

Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



302 - 857 - 3365 | education.delaware.gov/diaa | diaa@doe.k12.de.us



Message from the DIAA Executive Director

The annual report, as required by Delaware Code Title 14 Education Chapter 3. Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association, is intended to provide the Governor, the General Assembly and the director and librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council with a comprehensive summary of DIAA's work in 2024. It reflects our commitment to supporting interscholastic athletics and highlights the challenges and accomplishments that have shaped our progress.

DIAA celebrated numerous milestones, including the success of our state championships, recognition of student-athletes through the Dale Farmer State Champion in Sportsmanship and Harry Roberts Senior Scholar-Athlete awards, and continued growth in student-athlete participation. Key initiatives in 2024 included the implementation of the new transfer law, the introduction of NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) guidelines, and new staff positions were established within DIAA to enhance its structure and operations. A new DIAA Board of Directors was approved to close out 2024, bringing fresh perspectives to guide the organization's mission.

Looking ahead, the DIAA staff and Board of Directors remain steadfast in their commitment to fostering equitable and inclusive opportunities, enhancing championship facilities, and serving as a valuable resource for member schools and stakeholders—all with a focus on supporting student-athletes.

David L. Baylor
DIAA Executive Director

ABOUT DIAA



The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) was established in 2002 after operating as Delaware Association of Secondary Administrators (DASA) and Delaware Secondary School Athletic Association (DSSAA). The association receives its authority by the General Assembly and oversees a membership of 118 schools. Of the 63 high schools, 27 are traditional district, 12 charter, 6 vo-tech and 18 private. Of the 55 middle schools, 31 are traditional public, 12 charter and 12 are private.

The DIAA is organized under the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). DIAA regulates and oversees the conduct of interscholastic athletics in the state of Delaware and is governed by a Governor-appointed Board of Directors, which consists of superintendents, school board members, principals, athletic directors or coaches, non-public school head of schools/school administrator or coach, Secretary of Education designee, physician and public members.

The DIAA office is located at the John W. Collette Education Resource Center, 35 Commerce Way, Suite 1, Dover, DE 19904. Phone- (302) 857-3365 Email - diaa@doe.k12.de.us
Website - <https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/>

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) is to preserve and promote the educational significance of interscholastic athletics; ensure that interscholastic sports remain compatible with the educational mission of member schools; provide for fair competition between member schools; promote sportsmanship and ethical behavior; establish and enforce standards of conduct for athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and spectators; protect the physical well-being of athletes; and promote healthy adolescent lifestyles.

The General Assembly intends for the DIAA to work in consultation and cooperation with the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) to implement this charge.

In addition to the purpose above, DIAA has the authority to establish annual membership fees, establish standing committees, monitor and interpret its rules and regulations, investigate and penalize violations to its regulations, conduct hearings, act upon requests for any waiver of rules and regulations, and establish fees for officiating contests and competitions.

MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Membership in DIAA continues to be a worthwhile investment for Delaware schools. DIAA's education-based interscholastic athletics mission is in harmony with the mission of its member schools. When DIAA was formed in July of 2002, it had 71 members (48 high schools and 23 middle schools). DIAA membership is currently 118 members (63 high schools and 55 middle schools).

Participation in interscholastic athletics represents an important part of the educational experience of Delaware middle and high school students. During the 2023-2024 school year, 27,955 students participated in interscholastic athletics at the high school level (16,341 male and 11,614 female). The rate of participation by female students stands at 42 percent and 58 percent by male. Participation in interscholastic athletics is thought by many educators to be a prime motivator for many students to stay in school, achieve academic success and learn life skills. The full listing of participants by sport and gender and the number of schools sponsoring at least one team in that sport is shown below.

27,955
STUDENT
ATHLETES



55
MIDDLE
SCHOOLS



63
HIGH
SCHOOLS

42%
FEMALES
58%
MALES



LEGISLATIVE ACTION-DIAA TASK FORCE

In March 2023, the Delaware General Assembly passed SCR 19 establishing the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association Task Force to study and make findings and recommendations to best address the needs of student athletes and ensure the effective and efficient functioning of DIAA. Additionally, SCR 19 directed the task force to examine and recommend a course of action to address board management, committee structure, complaint and waiver processes, staffing and support needs, financial analysis and fee restructuring, and the effectiveness of regulations and frequency of updates. 22 stakeholders were appointed to the task force based on the qualifications specified in SCR 19, with Senator Nicole Poore and Speaker Valerie Longhurst serving as co-chairs, and Senator Eric Buckson and Representative Timothy Dukes also appointed to the task force.

DIAA STAFF

In August 2024, DIAA expanded its staff with the approval and hiring of additional positions to enhance operations and better serve its stakeholders. Two full-time positions—a Marketing & Communication Specialist and a Financial Specialist—were created to address key areas of need, along with a contract position for a Compliance Officer to strengthen regulatory oversight. These new roles are designed to ensure the association can effectively manage its growing responsibilities and maintain a student-athlete-centered approach.

DIAA staff oversee the day-to-day operations of the association, providing support across a wide range of areas. These include the administration of the DIAA Board of Directors and sports committees, compliance matters such as eligibility, transfers, waivers, and rules interpretation, and fiscal management, contracts, and grants. Staff also manage the Website4Sports liaison and website operations, office and business functions, legislative affairs, and the development and implementation of rules and regulations.

Additional responsibilities include media relations, interviews, credentialing, ticket management, and tournament operations, as well as the preparation of championship rosters, game programs, brackets, and manuals. Staff serve as liaisons for committees and coordinate the association's calendar and schedule of events. They manage social media, officials registration and certification. Sportsmanship initiatives, rule clinics, NFHS rule book distribution, and DIAA publications are also part of their duties, along with education and leadership programming, conferences, and awards.

With these additional positions, DIAA is well-positioned to meet the demands of interscholastic athletics in Delaware and continue providing valuable support to its member schools and stakeholders.

COMPOSITION OF THE DIAA BOARD

The DIAA Board consists of 20 voting members:

