



PIAA DISTRICT ONE-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2026 - 1:00PM

Montgomery County Intermediate Unit

Dr. Michael Barber, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Present at the meeting: Michael Barber, Stephen Brandt, RJ Bretz, Sean Kelly, Holly Farnese, Amy Barr, Becky Murphy, Seth Frankenfield, Seth Brunner, Corey Sigle, Jason Sherlock, Robert Kurzweg, Henry Hunt, Lou Sudholz, Joe Derickson, Joe Vogler, Becky Flynn-Hensel, Maureen Gregory, Ron Reidinger

Absent from the meeting: Rodney Stone, Bill Keenan, Devon Landgraff, LaDontay Bell, Joe Sperra, John Creighton, John Mullin, Lisa Ford, Peg Pennepacker, Dave Baun, Jonathan Bauer

Guest at the meeting: None

Approval of the Minutes

- Upon motion by Robert Kurzweg/John Mullin, the committee approved the minutes of District One Committee meeting from March 2026.
Unanimous (18 Votes)

Treasurer Report

- Upon motion by Joe Derickson/Lou Sudholz, the committee approved the Treasurer's Report for March 2026.
Unanimous (18 Votes)
 - Operations Balance \$715,438.37
 - Net Change \$ 30,592.25

A copy of the complete Treasurer's Report is available from the office of PIAA District 1 Treasurer.

Student Transfer List

- Upon motion by RJ Bretz/Henry Hunt, the committee approved the Transfer Student Requests on the list provided to D1 Committee members. **Unanimous (18 Votes)**

Foreign Exchange Student List

- No requests this month

Public Comment – None

Executive Secretary Report – Mr. Stone / Mr. Kelly

- Sean Kelly reviewed the PIAA Winter DQ Report.
- Sean Kelly reviewed the Winter Sports Championship Expense / Revenue reports. Expenses for winter reports are still being paid. Copies of the report are available upon request.
- The District One Competitive Cheer Championship has been set and will be held on Saturday, December 12, 2026 @ CB South High School.
- Sean Kelly previewed the Spring Sports Championships. All seed meetings and Championship dates are posted on the District One website.
- The District One office will begin to set the dates for Fall Sports Championships.

New Business

- District One HR and Operations Committee will meet prior to the May Meeting to review costs, salaries, fees and ticket prices for 2026-2027.
- Nominations for District One Chair and Vice Chair (1-year term), Male and Female Parent Representatives, Private School Representative, and Women's Athletic Representative (2-year term) are being accepted. The District One office will accept nominations via a Google link. Nominees will be voted on by the District One Committee and approved of at the May meeting.
- D1 Tennis Chairperson position will be open in the Fall 2026. Interested candidates can contact the District One Office.
 - Thank you to current Tennis Chairman Gerry McGrath. Gerry will be retiring at the end of the spring season.
- The PIAA D1 committee reviewed the Fall PIAA Brackets under a 1st Reading. The Committee reviewed the potential playoff qualifiers for the Fall season. The Committee also reviewed the Fall District One playoff qualifiers. Upon motion by RJ Bretz/Becky Flynn-Hensel, the committee directed Dr. Barber and Mr. Brandt to present adjustments to PIAA BOD and additional options for the brackets to the PIAA Board of Directors.
Unanimous (18 Votes)

PIAA BOD Report – Dr. Barber

- Dr. Barber reviewed the PIAA discussion items and report from Annual Meeting held via Zoom on April 8, 2026. (PIAA talking points are posted at the end of these minutes.)
- The Committee held discussion in reference to the PIAA's definition of a Private School which is defined in the glossary of the By-Laws.
- Dr. Barber reviewed the PIAA Legislative Budget and Finance Committee report (LBFC). The website is listed below, and the highlights of the reports are included at the end of these minutes.

<https://www.palbfc.gov/Resources/Documents/Reports/822.pdf>

- Dr. Barber presented information in reference to the possibility of implementing a shot clock for Boys and Girls Lacrosse. This conversation will proceed at the summer NFHS Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT.

Old Business

- There was no old business to discuss.

Middle School Report – Joe Vogler

- There were no items to present this month.

Officials Report – Ron Reidinger & Maureen Gregory

- There were no items to present this month.

Eligibility Document Reviews

- The committee conducted a Document Review on behalf of a student from Calvary Christian School in reference to Article VI, Section 2C. Request for post-season waiver. Upon motion by RJ Bretz/Joe Derickson, the committee approved the request.
Unanimous (18 Votes)

Eligibility Hearings

The items listed below are for information only.

