NYSPHSAA Executive Committee
May 2, 2019

Todd Nelson
Safety Committee Report

Attendance:
Jim Rose (1), Rick Knizek (2), Nicole Intondi (3), Bill Dorrite (4), Kim Henshaw (5), Brian Wild (6), Jen Drucker (7), Jen Keane (8), Erika Backus (10), Tim Mullins (11), Dr. Brian Reiger, Dr. John O’Brien, Linda Khalil, Dr. Tony Donatelli, Dr. Robert Zayas.

Concussion Management Update:
The Committee was asked to provide feedback from member schools regarding EasySCAT. The interest in using the product is increasing in some parts of the state. The product is being added to the BOCES listserv which should help with the cost of the product. NYSPHSAA will be meeting with EasySCAT to talk about how more schools can benefit from using the app. Brian Reiger gave an update from BIANYS. They have secured a grant from the Health Foundation to train and support return to life initiatives around the state. They will hold regional events to help educate medical professionals and school personnel on return to learn protocols. They are also working on educating and updating local physicians on best practices for concussion management. NYSPHSAA is completing the final year of our agreement with ImPact. If NYSPHSAA continues the partnership, we will be adjusting the billing procedures to our member schools. We will begin billing schools for tests they actually use and not tests they order. The current system is causing an accounting nightmare for the State Association.

Modified Recommendations:
The Committee discussed recommendations from the Modified Committee in the sports of Cross Country, Football (2), Gymnastics, Volleyball, and Wrestling. The Safety Committee had no issues with any of the recommendations.

Football:
The committee was informed of a new concept of football called Flex Football. Flex Football made presentation to the NYSPHSAA Football Committee in March. Flex Football can be used as a progression from flag football to tackle football. Flex Football can also be used during the season to help limit full contact but continue to teach and practice proper techniques and skill. The final benefit of Flex Football is in the off season as an alternative to 7 on 7 passing leagues because it incorporates the offensive lineman. Equipment used for Flex Football includes a soft headgear and soft shoulder pads. The Committee also discussed the proposal from the Football Committee regarding regulations for combined practices. The committee had no concerns with the proposed regulations.
NYSPHSAA Strategic Plan:
The Safety Committee was very pleased that the Executive Committee approved the recommendation regarding the use of Certified Athletic Trainers in our member schools. They did note that the document that was produced from the Safety Committee should be added to the handbook as a reference for member schools. The Football Committee has made a renewed emphasis to get our Football schools and coaches to complete the USA Football Heads Up Coaching Certification Program. NYSPHSAA took a significant step backwards last year. The Sections have been asked to set a date and place for the in-person clinic. Schools need to send a minimum of one coach per school to attend. All coaches must complete the on-line NFHS course. NYSPHSAA has received $25,000 from NYSIR to cover the cost for our coaches to take the on-line course. We only used $3,300 of the $25,000 last year. The Committee is working on a position statement on overuse injuries and specialization. They have formed a sub-committee to exam studies on these two items. The sub-committee is scheduled to meet in June.

Anyone Can Save a Life:
Schools are strongly encouraged to use this program with all of their teams so that they are prepared in case of a medical emergency. Teams will designate members of the team to cover certain responsibilities during a medical emergency. NYSPHSAA does use this program for all State Championships.

Section Concerns:
Section 2 had a concern regarding Alpine Skiing and bleeding injuries. There is a specific kit that can be used to stop major bleeding injuries. Most mountains will have access to these kits but some of the smaller mountains do not. Linda Khalil informed the committee that they are working with SED to develop a policy and training for schools on these kits. Section 6 asked about the requirement of the Physical forms by SED. NYSPHSAA was informed last week that SED is not requiring the form for the 2019-2020 school year. Any form may be accepted by the school. Section 7 had a concern regarding officials removing players that are showing signs and symptoms of a concussion. NYSPHSAA will continue to work with the officials on this issue. Section 8 asked if other Sections were seeing lacrosse players or other athletes using smelling salts prior to the game. No other Section reported seeing this activity by their athletes. Dr. O’Bryan thought that a form could be developed that schools could send to private physicians outlining the best practices for concussion management. The NYSPHSAA staff will bring this to BIANYS to see if they are interested in developing this letter. Linda Khalil indicated that her association has a letter that would be a good start.

Next Meeting: Monday September 23, 2019 at 9am