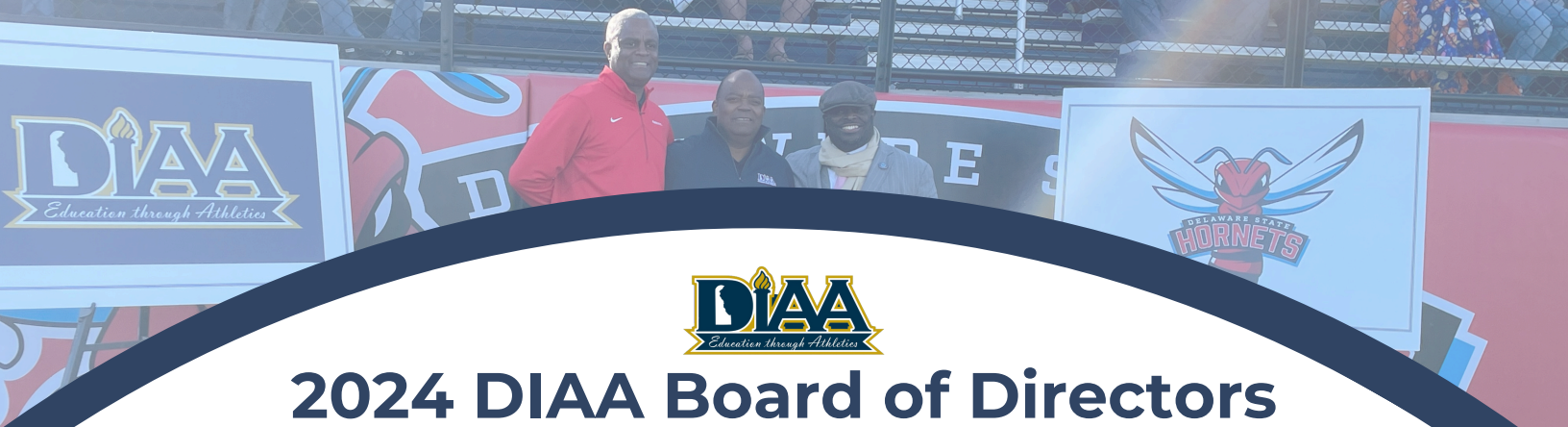
1. Three school district superintendents/assistant superintendents who must represent a school in a different county.
2. Three representatives of school district boards of education who must represent a school in a different county.
3. Three public school principals/assistant principals who must represent a school in a different county.
4. Two public school athletic directors or coaches who must represent a school in a different county.
5. Three nonpublic school representatives of which one shall be a head of school or equivalent, one shall be a secondary school administrator and one shall either be a secondary school athletic director or coach.
6. The Secretary of Education or Secretary's designee.
7. One physician licensed by the Delaware Board of Medical Practices and knowledgeable about sports medicine.
8. Six public members
 - a. Each county must be represented by 2 members who reside in that county.
 - b. One member must be a parent of a current or recent student athlete from a member school.
 - c. Each member must be a Delaware resident for at least 3 years.
 - d. Each member must be knowledgeable about athletics.
 - e. A member may not be an employee of a member school.
 - f. A member may not have a material financial interest in providing goods or services to the Association or a member school.

DIAA Board of Directors appointments are made by the Governor with Senate consent. Members serve until successors are appointed and are expected to maintain active participation.

In December 2024, the DIAA Board was restructured under Senate Bill 259, as the result of recommendations from the DIAA Task Force. This Act modernizes and updates the Board's composition to better align with the needs of interscholastic athletics in Delaware. The restructured board, nominated by Governor John Carney, was confirmed by the Delaware State Senate on December 16, 2024.

The new board structure is comprised of 17 members, including 15 voting members and 2 non-voting members, ensuring representation from all three counties—New Castle, Kent, and Sussex.

The new board will convene for its first official meeting in January 2025.



2024 DIAA Board of Directors

OFFICERS

Chairperson - Doug Thompson
Vice Chairperson - Jason Miller

PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBER NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Term Expires

Joseph (Ted) Laws	School Board Member, Colonial School District	2022
Dorrell Green	Superintendent, Red Clay School District	2024
Dr. William O'Hanlon	Assistant Principal, Brandywine High School	2025
Mark Robinson	Coach, St. Georges Tech High School	2024

KENT COUNTY

Jason Miller	School Board Member, Milford School District	2024
Dr. Kevin Dickerson	Superintendent, Polytech School District	2026
Dr. Sherry Kijowski	Principal, Caesar Rodney High School	2024

SUSSEX COUNTY

Dr. Shawn Larimore	Superintendent, Laurel School District	2026
Vacant	School Board Member, School District	-----
Allison Alpaugh	Assistant Principal, Woodbridge High School	2025
Kevin Smith	Athletic Director, Cape Henlopen High School	2024

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS

Fr. Christian Baretta	Head of School, Salesianum School	2026
Joseph Papili	President, St. Elizabeth High School	2025
Matt Smith	Athletic Director, Saint Mark's High School	2024

PUBLIC MEMBERS

<i>New Cast County</i>	<i>Kent County</i>	<i>Sussex County</i>
Douglas Thompson (2020)	Jackie Griffith (2026)	Ivan Neal (2025)
Robert Watson Jr. (2023)	Bonnie Ingram-Grubb (2026)	Lenny Richardson (2025)

MEDICAL MEMBER

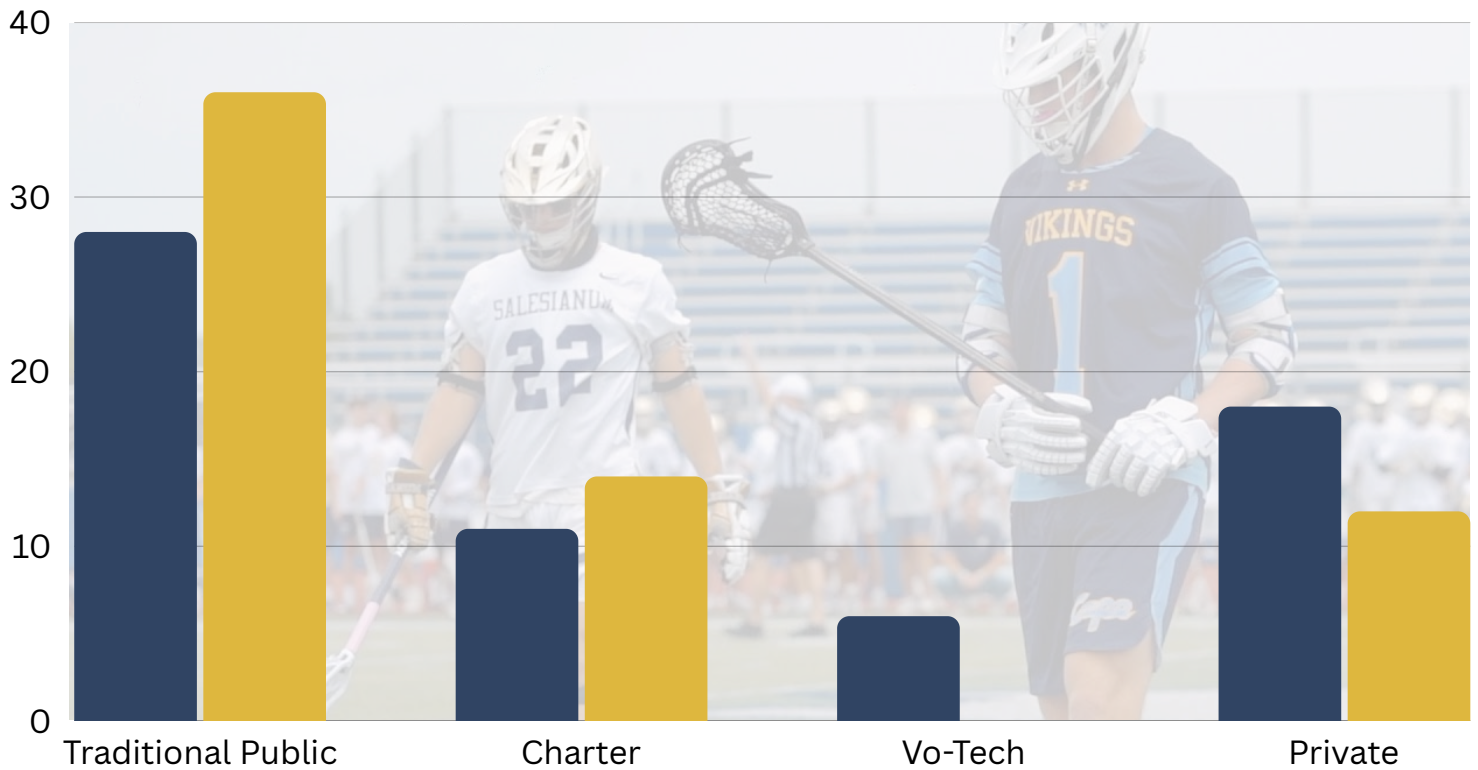
Dr. Bradley Bley (Indefinite)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DOE Associate Secretary, Secretary Designee
Michael Rodriguez (Indefinite)

