



# Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association NEWSLETTER

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## Pennsylvania Interscholastic Unified Sports Bocce Ball Championship Recognized in NFHS High School Today Magazine

In the latest issue of High School Today Magazine, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Unified Bocce Ball Championships was recognized. The annual Pennsylvania Bocce Championship occurs each year at the GIANT Center prior to the start of the PIAA Basketball Championships. PIAA and Special Olympics of Pennsylvania (SOPA) have been in a partnership for over 10 years. Over those 10 years they have worked together to grow interscholastic unified sports. The



PIAA/Special Olympics  
Unified Bocce Medalists

program has grown to over 371 schools statewide and representatives from all 12 of the PIAA Districts. Currently the PIAA and SOPA work together for the Unified Bocce Championships as well as the Unified Track and Field Championships. To read the full article please click [here](#) and go to page 12. For additional information on Unified Sports, please click [here](#).

## PIAA Unanimously Votes to Sanction Girls Wrestling at the May 17th Board of Directors Meeting

At its board meeting on Wednesday, May 17, the PIAA Board of Directors' voted unanimously to accept sponsorship and jurisdiction of Girls' Wrestling effective July 1st, 2023. Girls' Wrestling will become the 35th sport under PIAA jurisdiction and the 25th sport to have a PIAA inter-district championship (ie. PIAA has jurisdiction over Water Polo, Boys' Field Hockey, Gymnastics, Bowling, Indoor Track/Field, and Rifle, but no PIAA Inter-District Championships are held). Girls' Wrestling becomes the newest sport PIAA has jurisdiction over since Competitive Spirit in 2012. There are currently 111 schools in Pennsylvania that offer Girl's Wrestling. Girl's Wrestling became an emerging sport last year and has grown by 80 percent since that time. The PIAA Girls' Wrestling Championship will be held as part of the 2023 PIAA Wrestling Championships Tournament at the GIANT Center in Hershey.



## IMPORTANT DATES:

### June 15th—17th

#### Spring Sports Festival @ PSU

- Baseball & Softball Championships:  
(June 15th—16th)  
*Baseball-Medlar Field,  
Softball-Beard Field  
Penn State University*
- Boys Volleyball & Lacrosse Championships:  
(June 17th)  
*Volleyball-REC Hall  
Lacrosse-Panzer Stadium  
Penn State University*

### July 29th—31st

- Student Leadership Summit  
*Indianapolis, Indiana*

### August 4th—5th

- Officials Convention  
*Hilton Harrisburg,  
Harrisburg*

### September 23rd

- 17th Annual PIAA Foundation Cross Country Invitational  
*Parkview Cross Country Course, Hershey*



**Pennsylvania Interscholastic  
Athletic Association  
(PIAA)**

goal is to provide educational,  
character building opportunities for  
students through athletics.

**316,400**

**Student-Athletes**

**1,441**

**Member Schools**

771 High Schools

670 Junior High Schools

**1 GOAL**



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**Important Links:**

[Rule Interpretation Meetings](#)

[Become an Official](#)

[Board of Directors Minutes](#)

[School Log-in](#)

[Classifications](#)

[Competition Formula](#)

[In-Season Transfer Infographic](#)

[Official Ball List](#)

[Name, Image, and Likeness \(NIL\)](#)

[Handbook](#)

**NFHS Hazing Prevention Essay Contest**

NFHS along with the Hazing Prevention Network will once again host a High School Essay Contest. The contest is designed to encourage students to discuss hazing and how to prevent it at the High School level. To enter the contest High School Students can write a 500-600 word essay pertaining to this year's theme "How can I make a difference against hazing?". The top three essays will receive a cash prize from \$150-\$500. Deadline to submit an essay is June 1st. For additional information on the contest please click [here](#).

**NFHS Rule Changes for  
the 2023-2024 School Year**

[Basketball Rule Changes](#)

[Swimming & Diving Rule Changes](#)

[Wrestling Rule Changes](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**PIAA Officials' Appreciation Weeks:**

**Fall Sports:**

October 1st—7th, 2023

**Winter Sports:**

Jan. 7th—13th, 2024

**Spring Sports:**

April 14th—20th, 2024

**High School Today Magazine**

In the May Issue of High School Today Magazine Head Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball Coach, Michael McCurdy, of Tacony Academy Charter was featured in the Voices on the Nation section. In this section Coach McCurdy and other coaches across the country answer the question, "What can student-athletes do to prevent bullying, hazing and inappropriate behavior? To read the coaches answers, click [here](#) and go to page 64.



Michael McCurdy



**Pennsylvania Coaches Association**

PIAA Coaches (new and veterans) please consider the importance of becoming a member of the Pennsylvania Coaches Association for the many benefits, specifically the insurance coverage.

Membership Benefits Include:

- [NFHS Coaches' Association Insurance: \\$1M General Liability, Accidental Medical, Catastrophic Medical;](#)
- Representation on PIAA Board of Directors, Coaches' Advisory Committee, and Sport Specific Steering Committees;
- Membership in National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association;
- Accidental Death & Dismemberment;
- Representation on NFHS Rules Committees.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Pennsylvania Coaches Association.

Click [here](#) to apply.

