

**Annual Report to the 149th General Assembly and Governor of Delaware**  
**Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association**  
**January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017**

**Purpose:** The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) was created under House Bill No. 475 of the 141<sup>st</sup> 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 August of 2017, 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/Page/1670>.

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 benefits 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. Virtually all 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 75%. Membership in DIAA now stands at 118 member schools – 63 high schools and 55 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. During the 2016-2017 school year, 30,034 students participated in interscholastic athletics at the high school level. This represents the single largest extracurricular activity at DIAA member schools. This includes 16,217 males and 13,817 females (includes participation in competitive and sideline spirit/cheer). The rate of participation by females stands at 46%, which exceeds the national rate of 42.2%. Participation in interscholastic athletics is judged by many educators to be a prime motivator for many students to stay in school and achieve academic success.

Boys’ and girls’ basketball are the male and female sports with the largest participation rate by school with 59 different member schools fielding a boys and/or girls team. Football remains the male sport with the greatest number of male participants at 2,777. Girls’ soccer continues as the girls’ sport with the greatest number of participants at 1,701. 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.

**DIAA Participation Summary**

<b>Males 2016-2017</b>			<b>Females 2016-2017</b>		
<b>Sport</b>	<b>Athletes</b>	<b>Schools</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>Athletes</b>	<b>Schools</b>
Cross Country	1012	52	Cross Country	881	52
Football	2777	45	Field Hockey	1525	51
Soccer	2104	55	Volleyball	1623	56
Cheer	26	8	Cheer	1009	39
Basketball	1653	59	Basketball	1147	59
Wrestling	1040	46	Wrestling	12	8
Indoor Track	892	32	Indoor Track	868	40
Swimming/Diving	716	40	Swimming/Diving	812	41
Baseball	1525	55	Softball	1082	48
Crew	86	3	Crew	121	5
Golf	407	49	Golf	126	32
Lacrosse	1767	48	Lacrosse	1140	35
Outdoor Track	1603	47	Outdoor Track	1279	48
Tennis	455	33	Tennis	566	36
Volleyball	154	8	Soccer	1701	54
<b>16,217</b>			<b>13,817</b>		

**National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Membership:** DIAA is a proud 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 they are recognized as the leader in research and policy advocacy in the area of sport safety for interscholastic athletes.

**Meetings of the Association:** The DIAA Board of Directors meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of each month. The one exception is the Annual Meeting of the entire DIAA, which is held on the third Thursday of the month of January. Minutes of all Board meetings are posted on the State of Delaware web page and the DIAA web page. They 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.

**Composition of the DIAA Board/Staff:** 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 all voting members.

The current DIAA Board of Directors with appointments by the Governor and confirmation of the Senate began its duties in June, 2017. Dr. Bradley Layfield was elected Chair and Mr. Gary Cimaglia was elected Vice-Chair in June, 2017. Two new board members were appointed in 2017: Dr. Merv Daugherty, Superintendent of the Red Clay School District and Mr. Bruce Harris, Public Member from Kent County. Dr. Evelyn Edney, Principal at Early College High School, and Mr. Mike Hart, Athletic Director from Salesianum School, were re-appointed for a second term.

The current DIAA Staff consists of Mr. Thomas E. Neubauer, CMAA, Executive Director; Ms. Terre Taylor, Coordinator of Interscholastic Athletics; and Ms. Tina Bates, Administrative Secretary. Mr. Michael Rodriguez, DOE Associate Secretary of Student Support, provides administrative oversight on behalf of the Department of Education. Laura Makransky, Esq. DEDAG, provides legal counsel to the Board.

The current DIAA Board of Directors:

**DIAA Board of Directors, 2017-18 School Year**

**DIAA Staff**

Thomas E. [Tommie] Neubauer, Executive Director / Terre Taylor, Coordinator Interscholastic Athletics  
Tina Bates, Secretary

**OFFICERS**

Chairperson – Dr. Bradley Layfield/ Vice Chairperson – Gary Cimaglia

**PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS**

*NEW CASTLE COUNTY*

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Dr. Matthew Donovan	Principal, Middletown High School	2019
W.T. [Ted] Laws	School Board Member, Colonial School District	2018
Dr. Merv Daugherty	Superintendent, Red Clay School District	2020
Jeremy Jeanne	Athletic Director, Glasgow High School	2019

*KENT COUNTY*

Dr. Evelyn Edney	Principal, Early College High School at DSU	2020
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald	Superintendent, Caesar Rodney School District	2018
Vetra Evans-Gunter	School Board Member, Smyrna School District	2019