DIAA MEMBER SCHOOLS

● High School ● Middle School



**BY THE
NUMBERS**

A YEAR IN REVIEW

17

**BOARD
MEMBERS**

6

**DIAA
STAFF
MEMBERS**

350

**COMMITTEE
MEMBERS &
VOLUNTEERS**

55

**MIDDLE
SCHOOLS**

24

COMMITTEES

18

**SPONSORED
SPORTS**

16

**RULE CLINICS
CONDUCTED**

63

**HIGH
SCHOOLS**

27,955
STUDENT-ATHLETES

39

**STATE
CHAMPIONS
CROWNED**

17

**STATE RULE
INTERPRETERS**

19

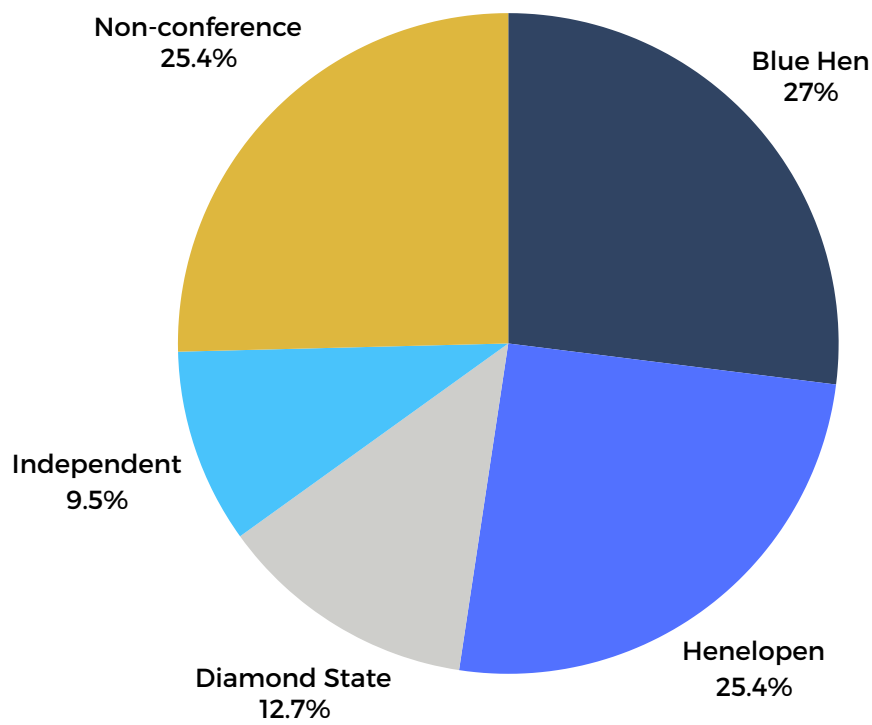
**OFFICIALS
ASSOCIATIONS**

2024 DIAA PARTICIPATION SUMMARY			
SPORT	BOYS	GIRLS	SCHOOLS (B/G)
Baseball	1348	4	53
Basketball	1549	820	55/54
Unified Basketball	165	54	14
Cross Country	902	659	53/51
Field Hockey	--	1275	50
Football	2718	7	46
Unified Flag Football	125	34	9
Golf	387	100	45
Lacrosse	1299	966	41/35
Soccer	2043	1590	55/53
Softball	--	899	47
Swimming & Diving	587	668	41/42
Tennis	422	535	34/37
Track - Indoor	1080	951	42
Track - Outdoor	1759	1317	51/52
Track - Unified	73	49	9
Volleyball	635	1600	33/54
Wrestling	1249	86	50
Total Athletes (27,955)	16,341	11,614	

DIAA is committed to promoting equitable participation in sports for both males and females, fostering an inclusive environment that encourages athletic development, teamwork, and leadership. By providing equal opportunities, resources, and support, the DIAA ensures that all student-athletes, regardless of gender, can compete at their highest potential, developing not only physical skills but also essential life values such as sportsmanship, discipline, and resilience. The DIAA remains dedicated to enhancing participation and access to athletics for all students across the state.

SCHOOL CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATION

- Blue Hen (17)
- Henlopen (16)
- Diamond State (8)
- Independent (6)
- Non-conference (16)



DIAA AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION

- Delaware Association of Athletic Directors (DAAD)
- Coaches Associations
- Delaware Interscholastic Officials Committee (DIOC)
- Delaware Athletic Trainers Association (DATA)

MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

The DIAA Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. The Annual Meeting of the entire DIAA occurs the third Thursday of January. In 2023, DIAA Board of Directors held 10 board meetings (9 regular monthly scheduled meetings and one additional workshop meeting. Three meetings were cancelled due to a lack of quorum).

Agendas and minutes of all Board meetings are posted on the State of Delaware Public Meeting Calendar (<https://publicmeetings.delaware.gov/>) and the DIAA webpage: (<https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/governance/bod/>).

STANDING COMMITTEES

The DIAA has a total of 24 committees, comprised of approximately 350 volunteers who are essential to accomplishing our mission. These include standing committees for Rules and Regulations, Sportsmanship, Officials, Unified Sports, and Sports Medicine, as well as 19 sport-specific committees. Notably, the Girls Wrestling Committee was added in 2024. All committees operate under the Freedom of Information Act. In 2024, a total of 83 committee meetings were held.

The committees and their chairs are as follows:

- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee - Dr. Bradley Bley
- Rules and Regulations Committee- David Collins
- Sportsmanship Committee - Dr. James Connor
- Officials Committee - Joseph Papili
- Unified Sports Committee- Jon Buzby
- Cross Country Committee - George Pepper
- Field Hockey Committee - Jodi Hollaman
- Football Committee - Eric Torbert
- Boys' Soccer Committee - Joe Manlove
- Girls' Soccer Committee- Joe Manlove
- Girls' Volleyball Committee - Nancy Griskowitz
- Boys' Basketball Committee - Brian Fahey
- Girls' Basketball Committee - Ruth Lajoie
- Swimming and Diving Committee - Mike Hart
- Track & Field Committee - Jim Fischer
- Boys Wrestling Committee - Buddy Lloyd
- Girls Wrestling Committee - Daniel Boone
- Baseball Committee - Mike Hart
- Softball Committee - Greg Shivery
- Tennis Committee -Mary Moore
- Golf Committee -Jesse Parsley
- Boys' Lacrosse Committee -Greg Bulger
- Girls' Lacrosse Committee- Debbie Windett
- Boys Volleyball Committee - Katie Godfrey

The sport committees work with the DIAA office staff to perform tasks related to running DIAA state tournaments resulting in 39 State Championship titles awarded in 20 boys', 16 girls' and 3 Unified sports. Other functions include informing the DIAA Board of Directors of issues and initiatives affecting each sport and related sports projects.

