

**PRINCIPALS: Please Share These Minutes with Your Athletic Director**  
**Regular Meeting of PIAA District VI – September 24, 2024**

**Call to Order** of the September 24, 2024 meeting, Chairman Marshall called the meeting of the District VI Committee to order at 3:30 p.m. at Hollidaysburg Area High School.

*Present* - Michael Cacciotti, Ralph Cecere, Charles Glasser, Chuck Gojmerac, Tina Greene, Deanna Jubeck, Tish Maclay, William Marshall, Jacquelyn Mento, Chad Packer, Molly Pomeroy-Hoover, Jody Rainey, Brian Randall, Timothy Regan, Chris Rickens, Richard Schreier, Cullen Stokes, and Jack Tobias.

*Absent* - Elizabeth Campbell, Stacy Kuster, Phil Riccio, and Curtis Whitesel

*Others Present* – Tyrone parent, Lucas Rhoades, Richard Wood, John Edgell, Lou Idzajt, Frank Garritano, and John Garritano, Chris Walter, and Brian Bert.

**Public Comments** – William Marshall introduced the newest District VI Committee member, Brian Randall from Conemaugh Valley to the committee.

District VI Fall Officials expressed concerns and shared thoughts for consideration with the Committee that included understanding code of conduct and ethics for coaches and officials, the rules book delineates acceptable and unacceptable behavior and consequences, and the following:

**Coaches**

- Educating the coaches on how to interact with student athletes and officials.
- Coaches who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior in the coaches' box say to his/her players and spectators it is all right to act in this manner.
- Student-athlete behavior reflects the coaching staff behavior.
- Provide and require training in sportsmanship and the expectation of coaching when the coach gets hired. However, this training does not replace mandatory training and meeting with the school administration of a coach who was disqualified from a contest. Be proactive. The new coach knows before starting a new position the expectations regarding sportsmanship. If necessary, repeat the training every five years.
- Many disputes arise from the lack of knowledge, coaches need to know and understand the rules.

**Officials**

- Educating new officials, knowing the rules of the sport being officiated.
- Consistent enforcement of the rules of the contest.
- Try your best to deescalate the situation. First listen to understand, then speak to be understood.
- Know what actions constitute unsportsmanlike behavior and act accordingly.
- Do not tolerate poor coaches and player behavior.
- Chapters could encourage good sportsmanship by presenting a sportsmanship award to a local team at the end of each sports season which best demonstrates appropriate behavior.
- How evaluating and mentoring helps. New officials benefit from evaluators giving them feedback.

**School Administration**

- Provide the resources needed to inform and remind parents and spectators that good sportsmanship behavior is expected. Arrange meetings with parents and community to discuss the expected behaviors at school events. Meetings could be arranged at the beginning of each sports season.
- Provide sportsmanship training to newly hired coaches.
- Require event security personnel to remove spectators who demonstrate unsportsmanlike behavior as soon as it occurs. The security personnel should not wait for instructions from a game official or game manager to act on unruly behavior.
- Be present at contests and when attending a contest, set a good example and if needed, be the one who removes an unsportsmanlike fan.
- Structure and communication to address poor sportsmanship. Put a policy in place so that everyone is on the same page.

**District VI Committee**

- Inform the public about good sportsmanship through Public Service Announcements (PSA).

- Provide incentives to schools to produce thirty and sixty second PSA to be distributed by the District VI Committee to local media outlets.
- Continue to monitor unsportsmanlike behavior and address schools with high rates of poor sportsmanship via appropriate sanctions.

