

PRINCIPALS: Please Share These Minutes with Your Athletic Director
Regular Meeting of PIAA District VI – February 3, 2021

Call to Order of the February 3, 2021, Meeting Chairman Marshall called the meeting of the District VI Committee to order at 3:30 p.m. at Penn Cambria High School.

Present were Michael Cacciotti, Ralph Cecere, Joe Gironda, Charles Glasser, Michael Hudak, Matthew Jioio, Ken Kerchenske, Susan Kovensky, Jarrod Lewis, William Marshall, Jacquelyn Mento (Recording Secretary), Sherry Montgomery, Jody Rainey, Lorie Ratchford, Phil Riccio, Steve Shutters, and Curt Vasas.

Absent were Brandon Bailey, Rudy McCarthy, and Molly Pomeroy-Hoover.

Others present were Curt Whitesel.

Public Comments - There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Sue Kovensky and Curt Vasas, the minutes from the January 7, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Reports

On a motion by Joe Gironda and Ralph Cecere, the Committee unanimously approved the District VI Monthly Financial Report.

Old Business

Curt Whitesel notified the Committee that swimming tournaments will be held the first week in March and that locations and times will be announced in the near future. He also updated the Committee on awards, medals, and suggested to raise individual entry fees due to the limited participation this year.

On a motion by Curt Vasas and Ken Kerchenske, the Committee unanimously approved to change the individual entry fee for swimming and diving from ten dollars to fifteen dollars.

Phil Riccio updated the Committee on wrestling team tournaments items that included: building occupancy, vouchers and tickets for athletes progressing to the next round, changes to ticket costs, live streaming, and stipends.

William Marshall informed the Committee on various basketball tournaments items such as: hosting site stipends, Google Docs spreadsheet to be sent out to athletic directors requesting information, and changes to the number of spectators, staff, and players allotted in the gymnasiums.

Ken Kerchenske notified the Committee of additional changes to the number of spectators, announcing winners, and the use of live streaming for the competitive cheer competition that is scheduled for Saturday, March 13th at Altoona Area School District.

William Marshall updated the Committee on the masking expectations, for athletes and officials, noting that this is not a new PIAA By-Law, and that the Governor's orders applies to all spectators, referees, anyone on the sidelines, etc. must wear masks, regardless of vaccination. He also commented that a statement will be issued that principals and superintendents' will have to sign off, certifying their school's ability to compete.

The Committee continued discussing masking requirement forfeits, which included the following statement that was sent to schools on January 28th:

Clarification on Masking

Once playoffs start, any team or individual athlete that refuses to compete due to masking requirements will forfeit.

- *Scenario 1: Penn Cambria school district requires all visiting teams to wear masks at any of our home events. We are a higher seed in basketball and set to host TEAM A, that team has received a waiver to*

not wear masks during competition. If Penn Cambria says we won't play unless TEAM A wears masks, Penn Cambria would forfeit for refusing to compete.

- o I ask all of you to connect with your District leadership and confirm the stance your school will take as it relates to hosting schools that will not be wearing masks.*
- o D6 would permit a school that stands firm on their home masking requirement to defer to the lower seed to host that game so they would not need to forfeit.*
- Scenario 2: A school requires their wrestlers to wear masks. Student A is wrestling a student that is not required to wear a mask. If student A refuses to wrestle, student A forfeits.*

The goal of D6 is to be proactive with all of these scenarios and collect information from our member schools so everyone is aware of what is expected well before the event. We do not want teams to show up for a D6 playoff game to find out the game or match will be forfeited.

New Business

Review of Disqualifications – There were no disqualifications reported at this time.

Eligibility Transfers

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

Name	Gr.	Transfer	Sport(s)	Motion
Mark Mento	9	Penn Cambria to Bishop Carroll	Golf	Cacciotti, Kovensky
Evan Rosenberger	8	Somerset to Homer Center	Football	Cacciotti, Kovensky
Jackson Butler	7	Forest Hills to Bishop McCort	No Sports	Cacciotti, Kovensky
Jordan Butler	9	Forest Hills to Bishop McCort	Wrestling	Cacciotti, Kovensky
William Tennity	12	Wayne Central to St. College	Wrestling	Cacciotti, Kovensky

Ineligible for post season play:

Name	Gr.	Transfer	Sport(s)	Motion
Justin Mickens	11	Bishop McCort to Conemaugh Valley	Basketball	Ratchford, Vasas

* – Executive Committee tentative approval

Attendance Waivers:

On a motion by Lorie Ratchford and Charles Glasser, the committee unanimously approved an attendance waiver for student-athlete, State College, 12th grade, lacrosse, based on Article VIII, Section 6, Letter B of the PIAA Constitution and By-Laws.

The Committee discussed other items such as ineligible player in boys junior varsity basketball, the minimum competitions to be eligible for post season tournaments, PIAA District VI fees, upcoming election process, and banquet ideas.

Communications

Any senior high principal, junior high principal, athletic director, or girl's athletic representative interested in serving on the PIAA Committee should have a recommendation letter submitted, on school letterhead, so their names can be placed on the ballots, to Jackie Mento at 201 6th Street, Cresson PA by March 3, 2021. If you are elected to sit on the District VI Committee your term will start on July 1, 2021.

- Senior High Representatives (6). This appointment is for one year and candidates are reappointed each year by the schools in District VI.
- Junior High Representatives (2). This appointment is for two years and candidates are reappointed two years by the schools in District VI.
 - Principal Representatives must be the Principal. Assistant Principals are not eligible.
- Athletic Director Representative (1). This appointment is for two years.
- The Girls' Athletic Representative (1). This appointment is for a two-year term and is elected by principals of member schools.
 - Girls Athletic Representative must be employees of a District VI PIAA eligible school.

The Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PIAA District VI Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 3rd at Penn Cambria High School Cafeteria at 3:30 PM.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Committee, Sue Kovensky moved, and Jody Rainey seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m.