

**DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting  
Thursday, December 10, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.  
Video Conference Call\***

**Agenda**

<b>Names</b>		<b>Names</b>	
Dr. Bradley Layfield - Chairperson	P	Jeremy Jeanne	P
Dr. Kathleen Andrus	A	Ted Laws	P
Dr. Bradley Bley	P	Chuck Little	P
Mike Breeding	P	Douglas Thompson	P
Robert Cilento	P	Stan Waterman	P
Dr. Matthew Donovan	P	Robert Watson	A
Dr. Evelyn Edney	L	Michael Rodriguez –DOE Associate Secretary	P
Vetra Evans-Gunter	L	Donna Polk – DIAA Executive Director	P
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald	P	Laura Makransky – Deputy Attorney General	P
Bruce Harris	P	Stephanie Mark-DIAA Coordinator	P
Mike Hart	P	Amoscita Rodriguez-DIAA Secretary	P
P= Present A = Absent L= Late arrival			

**I. Opening**

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Dr. Layfield at 9:01 am.

**B. Roll Call**

Please refer to above.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the amended agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Laws. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No

**D. Approval of Revised Minutes of DIAA October 15, 2020 Board Meeting**

Dr. Donovan made a motion to approve the revised minutes of DIAA October 15, 2020 Board Meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried with a unanimous vote 13 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No.

Dr. Edney joined the meeting at 9:05 am, Ms. Evans-Gunter joined the meeting at 9:08 am.

**E. Approval of Executive Session Minutes of DIAA November 5, 2020 Board Meeting**

Mr. Laws made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of DIAA November 5, 2020 Board Meeting and the motion was seconded by Dr. Edney. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 15 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan,

Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No.

#### F. Approval of Minutes of DIAA November 5, 2020 Board Meeting

Mr. Cilento made a motion to approve the Minutes of DIAA November 5, 2020 Board Meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Hart. The motion carried with a unanimous vote 15 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 No.

#### G. DIAA Financial Report

Ms. Polk reported to the Board that there were no major changes in revenue and expenses; however, with Fall championships DIAA would be incurring those expenses. There is a concern with fall championships' low revenue due to low spectator attendance due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions and host site facility plans. She estimates that fall championships lost \$15k - \$20k mostly due to officials' cost.

Mr. Jeanne asked about sponsorship. Ms. Polk shared DIAA has the same sponsors as previous years Chocolate Milk decreased by \$10k due to spring championships not offered. DIAA still has Wilson and Spalding ball sponsorship. DIAA sponsor for the academic award introduced last year suspended their sponsorship due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Mr. Little made a motion to approve the financial report and the motion was seconded by Ms. Evans-Gunter. The motion carried with a unanimous vote 15 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 No.

## II. Action Items

### A. Approval and Appointment of Committee Members

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to approve the appointed committee members and the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento. The motion carried with unanimous vote of 15 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No.

The following Committee Members were appointed or reappointed:

#### Unified Sports Committee

Appointments: (3 years)

- Layne Drexel, DIAA State Interpreter Basketball

Reappointments: (3 years)

- Kevin Charles – Public Kent County
- Robert Beron – Athletic Director – Caesar Rodney High School – Kent County

### III. Coronavirus COVID-19 Impact

#### A. Division of Public Health Update

Dana Carr from the Division of Public Health reported that the number of positive cases of Coronavirus had increased in Delaware since the Thanksgiving holiday. The Governor recommended that schools go to remote learning beginning 12/14/20 until 1/11/21 with a return to a hybrid model if that is the model schools are using the week of the 1/11/21. During this time, sports are allowed to continue practicing with games and tournaments being reconsidered for restart during mid-January window. This is all contingent upon what happens with the virus and transmission rates. Cases are going up and hospitalizations have increased in Delaware and across the country. This was expected since post Thanksgiving. Ms. Carr requested that everyone continue practicing mitigation measures on the field and off. If we are seeing transmission on teams, those are happening with transmission activity off the field and it speaks really well within sports. Any requirements for winter sports will be communicated as soon as mitigating strategies are in place.

Ms. Polk shared wrestling and basketball plans have not been officially approved by DPH but practices are allowed to occur. High risk sports are still a concern and any approval updates will be communicated. Also, DPH facility plan risk assessment has been revised. This assessment form has been shared with athletic directors to use for facility plans for winter sports.

Dr. Layfield asked Ms. Carr to update the board regarding the gathering limits for winter sports based on the Governors Third Revision of the Twenty-Seventh Modification. Ms. Carr shared indoor spaces/events can only be at 30% capacity of the facility spaces; therefore, the capacity can exceed 50 people person limit contingent upon keeping people 6 feet apart. Once games restart this limitation would apply to spectators.

Mr. Jeanne asked for clarification on the guidance for swimming. Ms. Carr shared swimming is considered a low risk sport and schools can proceed with approved plans. The focus should be on social distancing as individuals get in/out of the pools, gathering in locker rooms, cleaning and sanitation and face coverings when waiting for their meets.

#### B. Regulation 1011 Interscholastic Athletics during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Ms. Polk reported that Regulation 1011 regulations would go into effect 12/11/20 and will be posted to the DIAA website.