#### Game Managers

- Be present and introduced.
- Know what their job entitles, besides handing checks out.
- Need to be proactive, especially in wrestling where there is just one official present.
- Rules for game managers need to include focusing on school fan behavior.
- Expectations of game managers to be shared with school and officials

The Committee responded with the following:

- That in effort to reduce unsportsmanlike behaviors and disqualifications, at every meeting, Chris Rickens and Beth Campbell present the all the disqualifications to the Committee, and if there is a supplemental disqualification for a coach, that coach is required to come before the Committee.
- Over the last three years, the number of disqualifications has decreased across the line. All disqualifications are sent to Pat Gebhart.
- Forms with procedures on security to be given to principals, administrators, and athletic directors.
- School district security coordinators and/or administrators should be informed about any and all security issues, and when security is not provided.
- Game managers and officials should meet before each contest and discuss expectations.
- Officials should email Chris Rickens on no security and no game managers being present at contests.
- Head coaches should not be the game managers for games, however, local school board control this.
- Junior high and junior varsity contests should have game managers present and treated as the same as varsity contests.
- Football and basketball currently have evaluators; however, the Committee can add evaluators to other sports as well.

#### Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Natisha Maclay and Richard Schreier, the minutes from the August 15, 2024 meeting, were unanimously approved.

#### Financial Reports

On a motion by Michael Cacciotti and Tish Maclay, the Committee unanimously approved the District VI monthly financial report for August, with the addition of \$62,687.13 Arbiter balance.

#### Old Business

William Marshall announced that two District VI Coaches being named Coach of the year. Congratulations to Carol Cecere, Forest Hills High School Girls Basketball Coach, and Teri Maser, Greater Johnstown HS. Competitive Cheer Coach, both are well deserving of this honor.

Mr. Marshall also informed the Committee of P.I.A.A. updates that included continued litigation, more than likely teams will be unable to play up starting in the 2026-2027 school year, rise of three to five eligibility hearings per week, the sanctioning of Girls' Flag Football in PA, and the launching of PIAA Scene a production of videos, highlighting student-athletes memorable plays, milestones, and other achievements from regular season contests that will be available to share by tagging posts on social media as #PIAAScene will allow PIAA to share videos on PIAA platforms such as the PIAA website and social media.

The Committee also discussed handbook updates and District VI passes.

#### New Business

Chris Rickens announced that October 6<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> is Fall Officials Appreciation Week, where officials will be recognized.

**Review of Disqualifications** – Mr. Rickens shared information regarding the fourteen disqualifications that took place since August's District VI monthly meeting. All of the disqualifications were players, eight of which were supplemental.

Six of the fourteen were players from State College Area, half of the six were football players and the other three were soccer players, and all except for one, being supplemental. Chris noted that the State College Athletic Director has reached out with concerns and questions regarding de-escalation.

### Eligibility Transfers

**Eligibility was granted** to the following student, with principal signoffs avowing that no athletic intent existed by both sending and receiving schools:

Name	Gr.	Transfer	Sport(s)	Motion
Tyler Snyder	11	West Middlesex to Purchase Line	Track	Schreier, Glasser
Bethany Watt	10	Glendale to Penn Cambria	None	Schreier, Glasser
Carlae Watt	9	Glendale to Penn Cambria	None	Schreier, Glasser
Jordan Talasky	8	Northern Bedford to Claysburg Kimmel	None	Schreier, Glasser
Sophia Hamryszak	8	Indiana to Penns Manor	Soccer	Schreier, Glasser
Devin Farahani	12	Colorado to State College	Golf	Schreier, Glasser
Vincent Myers	10	Bishop Carroll to Penns Manor	Basketball	Schreier, Glasser
Noah Rose-Cruz	10	Clearfield to Westmont	Cross Country	Schreier, Glasser
Danika Bias	10	West Shamokin to Marion Center	None	Schreier, Glasser
Sage Germaux	11	Hollidaysburg to Bishop Guilfoyle	None	Schreier, Glasser
Francesca Gross	7	Ferndale to United	Cheer	Schreier, Glasser
Eric Gross	9	Ferndale to United	Football, Basketball	Schreier, Glasser
Madison Byrd	10	Mt. Lebanon to Central Cambria	Wrestling	Schreier, Glasser
Kelsie Shirey	10	Homer Center to Penns Manor	Cheer, Volleyball	Schreier, Glasser
Morgan Lane Kimmel	11	Purchase Line to Marion Center	None	Schreier, Glasser
Gialal Ismail	11	Baltimore to Altoona	Soccer	Schreier, Glasser
Peyton Setcavage	10	Redmond to State College	Football, Baseball	Schreier, Glasser
Ashley Farahani	10	Colorado to State College	Volleyball	Schreier, Glasser
Alan Czar	8	Northern Cambria to Penns Manor	Football	Schreier, Glasser
Jack Pryor	11	Olentangy HS to Bishop McCort	None	Schreier, Glasser
Naiara Shaffer	9	Chestnut Ridge to Bishop McCort	Basketball	Schreier, Glasser
Nasir Miles	9	Shippensburg to Ferndale	None	Schreier, Glasser
Kenneth Billings	11	Bishop Carroll to Bishop McCort	None	Schreier, Glasser
Dominik Burns	11	Central Cambria to Forest Hills	None	Schreier, Glasser

