

Committee Meeting

Location: Marzoni's

August 5, 2026: 10:00AM (WEDNESDAY)



Present - Jeremy Burkett, Michael Cacciotti, Elizabeth Campbell, Ralph Cecere, Charles Glasser, Stacy Kuster, Jennifer McConnell, Jacquelyn Mento, Richard Schreier, Joseph Strittmatter, Jody Rainey, Brian Randall, Timothy Regan, Phil Riccio, Chris Rickens, Curtis Whitesel, David Williamson, and Matthew Young.

Absent - Chuck Gojmerac, Chad Packer, and Cullen Stokes.

Call to Order: Chairman Cecere called the August 5, 2026 meeting of the District VI Committee to order at 10:20 am at Marzoni's Restaurant.

1. Public Comment - No public comments were made.
2. Hearings – No hearings took place. Ralph Cecere informed the Committee on one potential and one upcoming hearing.
3. Approval of Past Minutes - On a motion by Chris Rickens and Jeremy Burkett, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the June 15, 2026 meeting.
4. Financial Report(s) - Mrs. Mento
 - 4.A. District 6 Monthly Expenses/Revenue Report - On a motion by Charles Glasser and Phil Riccio, the Committee unanimously approved the District VI monthly financial reports for June and July.
 - 4.B. Financial Accounts - Jacquelyn Mento provided a detailed handout of the financial accounts to the Committee.
5. Old Business – Ralph Cecere updated the Committee on the following:
 - 5.A. District 6 Tournament Structure (Handbook Pages) should be completed soon.
 - 5.B. Basketball shot clocks coming 2028-29, stressing that the “Recall” feature is important for accidental deletions.
 - 5.C. District VI Committee continues to promote Game Management Best Practices.
 - 5.D. HB 41 Boundary/Nonboundary has passed the House, while the Senate is still discussing.
 - 5.E. Annual Meeting Survey that was reviewed previously by the Committee will be sent to District VI member schools.
 - 5.F. Mr. Cecere noted that due to the vast responses to the pre-agenda for additional items to be addressed, he will continue to send prior to the meetings.
6. New Business - Committee
 - 6.A. Feeder School Approval – Michael Cacciotti informed the Committee on the Feeder School miscommunication. That there is an issue in bigger district areas, not an issue in the District VI area. Mr. Cacciotti also explained that Feeder School approval is when there is an opportunity to go into schools and talk with students verses not being permitted to enter the schools.
 - 6.B. NFHS Convention Review – Mr. Cecere informed the Committee on the NFHS Convention that he recently attended. Stating that it was a terrific experience, that

included very interesting speakers and was a real eye opener on how other districts and states handle their affairs. He also congratulated Pat Gephart on his award. Ralph encouraged Steering Committee members to become Board of Director members.

- 6.C. Committee Elections Results – Ralph Cecere thanked the Committee for their continued support. On a motioned by Richard Schreier, second by Timothy Regan and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Committee Election results from Tuesday, July 7, 2026 were as follows:

Ralph Cecere - Chairman

Curt Whitesel - Vice Chairman

Mike Cacciotti - Secretary

- 6.D. Steering Committees – The Committee conversed on Steering Committees. Mr. Cecere added in the Steering Committees, the ones with the majority of teams become decision makers. Ralph also commented that if a Steering Committee member is unable to attend a meeting to contact him, Curtis, or Michael, to ensure District VI has a member present.
- 6.E. NFHS National Student Credential

6.E.1. Four (4) Free Courses – the Committee discussed the NFHS four free courses that is available for students and a larger scholarship in the amount of \$1000 become available for students that complete the course and submit a resume and essay by January 1st for 2026-2027 school year and by June 1st of the junior year for all years to follow.

- 6.F. Championship Requests - On a motion by Richard Schreier and Michael Cacciotti, the Committee unanimously approved the following championship requests:

6.F.1. Heritage Conference

6.F.2. ICC

6.F.3. Laurel Highlands Conference

- 6.G. Female Parent Advisory Representative – Ralph Cecere welcomed David Williamson, the new athletic director representative, and Joseph Strittmatter, the new Junior High Representative, to the Committee. On a motion by Phil Riccio and Curtis Whitesel, the Committee unanimously approved Dr. Amy Mykut as the new Female Parent representative for a three-year term, pending school age children.