PUBLIC VS PRIVATE COMMITTEE

Senate Concurrent Resolution 193 directs the DIAA to analyze the disparity between public and private school team championships. A 18-member committee, formed in September 2024, is researching the history of public vs. private school championships and evaluating potential adjustments to create a more balanced and fair competitive environment for all sports in Delaware. The committee has held four meetings in 2024 and will present its findings and recommendations to the legislature in May 2025.

RULES INTERPRETERS

DIAA appoints rules interpreters to assist member schools, coaches and officials in the proper interpretation and application of National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and DIAA playing rules. The 2024 DIAA rules interpreters were:

- Baseball - Tom Disharoon
- Basketball - Layne Drexel
- Field Hockey - Vicki Rhodes
- Football - Andrew Bero
- Golf - Partner with Delaware State Golf Association
- Lacrosse, Boys' - JP Bennett
- Lacrosse, Girls' - Mary Sue Christopher
- Soccer - Robert Cordrey
- Softball - Diane Carden
- Swimming/Diving - Kent Steeves
- Tennis -Partner with United States Tennis Association
- Track and Field/Cross Country - George Pepper
- Volleyball- Wendy Kite
- Wrestling - Joe Loboizzo
- Unified Basketball - Layne Drexel
- Unified Football - Pete Celiberti
- Unified Track & Field - Nate Threatts



RULES AND REGULATIONS

The DIAA, in consultation and cooperation with the DOE, develops rules and regulations relating to high school and middle school interscholastic athletics for all Delaware public and charter schools, and such Delaware private schools that elect to become members of DIAA.

Links to the regulations are available on the DIAA website at:

<https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/governance/handbook/>.

NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS

On October 11, 2024, Regulation 1030 Student Athlete Eligibility: Amateur Status was updated to include guidelines for Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), allowing high school student-athletes to earn compensation under clearly defined conditions. The policy ensures that compensation is not tied to athletic performance, enrollment, or retention at specific schools and prohibits the use of school-related imagery or facilities in NIL deals.

This update reflects DIAA's commitment to maintaining fairness and integrity in interscholastic athletics. Links to the updated regulation and NIL FAQs are available on the DIAA website <https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/governance/handbook/>.

GIRLS LACROSSE EXPANSION

In December 2024, the DIAA Board of Directors approved the expansion of the Girls Lacrosse State Tournament from 12 to 16 teams, effective for the 2025 season. This decision, reflects the growing participation and competitiveness of girls lacrosse in Delaware. With 35 teams expected to compete in 2025, the expanded tournament ensures more equitable representation and aligns with the Boys Lacrosse State Tournament structure, which has featured 16 teams for several years.

The updated format includes a staggered bracket structure, additional at-large berths, and revised tournament dates. These changes are designed to promote gender equity, restore qualifying percentages from earlier tournaments, and foster more competitive matchups.

FOOTBALL REALIGNMENT

In December 2024, the DIAA Board of Directors approved a new football realignment for the 2025-2026 seasons, impacting all three classifications of high school football. Developed by the Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association (DIFCA) with input from coaches, athletic directors, and based on enrollment, roster data, and historical performance, the realignment aims to ensure competitive balance and fairness across the state.

Notable changes:

- Class 3A: Caravel Academy moves up.
- Class 2A: Saint Mark's, Indian River, Tatnall, and Polytech move down.
- Class 1A: Concord, Newark, Delcastle, and Newark Charter enter 1A.

The new realignment formula includes:

- 20% Enrollment
- 30% Four-Year Winning Percentage
- 30% Two-Year Winning Percentage
- 20% Four-Year Winning Percentage Against Current Classification Teams

The realignment formula, updated this cycle, factors in enrollment, winning percentages, and historical performance against teams in the current classification. The goal is to provide equitable competition and improve the student-athlete experience.

In looking ahead, DIAA emphasized the importance of greater transparency and stakeholder involvement in future realignment cycles. Moving forward, DIAA plans to codify the realignment process to ensure that all Heads of School are actively involved and that the public has a clear understanding of the methodology behind the decisions.



DIAA FOOTBALL REALIGNMENT FOR 2025-2026 SEASONS

FOOTBALL : CLASS 1 ALIGNMENT

District 1	District 2	District 3
A.I. DuPont HS	Christiana HS	Early College HS
Brandywine HS	Delcastle HS	First State Military Academy
Dickinson HS	Conrad School	Newark Charter School
Concord HS	Glasgow HS	Seaford HS
McKean HS	Newark HS	St. Andrew's School
St. Elizabeth School	Charter School of Wilmington	

FOOTBALL : CLASS 2 ALIGNMENT

District 1	District 2	District 3
Archmere Academy	Delaware Military Academy	Delmar HS
Howard HS	Milford HS	Indian River HS
Mt. Pleasant HS	Odessa HS	Lake Forest HS
Tatnall School	Polytech HS	Laurel HS
Tower Hill School	Saint Mark's HS	Sussex Technical HS
Wilmington Friends School	Red Lion Christian Academy	Woodbridge HS

FOOTBALL : CLASS 3 ALIGNMENT

District 1	District 2
Salesianum School	Sussex Central HS
Middletown HS	Smyrna HS
Appoquinimink HS	St. Georges Technical HS
Hodgson Vo-Tech HS	Cape Henlopen HS
William Penn HS	Dover HS
Caravel Academy	Caesar Rodney HS

TRANSFER TRACKING

The new Transfer Tracking Law was enacted as a result of the Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) Task Force's comprehensive study of key issues impacting student-athletes and DIAA operations. Established by Senate Concurrent Resolution 19, the Task Force, comprised of various stakeholders, met over eight months to evaluate the most pressing challenges facing DIAA and develop actionable recommendations.

One critical issue identified was the waiver process for student-athletes transferring between schools who wish to participate in interscholastic athletics. The Act addresses those concerns by creating a clearer and more efficient framework for managing transfer waivers, ensuring a fair and transparent process for all parties involved.

The Law organizes the transfer eligibility into the following categories:

IMMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY

Immediate eligibility applies to circumstances under which a student is immediately eligible to participate in sports at the school into which the student transfers ("receiving school"). A waiver is not required for immediate eligibility.

Immediate eligibility applies if the student has not previously played the sport the student seeks to play at the receiving school, or it is the student's first transfer and the student did not play the sport during the 180 days prior to transferring. The receiving school of a student who qualifies for immediate eligibility must initiate the completion of a tracking form, to document the transfer and reason for immediate eligibility.

PERIODS OF INELIGIBILITY

Periods of ineligibility apply to a student's subsequent transfer. A student is subject to a period of ineligibility of 30 days or $\frac{1}{2}$ of the maximum number of contests (whichever is less) and is ineligible for post-season play for each interscholastic athletic sport in which the student participated during the previous 180 school days if the student has already transferred schools at least 1 time. A student may seek a waiver of the period of ineligibility.

EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to periods of ineligibility are provided in this Act. A student who meets an exemption is not required to seek a waiver, but must provide documentation relevant to the exemption. Seven types of exemptions are available, including transferring schools due to homelessness, court action, or a change in the student's residence due to military assignment. Each exemption has its own requirements.

