

Annual Report to the 146th General Assembly

Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

Purpose: The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) was created under House Bill No. 475 of the 141st General Assembly. The DIAA mission is to preserve and promote the educational significance of interscholastic athletics; ensure that interscholastic sports remains compatible with the mission of the 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 Department of Education to implement this charge.

Rules and Regulations: The DIAA is responsible for developing rules and regulations relating to secondary and middle school interscholastic athletics for all Delaware public schools, and such Delaware private schools which elect to become members of DIAA.

The present rules and regulations were approved by the State Board of Education in 2011, and consist of four main regulations as follows: 1006 Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association; 1007 Sportsmanship; 1008 DIAA Junior High/Middle School Interscholastic Athletics; and, 1009 DIAA Senior High School Interscholastic Athletics. The DIAA rules and regulations are developed with full input from member schools, the DIAA Board of Directors and DE State Board of Education (DOE) with the opportunity for review and comment by the general public. As a result, the rules and regulations implemented by DIAA represent the collective wisdom of all involved.

The Handbook is available on the DOE web site at

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/diaa/. Major 2011 changes include:

- Revisions to membership requirements affecting eligibility of schools for DIAA state tournaments
- Revisions to investigation and enforcement procedures
- New requirement that schools develop and implement policies regarding hazing, bullying and taunting
- Revisions to the transfer regulation intended to narrow its focus
- Revisions to the DIAA Concussion policy and pre-participation physical evaluation in response to SB #111
- Revisions to non-school day practice restrictions intended to minimize health risks associated with summer acclimatization and extended practice sessions
- Revisions to regulations related to use of influence for athletic purposes

In accordance with the requirements of 14 DE Code §303(b), DIAA regulations do not deny a student's right to participate on a non-school team similar to the school team on which he or she is a member with the authorized consent of the student's parent, custodian or guardian.

Duties Powers and Authority: The DIAA has the authority to establish annual dues for its members, establish standing committees, monitor its rules and regulations and investigate violations to its regulations.

As part of the benefit of membership, the DIAA purchases both catastrophic health insurance for its member schools and liability insurance for its tournaments and the Board of Directors. Purchasing insurance in this manner significantly reduces the cost of such insurance to member schools. One hundred percent of member schools' dues paid to DIAA are applied to the cost of this insurance coverage.

Membership & Participation: Membership in DIAA continues to prove to be a worthwhile investment for Delaware schools. DIAA's education based interscholastic athletics mission is in harmony with the mission of our member schools. Since DIAA's creation in 2002 membership has increased 42%. Membership in DIAA now stands at 101 member schools – 57 high schools (including 47 single unit schools and 10 combined middle/high schools) and 44 middle schools. When DIAA was formed in July of 2002 it had 71 members consisting of 48 high schools and 23 middle schools.

Participation in interscholastic athletics represents an important part of the educational experience of Delaware middle and high school students. Educators consider interscholastic athletics to be an important extension of the classroom where many life skills are best learned. Delaware students apparently agree. During the 2010-11 school year 29,034 students participated in interscholastic athletics at the high school level this represents the single largest extracurricular activity at DIAA member schools. This includes 15,855 males and 13,179 females (includes participation in competitive and sideline spirit/cheer). The rate of participation by females stands at 45.4% which exceeds the national rate of 41.4%. DIAA continues to see a rise in enrollment as well as participation. The number of males enrolled at DIAA member high schools is 22,565 and the number of females is 22,352 for a total of 44,917 students. Because multi-sport athletes are counted once for each sport they play it is difficult to identify the exact percentage of students who participate in interscholastic athletics but a conservative estimate is more than 50% of all DIAA member school students participate in interscholastic athletics.

Boys' and girls' basketball are the male and female sports with the largest participation rate by school, with 55 of the 57 high schools fielding a team. Football remains the male sport with the greatest number of male participants at 3,146. Girls' soccer continues as the girls' sport with the greatest number of participants at 1,581.