- 6.H. Sport Preparation – The Committee discussed the vacant committee needs and tournament chairs

6.H.1. Needs

6.H.2. Tournament Chairs – The following positions were fulfilled:

Beth Campbell – Field Hockey and Lacrosse

Cullen Stokes – Cross Country

Jeremy Burkett – Cross Country Assistant

Chad Packer – Cheer

Mr. Cecere updated the Committee on the following:

- 6.I. NFHS Digital app

- 6.J. Hometown Year-end Review – Tournaments were down eleven events and \$40,000 in ticket sales from last year. Chris Smith, Hometown Ticketing Representative, has moved on to a new career.

- 6.K. Blacklick Valley adding Boys and Girls Cross Country, 26-27

- 6.L. Bishop McCort adding Boys Soccer 26-27

Ralph Cecere added that member schools can add additional sports through the portal.

- 6.M. BEA Attendance Waiver - On a motion by Phil Riccio and Curtis Whitesel, the Committee unanimously approved the attendance waiver for a Bald Eagle student

athlete.

7. Eligibility: Transfers, Exchange/International Students, Postseason Ineligibility Waivers
(*Principal Sign-off, ^Executive Approved - to be Affirmed by Committee Vote, #Hearing, %Out-of-State)

Green - Eligible or Post Season Waiver Granted

Red - Ineligible or Post Season Waiver Denied

Yellow - Further Information Being Requested by the Committee

Name	Gr	Transfer	Sport(s)	Motion
Mark George*	7	Conemaugh Valley to Bishop McCort	Football, Basketball, Baseball	Cacciotti, McConnell
Nadia Croteau*	7	Richland to Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Addikin Garbarino*	7	Richland to Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Avery Siplivy*	7	Forest Hills to Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Andrew Vaught*	7	Altoona to Bishop Guilfoyle	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Noah Novak*	7	Altoona to Bishop Guilfoyle	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Joseph Kelly%	7	Out of State To Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Heath Matse	7	Westmont Hilltop to Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Jaycob Lavelly	7	Greater Johnstown to Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Camilla Gaunt*	8	Central Cambria to Bishop McCort	Wrestling, Softball	Cacciotti, McConnell
Bryce Harrington	8	Portage to Bishop Carroll	Wrestling	Cacciotti, McConnell
Dirk Pardee*	8	Northern Cambria to Cambria Heights	Football, Basketball, Baseball, Track & Field	Cacciotti, McConnell
Elise Fatula%	8	Lake Benton to United	Volleyball, Track & Field	Cacciotti, McConnell
Leon Phillips	8	Somerset to Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Josiash Lieb	9	Holy Name to Bishop McCort	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Tera James*	9	Penn Cambria to Conemaugh Valley	Softball	Cacciotti, McConnell
Lamar Hall*	9	Greater Johnstown to Bishop McCort	Football, Track & Field	Cacciotti, McConnell
Krzysztof Miskowski*	9	James Buchanan to Bishop McCort	Wrestling	Cacciotti, McConnell
Tallyn Buchko*	9	Bishop McCort to Greater Johnstown	Volleyball, Basketball, Softball	Cacciotti, McConnell
Edward McKendree*	9	Ferndale to Bishop Carroll	Football	Cacciotti, McConnell
Eather Zahraini	9	Holidaysburg to Bishop Guilfoyle	Swimming	Cacciotti, McConnell
Emma Thompson	9	Altoona to Bishop Guilfoyle	None	Cacciotti, McConnell
Kennedy McConnell*	9	St. Benedict to Cambria Heights	Volleyball, Basketball	Cacciotti, McConnell
Benjamin Corvin*	9	South Moreland to Bishop McCort	Football	Cacciotti, McConnell
Violet Fatula%	10	Lake Benton to United	Cross Country	Cacciotti, McConnell

Brayden Zeigler	10	Altoona to Bishop Guilfoyle	Volleyball	Cacciotti, McConnell
Casonte Ray*	10	Greater Johnstown to Penn Cambria	Football, Wrestling	Cacciotti, McConnell
Sohan Campbell	10	Stone Bridge to Great Commission	Altoona XC, Indoor T&F, T&F	Cacciotti, McConnell
Sage Walters*	10	Tyrone Area to Bishop Guilfoyle	Soccer, Basketball	Cacciotti, McConnell
Transfer - Regular Season Approved/Postseason Ineligible				
Lorenzo Smith%	11	Belleville East to Bishop McCort	Basketball	Schreier, Rickens
Ka'Ven Smith-Kirk*	12	Bellefonte to State College	Football, Track & Field	Schreier, Rickens
Lydia Ruffner	12	Grace Prep to State College	Soccer, Basketball, Track & Field	Schreier, Rickens
Kellan Cope%	11	Star Valley to Phillipsburg-Osceola	Football, Track & Field	Schreier, Rickens
Camden Marx	11	Windber to Bishop McCort	Basketball, Track & Field	Schreier, Rickens
Adrienne Ditosti	11	Bishop Carroll to Penn Cambria	Volleyball, Softball	Schreier, Rickens
Zacherijah Quantz	11	Dover to Mifflin County	Football	Schreier, Rickens
Postseason Ineligibility Waiver Requests				
None				
Ineligible - Athletic Intent				
Benjamin Corvin	9	South Moreland to Bishop McCort	Wrestling	Randall, Rickens
Exchange/International Student				
Gregoire Grimpel		France to Penn Cambria		Burkett, Glasser
Solene Miya Cachet-Chabert	10	France to Homer-Center		Burkett, Glasser
Paula Jimenez Ponce	11	Spain to Homer-Center		Burkett, Glasser