The new Transfer Tracking Law is outlined in detail, with additional information and FAQs available for review on our website at https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/diaa_for/parents/.

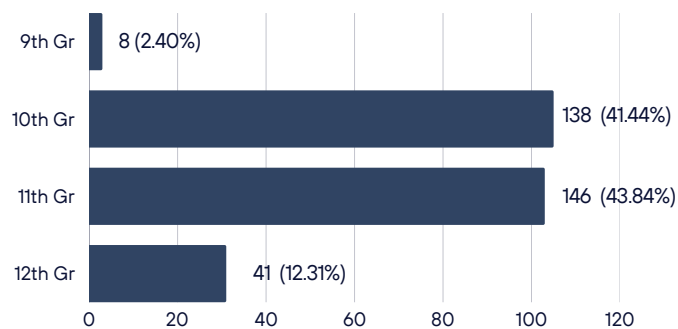
Transfer Tracking Form Analysis

As of December 11, 2024

The transfer law, effective beginning August 2024, has generated transfer tracking data up to December 11, 2024. The below analysis captures the impact of the new law through the number of transfer forms submitted, approvals and follow-ups, providing insight into trends within the first months of implementation.

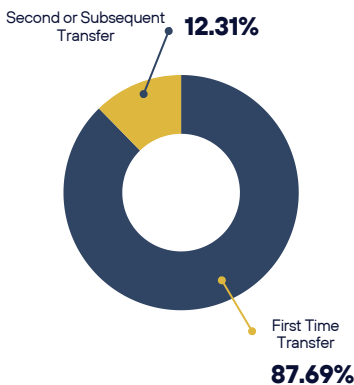
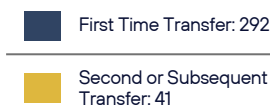
Grades Transferred Into

Total of 33 Transfers Submitted as of Dec. 11, 2024



Total Number of Transfers: 333

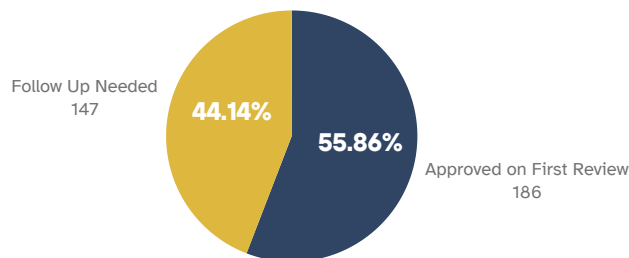
As of Dec. 11, 2024



Transfer Tracking Forms Submitted

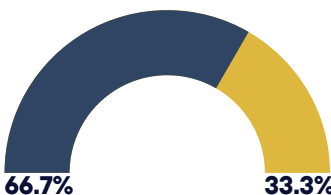
Total of 333 Forms Submitted as of Dec. 11, 2024

- Approved on First Review
- Follow Up Needed



Total Transfers after 3rd Year: 81

First Transfer After 3rd Year: 54



Second Transfer After 3rd Year: 27



SECONDARY INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC FUND

The primary source of revenue used to support DIAA is derived through ticket sales at state championship events. A special fund has been created at the Department of Education to receive and track revenues and expenditures of the organization. All membership dues, sponsorship funds and revenues from DIAA championships are deposited into this account. The account is administered under the State of Delaware Accounting System in cooperation with the DOE Finance Office.

FY24 REVENUE OVERVIEW

DIAA revenues collected for FY24 was \$1,152,617.98 to the association for FY24. The available cash balance of over \$900,000 from the current fiscal year has enabled DIAA to operate independently without requiring financial assistance. Although the available balance allows for DIAA to operate without assistance at the beginning of each fiscal year thus far, DIAA may need financial support for basic operations for future fiscal years depending on ticket sales.

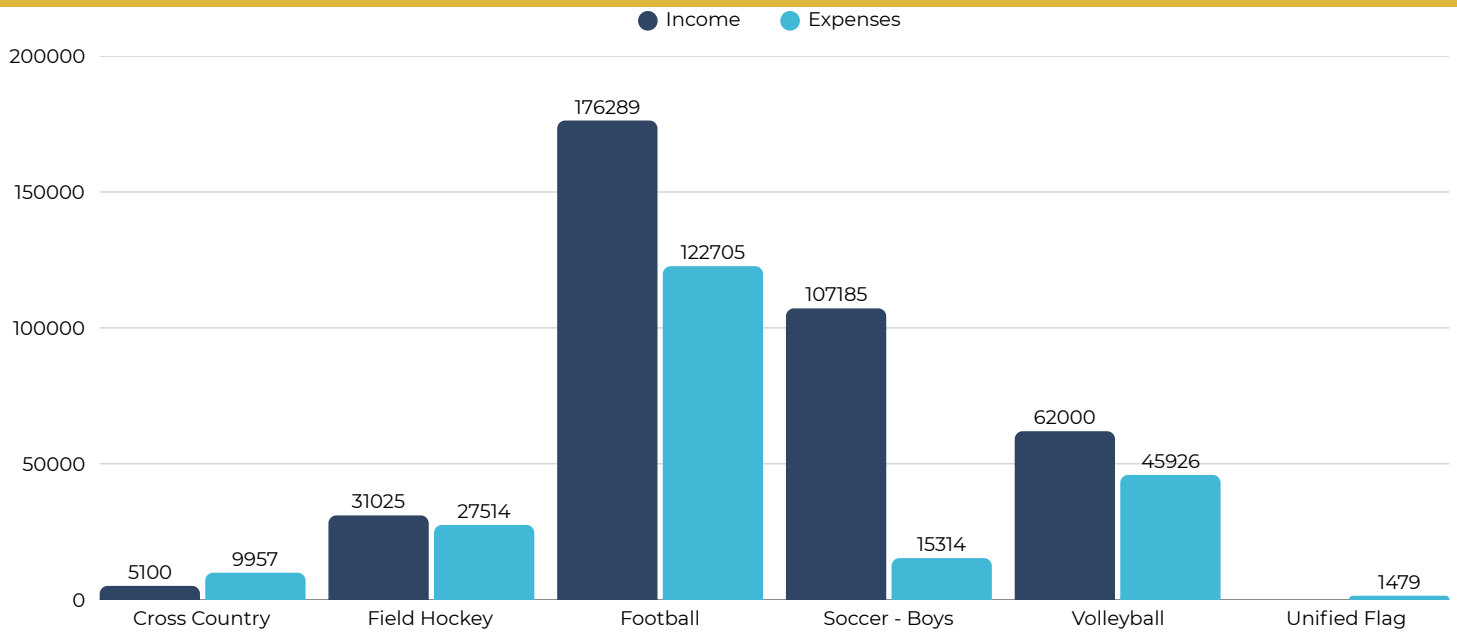
The major source of revenue for DIAA was championships and dues, in addition to some corporate contracts, sponsorships, and miscellaneous income.