National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Membership: DIAA continues to be a member of the NFHS, after first becoming a member in January 1945. The NFHS is best known for writing the playing rules for most interscholastic sports. They also serve their member associations, related professional organizations, and students by providing leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities which support academic achievement, good citizenship and equitable opportunities. In 2011 the NFHS reduced membership dues from \$5,000 to \$2,500 out of consideration for several state associations that were experiencing financial difficulties.

Composition of the DIAA Board: The DIAA Board consists of 19 voting members and one non-voting member as follows:

- 1) Two school district superintendents / assistant superintendents who shall be residents of different counties.
- 2) Three representatives of school district boards of education who shall be residents of different counties.
- 3) Three public school principals/assistant principals, one of which shall be from each county.
- 4) Two public school athletic directors/ coaches who shall be from different counties.
- 5) Two non- public representatives of which one shall be a secondary school administrator and one shall either be a secondary school athletic director or coach.
- 6) One Department of Education representative, who shall be a nonvoting member.
- 7) Six public members of which two shall be from each county
- 8) One DE certified physician who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoints voting members.

The current DIAA Board of Directors with appointments by the Governor and confirmation of the Senate began its duties on July 1, 2011. Gerald Kobasa was elected Chair and Terre Taylor was elected Vice-Chair in July 2011. Ms. Taylor is the first female officer of the DIAA Board of Directors.

Six DIAA Board members were appointed by the 146th General Assembly in 2011. Four new Board members were appointed as follows: Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent, Caesar Rodney School District, replacing Dr. Diane Sole of Polytech School District; Joe Thomson, Athletic Director. Sussex Tech High School replacing Michael Wagner, Athletic Director Lake Forest High School; Dr. Rev. Rene Knight-Peguero public member representing Sussex County replacing Randy O'Neal; and, David Thomas, Vice-Principal, Capital School District replacing Eugene Montano, Principal, Capital School District. Two sitting Board members were reappointed to three year terms as follows: Ron Eby and Terre Taylor. Two positions were not filled in 2011, the Medical Member and a New Castle County Public Member leaving the Board with two vacant positions and 17 voting members.

The current DIAA Board of Directors is as follows:

2011-12 DIAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Chairperson – Gerald Kobasa
Vice Chairperson – Terre Taylor

PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

		Terms Expire
Curtis Bedford	Principal, Newark High School	2012
Edna Cale	School Board Member, Appoquinimink School District	2012
Dr. Mark Holodick	Superintendent, Brandywine School District	2013
Laura Leone	Athletic Director, Hodgson Vo-Tech High School	2013

KENT COUNTY

David Thomas	Assistant Principal, Central Middle School	2014
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald	Superintendent, Caesar Rodney School District	2014
Ron Eby	School Board Member, Smyrna School District	2014

SUSSEX COUNTY

Harvey Hyland	School Board Member, Laurel School District	2012
Robert W. Long	Assistant Principal, Sussex Central Middle School	2013
Joe Thomson	Athletic Director, Sussex Technical High School	2014

NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS

Teresa Taylor	Asst. Principal, St. Mark's High School	2014
Pam Love	Athletic Director, Wilmington Christian School	2012

PUBLIC MEMBERS

<u>New Castle County</u>	<u>Kent County</u>	<u>Sussex County</u>
Vacant	Craig Eliassen (2013)	Kate Marvel (2013)
Susan Coffing (2012)	Jerry Kobasa (2013)	Rev. Dr. Rene Knight-Peguero (2014)

MEDICAL MEMBER

Robert Walter, MD (Indefinite)

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Amelia Hodges, Ed. D. Department of Education (Non-Voting Member)	(Indefinite)
Kevin Charles, Executive Director (<i>Ex Officio</i> , Non-Voting)	(Indefinite)

The day-to-day operations of DIAA are managed by Kevin Charles, Executive Director; Thomas Neubauer, Coordinator of Officials and Events; and, Tina Hurley, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. Dr. Amelia Hodges, Associate Secretary, provides administrative oversight on behalf of the Department of Education.

Meetings of the Association: The DIAA Board generally meets on the second Thursday of each month. Minutes of these meetings are posted on the State of Delaware web page, the DIAA web page, are on file in the DIAA office, and are reviewed by the State Board of Education monthly. All meetings and agendas are posted on the State of Delaware web page in accordance with Delaware law.