Dr. Layfield reminded the board members Regulation 1011 mirrored Emergency Regulation 1010 with a few minor changes. The process for any changes to 1011 would be the same as going through rules and regulations process as changing things in Regulations 1008/1009 the minimum 30 days for public comments must be followed with approval from State Board unless the changes could be informally adopted under the Administrative Procedures Act.

Mr. Hart suggested that DIAA office send email notification to Principals and include a link to the regulations.

### C. Sports Seasons Consideration during the Academic Year 2020-21

#### i. DIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Report

Dr. Bley provided an overview of the 11/23/20 SMAC Meeting. He reported that SMAC discussed concerns with transition from winter to spring sports with space and overlap of sports. There were 33 instances where quarantine was required. As far as we can tell there is only 1 case with team spread but none with cross team spread. He asked DPH to look into this case. Other concerns discussed during the meeting were spectator guidelines with marking 3 rows between spectators and teams and identified markings on bleachers, etc is recommended and appears to work best with social distancing requirements. SMAC voted to recommend limiting participation to varsity only but this is a moot point with recent DPH changes. Athletic trainers are seeing that it's a lack of support with managing COVID-19 responsibilities on the sidelines and athletic trainers are overwhelmed at times. There is frustration from the committee on the 72 hour competition scheduling not approved. Dr. Bley will continue to provide feedback to DPH regarding restart date and allow for more restrictions versus not allow sports to continue with competing.

Dr. Layfield clarified that a minimum of 48 hours should occur between games for scheduling purposes.

Dr. Bley shared survey responses from athletic trainers feedback on concerns with winter/spring sports overlap.

#### ii. Governors December 3, 2020 Announcement's Impact on Interscholastic Athletics

Ms. Polk provided a brief overview of the changes from the announcement:

- Effective Monday, December 14, 2020 no competition allowed with practices continuing only with social distancing and mask use guidelines followed
- Practices must adhere to the 30% fire capacity includes players, coaches, support staff, etc

#### Public Comment for Governors December 3, 2020 Announcement

Trina Leclerc commented that she's not specifically speaking about winter sports but want athletes to stay in the gym and is grateful they are able to practice. Her comments are related to other topics and happy to provide comments now than later in the meeting. Ms. Leclerc commented that she is very disappointed with fall championships' spectator allowance and the inconsistencies across schools allowing spectators and poor video quality of matches watched. She shared her perspective as a parent that if there were seniors playing in a game for the first time, she felt there should have been consistencies and guidance from DIAA. Ms. Leclerc commented that sport committees dropped the ball in several places.

While I do believe that the pandemic made it impossible to plan there were schools that were left out and inconsistencies across. Ms. Leclerc expressed concern with following seeding criteria and changing rules on the fly and commented that the pandemic has alerted issues to the public and interested to see what will happen in 2021.

### iii. COVID-19 Positive Cases Update

During the fall season, 75 games were cancelled and that does not include rescheduled games. DIAA will continue to track games that are cancelled due to COVID-19 related reasons.

### iii. Fall Sports Season Recap

Dr. Layfield provided a summarization of the Fall Season and lessons learned.

Mr. Rodriguez shared some concerns/inconsistencies from stakeholders – spectators allowed during fall tournaments, minimum games allowed, and decisions impact on public and private schools.

Ms. Polk shared the State Board of Education’s concerns regarding decisions made with the creation of Regulation 1011. State Board expressed concerns about how decisions were made with the impact to member schools as it related to transportation, finances, supplies, how vulnerable individuals were impacted with opportunities to participate and inconsistencies with member schools’ ability to schedule games.

The Board discussed the criteria with fall sports seeding and the board’s charge to sport committees.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to cancel football tournaments and move to “Bowl Games.” The motion was not seconded and, as a result, it failed.

### iv. Fall 2020 Tournaments

Ms. Polk reported the following:

- Cross Country- was a no spectator event held at Killens Pond and it was successful
- Volleyball semifinals and finals were hosted by St. Mark’s High School
- Boys Soccer and Field Hockey is scheduled for 12/12/20 and will be hosted by Dover High School

Dr. Layfield called a meeting recess at 10:51 am and the meeting reconvened at 11:07 am.

### v. Winter Sports 2020

#### 1. Winter Sports Sport Specific Guidance

##### a. Define Modified Practices for Basketball and Wrestling

Dr. Layfield moved this agenda item for action after III. D.

2. Wrestling Plan
3. Revisit Basketball Plan
4. Indoor Track
5. Swimming & Diving

The Board discussed agenda items III.vi. 2-6 winter sports. There continues to be concerns with indoor sports being high risk sports and the length of the season due to Governor's recent state order. The Board asked when would the restrictions be lifted and discussed the maximum games allowed, the decision to conduct post season tournaments, what sports would be offered, challenges with sites for regular season for indoor track and swimming, the overlap winter and spring seasons, 48/72 hours scheduling guidelines and mitigating strategies to conduct winter sports.

