



April 2014

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I continue to hear from parents that their son or daughter is going to play at the “next level.” I recently heard from a father that his daughter’s club coach thinks she has potential to play collegiate soccer because of her leadership skills, work ethic and talent; she is going to be ten years old this summer. I no longer fear that some have lost perspective on why kids participate in sports; it is now a sad reality that so many perceive the purpose of participation as being a direct path to college scholarships and even professional careers.

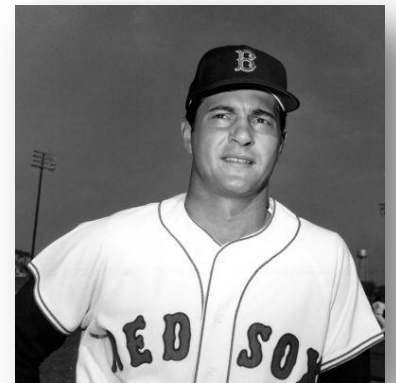
I have begun to use the following to describe our Association’s goal and I think it is more important today than ever before: *“NYSPHSAA does not seek to prepare students for the next level of competition, but for the next level of life.”* Let’s stay focused on preparing the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow. Let’s continue our efforts of allowing kids to be creative, innovative and forward thinking. And if they are prepared for the next level of life, we can proudly link their success to their participation in interscholastic sports and not their quest to play at the next level.

*Robert J. Zayas  
NYSPHSAA Executive Director*

#### **NYSPHSAA HALL OF FAME:**

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) has announced the inductees for its Class of 2014 Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame, launched in 2002, is sponsored by Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc., Jostens and Crown Awards.

Carl Yastrzemski (Athlete, Section XI), Hermon Card (Official, Baseball & Soccer), Karen Lopez (Administrator, Section VII), Dr. Mira Martincich (Administrator, Section VIII), Mary Onken (Official, Track & Field), and Robert Southworth (Coach, Section III), were chosen through a two-level selection process. Nominations were endorsed by each inductee’s member Section of the Association—a preliminary requirement in the nomination process—before going on to the NYSPHSAA screening committee for consideration. Nominations can be submitted to a section office by anyone.



**Carl Yastrzemski will be one of six inductees into the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame**

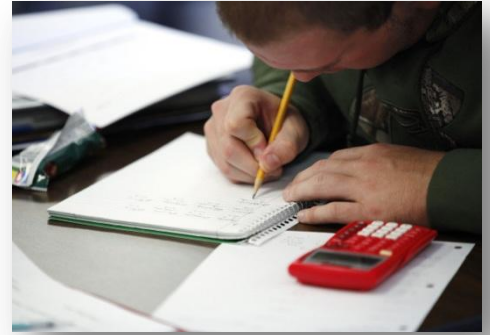
#### **PARTICIPATION SURVEY:**



The NYSPHSAA Sports Participation Survey is now available on the NYSPHSAA website. The deadline for schools to submit their information is Friday, May 23. The information gathered in the participation survey provides useful data for our state and the NFHS when promoting the value of education based athletics. Schools must have their BEDS code number provided by the State Education Department (Ends in a number, not “00”). For questions pertaining to the participation survey, please contact Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director, at [rzayas@nysphsaa.org](mailto:rzayas@nysphsaa.org) or 518.690.0071.

## ELIGIBILITY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED:

The NYSPHSAA Transfer and Handbook Committees will be proposing two major changes to the NYSPHSAA “transfer” regulations during the May 2, 2014 Executive Committee meeting. The first will be to eliminate “academic advantage” as one of the waivers of the transfer rule. If approved, students will be able to transfer schools for “academic advantage” reasons; however they would not be immediately eligible in the sports they played in the previous year. Secondly, a proposal will be made to require parents to be “legally” separated in order to serve as one of the six exemptions of the transfer rule.



## NYSPHSAA RULE HIGHLIGHT:



**Question:** I have an Athlete who is going into the Army. He is currently a Junior and will be attending an early basic training program during the summer. He will not be returning his senior year until the second week of school. Does basic training, which will be occurring during pre-season soccer practice, count towards practice sessions conducted by the team?

**Answer:** No; all practice sessions must be conducted by the school board approved coach in order to count towards the required number of practices.

## FUTURE OF BALL ADOPTION:

The NYSPHSAA staff continues to work on the potential implementation of an optional statewide ball adoption program. The revenue generated from the ball adoption program would be shared with the participating sections through the NYSPHSAA Revenue Share program.



A “tentative” timeline has been established as follows:

- **July 1, 2014**- Sections submit interest in being part of a statewide ball adoption
- **October 23, 2014**- RFP presented to Executive Committee
- **December 1, 2014**- RFP released to all major ball manufactures
- **February 6, 2015**- Due date of RFP
- **March 1, 2015**- Ball adoption awarded
- **2015-2016**- Awareness and information distributed to membership
- **2016-2017**- Ball adoption to begin

**MIXED COMPETITION:**



The topic of Mixed Competition continues to be at the forefront of many discussions and conversations throughout the NYSPHSAA membership; most notably revolving around the participation of boys on girls' teams. The Mixed Competition Ad Hoc Committee will propose the use of guidelines at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee meeting to assist schools and sections in determining whether a student has the potential of having a "significant adverse effect" upon his team and/or the competition. Schools could start using the guidelines as early as Fall 2014.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

- May 1 Community Service Challenge application due
- May 2 Executive Committee meeting (Hilton Garden Inn- Troy)
- May 16 Scholar Athlete Team application due ←
- May 26 Memorial Day
- May 29-31 Boys tennis Championships
- May 31 NAIA Five Star Leadership application due ←
- May 31-June 2 Boys Golf Championships
- June 4 Boys Lacrosse East/ West Semi-Finals
- June 6-7 Girls/ Boys Track & Field Championships
- June 6-7 Girls Lacrosse Championships
- June 7 Boys Lacrosse Championships
- June 13-15 Girls Golf Championships
- June 14 Softball Championships ←
- June 14 Baseball Championships
- July 29-31 NYSPHSAA Central Committee (Lake Placid, NY)



**QUOTE TO REMEMBER:**



*“The more concerned we become over the things we can’t control, the less we will do with the things we can control.”*

*- John Wooden*

## NYSPHSAA SPONSORSHIP RECOGNITION