### Ineligible for Post Season

Broderrick Partner Gore	11	Bishop Guilfoyle to Hollidaysburg	Golf	Greene, Rickens
Delanie Kiser	12	Ferndale to Johnstown	Soccer	Greene, Rickens

### Post Season Waiver Granted

Broderrick Partner Gore		Hollidaysburg		Regan, Packer
Carnell Noone		BEA		Regan, Packer
Parker White		Altoona		Regan, Packer

William Marshall informed the Committee of the difference between International and Foreign Exchange student athletic eligibility. International students are eligible for multiple years, whereas Foreign Exchange students are only eligible for one year.

### International Student

Virginia D'Emilio		Juniata HS		Gojmerac, Schreier
Sophia Ramirez		Homer Center		Gojmerac, Schreier
Jade Melati-Kemppainen		Phillipsburg Osceola		Gojmerac, Schreier
Chengyao "Yao" Zhang		Bishop Guilfoyle		Gojmerac, Schreier
Leire Landeras Ruiz		Penns Valley		Gojmerac, Schreier
Hiba El Annasi		Bellefonte		Gojmerac, Schreier
Nina Hess		Bellefonte		Gojmerac, Schreier
Benedetta Murro		Penns Valley		Gojmerac, Schreier
Yuzuka Hirose		Mifflin County		Gojmerac, Schreier
Valentina Zaramella		Bellefonte		Gojmerac, Schreier

### Foreign Exchange Students

Capucine Rhul		France to Bishop Carroll		Gojmerac, Schreier
---------------	--	--------------------------	--	--------------------

On a motion by Brian Randall and Tish Maclay, the Committee denied post season eligibility waiver for a Tyrone student-athlete, based Article VI, Section 7, Letter A, Subsection C, Number 1, Part J. of the PIAA By-Laws on a vote of 15 yes, 0 no, and 2 abstentions from Michael Cacciotti and Chad Packer.

William Marshall recognized Hollidaysburg's medical response to a student's life-threatening injury. A football player endured an injury at practice, which mirrored Pro Football player, Damar Hamlin's injury. Hollidaysburg Area's quick and exemplary response saved the student's life. Homer Delattre, Hollidaysburg's athletic director, has shared the emergency operation plan compiled by Hollidaysburg with the state and school districts.

Tim Regan recommended not only to have an emergency plan in place but advised school districts to conduct drills for emergency situations such as this.

Mr. Marshall also updated the Committee on Fall sports, Altoona Area School District adding Girls Wrestling, and the receipt of Dean Rossi Scholarship thank you cards.

### **Individual Sports Report**

Molly Pomeroy-Hoover informed the Committee that the state office states that the Competitive Cheer's District Chair decides who goes to the state competition. After working with Jen Grassel and varsity.com, it was decided that the top AA, AAA, Co-Ed, and the next six top scoring teams will advance to the state competition.

Mrs. Pomeroy-Hoover shared a suggestion that was brought to her of having a District Competitive Spirit Steering Committee. The Committee responded that a steering Committee at District level would not be advisable, due to Competitive Spirit decisions are made at the state level.

### **The Next Meeting**

The District VI Committee will meet on October 21, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., at Hollidaysburg Area High School Library.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Committee, Brian Randall moved, and Chris Rickens seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:11 p.m.