8. Officials / Disqualifications - Mrs. Campbell, Mr. Rickens

8.A. Disqualifications – There were no disqualifications.

8.B. Officials Recruitment – Chris Rickens informed the Committee that there was one submission for reimbursement, unfortunately, it was made outside the eligible timeframe. Beth Campbell responded that there are two potential reimbursement requests. Mr. Rickens will get official reimbursement information submitted for the website.

8.C. Officials Recognition – Chris Rickens suggested that for the official gifts this school year, the Committee use bag tags.

9. Sportsmanship - Mr. Schreier

9.A. School assembly on sportsmanship - The Committee conversed on schools holding assembly on sportsmanship.

9.A.1. Grant money in the amount of \$250 or tickets (with a one year expiration) to a playoff contest of their choice be awarded to those who participate and complete the submission of the date the assembly was held, grade levels, those in attendance.

9.A.2. Develop materials to assist schools

9.A.3. PSA contest – Ralph Cecere discussed PSA contest with the Committee on a 30 second Ad produced by school media departments on sportsmanship vetted and approved by the Committee, winners will receive a \$250 scholarship be awarded to media department and will be posted to either the website, Hometown, etc.

10. Athletic Director Reports - Mr. Riccio, Mr. Stokes, Mr. Williamson – There were no athletic director reports.

11. D6 Awards/Promotions

11.A. Mr. Rainey informed the sport chairs to get their tournament dates to him, for merchandise sales.

11.B. Bag Tags – The Committee discussed how bag tags are very popular with students.

12. Sport Reports

12.A. Spring Tournament Reports

12.A.1. Baseball - On a motion by Brian Randall and Jennifer McConnell, the Committee unanimously approved the baseball financial report as submitted by Charles Gojmerac.

12.A.2. Boys Volleyball - On a motion by Richard Schreier and Chris Rickens, the Committee unanimously approved the boys volleyball financial report as submitted by Charles Gojmerac.

12.A.3. Softball - On a motion by Curtis Whitesel and Phil Riccio, the Committee unanimously approved the softball financial report as submitted by Stacy Kuster.

12.A.4. Track & Field - On a motion by Matthew Young and Jennifer McConnell, the Committee unanimously approved the track and field financial report as submitted by Phil Riccio.

12.A.5. Boys Tennis - On a motion by Matthew Young and Jennifer McConnell, the Committee unanimously approved the boys tennis financial report as submitted by Phil Riccio.

12.A.6. Lacrosse - On a motion by Curtis Whitesel and Stacy Kuster, the Committee unanimously approved the lacrosse financial report as submitted by Charles Gojmerac.

13. CO-OPs (Forming and Terminating) On a motion by Timothy Regan and Chris Rickens, the Committee unanimously approved the following co-op requests:

13.A. Forming

- 13.A.1. Windber/Conemaugh Township/Forest Hills, Girls Tennis, effective 26-27
- 13.B. Terminating
 - 13.B.1. West Branch/St. Francis, JH Baseball, effective 26-27
 - 13.B.2. Glendale Area/Harmony, JH Softball, 25-26

14. Communication

- 14.A. Thank you cards and letters from Dean Rossi Scholarship Recipients were shared with the Committee.

15. Executive Session - An executive session was not held at this meeting.

16. For the Good of the Order

- 16.A. The Committee discussed a challenged transfer waiver and Mr. Cecere reminded the Committee it is not considered a transfer until the student athlete attends a class.
- 16.B. The Committee also discussed apparel options.
- 16.C. Next Meeting: Monday, September 14, 3:30PM, Hollidaysburg SH Library.

17. Adjournment: On a motion by Curtis Whitesel and Phil Riccio, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 12:30 pm.