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Growing up in San Antonio, Texas and spending the last decade in Albuquerque, New Mexico did not afford me the opportunity to witness many of the sports offered by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (i.e. field hockey, lacrosse, skiing and ice hockey). I recently stood on the top of Bristol Mountain during our State Skiing Championships and watched in amazement as student-athletes launched themselves down the alpine course. Experiencing new sports has been one of the highlights of my short tenure in New York thus far.

I believe it is important to bring attention to the fact that NYSPHSAA offers a total of 32 sports for the nearly 600,000 students who participate in interscholastic sports in our great state. Our state provides opportunities for kids to be involved and our educational leaders continue to find ways to ensure these opportunities flourish.

Robert Zayas
NYSPHSAA Executive Director

COMBINING OF TEAMS:

The Executive Committee approved a proposal on January 29th impacting the manner by which schools will combine teams beginning with the 2013-2014 school year; this will be a two year pilot program. The proposal states when two schools combine, the school with the lower enrollment will have a percentage of their BEDS numbers added to the school with the higher enrollment. The percentage is dependent upon the associations "5 sport classification cut off numbers."

- Class AA= 50%
- Class A= 40%
- Class B= 30%
- Class C= 30%
- Class D= 20%



NYSPHSAA has received some questions regarding the "5 sport classification cut off numbers" to be used in all sports. For simplicity and consistency, the school with the lower enrollment will utilize their "5 sport classification cut off number" when combining in all sports. For example, if two Division II Ice Hockey teams combine, the school with the lowest enrollment will use their "5 sport classification cut off number" designation (Class D, C, B, etc.) to determine the percentage to be used.



SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD:

NYSPHSAA has just concluded the Winter Season of our Scholar Athlete program. There were 1,721 teams and 19,493 students that were recognized. The "late" deadline to file is March 16, 2013.

OUT OF STATE GAMES/SCRIMMAGES:

As Spring sports begin this month, many of our schools and teams will be traveling to warmer climates to participate in early season games and scrimmages. NYSPHSAA would like to remind athletic administrators and coaches that our member schools may only compete in contests/scrimmages with schools that are members of their state athletic association or schools that are approved by the state athletic association.

If your team is participating in an event co-sponsored by an outside agency and/or a local High School then it must be approved by the NYSPHSAA and the NFHS. Schools involved in these types of events must complete the "Notice of Entry" form located on the NYSPHSAA website. Teams that are traveling outside of the state and are planning on just "scrimmaging" other schools must follow the scrimmage guidelines, for their respective sport, that can be found in the NYSPHSAA Handbook. The NYSPHSAA office staff is available to assist your school if you have any questions or concerns before your team travels out of state.



TICKETLEAP.COM:

Remember to please notify your community and fans that championship tickets can always be purchased online at www.ticketleap.com. Make it easy and convenient for your fans to get tickets to follow your team at state championships.



LOOKING AHEAD:

Mar. 13-15, 2013	New York Athletic Administrators Conference (Saratoga Springs)
Mar. 22, 2013	Executive Committee Meeting (Hotel Albany)
Mar. 22-24, 2013	NYS Federation Basketball Tournament (Times Union Center)
May 3-4, 2013	NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting
July 30-31, 2013	NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting (Woodcliff Resort- Rochester)



QUOTE TO REMEMBER:

"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."

-Lou Holtz