*SUSSEX COUNTY*

Michael Breeding	School Board Member, Woodbridge School District	2018
Dr. Bradley Layfield	Principal, Sussex Central High School	2019
Bob Cilento	Athletic Director, Cape Henlopen High School	2019

**NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL MEMBERS**

Stanley Waterman	Dean, Sanford School	2019
Mike Hart	Athletic Director, Salesianum School	2020

**PUBLIC MEMBERS**

<u>New Castle County</u>	<u>Kent County</u>	<u>Sussex County</u>
Douglas Thompson (2019)	Bruce Harris (2020)	Susanne Williams (2017)
Robert Watson, Jr. (2019)	Gary Cimaglia (2020)	Leroy Mann (2018)

**MEDICAL MEMBER**

Dr. Bradley Bley (Indefinite)

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Mr. Michael Rodriguez	Associate Secretary (Non-Voting Member)	(Indefinite)
Thomas E. [Tommie] Neubauer	Executive Director ( <i>Ex Officio</i> , Non-Voting)	(Indefinite)

**DIAA Office Location:** The DIAA office is located at the John W. Collette Education Resource Center in Enterprise Business Park. 35 Commerce Way, Suite 1 Dover, DE 19904. The DIAA Main office phone number is (302) 857-3365.

**Standing Committees:** The DIAA has a total of 22 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, Unified Sports and Sports Medicine as well as 17 sport specific committees. These standing committees operate under the Freedom of Information Act. The committees and their chairs are as follows:

- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee- Dr. Michael Axe
- Rules and Regulations Committee- Gary Cimaglia
- Sportsmanship Committee- Heath Chasanov
- Officials Committee- Bill Schultz
- Unified Sports – Gary Cimaglia
- Cross Country Committee- George Pepper
- Field Hockey Committee- Sharyn Wingate
- Football Committee- James Comegys
- Boys’ Soccer Committee- Bob Bussiere
- Girls’ Volleyball Committee- Nancy Griskowitz
- Boys’ Basketball Committee- Brian Fahey
- Girls’ Basketball Committee- Ruth Lajoie
- Swimming and Diving Committee- Mike Hart
- Indoor Track Committee- Jim Fischer
- Wrestling Committee- Buddy Lloyd
- Baseball Committee- Mike Hart
- Softball Committee- Terre Taylor
- Tennis Committee- Sebrina Perialas
- Outdoor Track Committee- Jim Fischer
- Boys’ Lacrosse Committee- Dave Oswinkle
- Girls’ Lacrosse Committee- Debbie Windett
- Girls’ Soccer Committee- Paul Booton

The major function of the sport committees includes the management of DIAA state tournaments resulting in 32 State Championship titles awarded in 12 boys’, 11 girls’ and 2 Unified sports. Other functions include advising the DIAA Board of Directors on issues affecting each sport and related sports projects. The Board created charges or a list of duties and responsibilities for each Committee during 2017.

**Rules Interpreters:** DIAA appoints rules interpreters to assist member schools, coaches and officials in the proper interpretation and application of playing rules. The 2017 DIAA rules interpreters were:

- Baseball- Dave Farone
- Basketball- Layne Drexel
- Cheer/Spirit- Whitney Reed-Pierson
- Field Hockey- Vicki Rhodes
- Football- Andy Bero
- Golf- Bill Barrow
- Lacrosse, Boys’ - JP Bennett

- Lacrosse, Girls' – Jill Fitzcharles
- Soccer- John Brady
- Softball- Diane Carden
- Swimming/Diving- Fred Killian
- Tennis- Deb Corrado
- Track and Field/Cross Country- Ralph Heiss
- Volleyball- Kelly Callahan
- Wrestling- Ross Thomas

**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) in cooperation with the DOE Financial Office.

**Waiver Requests:** During calendar year 2017, the DIAA Board of Directors heard forty-three requests for waivers of their regulations. The Board approved thirty-nine of these requests, denied two and tabled two. Recent DIAA Regulation changes have aided in reducing the number of waivers the Board needs to hear.

### **Significant Initiatives and Events in 2017**

**Legislative Change** – DIAA worked with State Representative Earl Jacques to change 14 Del Ch. 410 to remove the restriction that a student who transferred from one school of choice to another school of choice could not be granted a waiver by the DIAA Board.

**Unified Sports-** DIAA continued its relationship with Special Olympics Delaware (SODE) for the fourth year. Newark Charter defended their Unified Flag Football State Championship by defeating Smyrna. Delaware is the first state in the nation to feature Unified Flag Football. Smyrna High School repeated as the Unified Track State Champions. Eight schools began a Unified Basketball Program during the 2017-2018 winter season as pilot programs. Officials from the Indiana High School Athletic Association attended the DIAA State Football Championship Day to learn about the Unified Flag Football Program from SODE and DIAA Staffs.