DIAA Office Location: The DIAA office is located at the John W. Collette Education Resource Center in Enterprise Business Park off West North Street.

Standing Committees: The DIAA has a total of 21 standing committees. These committees are staffed by approximately 250 volunteers without whom DIAA could not accomplish its mission. There are standing committees for Rules and Regulations, Sportsmanship, Officials, and Sports Medicine as well as 17 sport specific committees. These standing committees operate under the Freedom of Information Act. In addition to the standing committees, the Delaware Interscholastic Officials Council is recognized by DIAA as the liaison for DIAA recognized officials' organizations and our member schools. A list of the 22 committees and their chairs are as follows:

- *Sports Medicine Advisory Committee- Dr. Michael Axe, Chair*
- *Rules and Regulations Committee- Terre Taylor, Chair*
- *Sportsmanship Committee- Dr. Chris Wheeler, Chair*
- *Officials Committee- Joseph Thomson, Chair*
- *Delaware Interscholastic Officials Counsel- Kelly Callahan, Chair*
- *Cross Country Committee- George Pepper, Chair*
- *Field Hockey Committee- Sharyn Wingate, Chair*
- *Football Committee- Bill Legge, Chair*
- *Boys' Soccer Committee- Bob Bussiere, Chair*
- *Girls Volleyball Committee- Deborah Corrado, Chair*
- *Boys Basketball Committee- Brian Fahey, Chair*
- *Girls Basketball Committee- Ruth Lajoie, Chair*
- *Swimming and Diving Committee- Mike Hart, Chair*
- *Indoor Track Committee- Kevin Kelly, Chair*
- *Wrestling Committee- Peter Parlett, Chair*
- *Baseball Committee- Mike Hart, Chair*
- *Softball Committee- Terre Taylor, Chair*
- *Tennis Committee- Deborah Corrado, Chair*
- *Outdoor Track Committee- Kevin Kelly, Chair*
- *Boys Lacrosse Committee- Bob Schweitzer, Chair*
- *Girls Lacrosse Committee- Debbie Windett, Chair*
- *Girls Soccer Committee- Heather Iverson, Chair*

The major function of the sport specific committees includes the management of DIAA state tournaments resulting in 29 State Championship titles awarded in 12 boys' and 11 girls' sports. Other functions include advising the DIAA Board of Directors on issues impacting each sport and specific projects.

Secondary Interscholastic Athletic Fund: The primary source of revenue used to support DIAA is derived through ticket sales at our state championship events (~85%). A special fund has been created at the Department of Education to receive and track revenue 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 (DFMS). DIAA staffs are currently working with the DOE Financial Office to evaluate current fiscal practices and make modifications as necessary.

Appeals of Decisions by the Association: During calendar year 2011, the DIAA Board of Directors heard 50 appeals for waivers of their regulations. Forty two were appeals related to the DIAA transfer regulation; four were 5th year eligibility requests and four were related to other regulations. Thirty eight requests were approved (76%) and twelve were denied. By comparison, 69 waiver requests were heard by the Board in 2010 (71% were approved) and 54 waiver requests were heard in 2009 (96% were approved).

New Initiatives and Significant Events in 2011:

Health and Safety-

Traumatic Brain Injury- In response to SB #111 passed by the 146th General Assembly, DIAA and our member schools amended our existing concussion protocol. The revised protocol adds educational components and includes the following requirements:

1. Mandatory education of interscholastic coaches in the signs and symptoms of concussions;
2. Mandatory student and parent awareness and confirmation of that awareness in the signs and symptoms of concussions;
3. Removal of an interscholastic athlete who appears to have suffered a concussion from play or practice at the time of the concussion;
4. Require the interscholastic athlete be cleared by a licensed health care professional before returning to play or practice, and;
5. Annual awareness training for officials at mandatory rules clinics.

DIAA has conducted training at all of our rules clinics for head coaches and officials. DIAA has encouraged member schools to conduct similar training at their parent nights. The NFHS has developed an excellent free online training video on concussions which can be found at www.nfhslearn.com. This course is mandatory for all interscholastic coaches. DIAA worked with our Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to develop these requirements.

