INTRODUCTION
The Philosophy Committee met in the Fall of 2016 and recommended girls golf and wrestling be moved from a “team” sport to a designation of “team/ individual.” The Executive Committee approved this recommendation in October 2016. The Committee also recommended bowling moving to two divisions, which was also approved by the Executive Committee in October 2016.

In July 2015, the NYSPHSAA Football Committee requested the addition of a sixth classification to address the disparity in the classification cut-off numbers in Class AA and Class D. In October 2015, the NYSPHSAA President, Steve Broadwell, reconvened the Championship Philosophy Committee to address the Football Committee’s request. The Philosophy Committee met on December 3, 2015 and affirmed the current philosophy approved in May 2011. The committee will meet a minimum of every five years or at the direction of the NYSPHSAA President.

In August of 2009, the NYSPHSAA President, Patrick Pizzarelli, responded to a number of concerns expressed by the membership regarding our championship events. For the second time in a 10-year period, an Ad Hoc Championship Philosophy Committee was appointed. The challenge set forth was to review and if needed, revise the current philosophy and guidelines of the NYSPHSAA Championship events.

The committee met seven times during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years to deliberate, study and discuss the approved NYSPHSAA Championship Philosophy. The meetings were held on October 15, 2009, January 14, 2010, March 1, 2010, March 23, 2010, April 27, 2010, November 16, 2010 and February 8, 2011.

After a lengthy and careful review, the committee unanimously agreed to the following recommendations contained in this document.
NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP
PHILOSOPHY, GUIDELINES and PROCESS

PHILOSOPHY

NYSPHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP PHILOSOPHY: “NYSPHSAA will sponsor Championships that represent excellence achieved in each sport. In the interest of equitable competition, minimal loss of academic time, financial impact and logistical concerns including, but not limited to, travel, lodging, meals and facilities for competition, the NYSPHSAA will sponsor one championship experience in a sport when six or more of its sections having four (4) or more of their member teams each sponsor that sport. Championships will be conducted according to established guidelines. All sports will be recognized by the NYSPHSAA as either a team sport or an individual sport, or a combination team/individual sport. Variations will be permitted in the NYSPHSAA classification system.”

Note: if a sport drops below the six Sections/4 teams threshold, the sport will maintain its “championship status” for three years before losing its “championship status.”

EMERGING SPORTS:
Emerging sport - NYSPHSAA will sponsor a sport committee in a sport when four sections have at least four or more teams recognize that particular sport as determined by the Section. The Committee would have the ability to request a regional championship by seeking approval from the NYSPHSAA Executive/Central Committee.

QUALITY vs. QUANTITY: The percentage of opportunities for athletes to compete in NYSPHSAA Championships should fall within a designated range of 5% to 8% for all sports. Percentages will be calculated using the number of varsity athletes participating in the sport and the number of competitors in the championship event.

REPRESENTATION: Each Section would be permitted to qualify a minimum of one representative for all NYSPHSAA Championship events. In designated sports, additional At-Large competitors will be selected to complete the tournament structure. NOTE: For combined NYSPHSAA Championships and NYS Federation Championship events, a minimum of one representative from the PSAL, CHSAA, and AIS will be permitted to qualify with additional At-Large opportunities to be determined by NYSPHSAA.

AT-LARGE COMPETITORS: For designated individual sports, a cap will be established to limit the number of At-Large NYSPHSAA competitors participating in championship events. To be considered for an At-Large position, an athlete must meet the minimum qualifying standard recommended by the Sport Committee and approved by the Executive/Central Committee. NOTE: For combined NYSPHSAA Championships and NYS Federation Championship events, the sport committee will recommend to the Executive Committee the number of At-Large opportunities for the PSAL, CHSAA or AIS.
QUALIFYING PROCESS: A uniform process will be established to bring state-wide consistency across all sections for the purpose of qualifying athletes for NYSPHSAA Championship events.

GENDER EQUITY: Every effort should be made to provide for equitable participation opportunities in NYSPHSAA Championships when the sport is similar or the same. (Example: soccer, track and field and baseball/softball)

CHAMPIONSHIP CATEGORIES: NYSPHSAA Championship events will continue to be contested in one of 3 categories: Team, Individual or Combination Team/Individual.

