

Athletic Council Agenda and Notes

Meeting 5- 11/17/25

In Attendance: Marci Tebbano, Emily Wells, Peter Bednarek, Sadie Leon, Sean Schreiner, Riley Jackson, Matt Loatman, Alissa Buhrmaster, James Krogh, Karnjit Singh

1. Athletic Department Updates

- Fall seasons are wrapping up with the exception of girls swimming that is heading to states on Friday.
- We had our Winter Meet the Coaches Recruitment Night on 10/23
- We had our Winter Coaches Meeting on 10/23
- Freshman/JV/Varsity Seasons begin today 11/17
- Modified Season Begins 12/1
- We had a motivational speaker (Jim McHugh) on mental toughness for all of our athletes and coaches. This was a success.
- Our new district APP policy we worked on last meeting is in place.

2. Continue Working on Athletic Department Policies

- Student Athletes Quitting Team or Dismissal from a Team

The current policy is “Any athlete who quits a team after the team has been selected will face disciplinary action. They will not be able to play in the next sports season. An athlete who is dismissed from a team by a coach for violating team rules can also be suspended from the next sport season up to 40%. Repeat offenders of either rule, can be suspended from any further participation on any athletic team”

The committee would like to change to “Any athlete who quits a team after the team has been selected will face disciplinary action. If they choose to play the same sport in the future, they will sit for 40% of competitions. An athlete who is dismissed from a team by a coach for violating team rules will be suspended from the next sport season up to 40%. Repeat offenders of either rule, can be suspended from any further participation on any athletic team.”

- Academic Policy

The committee reviewed the current academic standard and policy. Everyone was in agreement to keep the policy as is.

Academic Standard- Athletics, generally speaking, have a positive effect on the athlete's performance in the classroom.

It is the athlete's responsibility to manage time effectively. Athletic practices/games should *not* be an excuse for failing to perform in academic classes.

Academic Policy-

- Students in co-curricular activities who fail two or more courses at the five-week mark are declared ineligible and placed on academic probation. This probation begins on the day the failure report lists are produced.

- Students who are placed on academic probation *may not* participate in any contest, meeting or special event for a period of one week. During these two weeks, students are encouraged to work hard to pull up any and all failing averages.

- Students may practice/participate in no more than 50% of scheduled meetings during this probation period. The other 50% of the time, they should be seeking help, making up work, studying, doing research, etc. as appropriate.

- At the conclusion of the one-week probation, a student may be taken off probation if the student takes a reinstatement form from their teachers and the teacher states that they are improving in their courses. Next, the student will bring the reinstatement form to the athletic director to be signed. Last, the student will turn the signed form into their coach. Reinstatement forms can be found at the athletic office.

- All faculty/coaches will receive a copy of the ineligibility list.

- Athletic Department and Modified, Freshman, JV, Varsity Philosophies

The committee discussed adding philosophies of modified, freshman, jv and varsity teams.

Athletic Department Philosophies

Athletic Philosophy Scotia-Glenville Central School District understands that interscholastic athletics are a significant part of the educational process. The combination of academics and athletics enhances the quality of students' lives and expands their options for learning and personal growth. Athletics provide an educational opportunity in which students can learn essential life lessons and values beyond those that can be learned in an academic classroom. The purpose of the athletic program of the

Scotia-Glenville Central School District is to develop lifelong skills for students in character, leadership, respect and sportsmanship. We will achieve this through participating in programs that are competitive within the Foothills Council and regional play by providing students opportunities to compete successfully at selected levels of play. Students are encouraged to participate in our programs and will receive support from all coaches and Physical Education staff.

Modified Philosophy- Scotia-Glenville Central School District offers its students a broad array of choices when it comes to athletic programs. At the 7th and 8th grade level a student can opt to participate in modified sports, which provide a student's first exposure to interscholastic athletics. Some of our students have not had the option to play community sports at a young age, and as a school district, we should provide this opportunity for all students. As such, there are certain characteristics that distinguish modified sports. For example, they may have slightly altered rules to accommodate participants' growth levels and abilities. These accommodations help ensure safety for all students.