Practice Regulations- In response to growing national awareness of the adverse health implications of excessive practice, particularly for fall sports, DIAA and our member schools have revised regulations regarding non-school day practice. School day practices have long been limited to 2

hours with few restrictions on non-school days. The new non-school day practice protocol is consistent with protocol recommended by the NFHS and the National Athletic Trainers Association. It limits the number of hours of practice, the number of practice session, mandates a break between sessions, mandates alteration of practice schedules based on each days heat and humidity index and requires unrestricted access to drinking water at all times.

Student Leadership- An initiative began in 2004 and continued in 2011 is the Eighth Annual DIAA Student Leadership Conference which was held at the University of Delaware Virden Center in Lewes, Delaware. Forty of Delaware's top student-athletes and nine adult mentors gathered August 5th through the 7th to listen to speakers; participate in community service programs; conduct workshops on current issues, leadership and sportsmanship; and have a little fun as well. Sebrina Perialis, William Penn High School athletic director served as the conference Director. Speakers included Tower Hill Athletic Director, Jack Holloway; United Way of DE's John Moore; University of Delaware's David Baylor; Cape Henlopen educator Jen Eckman; Caravel Academy administrator John Smith; Appoquinimink athletic director Kristy Boyd; Glasgow educator Ed Smith; Tower Hill College Counseling Administrator and coach Linda Ogden; Fellowship of Christian Athlete's Randy Chambers; DIAA's Kevin Charles and Tommie Neubauer; and, former DIAA Board member Jeffrey Hawtof. Students spent Saturday renovating the Lewes to Rehoboth bike and running path as part of their community service project coordinated by Rob Schroeder of Job Corp America. The forty student-athletes (18 male and 22 female) represented 26 different high schools from all three counties. This Conference continues to be one of the most meaningful and enjoyable DIAA events for all participants.

Sportsmanship- In 2011 DIAA presented State Champions in Sportsmanship awards to a record 16 schools. The awards recognized a school-wide effort to promote sportsmanship by everyone involved in interscholastic athletics during the 2010-11 school year. Schools recognized were William Penn High School for the 14th year; Tower Hill School for the 6th year; Concord High School, Wilmington Christian School and Sussex Vo-tech High School for the 5th year; Caesar Rodney High School for the 4th year; Cape Henlopen High School, Caravel Academy, Lake Forest High School and Phyllis Wheatley Middle School (Woodbridge School District) for the 3rd year; Conrad School of Sciences for the 2nd year; and, McKean, AI duPont, Woodbridge, Seaford and Milford High Schools won the award for the first time. This brings the total number of schools who have won the award at least once, to twenty.

Scholarship- In 2011 DIAA presented scholarships to six Senior Scholar-Athletes representing all three counties. The awards totaled \$9,000. Since the program's inception in 1996, \$107,000 in scholarships has been awarded to 78 Scholar-Athletes. Winning top awards were Grace Firestone of Tower Hill School and Ethan Lee of Seaford High School. First runner-up awards went to Lindsay Olivere of Archmere Academy and Garrett Swenson of Lake Forest High School. Second runner-up awards went to Molly Cain of Seaford High School and John Donnelly of Archmere Academy. Molly Cain was also recognized nationally by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. The DIAA Board approved \$2,000 in optional awards should future applications merit additional awards.

State Championships- During calendar year 2011 the following schools won DIAA state championships in team sports:



Indoor Track and Field:	Boys- Tatnall Girls- Tatnall
Dual Team Wrestling:	Division I- Caesar Rodney Division II- Caravel
Swimming and Diving:	Boys- Salesianum Girls- Charter School of Wilmington
Basketball:	Boys- Sanford Girls- Sanford
Baseball:	Caravel
Softball:	Caravel
Lacrosse:	Boys- Salesianum Girls- Cape Henlopen
Girls Soccer:	AI duPont
Tennis:	Boys- Caesar Rodney Girls- Caesar Rodney/ Tower Hill (tie)
Track:	Division I: Boys- Salesianum Girls- Cape Henlopen Division II: Boys- Milford Girls- Tatnall
Golf:	Caesar Rodney
Cross Country:	Division I: Boys- Salesianum Girls- Charter School of Wilmington Division II: Boys- Tatnall Girls- Tatnall
Boys Soccer:	Salesianum
Field Hockey:	Cape Henlopen
Volleyball:	St. Marks
Football:	Division I- Middletown Division II- Indian River

In addition, individual champions were crowned in indoor track, individual wrestling, swimming and diving, tennis, outdoor track and field, golf and cross country. A complete listing of individual and team champions may be found at

http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/diaa/sports/default.shtml.

