



**New York State
Girls Basketball Officials
Association, Inc.**

To: Local Board Presidents – New York State Girls Basketball Officials

From: Executive Committee of NYSGBOA

RE: NFHS/NCAA

There is a monumental vote taking place on May 2, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs that has the potential to set girls basketball in New York State back decades. Girls' basketball in New York State has been playing by NCAA rules for well over 35 years. The vote if approved would require girl's basketball to adopt the National Federation High School rules for the 2022-23 season rather than the current NCAA rules. This has been the 4th time in 8 years that this conversation has taken place in New York State.

The NCAA is on the forefront of rule changes and mechanics across the country. It has been shown that the NFHS is years behind in adopting NCAA rules. They typically adopt an NCAA rule change 4 to 5 years after it is approved at the NCAA level. As we prepare our student athletes to continue their playing at the collegiate level, playing under the NCAA rules helps our student athletes prepare for the next level whether it is junior college or division 1.

If the NFHS rules are adopted, there would additional cost to your local board, as you would need to train officials in the NFHS rules and mechanics. There are officials who work both high school girls and college basketball who potentially will not continue to referee high school basketball due to the rule differences. Regardless of the outcome of this vote, the NYSGBOA will continue to an autonomous group of officials for girls' basketball in New York State.

A survey was conducted throughout New York State with various stakeholders (administrators, coaches, and officials) the results were overwhelming against using NFHS rules for girls' basketball in New York State. The information below was taken directly from the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting minutes from October 16, 2018.

Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2018 Executive Committee Meeting - Tim Lincoln, Girls Basketball

- The Championship Philosophy Committee's survey data showed overwhelming support from both the coaches and officials to stay with the NCAA rules. These are the members of the NYSPHSAA that are closest to the student-athletes and have the best knowledge of each specific sport.
- A majority of the Girls Basketball Section Coordinators support the use of the NCAA rules.
- His survey showed Section 3 voted 100% in favor of using NCAA rules, Section 7 was 93% in favor, Section 8 was 76% in favor, Section 9 was 85% in favor, Section 10 was 100% in favor and Section 11 was 100% in favor.
- Concerned that we could lose quality officials that officiate both high school and college games. If the rules were to change, would those officials still be officiating at the high school level and what impact would that have on the State Tournament because we are sending the best officials from each Section.
- The Championship Philosophy Committee did not listen to the views of the cracker barrel groups from the July Central Committee meeting where 4 of the 5 groups agreed that if it is not broken, there is no need to fix it
- 2018 Survey was conducted. Of the 709 schools that participate in girls' basketball throughout the stat 547 responded. Of those responses, 521 voted for NCAA rules and 26 voted against playing the NCAA rules. This equates to a 77% participation rate in the survey and a 95% vote in favor of continuing to use the NCAA rules.

Many of you have asked how you can help to ensure that NCAA rules continue to be used in New York State. Below are voting members that will be voting on May 2, 2019. Please reach out to them and encourage them to support the current system of using NCAA rules in girls' basketball.

Section 1: Todd Santabarbara - tsantabarbara@swboces.org

Section 2: Ed Dopp - section2athletics@gmail.com

Section 3: John Rathbun - jrathbun@section3.org

Section 4: Ben Nelson - bnsectionIV@stny.rr.com

Section 5: Kathy Hoyt - khoyt@wflboces.org

Section 6: Timm Slade - cszczesny@e1b.org

Section 7: Matthew Walentuk - Walentuk_matt@cves.org

Section 8: Pat Pizzarelli - ppizzarelli@nasboces.org

Section 9: Greg Ransom – gransom1@hvc.rr.com

Section 10: Carl Normandin - cnormandin@sllboces.org

Section 11: Tom Combs - tcombs@sectionxi.org