In addition, the philosophy of modified sports differs from upper level athletics. The modified sports program is designed to be a learning experience and teaching program in which participants gain exposure to athletics. The goal is to learn about the game and about sportsmanship, rather than focusing solely on successful records. With this in mind, it is typical to see all team members participating, not just the ones who have developed better skill levels. Athletics in the school district should offer an opportunity to every student, not just the students that have had the opportunity to play on community teams.

This philosophy of modified sports is put forth by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHAA), the governing body for all junior and senior high school sports in the state. In fact, the NYSPHSAA even outlines the duties of a modified sports program, including:

- Providing as broad and varied an athletic program as possible with an opportunity for competition on an equal basis for all students.
- Conducting an athletic program so that educational objectives are achieved and the highest ideals of sportsmanship are upheld.
- Integrating the athletic program with all other activities essential to youth (including those that may be conducted by out-of-school groups) to avoid an excessive load for any student.
- Administering the program so there shall be minimum loss of school time, limited publicity and limited awards and all efforts are made to keep the program in proper perspective.
- Cooperating with schools in the area to develop the highest type of cordial interscholastic relationships.

The NYSPHSAA also dictates how many modified games students can play, how much time is necessary between games and the amount of time athletes can spend in practices.

Practices at the modified level are vital to a successful team and successful athlete. All athletes are expected to go to each and every practice that is scheduled by their coach.

By following the rules and embracing the philosophy of modified sports, participants get the full benefit of their athletic experiences. They can also learn some other valuable lessons along the way, such as responsibility to team members, organizational and time management skills, as well as cooperating to achieve a common goal. These are important skills that will carry over into other areas of the students' lives.

Freshman Philosophy: Freshman teams offer to be a transitional level opportunity for those who want to explore competitive levels at the high school. At the freshman level, athletes are expected to make a commitment to the program and team.

There must be an understanding that there is responsibility for continued self-development. There should be an increased emphasis placed on skill development, time commitment, physical conditioning, and the elements of strategies of team play.

The freshman level should work toward achieving a balance between introducing the sport at a higher level then modified with player development, enriching the athlete's skills and ambition to succeed.

Each coach should provide opportunities for meaningful contest participation for each team member throughout the season who meets the team's responsibilities. The coach will determine playing time based on the athletes' ability, opponents, game situations, practices, and their performance.

Practice at the freshman level are vital to a successful team and successful athlete. All athletes are expected to go to each and every practice that is scheduled by their coach.

The athletes at this level are preparing themselves to become varsity caliber, a goal which requires a higher level of dedication than that was required of them for the modified team.

Junior Varsity Philosophy: The Junior Varsity level is intended for an athlete who demonstrates the potential of continued development into a productive Varsity athlete.

At the Junior Varsity level, the athlete is expected to have a full commitment to the team and demonstrate continued self-development. An increased emphasis is placed on

physical conditioning. The player should be at a higher level of skill development, and should possess a better understanding of the strategies of team play.

The Junior Varsity level should work toward achieving a balance between continued team and player development and striving for success.

Practices at the Junior Varsity level are vital to a successful team and a successful athlete. All athletes are expected to go to each and every practice that is scheduled by their coach.

The Junior Varsity level should prepare the athlete for the goal of becoming a Varsity athlete with the highest level of dedication and play.

Varsity Philosophy- The varsity level is the culmination of all levels of both our athletic programs, and our physical education programs in the school district.

Athletes on the varsity level should be aware of their role and informed of their role and importance on their team. While contest participation and practice participation over the season is vital, it does not guarantee the amount of playing time on the varsity level. The athlete must have a higher level of advanced skills, and commitment to be on the varsity level. Such commitment is needed to conduct a successful varsity program.

Practices at the varsity level are vital to a successful team and successful athlete. All athletes are expected to go to each and every practice that is scheduled.

The varsity coach, who is the leader of all levels of his or her individual sport, determines the instruction and strategy for each program. Preparing to succeed, striving for success in each contest, exhibiting sportsmanship and working to reach a team's maximum potential in each sport is the overall goal of a varsity program.