Partnerships and Outreach- DIAA offered the option of online purchases of tickets to select semi-final and all finals events during the 2011 State tournament series. DIAA partnered with TicketLeap to provide this service.

In 2011, the DIAA partnered with TeamIP to provide championship apparel for students and spectators of DIAA State Championship events.

In 2011, the DIAA partnered with the Delaware Chapter of the American Lung Association in a \$10,000 grant to promote a message of anti- tobacco use. The message was delivered via public service announcements, program ads and scoreboard messages at all DIAA State Championship tournaments.

In 2011, the DIAA donated used soccer balls to a Seaford missionary expedition to Jamaica as part of an effort to provide soccer equipment to the youth in destitute areas of the country.

In 2011 DIAA partnered with NIKE, Wilson, Spalding and Longstreth to provide game balls at no expense to DIAA for DIAA state championship events.

DIAA partnered with Delaware State University and the University of Delaware to host DIAA state championship tournament games. DSU hosted Division I and II football. UD hosted girls' volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, indoor track, swimming & diving and tennis. In addition, Cripple Creek Golf and Country Club hosted the DIAA golf tournament, Killen's Pond State Park hosted the cross country meet, and Frawley Stadium hosted the DIAA baseball tournament. All other events were held at member school facilities.

Fiscal Concerns- In 2011, the DIAA Board continued the cost savings measures they initiated more than two years ago on behalf of DIAA member schools. In February 2009 the DIAA Board appointed a Fiscal Concerns ad hoc committee in response to the fiscal crisis in Delaware. In April 2009 the DIAA Board approved eight of nine points in the plan presented by the ad hoc committee. Included in these were a 10% reduction in maximum game schedules, a moratorium on state tournament expansion, a limit on the number of pre-season scrimmages, a moratorium on mandatory uniform changes by the NFHS playing rules, a directive to play more tournament events at the higher seeded member school and to enhance revenue generated through corporate partnerships.

In addition, the FY 12 DIAA budget included a modest 0.34% increase from the FY 11 budget. The FY 11 budget was a 2% decrease from FY 10. The FY 12 budget reflects a 6% reduction from the peak budget in FY 09. DIAA does not receive appropriations from the General Fund and is authorized to carry over revenues. Because the organization does not receive start up funds it must rely on carry over funds for operational expense for the first four months of each fiscal year. The Board has established a goal of 50% carry over funds. The current carry over balance stands at 79% of the annual budget.

Representation on National Committees- DIAA and our member schools continue to support and provide expertise to NFHS national committees. In 2011 the following served on NFHS Committees: St. Thomas More's Debbie Windett, NFHS Girl's Lacrosse rules committee; Sanford School's Joan Samonisky, NFHS Field Hockey rules committee; DE Volleyball Officials Association's Kelly Callahan, NFHS Volleyball rules committee; Northern DE Football Officials Association's Tom Ziemianski, NFHS Football rules and rules editorial committee; DIAA's Coordinator of Officials

Tommie Neubauer, NFHS Officials Publications Committee; and, DIAA Executive Director Kevin Charles, NFHS Annual Summer Meeting Advisory Committee, NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and the NFHS Board of Directors. Kevin Charles was elected as NFHS Board of Directors' President Elect in 2011 and will serve as President in 2012-13. With the exception of the Football Rules Committee, all associated expenses are paid by the NFHS.

If there are questions regarding this report or any other interest in the business of DIAA, please contact me during business hours at 302-736-2555.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald Kobasa

Gerald Kobasa
Board Chairman,
Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

