



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 23, 2026

ATHLETIC COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- 3.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the June 17, 2026 Section VI Athletic Council meeting minutes
- 4.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of independent status for CSAT – NFL Boys and Girls Soccer 26-27, Global Concepts – ECIC Girls Volleyball 26-27, North Tonawanda – NFL Girls Basketball 26-27, CSAT – NFL Baseball and Softball 26-27.
- 5.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Combining of Schools Applications
- 6.1.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval to move Eden/North Collins girls lacrosse from class D to class C, based on Dominance, for the 2027 spring season.
- 6.3.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Treasurer's report
- 6.3.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Recommendation for Section VI to sell pre-sale paper tickets at \$10, and charge spectators \$13 at the gate for the 2026 football sectional championships to be held at Broadview Stadium (UB).
- 6.14.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Matt Miller as Section VI Girls Ice Hockey Chairperson, Term July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

* Agenda item numbers correspond to the athletic council agenda

1.0 CALL TO ORDER (D. Lilleck)

Commenced: 9:36am

4.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (M. DiFilippo)

4.1 Section VI Agendas - New Process

Section VI is trialing a more efficient way to share information by providing committee agendas via shared Google files. This allows everyone to see updates in real time. In addition, instead of attached appendices, all supporting documents will now be linked directly within their respective agenda items.

4.2 Conflict of Interest – Annual Acknowledgement

The conflict of interest form is a mandatory, annual acknowledgement. It will be sent out from the Section VI office to council members via email. Prompt reply is kindly requested.

4.3 NYSPHSAA Summer Meeting / Foundation Golf Tournament July 27, 2026

The summer meeting was hosted by Section VI. Positive feedback was received.

4.4 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of independent status for CSAT – NFL Boys and Girls Soccer 26-27, Global Concepts – ECIC Girls Volleyball 26-27, North Tonawanda – NFL Girls Basketball 26-27, CSAT – NFL Baseball and Softball 26-27.

Per section 170 of the Section VI Policy Manual, *Independent team status must be approved on an annual basis, first at the league level and then by the Athletic Council. Federated teams only require Athletic Council approval. It is the involved school's responsibility to request approval.*

Stemming out of concern of the rationale for independent teams as well as the process for approval, D. Ljiljanich will chair an Independent Status Ad Hoc Committee.

4.5 27-28 [North](#) & [South](#) Proposed Timelines for Schedules and Assignment of Officials

The timelines are established annually and reviewed with the league heads. They will be an action item at the November 18, 2026 athletic council meeting.

4.6 SWOB and 3 Region Rotation NYS Committees

M. Fallacaro-Dougherty is the Section VI representative on the NYSPHSAA SWOB Committee. J. Roth is the Section VI representative on the 3-Region Rotation Committee, but is willing to step aside if another is interested in taking over the position.. Both Committees are scheduled to convene December 2026. Some early concerns about the 3-Region Concept have materialized, and the committee will be discussing how to address them.

4.7 January 28, 2027 Mandatory AD Workshop at Erie 1 BOCES (informational)

4.8 New Opt-Out Forms

Opt-out forms have moved online. Schools are to use the digital submission form if they plan to opt out of Sectionals. Submissions are sent to Section VI office staff and respective sport chairs.

5.0 COMMUNICATIONS (M. DiFilippo)

Informational:

Exec. Approval 9/2/26 Girls Tennis New Chaut. Lake, Maple Grove

Demerge Swimming G Eden, North Collins., Gowanda approved 1/14/26 DROPPED Gowanda 8/12/26

Demerge Swimming B Fredonia, Dunkirk, Silv. Cr, Forestville approved 6/17/26 DROPPED Forestville 7/28/26

Demerge Indoor Track BG, Hutch Tech, Emerson, Culinary Arts, South Park approved 6/17/26 DROPPED South Park 9/16/26

5.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the Combining of Schools Applications [COS Status Chart](#)

WINTER 2026-27

1. Basketball B., Existing Bennett, Alternative 460, A
2. Basketball B., Existing, MEC, Research Lab, 306, B
3. Basketball G, Existing, Culinary, Emerson, 716, AA
4. Basketball G, Existing, MEC, Research Lab, 306, B
5. Bowl BG, Existing, Frewsburg, Southwestern, 350, D2
6. Unified Bowl, WS West, WS East, 1322, one division, pending league approval
7. Unified Bowl, Existing Medina, Roy-Hart, 509, one division, pending league approval
8. Unified Bowl, Existing, Silver Creek, Forestville, 300, one division, pending league approval
9. Hockey G, New, Starpoint, Nia-Wheat, Lew-Port, Nia. Falls, & North Tonawanda, 3501, one division, V
10. Hockey G, Existing, WS West, WS East, Hamburg, Eden, & Cheektowaga, 2812, one division, V
11. Swimming B, Existing, Frewsburg, Southwestern, Jamestown, Falconer, 1752, one division, V
12. Swimming B, Existing, WS West, WS East, 1322, one division, V, pending league approval
13. Wrestling B, Existing, **WS West**, WS East, & Depew, 1270, D1, V, $\frac{7}{8}$, pending league approval
14. Wrestling B, Existing, Fredonia, Forestville, & Silver Creek, 503, D2, V
15. Wrestling B, Existing, Gowanda, Pine Valley, 290, D2, V, $\frac{7}{8}$ /9
16. Wrestling G, Existing, **Orchard Park**, Frontier, Hamburg, 2675, One Division, V, JV pending league approval
17. Wrestling G, Existing, Frewsburg, Jamestown, & Southwestern, 1482, one division, V
18. Wrestling G, Existing, Kenmore East, Kenmore West, 1463, one division, V
19. Wrestling G, New, Sweet Home, Amherst, Cheektowaga, & Tonawanda, 2289, one division, V pending league approval
20. Wrestling G, Existing, Fredonia, Forestville, & Silver Creek, 656, one division, V

6.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Combining of Schools Committee (J. Sortisio)

[COS Committee Spring 2027 Recommendations](#)

- 6.1.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval to move Eden/North Collins girls lacrosse from class D to class C, based on Dominance, for the 2027 spring season.
- 6.1.2 Eliminate the end of season reporting requirements for Combined Unified teams - move to Policy Committee
The rationale for the recommendation is Unified Sports are all one classification, they do not move up or down classification.