FY24 EXPENSES OVERVIEW

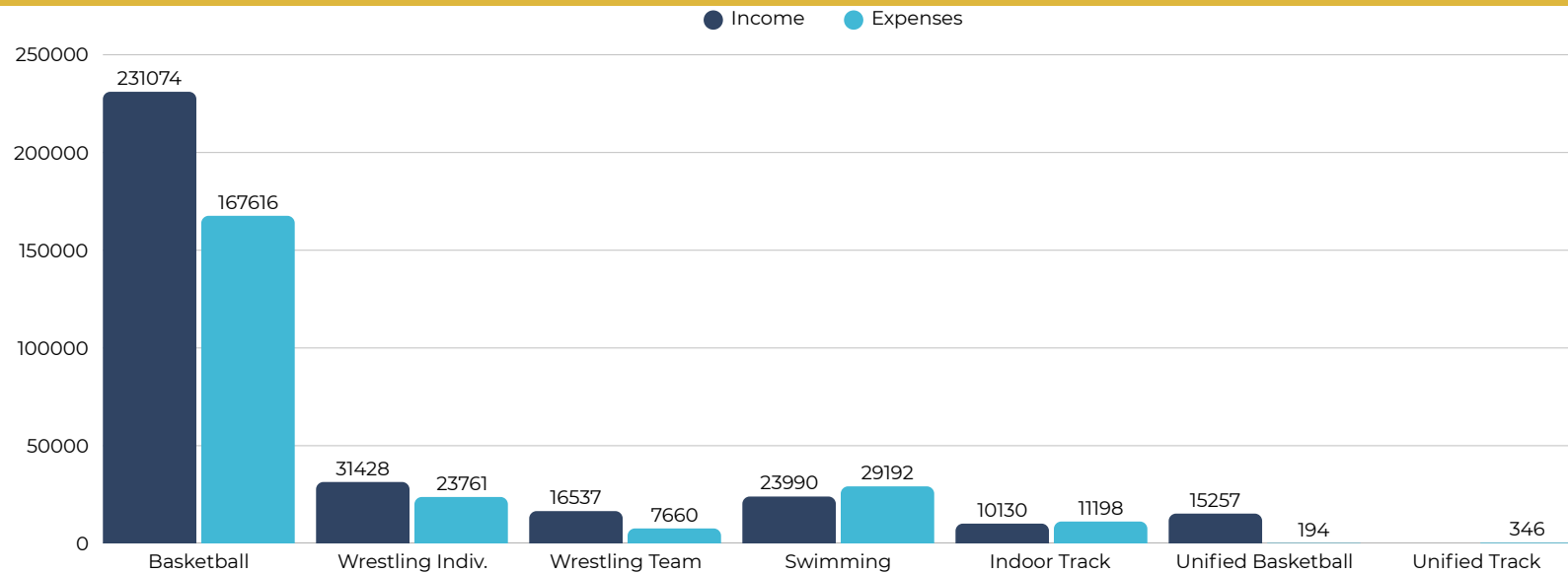
Expenses for FY24 were \$923,806.80. The major expenses of the organization are championships which includes facility rentals, reimbursement to member schools hosting championships, officials, and security. Other expenses for the year include salary & benefits, awards, insurance, and miscellaneous expenses.

The addition of a Financial Specialist to the DIAA team marks a significant step forward in improving financial management and transparency. Moving forward, we will be able to more accurately track and analyze financial data related to sports tournaments, ticketing revenue, Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), and other key activities. This level of detailed financial reporting will not only enhance our operational efficiency but also provide valuable insights to guide strategic decision-making. By leveraging this expertise, DIAA can ensure more effective resource allocation and long-term planning to support its mission and goals.

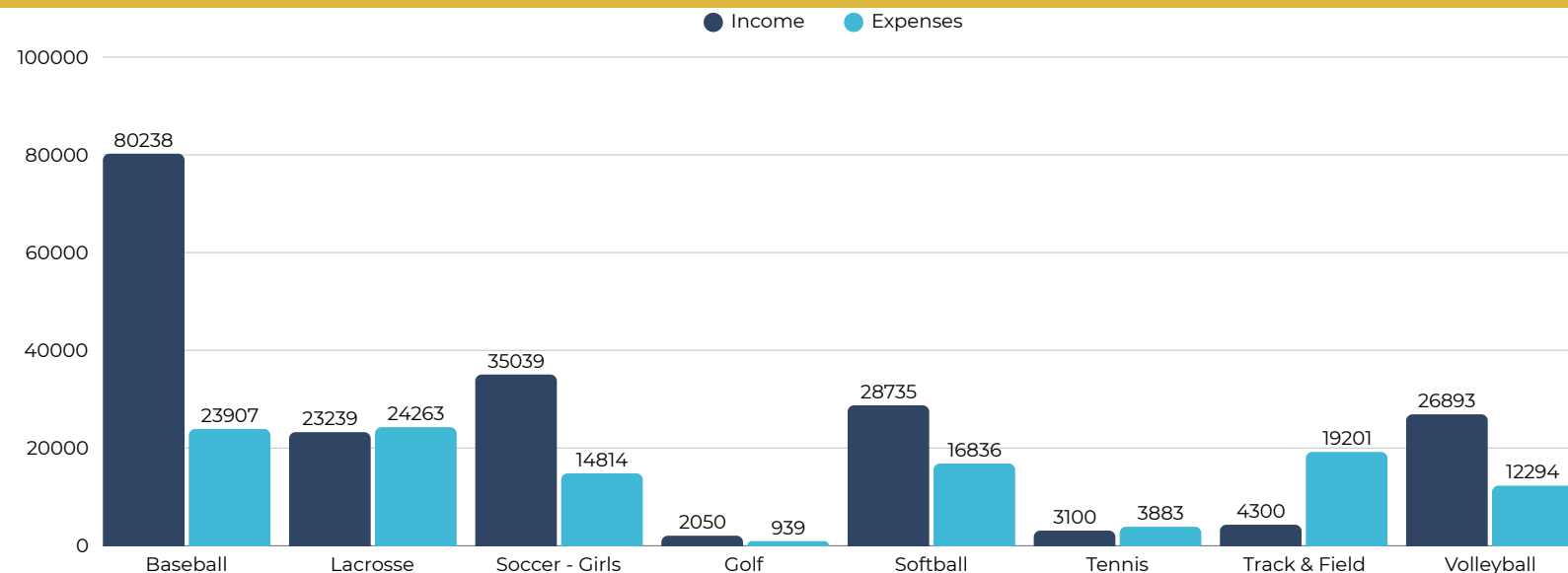
FALL SPORTS SUMMARY



WINTER SPORTS SUMMARY



SPRING SPORTS SUMMARY





2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

DIAA OPERATIONS

In 2024, the DIAA made significant progress in refining its operations, communication, and support for schools and athletic programs throughout Delaware. A major initiative was the successful implementation of DragonFly for incident reporting.