### **Student Leadership Conferences**

The NFHS sponsored a **National Student Leadership Summit** in Indianapolis, IN from July 17 to the 19<sup>th</sup>. The NFHS paid all expenses for student and adult leaders, except transportation. The DIAA Board authorized the financial support of this Conference and sent two adults and three students: Sebrina Perialas, Athletic Director, William Penn High School and Co-Chair of the DIAA Student Leadership Conference; Terre Taylor, DIAA Coordinator of Interscholastic Athletics; Keegan Cahill, Newark Charter; Claudia Roncone, Saint Elizabeths High School; and Grace Sawyer, Saint Marks High School. The goal of the Summit was to employ a “train the trainers” approach to instructing the DIAA representatives on topics such as leadership, team unity, sportsmanship, character and responsible use of social media. The DIAA team was then to share what they learned at the DIAA State Student Leadership Conference.

The **DIAA Student Leadership Conference** [SLC] is an initiative that began in 2004 and has continued to 2017. The SLC brings together top student-athletes from around the state to learn the same leadership and character skills that are taught at the NFHS Conference. These student leaders are then charged with teaching these skills to student-athletes at their schools and in their Conferences. For the fourteenth straight year the SLC was held at the University of Delaware's Virden Center in Lewes, Delaware. Thirty-three of Delaware's top student-athletes and five adult mentors gathered August 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> to listen to speakers, participate in community service programs, conduct workshops on current issues, discuss leadership and sportsmanship, and have a little fun as well. Sebrina Perialas, William Penn High School athletic director and Linda Ogden, College counseling Administrator of Tower Hill served as the Conference Co-Directors. Speakers included SODE [Special Olympics Delaware] representatives Gary Cimaglia, and Kylie Frazer, Chief David Baylor, and Theresa Repole, ATC on Sports Medicine. In addition, Dave Warrick of the Delaware Comedy Troupe engaged the students in an interactive workshop and Nick Richmond of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes presented a voluntary service on Sunday morning. Other adult staff members included Ed Smith, Glasgow High School, and Tommie Neubauer and Terre Taylor. The service project was a day of activity together at Camp Barnes. SODE athletes and the DIAA student leaders participated together in games, social activities, arts and crafts, athletic competitions, dinner and ended the day with a rousing sing along by the campfire. This was the fifth year in a row that SODE and DIAA collaborated on the joint service project. The forty students and adults represented twenty-four different high schools and all Conferences and counties in Delaware.

DIAA and SODE also collaborated on a one-day statewide **Student Leadership Conference**. On November 6th, SODE sponsored a Statewide SLC for DIAA member high schools. The event was held at the Del Tech Terry Campus. Over 200 student athletes and staff attended the daylong program of national speakers, group activities and workshops. The key topics were; sportsmanship, leadership and responsible use of social media. The students and adults in attendance represented 43 DIAA high schools all Conferences and counties in Delaware.

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

**Scholarship**- The winners of the 2017 DIAA/Harry Roberts Senior Scholar-Athlete awards are listed below. The Award is named in recognition and 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.

**Male Winners**

- First: Chris Ludman, St. Mark's
- Second: Ryan Friedman, Sanford
- Third: Andrew Evan, Sussex Central

**Female Winners**

- First: Tyanna Handy, Laurel
- Second: Kendall Adkins, Charter School of Wilmington
- Third: Margaret Ford, Indian River

**State Championships-** During calendar year 2017 the following schools won DIAA state championships in the sports as listed:

**Winter**

Indoor Track and Field	Boys	Howard
	Girls	Padua
Dual Team Wrestling	Division I	Sussex Central
	Division II	Milford
Swimming and Diving	Boys	Salesianum
	Girls	Ursuline
Basketball	Boys	Smyrna
	Girls	Ursuline

**Spring**

Baseball		Caravel
Softball		Milford
Lacrosse	Boys	Salesianum
	Girls	Cape Henlopen
Girls' Soccer	Division I	Middletown
	Division II	Caravel
Tennis	Boys	Tower Hill
	Girls	Caesar Rodney
Track	Unified	Caesar Rodney
	Division I Boys	Dover
	Division I Girls	Padua
	Division II Boys	St. Georges
	Division II Girls	Tatnall
Golf		Tower Hill

**Fall**

Cross Country:	Division I Boys	Salesianum
	Division I Girls	Padua
	Division II Boys	Tatnall
	Division II Girls	Tatnall
Boys' Soccer	Division I	Salesianum
	Division II	Caravel
Field Hockey	Division I	Cape Henlopen
	Division II	Delmar
Volleyball		Ursuline
Football	Division I	Smyrna
	Division II	Delmar
	Unified	Newark Charter

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 team champions can be found at <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/1604>.