- Upper Dublin (O'Bott) - Article VI, Section 2C. Request for post-season waiver. (3/31/2026 – Denied)
- Delco Christian (Kroll) - Article VI, Section 2C. Request for post-season waiver (School withdrew the request)

Adjournment

- Upon motion, Becky Flynn Hensel/Becky Murphy, the meeting adjourned at 2:15pm. **Unanimous (18 Votes)**. The next PIAA District One Committee Meeting will be May 20, 2026 @ the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit.

Summary - PIAA Legislative Budget and Finance Committee report (LBFC).

Matzie: Newly released study recommends changes to PIAA policies

Study requested by Matzie analyzed competition formula, other association practices

Rep. Robert F. Matzie March 24, 2026 | 12:25 PM

HARRISBURG, March 24 – The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association should update its policies to better protect student athletes participating in competitions, according to the newly released findings of a legislative study requested by state Rep. Rob Matzie.

Matzie, who is chair of the House Majority Caucus and the longest-serving member of the Pennsylvania Athletic Oversight Committee, called on the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct the study based on concerns that PIAA’s system of classifying schools for competition puts student athletes at risk by forcing them to compete against wealthier schools with bigger budgets and larger rosters.

“The study’s findings and recommendations demonstrate the need for updated PIAA policies relative to how transfers are monitored and adjudicated, where and how certain private, charter, and co-op schools get their student athletes, and how championship sites are determined,” Matzie said. “This vindicates the questions I’ve raised over the past several years, especially in regard to the treatment of the Aliquippa School District.”

Matzie said the report recommends that PIAA:

- establish a statewide body to independently record, monitor and adjudicate student-athlete transfers among member schools.
- revise its policy for feeder schools, which pipeline student-athletes into a specific senior high schools, by strengthening the feeder school definition for private schools to ensure that member schools across the state are operating under uniform, clearly specified guidelines. document clear requirements for potential championship host venues; clear procedures for its championship site selection process; and the extent to which each championship site proposal meets the requirements listed in its Request for Proposal.

“With the change in leadership at the PIAA and in light of some of their more recent, positive actions, I am hopeful that these recommendations will be implemented as soon as practicable,” Matzie said. “As a member of the PA Athletic Oversight Committee, I am prepared to take up the task of putting these changes into place legislatively, if necessary. Moving forward, I stand ready to work with PIAA Executive Director Byers and the board to ensure that all school districts and, most importantly, all of our student athletes are treated with fairness and consistency.”

The study was launched after the House in late 2024 adopted Matzie’s resolution calling for a comprehensive study of PIAA and its decision-making processes and operations.

The PIAA oversees senior high and junior high athletic competitions in the state and is charged with developing and enforcing rules regulating those competitions. More than 1,400 public, charter and private schools with more than 350,000 student athletes fall within PIAA’s jurisdiction.



PIAA / DISTRICT ONE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2026 – 10:45 am

Dr. Michael Barber, District One Chairperson
Stephen Brandt, District One Vice-Chairperson
Sean Kelly, District One Executive Secretary
Rod Stone, District One Special Advisor

**Welcome Principals, Athletic Directors, and PIAA Staff
Introduction of District One Committee Members**

PIAA Updates - PIAA Executive Staff

Mark Byers, PIAA Executive Director
Pat Gebhart, PIAA Chief Operating Officer
Jen Grassel, Senior Director of Member School Services and Sport
Lyndsay Barna, Director of Communications and Sport
Keenan Huss, Director of Operations and Sport
Alex Mykut, Director of Officiating Services and Sport

District One Operational Update – Dr. Barber

Additional District One Topics / Questions – Sean Kelly

D1 Athletic Director’s Association / PSADA – Joe Derickson
Congratulations and thank you to Holly Farnese – retirement in 2026

District One May Committee Meeting

Open Nominations for D1 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
Open Nominations for D1 Committee Advisory Positions
The District One HR Committee and Operations Committee
Please send any additional concerns / agenda items to your League Reps.

Post-Season Waiver Reminders

Submission deadline for District One Consideration is 30 days prior to the Post-Season
Submission deadline for PIAA appeal is 15 days prior to the start of the District One Post-Season

D1 and PIAA Championship and Playoff sites

Thank you to all schools and ADs who hosted this fall and winter season.



**PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

550 Gettysburg Road • PO Box 2008
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-0708
(800) 382-1392 • (717) 697-0374
FAX (717) 697-7721 • www.piaa.org

**PIAA Annual District Committee Spring Meeting
Discussion Items
April 2026**

Eligibility Updates:

1. The Board passed, effectively immediately, to modify Article III, Sections 5 & 6., to allow students to participate at their public school district of residence, if the school they are attending does not sponsor a team.

Section 5. Alternative School Students, Magnet School Students, and Career and Technology and/or Vocational School Students.

Alternative School students, Magnet School students, and Career and Technology and/or Vocational School students are eligible at only one school for all interscholastic athletics. A student attending an Alternative School, a Magnet School, and Career and Technology and/or Vocational School on a full-time basis is eligible only at said school if said school offers one or more interscholastic athletic programs. A part-time Alternative School student attending a full-time Alternative School, a part-time Magnet School student attending a full-time Magnet School, and a part-time Career and Technology and/or Vocational School student attending a full-time Career and Technology and/or Vocational School is eligible only at the school which the student would otherwise attend by virtue of the student's residence. All students attending Alternative Schools, Magnet Schools, Career and Technology and/or Vocational Schools, which do not offer any interscholastic athletic programs, are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the schools that the students would otherwise attend by virtue of their residences. In accommodating participation by students enrolled in an Alternative School, Magnet School, and Career and Technology and/or Vocational School for sports not sponsored by their school, the following provisions apply:

- A.) Schools are encouraged to enter into a Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement with another PIAA-Member school, as detailed under Article III, Section 10. A Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement will afford all students enrolled in the school the opportunity to participate as part of the Agreement; or
- B.) Absent a Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement, students enrolled in an Alternative School, Magnet School, and Career and Technology and/or Vocational School that does not offer a particular interscholastic sport(s) are eligible to participate in that sport(s) at the school which they would otherwise attend, in the public school district of their residences, provided that the students meet all other eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, school verified evidence of full-time attendance, enrollment and completion of the CIPPE.

Section 6. Charter School, Cyber Charter School, Private School and Private Faith Based School Students.

Students enrolled in a Charter School, Cyber Charter School, Private School and Private Faith Based School are eligible only at said school in those interscholastic sports sponsored by that school. In accommodating participation by students enrolled in a Charter, Cyber Charter, Private School or Private Faith Based School for sports not sponsored by their school, the following provisions apply:

- A.) Schools are encouraged to enter into a Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement with another PIAA-Member school, as detailed under Article III, Section 10. A Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement will afford all students enrolled in the school the opportunity to participate as part of the Agreement; or

B.) Absent a Cooperative Sponsorship Agreement, students enrolled in a Charter, Cyber Charter, Private School or Private Faith Based School that does not offer a particular interscholastic sport(s) are eligible to participate in that sport(s) at the school which they would otherwise attend, in the public school district of their residences, provided that the students meet all other eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to , school verified evidence of full-time attendance, enrollment and completion of the CIPPE.

2. The Board passed, effectively immediately, to amend the definition of Open Gyms, to permit students eligible to participate for a team, the opportunity to participate in Open Gyms:

GLOSSARY

Open Gym: An event/activity whereby a PIAA member school makes available the use of its gymnasium(s) and/or other athletic facilities to all students fully enrolled or otherwise eligible in their school district and are no longer in attendance at their previous school.

3. The Board passed, on a **first reading basis**, an amendment to Article VI, Section 10. Feeder Schools for Private Schools, and the Definition of Feeder School to add an approval procedure and clarifying language before the District Committee and Board to Feeder School lists submitted on behalf of member private senior high schools:

Section 10. Feeder Schools for Private Schools.

Any member Private senior high School may submit to PIAA a list designating its Feeder Schools. Such submission is necessary for the schools to be recognized as

Feeder Schools for a particular school. The list of designated Feeder Schools must be signed and submitted by the Principal and must be certified as correct (a) in the case of Catholic schools under either Archdiocesan or Diocesan jurisdiction, by the Archdiocesan or Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, or (b) in the case of other member Private senior high Schools, by the Superintendent or by the President of the Board having jurisdiction over the member Private senior high School.

Requests for approval of designated Feeder School Lists and supporting documentation must be approved by the applicable PIAA District Committee and submitted to the PIAA Board of Directors by May 1st of any even-numbered year, to be considered for approval for the immediately following two-year reclassification cycle.

* * *

Feeder School Definition:

* * *

C. For a Private senior high School, those Private elementary, junior high, and/or middle Schools which are identified by the Private senior high School as its Feeder School(s). No Private School may be a Feeder School for more than one Private senior high School, excepting that a Private junior high and/or middle School may be designated a Feeder School simultaneously for (1) an all male Private senior high School; (2) an all female Private senior high School; and/or (3) a coeducational Private senior high School.