The association also reviewed and updated policies and regulations to ensure they reflect current needs and foster fairness. Enhancements to tournament operations were a key focus, with efforts aimed at improving efficiency, transparency, and the overall student-athlete experience.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The winners of the 2024 DIAA/Harry Roberts Senior Scholar-Athlete awards are listed below. The award is named in memory of Dr. Harry Roberts, former superintendent of the Caesar Rodney School District who served DIAA on several committees, most notably as chair of the DIAA Sportsmanship Committee for many years. The awards are presented annually by the DIAA based on a student's academic, athletic and leadership achievements. The award amounts are as follows:

Female Winners

- 1st Place (\$2,000.00) Megann Dombchik, Concord High School
- 2nd Place (\$1,500.00) Elizabeth Dill, Dover High School
- 3rd Place (\$1,000.00) Addison Kennedy, Newark Charter School

Male Winners:

- 1st Place (\$2,000.00) Krish Shjpaul, Newark Charter School
- 2nd Place (\$1,500.00) Patrick Craig, Caesar Rodney High School
- 3rd Place (\$1,000.00) Samuel Felice, Salesianum School



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

During calendar year 2024, the following schools won DIAA state championships in the sports as listed:

WINTER 2024

Basketball	Boys	Dover High School
Basketball	Girls	Ursuline Academy
Basketball	Unified	Dover High School
Swimming & Diving	Boys	Salesianum School
Swimming & Diving	Girls	Ursuline Academy
Indoor Track & Field	Boys	Salesianum School
Indoor Track & Field	Girls	Tatnall School
Dual Team Wrestling D1	Boys	Sussex Central
Dual Team Wrestling D2	Boys	DMA

SPRING 2024

Baseball	Boys	Salesianum School
Lacrosse	Boys	Salesianum School
Lacrosse	Girls	Cape Henlopen HS
Softball	Girls	Caravel Academy
Soccer	Girls DI	Middletown HS
Soccer	Girls DII	Caravel Academy
Tennis Singles	Boys	Archmere Academy
Tennis Doubles	Boys	Tower Hill School
Tennis Singles	Girls	Tower Hill School
Tennis Doubles	Girls	Tower Hill School
Outdoor Track & Field	Boys DI	Salesianum School
Outdoor Track & Field	Girls DI	Padua Academy
Outdoor Track & Field	Boys DII	Saint Mark's High School
Outdoor Track & Field	Girls DII	Tatnall School
Outdoor Track & Field	Unified Track	Cape Henlopen HS
Golf	Co-Ed	Archmere Academy
Volleyball	Boys	Salesianum School

FALL 2024

Cross Country	Boys DI	Salesianum School
Cross Country	Girls DI	Padua Academy
Cross Country	Boys DII	Tatnall School
Cross Country	Girls DII	Tatnall School
Field Hockey	Girls DI	Cape Henlopen HS
Field Hockey	Girls DII	Delmar High School
Football	Boys Class 1A	Indian River High School
Football	Boys Class 2A	Caravel Academy
Football	Boys Class 3A	Middletown High School
Football	Boys Unified	Indian River High School
Soccer	Boys DI	Caesar Rodney HS
Soccer	Boys DII	Sussex Academy
Volleyball	Girls	Tower Hill School

Individual champions were crowned in indoor track, individual wrestling, swimming and diving, and cross country. Thirty-nine team titles were awarded by DIAA in 2024. A complete listing of team champions can be found at <https://education.delaware.gov/diaa/sport-championship/>

2024 DIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SCHOOLS		
SCHOOLS	CONFERENCE	# OF CHAMPIONSHIPS
Salesianum School	Nonconference	7
Tatnall School	Independent	4
Tower Hill School	Independent	4
Cape Henlopen High School	Henlopen	3
Caravel Academy	Nonconference	3
Archmere Academy	Diamond State	2
Padua Academy	Nonconference	2
Dover High School	Henlopen	2
Middletown High School	Blue Hen	2
Ursuline Academy	Nonconference	2
Indian River High School	Henlopen	2
Delaware Military Academy	Diamond State	1
Caesar Rodney High School	Henlopen	1
Delmar High School	Henlopen	1
Sussex Academy	Henlopen	1
Sussex Central HS	Henlopen	1
Saint Mark's High School	Nonconference	1
TOTAL		39

Conference Totals

15 - Nonconference
11 - Henlopen

8 - Independent
3 - Diamond State

2 - Blue Hen

SPORTSMANSHIP

DIAA announced winners of the 2023-2024 Dale Farmer Champions in Sportsmanship award on September 5, 2024. The member schools compete against a set of 10 standards, not against other schools. Member schools submit an extensive portfolio that is judged by the Sportsmanship Committee to determine if each school has successfully met the standards. The award is named in honor of former DSSAA Executive Director Dale Farmer. The 13 winning schools are listed below. Thirty-seven different member schools have now won this award at least once in the 26-year history of the award.

2024 DIAA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS			
SCHOOL	TIMES WON	SCHOOL	TIMES WON
William Penn HS	26	Newark Charter School	9
Sussex Tech HS	18	Middletown HS	8
Concord HS	15	Mt. Pleasant HS	8
Caravel Academy	15	Brandywine HS	7
Caesar Rodney HS	14	Talley Middle School	3
Sanford School	13	Springer Middle School	2
Charter School of Wilmington	11		



OFFICIALS

In 2024, officials across all sports in Delaware faced challenges related to an aging workforce and poor sportsmanship from spectators, coaches, and participants. These issues contributed to a decline in the number of available officials, resulting in altered contest dates and times. However, a modest increase in officials was observed, driven by the DIAA Board's decision to implement updated pay rates, reflecting the association's commitment to fairly compensating officials for their essential role in high school athletics.

To further support officials, the DIAA introduced the DragonFly platform for incident reporting. This system streamlines communication between officials, school administrators, and the DIAA, enhancing the documentation of incidents such as ejections or unsportsmanlike conduct. By improving incident reporting, the platform allows for proactive measures to address safety and fairness in interscholastic sports statewide.

While progress has been made, recruitment and retention of officials remain a priority to ensure that games are officiated with professionalism, consistency, and fairness.



PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

GO-FAN

DIAA continues its partnered with Go-Fan for the fourth year, a digital ticketing platform that provides a ticketless, cashless and contactless experience for DIAA championship events. All 2024 state tournament events were ticketless, which enhanced DIAA ticket management operations. DIAA received positive feedback from member schools hosting championship events surrounding ticket management and operations and negative feedback has been received from fans regarding the cashless system and fees.

DRAGONFLY

Through a partnership with the NFHS, DIAA went paperless to administer official's registrations to use the Center for Official's Services (COS) through the Dragonfly platform. Dragonfly is a hub for all officials' registrations, tracking official's eligibility requirements, officials testing platform and for officials to submit NFHS and DIAA payments.

UNIFIED SPORTS

DIAA continued its relationship with Special Olympics Delaware (SODE) for the tenth year. With the continued partnership, DIAA and SODE work closely to offer unified football, basketball and outdoor track programs.

MARKETING SPECIAL PROMOTIONS

DIAA continued its partnership with Delaware- based Marketing Special Promotions (MSP) to provide championship apparel for students and spectators of DIAA State Championship events.

WILSON/SPALDING

DIAA continued its partnership agreements with the following: Wilson (football, basketball, baseball, soccer, and tennis) and Spalding/Dudley (volleyball and softball) to provide game balls at no expense for DIAA state championship events.