**Sportsmanship-** DIAA offers an annual statewide competition in sportsmanship. The member schools compete against a set of ten 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. Twenty-four member schools applied for the Award this year, and twenty-two won the Award. Thirty-one different member schools have now won this Award at least once in the twenty-one year history of the Award.

School	Times Won	School	Times Won
William Penn	20	Woodbridge	6
Tower Hill	12	Smyrna	5
Sussex Tech	11	Sussex Central	4
Concord	11	Saint Marks	4
Woodbridge MS	9	Charter	4
Caravel	9	Tatnall	3
McKean	8	Newark Charter School	2
Conrad	8	Brandywine	1
Caesar Rodney	7	Glasgow	1
Lake Forest	7	Mt. Pleasant	1
Sanford	6		

**Partnerships and Outreach:**

DIAA continued to offer the option of online purchases of tickets to select semi-final and all finals events during the 2017 State tournaments. DIAA contracted with State Champs to provide this service.

In 2017, the DIAA partnered with Delaware based Marketing Special Promotions (MSP) to provide championship apparel for students and spectators of DIAA State Championship events. As part of the MSP agreement, tee shirts for the Student Leadership Conference are donated by MSP.

In 2017, the DIAA collaborated with the Delaware Chapter of the American Lung Association in a \$10,000 grant to promote a message of anti- tobacco use and healthy adolescent lifestyles. The message was delivered via public service announcements, program ads and scoreboard messages at all DIAA State Championship tournaments.

In 2017, DIAA had sponsorship agreements with NIKE, Wilson, Spalding/Dudley and Longstreth to provide game balls at no expense to DIAA for DIAA state championship events.

In 2017, DIAA had a sponsorship agreement with Delaware based Crown Trophy to provide partial sponsorship of state tournament medals and trophies.

In 2017, ATI Physical Therapy sponsored the purchase of heavy plastic Sideline Passes for identification at State Tournament Events.

In 2017, DIAA partnered with the Mid-Atlantic Milk Marketing Agency via their “REFUEL, got Chocolate Milk?” campaign.

In 2017, DIAA worked in cooperation with the University of Delaware to host DIAA state championship tournament games. UD hosted Division I and II football, Unified Flag football, girls' volleyball, field hockey semi-finals and finals, boys' and girls' basketball quarterfinal, semi-finals and championship rounds, swimming & diving and tennis.

Maple Dale Country Club hosted the golf tournament, Killen's Pond State Park hosted the cross country championship meet, the Lower Sussex County Little League complex hosted the softball championship game, DE Sports hosted the girls' lacrosse championship and Frawley Stadium hosted the final three rounds of the baseball tournament. All other events were held at member school facilities.

**Fiscal Concerns-** In 2017, the DIAA Board continued the majority of the cost savings measures they initiated in 2009 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. For 2017 DIAA continued the following points that were adopted: a 10% reduction in maximum game schedules, 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. The DIAA Staff and Board are aware of rising security and venue rental costs for state tournament events that may compel DIAA to ask for an increased spending limit.

**Budget-** The DIAA Board of directors established an FY 18 budget of \$850,000. DIAA does not receive appropriations from the General Fund so they are authorized to have carry over revenues. Because the organization does not receive start up funds it must rely on carry over funds for operational expenses in the next fiscal year. The Board has established a goal of 50% carry over funds. The FY 17 carry over balance was 115% of the FY 18 projected budget.

**Representation on National Committees-** DIAA and our member schools continue to support and provide expertise to NFHS national committees. The following Delawareans served on NFHS Committees in 2017:

- Jack Holloway (Tower Hill), NFHS Wrestling Rules
- Tom Ziemianski (Northern DE Football Officials Association's), NFHS Football Rules
- Tommie Neubauer (DIAA Executive Director),
  - NFHS Boys' Lacrosse Rules Committee, Chair
  - NFHS Softball Rules Committee
  - NFHS National Council
  - NFHS National Records Committee.

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Caesar Rodney School District Superintendent, is on the NFHS Board of Directors as an At-Large member representing Sections 2 and 6. Dr. Fitzgerald becomes the third Delawarean to serve on the NFHS Board of Directors (Dale C. Farmer, 1984-87 and Kevin Charles, 2009-2013).

With the exception of the National Council and the Football Rules Committee, all associated expenses are paid by the NFHS.

If there are any questions regarding this report or any other interest in the business of DIAA, please contact me during business hours at 302-934-3166.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Bradley Layfield, Ed.D //*

Bradley Layfield, Ed.D  
Chair, DIAA Board of Directors  
Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

