



NEWS RELEASE

PIAA Addresses Competitive Balance

MECHANICSBURG– On Wednesday, July 18, 2018, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), to address growing concerns with competitive equity and the impact of transfers on competition, adopted a new provision to the existing eligibility rules to address students that move from school to school.

This provision is the tenth modification to the PIAA By-Laws that has been made since the Board of Directors initiated a thorough review of the transfer rules and their implication upon competitive balance. In the first 15 months of its establishment, the PIAA's Competition Committee has initiated the following changes:

1. Overhauled the athletic transfer waiver request form used by transferring students.
2. Adopted a mandatory 21 day sit-out for in-season transfers.
3. Adopted a provision establishing that a transferring student who was eligible to participate in 50% of maximum number of contests before transfer is not further eligible that season.
4. Adopted a Competitive Classification formula to add a success factor if caused by transferring students to determine new classifications in football and basketball.
Enrollment classification + Success factor + Athletic transfers = Competition Classification
5. Adopted definitions of open gyms, and limited the number of times they may be utilized per week during the school year and prohibited school affiliated/related competition within 10 days before the start of practice in each sport season.
6. Mandated timely submission of eligibility lists per sport season and established a penalty for non-compliance.
7. Developed an eligibility portal to track and view all school transfers.
8. Adopted a one year post-season ban for students who transfer after completing their tenth grade sport season.
9. Adopted hardship provisions exceptions that would permit eligibility for new transfers, with guidelines as to what types of actions are acceptable.
10. Established a compliance committee to be used to review schools' adherence to PIAA policies and investigate abuse of the rules.

PIAA recognizes that a number of public schools have concerns relating to competition between those schools and schools of choice. PIAA believes that these changes are part of the process in addressing these concerns.

As stated by James Zack, President of PIAA and Superintendent of the Shamokin Area School District: "PIAA recognizes the challenges of having member schools compete against each other. The lack of enrollment

boundaries, success and perceived competitive advantage over other schools are major issues of which the Board of Directors is well aware and actively pursuing equitable resolution."

The PIAA Board of Directors, which is made up of 32 members who are elected representatives of all groups that have involvement with interscholastic athletics, will continue to take steps to address these issues. While some have proposed separate public and private tournaments, the Board of Directors firmly believes that segregation is not the answer.

"Through the process of representative democracy that allows all constituencies their voice at the Board level, we believe co-operation, not discrimination, is the correct path to find solutions to make competition equitable," adds Zack.

The Public School Code identifies PIAA as the overseer of interscholastic athletic competition in the Commonwealth. However, no school is required to join PIAA. Should a school wish to form its own organization, that school must train and certify its own officials, develop its own rules, get its own insurance and defend any litigation brought against the school.

"It is far more reasonable and favorable to everyone if we work cooperatively to improve competitive equity that is fair to all students and schools," says Zack. "It's what PIAA has been doing for the last 105 years, and what we will continue to do."

PIAA was first created as a public school entity in 1913, during which time parochial schools had their own state championship tournaments. In 1972, the Pennsylvania General Assembly determined that segregation of schools in the sports arena was not in the best interest of the Commonwealth since it prevented the opportunity to have athletic competition involving schools from diverse backgrounds. The General Assembly directed that PIAA accept private schools as members and since that time, PIAA has followed the law and has endeavored to treat all schools equally.

PIAA Info Graphic Below

PIAA By The Numbers

1972

Year ACT 219 was signed into law, incorporating private schools into the PIAA with full ability to compete for state titles. General Assembly determined segregation of schools in the sports arena was not in the best interest of the Commonwealth.



77%

Percentage of Public Schools winning PIAA championships since 1972

10



By-Law Modifications in 2017-2018 to address students moving from school to school

6th



In the country based on high school athletic participation by state

23%

Percentage of Schools of Choice winning championships since 1972

2012

Year PIAA votes down boundary and non-boundary definitions as the PAOC (Pennsylvania Athletic Oversight Committee) deemed it as a preamble to moving schools into separate championships.



76%

Percentage of Public HS members

24%

Percentage of Schools of Choice HS members

1,435

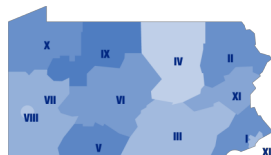
of PIAA Jr/Sr. member schools

583

of PIAA Public HS

186

of PIAA Schools of Choice HS



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Newly formed PIAA Committee focused on competitive balance

32



Elected Board members representing all member schools

through 12 districts and

10 organizations

319,153

of Student-Athletes the PIAA provides athletic opportunities for

24



Inter-District Championships