MILE SPLIT

MileSplit, a premier nationwide online network for cross country and track and field coverage and registration, has renewed its partnership with the NFHS for an additional three years. Originally signed as a corporate partner in 2021, MileSplit will remain the Official Cross Country and Track and Field Registration Platform of the NFHS.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

DIAA member schools hosted most DIAA winter 2024, spring 2024 and fall 2024 state championship games. Higher seeded teams hosted first, second, most quarterfinal and semifinal round games. University of Delaware hosted softball finals, girls volleyball semifinals and finals, girls and boys basketball semifinals and finals, unified finals, girls and boys preliminary and finals swimming championships. Cape Henlopen High School hosted girls soccer finals. Caesar Rodney High School hosted the girls lacrosse finals, while Delaware Military Academy hosted the boys lacrosse finals. Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex hosted indoor track championships, Maple Dale Country Club hosted golf championships while Frawley Stadium hosted baseball semifinals and finals. Cross country championships were held at Killens Pond State Park, Dover High School hosted boys soccer finals and outdoor track championships. Smyrna High School hosted dual wrestling semifinal and finals and Cape Henlopen hosted individual wrestling championships while St. Andrews School hosted tennis semifinals and finals.

Delaware State University (DSU) hosted the DIAA Class 3A and Unified High School Football Championships at DSU Alumni Stadium, as well as the Field Hockey semifinals and finals, at DSU's Drass Stadium.

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL

In 2024, Delaware hosted its first-ever girls' flag football championship at Fusco Stadium on October 16, 2024. While not yet a DIAA-sanctioned sport, the event marked a significant milestone in the development of girls' flag football in the state. Four teams participated in the inaugural season: Saint Mark's High School, Padua Academy, Ursuline Academy, and Delaware Military Academy. The competition has sparked interest in the sport, leading several other schools to start flag football club teams, marking a promising beginning for the future of girls' flag football in Delaware.



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS (NFHS) MEMBERSHIP

DIAA has been a member of the NFHS since January 1945. The NFHS serves its member associations, related professional organizations, and students by providing leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities that support academic achievement, good citizenship and equitable opportunities. NFHS is the nationally recognized expert in the area of writing the playing rules for most interscholastic sports and it is recognized as the leader in research and policy advocacy in the area of sport safety for interscholastic athletes.

NFHS Network - DIAA continues to be a part of the NFHS Network. The network is a partnership between the NFHS and NFHS state associations. The network web streams state championship games on the internet for a fee. Locally, 302 Sports has been contracted by NFHS Network as the production company for all DIAA Tournament events.

Representation on National Committees - DIAA and our member schools continue to support and provide expertise to NFHS national committees. With the exception of the Football Rules Committee, all associated expenses for participation on these committees are paid by the NFHS.

NFHS Championship Streaming Viewership – Fall 2024

The streaming viewership for NFHS Championship games in Fall 2024 saw varied results across different sports, with notable changes compared to 2023.

- **Football:** A total of 4 games were streamed, generating 4,425 views and 151,152 minutes viewed. This marked a slight decrease in views and minutes from 2023, which had 3 games, 4,720 views, and 166,073 minutes viewed.
- **Girls Volleyball:** One game was streamed in both 2024 and 2023, but viewership decreased slightly in 2024, with 455 views and 15,154 minutes viewed compared to 609 views and 20,852 minutes in 2023.
- **Field Hockey:** The 2024 season saw 2 games streamed, attracting 201 views and 7,879 minutes viewed, a significant drop from the 589 views and 15,151 minutes in 2023.
- **Boys Soccer:** Streaming for 2 games in 2024 garnered 1,750 views and 43,914 minutes viewed, showing an increase from 2023, which had 1,454 views and 39,228 minutes.

While overall viewership for some sports declined in 2024, soccer experienced growth, and the continued streaming of championship games remains an important avenue for engaging audiences. DIAA continues to collaborate with NFHS to grow viewership for championship events and enhance the experience for fans, ensuring wider engagement with Delaware's student-athletes.



UPCOMING REGULATIONS FOR DIAA CONSIDERATION

- Amendments to Regulation 1040 Coaching Out of Season
 - Regulation Restructuring for editorial and clarification
 - Transfer Regulation - 8th Grade Eligibility
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DIAA AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY/IMPROVEMENT

- **Creation of a DIAA Handbook/Policy Manual for Coaches and ADs:** Developing a comprehensive handbook and policy manual for coaches and athletic directors to standardize expectations, provide clear guidance on policies and regulations, and ensure consistent practices across all schools. This resource will be a key tool in promoting fairness, transparency, and best practices in coaching and athletic administration.
- **Leadership Development and Training:** Offering continued leadership development programs and training opportunities for student-athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and administrators.
- **Website Enhancements:** Continuing to update and refine the DIAA website to improve its functionality and resource offerings for stakeholders and the public.
- **Technology and Data Storage Improvements:** DIAA is collaborating with the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) and researching external agencies to identify the best solutions for meeting technology and data storage requirements.
- **Expanding Partnerships for Student-Athlete Development:** Exploring new partnerships with organizations that support student-athlete development, including mental health resources, career exploration, and personal growth initiatives.
- **Enhancing Tournament Operations:** Continuously reviewing and refining DIAA tournament operations to improve efficiency, transparency, and the overall experience for student-athletes, coaches, and fans. This includes refining tournament structures, communication, and logistical coordination. Additionally, DIAA is working with other schools and universities to expand the pool of available facilities for tournaments, ensuring that there are ample and suitable venues to accommodate growing participation and enhance the quality of the events.
- **Promoting Diversity and Inclusion:** Strengthening efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within DIAA programming, ensuring that all student-athletes have access to equal opportunities and resources.

DIAA CHALLENGES

- **Staffing Workload:** The workload within DIAA remains a concern, as the association continues to manage a wide range of responsibilities. Ensuring appropriate staffing and resources for effective oversight and management of all areas of the organization is essential for continued success.
- **Facility Availability for Indoor Track Championships:** Securing adequate and suitable facilities for indoor track championships continues to be a challenge, with limited options available to meet the growing demand for these events. Additionally, budget constraints to afford university locations for tournaments and championships continue to increase, making it more difficult to secure the necessary venues.
- **Compliance Management and Oversight:** Effective compliance management and oversight remain ongoing challenges, as ensuring that all member schools meet regulations and standards requires continuous attention and resources.
- **Sportsmanship Concerns:** Issues with sportsmanship during sporting events, particularly from fans, coaches, and student-athletes, have become a growing concern. Addressing this issue requires a focus on education, clear expectations, and enforcement of behavior standards to maintain a positive and respectful environment at events.
- **Officials Shortage:** The shortage of officials remains a critical challenge for DIAA, with recruitment and retention efforts being a primary focus. DIAA is exploring new ideas and strategies to address the shortage, including increased outreach, better compensation, and improving the overall experience for officials.
- **Lack of Technology Database System:** DIAA currently lacks a comprehensive database system to efficiently store, manage, and report information. This gap in technology hinders the ability to streamline data collection, ensure accuracy, and generate reports in a timely manner. Implementing a robust database system is essential for improving operational efficiency and enhancing data-driven decision-making.

DIAA HOT TOPICS

- Transfers/recruitment practices and policies
- Compliance Management
- Recruitment and Retention of Officials
- Division classification vs three-tier classification
- Basketball Shot Clock
- Mental Health Awareness
- Eighth grade participation at the high school level
- Public vs Private equitable championships

If there are any questions regarding this report or any other interest in the business of DIAA, please contact DIAA Executive Director David L. Baylor at 302-857- 3366.



Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

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