6.2 Charter Schools Classification Committee (J. Sortisio)

Nothing to report

6.3 Finance Committee (S. Penhollow)

- 6.3.1 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of the [Treasurer's report](#)

- 6.3.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Recommendation for Section VI to sell pre-sale paper tickets at \$10, and charge spectators \$13 at the gate for the 2026 football sectional championships to be held at Broadview Stadium (UB).

Section VI's approved and published ticket price for the football sectional championships is \$10 (both presale and at the door). Following notification from the 2026 venue, the University at Buffalo (UB), regarding a \$3 service fee, the Finance Committee recommended seeking approval to increase the at-the-door ticket price to \$13.

6.4 Sectional/Intersectional (M. DiFilippo)

6.4.1 Wrestling [Tournament Adjustment](#)

Leagues will first discuss the matter at the request of Sectional/Intersectional Committee members. The committee will then vote on a final recommendation at its October 2026 meeting and forward it to the Athletic Council.

6.4.2 [Rationale Girls](#) and [Boys Basketball](#)) Proposals

Leagues will first discuss the matter at the request of Sectional/Intersectional Committee members. The committee will then vote on a final recommendation at its October 2026 meeting and forward it to the Athletic Council.

6.4.3 [26 27 At Large and sub regionals](#)

Informational - list of all at larges and subregionals for the entire year.

6.7 State Executive Committee/Central Committee

a) Superintendent (J. Sortisio)

6.7a1 Central Committee was productive and non-controversial. Congratulations to Adam Stoltman on his elevation to president.

b) Principal (C. Alvarez)

Nothing to report

c) Female Rep./Male Rep. (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty/J. Roth)

The following are discussion items ([link to full proposals](#)). Action will be taken via Google survey, sent October 6th, due October 13th close of business, to provide direction for M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative, and J. Roth, Male Representative, at the October 2026 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting

6.7c1 Championship Philosophy - Amend Championship Philosophy regarding percentage of championship Participation

6.7c2 Championship Philosophy - Establish standard qualifying criteria for championships in which athletes qualify by time

6.7c3 Handbook - Individual on a team, max number of contest penalty

6.7c4 Boys/Girls Swimming & Diving - Establish a team state championship

6.7c5 Girls Wrestling - Establish a dual meet state championship in 27-28

6.7c6 Boys Wrestling - Legal uniform at NYSPHSAA Boys Wrestling individual championship

6.7c7 Boys Wrestling - Section and NYSPHSAA dual meet championships and NYSPHSAA representation rule

6.7c8 Baseball Committee & Safety Committee - To permit pitchers and catchers (battery only) to start one week prior to the official spring sports start date

6.7c9 Baseball - Revise the current pitch count guidelines and nights rest

6.7c10 Softball - require all suspended regional and state tournament games to be completed regardless of being official

6.7c11 Flag Football - Classification cut-off numbers

6.7c12 Flag Football - NFHS Waivers

6.7c13 Flag Football - Overtime Rules

6.7c14 Flag Football - Uniform waiver for sub-varsity

6.8 Extended Eligibility (M. DiFilippo)

6.8.1 Application Denied (Football, Basketball)

6.10 Transfer/Foreign Student (M. DiFilippo)

Reports were shared with the Executive Committee

6.13 Mixed Competition (C. Alvarez)

Nothing to report

6.14 Nominations (K. Kelly)

6.14.1. Section VI Boys Golf Chairperson Position, remaining term through June 30, 2028 - **No Applicants**
The golf application will be reposted on the Section VI website with a deadline of October 30, 2026 to submit.

6.14.2 AC ACTION ITEM: Approval of Matt Miller as Section VI Girls Ice Hockey Chairperson, Term July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029

6.14.3 Section VI Superintendents' Representative (J. Sortisio), Term Expiration June 2027
J. Sortisio was asked to indicate whether he intends to request renewal of term at the October 14, 2026 Executive Committee meeting.

6.15 Corporate Partners (K. Schon)

Corporate partnership discussions were initiated with OnCore Golf for Boys & Girls Golf, and Runners Roost for Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field. While both vendors expressed strong interest, they are currently reviewing potential offerings with their respective teams.

6.17 Policy Committee (K. Schon)

K. Kelly, Section VI President-Elect, will assume the duties of B. Banker, Section VI former President-Elect as Policy Committee Chair.

7.0 **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

7.1 All WNY Scholar Athlete (J. Roth)

Nothing to report

7.2 Schools Without Boundaries Ad Hoc Committee (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty)

10.0 **OLD BUSINESS**

11.0 **NEW BUSINESS**

11.1 Athletic Council

M. DiFilippo and K. Schon to review athletic council duties/responsibilities with athletic council members.

12.0 **GOOD OF THE ORDER/ADJOURNMENT**

12.1 ***Motion to adjourn***

CARRIED

Roth/Sortisio