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This is an exciting time of the year as we wrap up the fall sports seasons and begin the winter seasons. As we prepare for the upcoming championships I want to make sure we are focused on the true value of participation in interscholastic sports. I have had the opportunity to meet with many of our state's top leaders over the course of the last four months and always make it a point to ensure they know students who participate in our programs are learning lifelong lessons, receive better grades and miss less school when compared to students who do not participate. Research continues to provide evidence for the value of participation and it is our responsibility to highlight and promote our student-athletes and the positive influences they receive by participating.

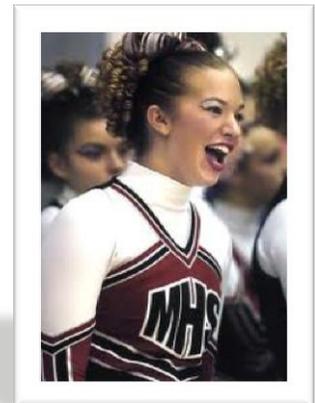
Robert Zayas
NYSPHSAA Executive Director

REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED:

Nearly 50 teams have already registered for the NYSPHSAA East Cheerleading Invitational! **The DEADLINE for the East competition has been extended to Monday, January 14.** Registration is FREE for the NYSPHSAA cheerleading Regional Invitational events being held during the 2013 Winter season; **East:** January 26, 2013 at Arlington High School (Section 1) and **West:** March 9, 2013 at Rochester Institute of Technology (Section 5).

The NYSPHSAA released the Cheerleading Booklet on Monday, October 15 which included all of the regulations pertaining to these events. These requirements and registration information are outlined in the booklet at the following link:

<http://www.nysphsaa.org/forms/pdf/Cheerleading.pdf>



LRG FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY:



The NFHS has licensed the Licensing Resource Group (LRG Prep) the rights to use the NFHS marks in connection with the NFHS Official High School Licensed Product Program.

The program was created to provide a new revenue stream for high schools and their state associations. Apparel and other promotional products with high school names and marks will be produced by designated licensees and sold by national and regional retailers (Walmart, Target, Dick's Sporting Good, etc.)

All NFHS Official High School Licensed Products will have a distinctive hang-tag or sticker. This mark ensures that the manufacturer and retailer are participating in the program and providing royalty payment, of which a portion will be returned to the school. The program is similar to licensing programs created by LRG for colleges and professional leagues.

To get your school started, a school or district administrator must review and sign the non-exclusive licensing agreement. This can be done electronically on nfhslicensing.com and/or as a hard copy. If you have questions regarding the agreement, please contact LRG via e-mail contract@lrgprep.com.



COMBINING OF TEAMS PROPOSAL:

An ad hoc committee met via teleconference for the third time in mid-December to finalize the combining of teams proposal to be presented during the January 29, 2013 Executive Committee meeting.

The proposal states when two schools combine, the school with the lower enrollment will have a percentage of their BEDS numbers added to the school with the higher enrollment. The percentage is dependent upon the associations "5 sport classification cut off numbers."

- Class AA= 50%
- Class A= 40%
- Class B= 30%
- Class C= 30%
- Class D= 20%

RATIONALE:

The rationale for the graduated scale is being proposed to better ensure the smallest schools in the state can afford their students with participation opportunities because the receiving school's classification cut off numbers have "less" of chance of being negatively impacted. Currently Class C and D schools have a difficult time merging in some cases, because of the negative impact or "perceived" negative impact, upon the classification cut off numbers.

NFHS SPIRIT OF SPORT AWARD:



The NFHS has developed the "National High School Spirit of Sport Award," which will be conferred to eight section winners as well as one national winner. The recipient must be an individual from a high school that is a member of NYSPHSAA.

The recipient could be a coach, athletic administrator, administrator, official, trainer, student-athlete or any others associated with the school or the school's athletic program, or an individual(s) associated with the school's performing arts program.

This award seeks to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics. The award may be given in recognition of a specific act or for an activity of longer duration.

For example, it could be awarded to an individual (or group) that:

- *has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and/or citizenship in playing the game as it should be played;
- *has exceeded normal expectations in assisting others within the school or community; or
- *has overcome adversity or a challenging circumstance.

If you know of someone who you think may be deserving of this prestigious award, please contact NYSPHSAA Executive Director, Robert Zayas, at 518.690.0771 or rzayas@nysphsaa.org no later than January 25, 2013.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Jan. 29, 2013	NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting (Teleconference) 9:00 AM
Mar. 13-15, 2013	New York Athletic Administrators Conference (Saratoga Springs)
May 3-4, 2013	NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting (Latham/ Albany) TBD
July 30-31, 2013	NYSPHSAA Central Committee Meeting (Woodcliff Resort- Rochester)



QUOTE TO REMEMBER:

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

-Benjamin Franklin