A Private School may be a Feeder School for additional all male, all female, and co-educational Private senior high Schools if an average of at least 25% of the alumni of the Feeder School, who enrolled in a Private senior high School over the most recent three year period, enrolled at each of the applicable Private senior high Schools.

A Private School may be a Feeder School for a single-sex Private senior high School if an average of at least 25% of the alumni of the Feeder School who are of the same sex as those who attend that Private senior high school, and who enrolled in a Private senior high school over the most recent three year period, enrolled at the single-sex Private senior high School.

4. Due Process and Hearings:

- **Hearsay:** Approach to hearsay generally: Hearsay, as a general matter, is testimony, affidavits, statements, and/or other documents which convey what another person, not present to be cross-examined at the hearing, previously said about something that is now relevant to the proceeding. Because other parties and the decision makers do not have an opportunity to question the person making the statement(s), the evidence should not be relied upon unless there are strong indicia that the information is reliable. Unsubstantiated rumors are particularly unreliable. There are several situations in which hearsay can be used or relied upon by the decision makers:

If the alleged speaker is present for the hearing and can be questioned about it, the hearsay may be admitted. Also, if the adverse party admits to the accuracy of the statement, it can be admitted as well.

Example: A Principal testifies that a parent told the Principal that a student told the parent that he or she was transferring to play for a particular Coach. If the parent is present to confirm that discussion, it can be considered. Also, if the student is present and confirms the discussion, it can be admitted. If the student denies the discussion, and there is no other corroborating evidence, it should not be considered.

- Submission of Required Paperwork

Sport Specific Updates:

1. **Fall Championship Site Selections for 2026-2029**

Golf: Penn State University Golf Courses, State College
 Team and Singles and Doubles Tennis Championships; Hershey Racquet Club, Hershey
 Cross Country: Big Spring School District, Newville
 Field Hockey: Cumberland Valley HS, Mechanicsburg
 Girls' Volleyball: Saint Francis University, Loretto
 Soccer: Highmark Stadium, Pittsburgh
 Football: Cumberland Valley HS, Mechanicsburg

2. **Basketball** Shot Clock: Effective July 1, 2028 for varsity and junior varsity competition.

3. **Tennis:** Effective July 1, 2026, Coaching on the Fly will be permitted. Information will be forthcoming regarding the application of permitting coaching during play.

5. **Swimming & Diving:** Backstroke ledges will be permitted during the 2026-27 season and required for District and State Competition. If used, required for all lanes in competition.

6. **Soccer:** Elimination of Overtime during Regular Season Contests; Overtime during regular season tournaments will proceed directly to penalty kicks; and adoption of the dual and Diagonal Systems of officiating.

7. **Winter Championship Dates for 2026-27:**

Competitive Spirit: January 8 & 9, 2027
 Team Wrestling: February 12 & 13, 2027
 Individual Wrestling: March 11, 12 & 13, 2027
 Swimming & Diving: March 10, 11, 12 & 13, 2027
 Basketball: March 18, 19 & 20, 2027

8. Opening for the Statewide Rules Interpreter Position in the Sports of Girls' Lacrosse and Softball

9. Brackets and Qualifiers, accepted on a first reading, available on the PIAA Website for Fall Sports.
10. Free Registration Friday: On Friday of Officials' Appreciation week, registration for current or prospective officials will be waived. Initiated Friday, April 10.

Other Items for Discussion:

1. RFQ for Data Management of Member Schools and Registered Officials
2. Recommendation of Sport Medicine Advisory Committee:

RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING USE OF INSULIN PUMPS/CGM'S

- a) The Principal may authorize, in writing, the use of an insulin pump/CGM upon receipt of a written statement from a physician which the doctor prescribes or requires the use of an insulin pump/CGM;
- b) The Principal, or the Principal's designee, must present his/her written authorization to the contest official prior to the start of each contest in which the player will participate while wearing the insulin pump/CGM.

The Principal, or Principal's designee, authorizing the wearing of a insulin pump/CGM, is to ensure that it is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during competition, covered and properly padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than ½-inch thick and is not abrasive, hard, or dangerous to any other player.

3. National Student Leadership Summit (July 16-19) 16 students; 4 chaperones Applications available through April 17 at piaa.org.
4. PHEAA and PIAA Scholarship Program: \$1000 awarded to a female and male student-athlete in each of the 12 Districts.
5. HB 41 and Senate Bill 1253