CLASSES and DIVISIONS: NUMBER OF CLASSES AND DIVISIONS - A formula will be used to identify the maximum number of championship classes or divisions allowed. The formula will be based on the number of varsity programs sponsored by NYSPHSAA member schools in a sport. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS WITHIN THE CLASSES AND DIVISIONS - The BEDS numbers will be used to designate classification, striving for a statewide balance in each class and division.

DEFINITIONS:
- Team Sport Championships - competition between intact school teams.
- Individual Sport Championships - competition between individuals representing their section.
- Combination Team/Individual Sport Championships - competition consisting of both school teams and individuals representing their section.

ATHLETE GIFT POLICY (Approved Oct. 22, 2015):
- Every championship participating athlete will continue to receive a NYSPHSAA branded lanyard and souvenir badge specific to the championship event.
- Every “state championship team/ individual” will receive a non-sport specific Championship t-shirt honoring their accomplishment as a “NYSPHSAA State Champion.”
- The association will no longer accept donations for participation gifts for student-athletes.

GUIDELINES and PROCESS

Each Section would be permitted to qualify a minimum of one representative for all NYSPHSAA Championship events. For designated individual sports, a cap will be established to limit the number of At-Large NYSPHSAA competitors participating in championship events. To be considered for an At-Large position, an athlete must meet the minimum qualifying standard recommended by the Sport Committee, Championship Advisory Committee and approved by the Executive/Central Committee.

NYSPHSAA Sports Committees are responsible for making recommendations for their respective sport. A sport specific uniform process will be established to bring state-wide consistency across

August 9, 2018
all sections for the purpose of qualifying athletes for NYSPHSAA Championship events. In individual sports, consistency will be required for issues such as, but not limited to, in-season qualifying, ownership of relay teams, qualifying meets, etc.

The final authority to increase or decrease participation in NYSPHSAA Championship events lies with the NYSPHSAA Executive/Central Committee. Sport Committees will have the opportunity to present proposals for change to the Championship Advisory Committee but may not request more classifications or divisions than allowed by the established formula. The Championship Advisory Committee will forward their recommendations on to the Executive/Central Committee. All committees will be guided by the established percentage of opportunity (5% - 8%) when considering requests for change.

Requests for increases or decreases in the number of participants or classifications /divisions must adhere to the adopted championship philosophy. All changes must be presented to the Championship Advisory Committee prior to seeking approval from the NYSPHSAA Executive/Central Committee.

The NYSPHSAA will annually establish the classification numbers for all sports in which championships are conducted. NYSPHSAA Sports Committees may petition for a variation of the classification numbers for their sport. Such requests must be presented to the NYSPHSAA Championship Advisory Committee for review and recommendation with final approval granted by the Executive/Central Committee. Any approved change must remain in effect for two (2) years.

The NYSPHSAA staff will evaluate each sport’s championship event to assure compliance with the approved philosophy as it relates to percentage of opportunity and growth of championship events. The committee recommends a review of the championship philosophy at a minimum of every 5 years.

**CHAMPIONSHIP FORMULAS**

**TEAM SPORTS:** Currently applies to: Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Softball, Football, Baseball, Ice Hockey and Cheerleading.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Varsity Programs</th>
<th>Number of Allowable Championship Classes or Divisions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 -100</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>101 - 200</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>201 - 300</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>301 - 400</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>401 - above</td>
<td>5</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of Varsity Programs</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>426 - 500</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501 - above</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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• Cross Country
  o Maximum of 7 competitors per school team per class
  o Maximum of 5 individual competitors per Section per class

• Skiing
  o Maximum of 61 competitors for Alpine Skiing
    ▪ One school team (3 competitors) per Section
    ▪ One section team (3 competitors)
    ▪ At-Large competitors will be selected based on formula considering the number of programs in a Section and the winning Section from the previous year’s meet.
  o Maximum of 48 competitors for Nordic Skiing
    ▪ One school team (3 competitors) per Section
    ▪ One section team (3 competitors)
    ▪ At-Large competitors will be selected based on formula considering the number of programs in a Section and the winning Section from the previous year’s meet.

• Bowling
  o School Team Championship – Maximum of 8 competitors per school team
  o Sectional Team Championship – Maximum of 6 competitors per Section Team

• Golf (Girls)
  o Maximum of 9 competitors per section

• Rifle
  o School Team Championship – Maximum of 4 competitors per school team in .22 (small bore) and maximum of 4 competitors per school team in air gun.
  o Sectional Team Championship – Maximum of 2 competitors per Section team in .22 (small bore) and maximum of 2 competitors per Section team in air gun.
• Wrestling
  o Maximum of 16 competitors per weight class per division
  Note: Currently, At-Large competitors are determined using the approved formula.
  o Maximum of 30 qualifiers for team/ dual championship.

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS: Currently applies to: Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Gymnastics, Indoor Track and Field, Outdoor Track and Field and Golf.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Varsity Programs</th>
<th>Number of Allowable Championship Classes or Divisions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 – 300</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 - above</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
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Current One Division Sports:
• Swimming & Diving: The qualifying standard will be determined by using a 3-year seed time average to achieve the following:
  o Maximum average of 32 competitors per event (including diving)
  o Maximum average of 24 relay teams per event

• Indoor Track & Field: The qualifying standard will be determined by using a 5-year average of the 6th place finisher to achieve the following:
  o Maximum of 30 competitors per event
  o Maximum of 16 relay teams per event
  Note: Currently, each section may send the top two competitors per event, plus the third place finisher if they have met the qualifying standard. Relays are permitted one entry per event.

• Gymnastics
  o Top three (3) qualifiers per section for the five (5) events
  o Top three (3) qualifiers per section for the all-around event

• Tennis
  o Maximum of 9 competitors per section
    ▪ Three singles and three doubles teams

• Golf (Boys)
  o Maximum of 9 competitors per section

August 9, 2018
Current Two Division Sports:

- Outdoor Track & Field – The qualifying standard will be determined by using a 5-year average of the 6th place finisher to achieve the following:
  - Maximum of 20 competitors per event per division
  - Maximum of 16 relay teams per event per division

*Note: Currently, in Division I and II, each section may send the top competitor per event, plus the next best performer if they have met the qualifying standard for their division. Relays are included.*

Super Qualifying Standard: (July 2018)

Based on a five-year average of the 4th place finish at the State Meet finals for each event. Athletes can meet these standards at any time during the regular season or postseason to qualify for the State Meet. Athlete/Relay must participate in that particular event at the State Qualifier meet. This standard will be adjusted each year by the State Coordinators after review of the numbers. This allows those athletes who place below the present second place finish in each Section’s final qualifier to advance to the State Meet.

**HISTORY**

In 2001, the NYSPHSAA approved its first Championship Philosophy due to a concern over the lack of consistency in the growth of the Championship events. The Association was faced with a trend towards increased participation in NYSPHSAA Championships in a variety of sports. Concern over this trend began to grow within the NYSPHSAA, especially in the absence of a more defined philosophy. Concern focused on whether the NYSPHSAA was granting approvals merely to increase participation at its Championships and whether excellence was being maintained with these approvals. The 2001 Championship Philosophy addressed these concerns.

In August of 2009, the NYSPHSAA representatives voiced concern over the growth of participation in NYSPHSAA Championship events. A committee was established with the responsibility to review and revise if needed, both the philosophy and the philosophical guidelines for NYSPHSAA State Championships.

In July 2015, the NYSPHSAA Football Committee requested the addition of a sixth classification to address the disparity in the classification cut-off numbers in Class AA and Class D.

The following is a summary of the approval for the expansion of NYSPHSAA Championship events and related changes.

**1993**

- Football’s 1st State Championship was held in 4 classes.
- Field Hockey increased to 4 classes.
1995
- Girls Lacrosse conducted its first State Championship in 2 classes.
- Football was increased to 5 classes.

1996
- Outdoor Track and Field received approval for a 3 class State Championship.

1997
- Bowling added school team competition to State Championship.
- NYSPHSAA declared a moratorium on approvals for increased participation.

1998
- NYSPHSAA adopted a championship philosophy permitting sport specific requests to be considered (moratorium lifted).
- Wrestling received approval for a 3 class State Championship (later rescinded).
- Boys Lacrosse was increased to 3 classes.
- Cross Country was increased to 4 classes.
- Skiing received approval for x-country relay school team entry into State Championship.
- Boys Swimming and Diving received approval to freeze qualifying standards to increase participation.
- Rifle received approval for separate air rifle team entry into intersectional.
- Girls Lacrosse requests to increase to 3 classes.
- Wrestling revised its request for 2 class competition.

2000
- Ice Hockey At-Large entries approved for the 2001 Championships.

2001
- Approved the Ad Hoc Committee on Championship Philosophy proposal.
- Defeated the Field Hockey and Track and Field amendment.
- Cross Country, Girls Volleyball and Boys Lacrosse received approval for a two-year extension of classification variations.
- Boys Swimming qualifying standards frozen through the 2004 tournament.
- Baseball increased to 5 classes for the 2003-2004 tournaments.
- Ice Hockey received approval to classify based on strength of program effective 2003-2004 tournament (2-year experiment).
- A two-year moratorium was approved on any changes to the Championship Philosophy through the 2003-2004 school year.

2002
- Girls Soccer and Softball increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Wrestling increased to a 2 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
- Alpine Skiing added a school team championship.
• Basketball increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).

2003
• Girls Lacrosse increased to a 3 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
• Boys Soccer increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
• Girls Swimming and Diving adopted a qualifying standard for each event (3-year experiment).
• Delayed until 2005-2006 the implementation of the classification formula for participation in a 2 class Ice Hockey State Championship.
• Cross Country increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
• Girls Volleyball increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).

2004
• Swimming and Diving qualifying standards extended through 2005-2006.
• Cross Country increased to a 5 class State Championship (2-year experiment).
• Ice Hockey State Championship Division I and II placements to be determined by each Section.
• Baseball received approval for a 5 class State Championship.
• Girls Lacrosse received approval for a 3 class State Championship with variations in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.
• Girls Golf received approval for a State Championship as early as June 2006 pending six Sections.

2005
• Wrestling extended their 2-class state tournament format experiment to 2005-2006.
• Bowling received approval to schedule high school team competition on Saturday and Sectional team competition on Sunday.
• Swimming and Diving requested to continue using qualifying standards for entry into State Championships.
• Girls Soccer, Basketball and Softball will continue with 5 classes at State Championships.
• Girls Golf 2006-2007 State Championship will be a 36-hole, 2-day tournament on the second weekend of June 2007.

2006
• Cross Country received approval to continue the 5 class State Championship.
• Wrestling received approval to fill in the byes at the State Championships using a wild card formula (2-year experiment).
• Girls Swimming received approval for annual adjustments of qualifying standards.
• Field Hockey classification variations for 2006-2007 were approved.

August 9, 2018
• Boys Swimming and Diving received approval for qualifying standards in the 200 Medley Relay, 200 Freestyle Relay, 200 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle and the 500 Freestyle.
• Boys Soccer received approval to continue the 5 class State Championship.
• Girls Lacrosse received approval to continue the 3 class State Championship with classification variations.
• Wrestling received approval to continue a two division State Championship.
• Girls Volleyball received an approval for an extension on proposing a variation in classification for 2007-2008.
• Cross Country received an approval for the variation classification numbers for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

2007
• Football received approval for a classification number change for 2008.

2008
• Swimming and Diving received approval for a one-year trial to use the 30th place prelim time to develop a qualifying standard, 15th place time for relay events and 396.00 for diving.
• Ice Hockey requested classification based on enrollment.
• Boys Volleyball received approval for a State Championship for Fall 2010 pending six Sections.

2009
• Approved a moratorium on the expansion of existing tournaments as it pertains to participation.
• Approved consideration of centralized sites for state championship events as a cost savings measure.
• Approved the use of enrollment to designate the divisions in Ice Hockey with a cut off of 1100 and up for Division I and 1099 and below for Division II.

2010
• Approval for the use of classification variations in the sports of Football, Boys Volleyball, Girls Volleyball, Cross Country, Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse.

2014
• Approval for the sport of Competitive Cheerleading was approved by the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee.

2015
• Executive Committee approved the following athlete gift policy for NYSPHSAA Championships:

August 9, 2018
10
1. Every championship participating athlete will continue to receive a NYSPHSAA branded lanyard and souvenir badge specific to the championship event.
2. Every “state championship team/ individual” will receive a non-sport specific Championship t-shirt honoring their accomplishment as a “NYSPHSAA State Champion.”
3. The association will no longer accept donations for participation gifts for student-athletes.
   - Football sport committee requested an additional classification.

2016
   - Executive Committee approved:
     1. Girls Golf to be designated as “team/ individual”
     2. Wrestling to be designated as “team/ individual”
     3. Bowling two divisions