Mr. Jeanne made a motion, seconded by Dr. Donovan, to approve a 7-week regular season for boys' and girls' basketball and wrestling with 14 game maximum schedule and swimming 12 match maximum schedule pending DPH approval. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 13 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bley, to allow indoor track championships if an indoor facility becomes available at a later date within the winter sports season to allow for an individual state championship to occur. The motion carried unanimously with a vote of 13 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Evans-Gunter, Donovan, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No.

#### D. Determine Stage for DIAA Return to Play Plan

Dr. Layfield stated that we are in stage 4 of the Return to Play Plan. Dr. Layfield made a motion to remain in stage 4 and the motion was seconded by Dr. Fitzgerald. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No.

No change to DIAA Return to Play Plan the modified practice definition was not discussed.

Dr. Layfield called a meeting recess at 1:30 pm and the meeting reconvened at 1:42 pm.

#### IV. DIAA Personnel Matter

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Matter and the motion was seconded by Dr. Bley. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No. The Board went into Executive Session at 1:45 pm.

Mr. Cilento made a motion to return to open session. Dr. Donovan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, 12 – Yes (Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman) and 0 - No.

#### V. Board's Expectations of the DIAA Office

The Board discussed that the DIAA Office should communicate with all stakeholders.

#### VI. DIAA Hearing Panel Members

Mr. Thompson, Mr. Laws, Ms. Evans-Gunter, and Mr. Watson volunteered to serve on a DIAA Hearing Panel.

#### VII. DIAA COVID Board Officer and Committee

Dr. Layfield reminded the Board that there is still a need for volunteers for the DIAA COVID Board Officer and Committee.

#### VIII. Football Realignment – Item tabled see below motion

#### IX. Realignment of Private & Public Schools – Item tabled see below motion

#### X. Coaching Out of Season Update – Item tabled see below motion

#### XI. Transfer Policy – Item tabled see below motion

#### XII. Add Position to DIAA Staff – Sports Information Director – Item tabled see below motion

Dr. Layfield made a motion to table agenda items VIII - XII and the motion was seconded by Mr. Breeding. The motion carried with unanimous vote of 13 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No.

#### XIII. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Polk provided a report to the Board Members on Simbli and she thanked all of the member schools for their hard work and participation in completing the Fall Sports Season.

#### XIV. Other Items for Discussion Only

##### A. Eighth Grade Participation

Ms. Polk shared with the board the office has received several inquiries regarding 8th grade participation at the varsity level not under the same administrative unit. Just wanted the board to be aware of the hot topic from the membership.

##### B. Athletic Trainers Concerns COVID Compliance

Topic was addressed under the DSMAC report.

### C. Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1/21/21 and it will be virtual.

### D. Sponsorship

Dr. Bley inquired about the opportunity for sponsorship to offset revenue loss. Discussion occurred on options the DIAA staff can consider.

### E. Subcommittee

Mr. Hart inquired about the process for forming a sport committee subcommittee. Guidance was provided that the board must appoint and approve the subcommittee work.

## XV. Public Comment

The following individuals made public comment:

1. Trina Leclerc – Shared she is thankful to all athletic director as she is aware of the work required to bring sports forward. The learning points were discussed. Agree that having a meeting prior to the state championship is a good idea. Concern that some of the things that occurred during the fall may occur in the winter. Agree that discussing new items can be difficult but felt that outstanding items could have been addressed earlier. Out of season coaching is being violated with no enforcement.
2. Jennifer Mayer – Not addressing the minimum games impacts the bonus points. Revisiting the minimum number of games is recommended. This impacted the volleyball seeding. Recognized the discussion regarding the concerns with seeding but public school teams were impacted which is a concern. Recommend to prevent future concerns with seeding go with an open tournament with minimum games to be seeded. Concerned with spring sports overlapping with winter sports. A delayed start is recommended.
3. Danielle Moffett – Thank you for all the work that has been done. I'm a football parent and wife of Coach Moffett. Wanted to go over details from the football committee meeting. Delmar 4 games became the hot topic. Concern with the rule changed at the beginning of the meeting why was that? DIAA response should have been quick and concise. Why not state that Delmar was out which lead to helping other teams get into the tournament. If rules were followed Hodgson would have been in and others not. That's not fair competition. Not adhering to the rules allowed for unfair advantage for some schools. Expressed concern with using title, power and bias position as decisions were made. Asking for fairness when representing all student athletes.
4. Kathleen Kenney – I am an athletic trainer at Laurel High School. I would like to comment on the concerns that Dr. Bley mentioned earlier during his update. Thanked Dr. Bley for supporting issues athletic trainers face. With COVID, the extra task athletic trainers have been assigned makes it challenging to meet all the responsibilities but athletic trainers still cover other sports than just football. I just want to make the board aware.



5. Kelly Boettcher – Thanked the board as a parent for the hard work put in to get sports going. Has a parent group that stays connected on social media. Recommend better communication on social media during tournaments. Expressed concerns with livestreaming availability for tournament games. Asked that spring sports not be impacted.
6. Kevin Walmsley – Not on the call when called upon.

#### XVI. Adjournment

Dr. Donovan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento. The meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm. Dr. Donovan made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento. The meeting adjourned at 4:04 pm. The motion carried with a unanimous vote of 11 Yes [ Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 No