for the wrestling state championships can be purchased at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).



### **NYSPHSAA PARTNERS WITH NY YANKEES:**

The NYSPHSAA has entered into its first partnership with a professional sports team. A partnership with the New York Yankees will be launched this February to give NYSPHSAA member schools and fans a 10%-50% discount on Yankees tickets and provide NYSPHSAA co-branding opportunities over the next 8-10 months. Please visit the [NYSPHSAA.org](http://NYSPHSAA.org) website to purchase your Yankees tickets. Member schools who wish to send sports teams or groups can enjoy additional discounts and see their group recognized on the video board during the game.

### **NYSPHSAA JEWELRY RULE REMAINS FOR TRACK & FIELD:**

Although the NFHS Track & Field Rules Committee voted to remove the prohibition of the wearing of jewelry in track & field and cross-country, the Executive Committee voted in October not to support the NFHS rule change; jewelry continues to be prohibited in the sports of track & field and cross country for member schools of NYSPHSAA. The NYSPHSAA Handbook specifically prohibits the wearing of jewelry in ALL sports with the exception of Golf and Bowling.



### **COACHING CERTIFICATION CHANGES ARE COMING:**



NYSPHSAA and NYSAAA teamed up over a year ago to propose an alternative option for coaching certification to the New York State Education Department. NYSED has been extremely receptive of the proposed option to consider the NFHS online courses as an equivalent to the three current required coach certification courses.

The proposal is currently in the final stages of review at NYSED, with the goal of full implementation taking place by mid-July. As information becomes available, it will certainly be released.

## NYSPHSAA RULE INTERPRETATION:

### Question from Athletic Director:

*"I have a basketball player that was hurt during the basketball season and was finally cleared to practice on 1/20/15. The doctor's note states she is cleared for practice, but cannot have contact. Do these practices count towards her required practices before a contest since she is not fully cleared?"*

### Answer:

No, the athlete must be fully cleared in order for the practices to count.

### TRANSFER RULE:

As a reminder, 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.*

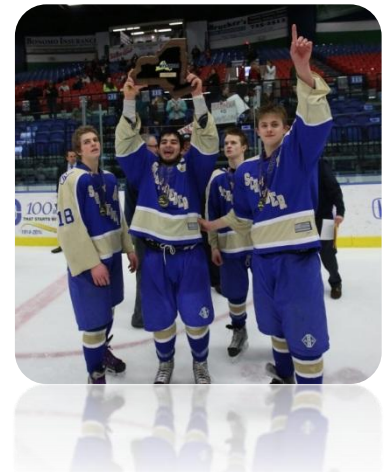
*Residency requires one's physical presence as an inhabitant and the intent to remain indefinitely.*

The purpose of this addition was to provide clarity to the meaning of "residency."



### LOOKING AHEAD:

<b>February 17</b>	Ball Adoption Recommendation Released to Sections
<b>February 21</b>	Cheer Invitational- <i>Albany</i>
<b>February 23-24</b>	Skiing Championships
<b>February 27</b>	Winter Scholar Athlete Deadline
<b>February 27-28</b>	Wrestling Championships
<b>February 27-28</b>	Boys Swimming & Diving Championships
<b>February 28</b>	Girls Gymnastics Championships
<b>February 28</b>	Cheer Invitational- <i>Long Island</i>
<b>March 7-8</b>	Bowling Championships
<b>March 7</b>	Indoor Track & Field Championships
<b>March 7</b>	Cheer Invitational- <i>Rochester</i>
<b>March 14-15</b>	Ice Hockey Championships
<b>March 20-22</b>	Basketball Championships, <i>Presented by American Dairy Association and Dairy Council</i>
<b>March 27-29</b>	NYS Federation Basketball Championships
<b>April 13</b>	Executive Committee Meeting Packet Released
<b>April 17</b>	Section Commitment of Statewide Ball Adoption Due
<b>May 1</b>	Executive Committee Meeting

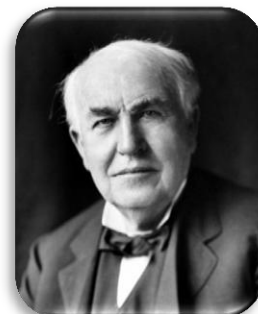


American Dairy Association  
and Dairy Council

### QUOTE TO REMEMBER:

*"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."*

— *Thomas A. Edison*



## NYSPHSAA SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION

