

# PIAA DISTRICT IX COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 19, 2025**

The District IX Committee met on November 19, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Aaron Straub at 9:14 a.m. at Fox's Restaurant in Ridgway, PA. The following members were present: Ed Baumcraz, Bill Howard, Dr. Bill Jordan, Bud Brennen, Mike Erickson, Misty Hartle, Anita Orton, Roddy Hartle, Dave Osborne John Sherry, Roger Walter, Scott Daum, Phil Esposito, Nate Jones, Kevin Doverspike, Aaron Straub, and Bonnie Wolbert. Excused from the meeting was Dr. Josh Williams (a non-voting member).

The meeting began with a presentation from Roger Walter, the principal of Clarion Area High school, Rob Sintobin, the principal of Clarion-Limestone High School, and Davey Eggleton, the elementary principal of Clarion-Limestone Elementary School. Topic: A possible Varsity/JV baseball co-op between Clarion Area and Clarion-Limestone beginning in 2026-2027. The three administrators were thanked for sharing their views for the future.

A hearing was held at 10:15 a.m. regarding a Post Season Eligibility request from Otto-Eldred High School concerning an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student who transferred from Smethport High School to Otto-Eldred High school. The student was previously ruled ineligible in the sports of Golf and Basketball due to participating in those sports as a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at Smethport High School. At the hearing, a presentation was made by Mr. Nick Labela, Principal at Otto Eldred, the student seeking eligibility, and his father. After deliberating on the matter in an executive session, the committee voted unanimously to grant post season eligibility to the student in all sports.

## **MINUTES:**

Bill Howard made a motion, seconded by John Sherry, to approve the updated minutes of the October 16, 2025, meeting. Changes were noted under Administrative – Eligibility. The motion passed unanimously.

\* Chairman Straub called for an Executive Session of the District IX Committee at 11:22 a.m. Chairman Straub returned the meeting to Regular Session at 11:42 a.m. with no action taken in executive session.

## **FINANCE:**

Dave Osborne made a motion, seconded by Misty Hartle, to approve the updated treasurer's report and balance sheet from October 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

Scott Daum made a motion to accept the following fall financial reports: Golf (updated), Tennis, Cross Country, Volleyball, Soccer, and the D-9 game/match/event programs. Motion was seconded by Bill Howard. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mike Erickson that, effective immediately, the HOME team that has earned the privilege of hosting a D-9 playoff game will not be reimbursed for a rental fee, any custodial fees, utilities, disposal of garbage, and/or any other extraneous fees. Motion was seconded by Dave Osborne and passed unanimously.

### **COMMUNICATION AND COMMITTEE ACTION:**

NOTE: The upcoming dates for the remaining PIAA Officials' Appreciation Weeks are January 11-17 and April 5-11.

Recognition was given to Roddy Hartle for his work creating a Google sheet showing all D9 sports and their classifications for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 classification cycle.

Thank you went to Eddie Baumcratz for assisting with changing the 2025-2026 Quick Facts from a Word Document to Google sheets. Copies of the Quick Facts have been sent to the Committee, the Principals, and the Athletic Directors. Only the Committee members have editorial privileges.

Bill Howard moved to grant the D9 Wrestling League's request for a post season tournament at Redbank Valley High School on January 3, 2026. Motion was seconded by Phil Esposito. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Doverspike, seconded by John Sherry, to approve Punxsutawney Christian School's request to withdraw its membership from PIAA. Motion passed unanimously.

Roger Walter made a motion, seconded by Nate Jones, to award the 2024-2025 Sportsmanship Awards to Kane Area High School and Punxsutawney Area High School. Motion passed unanimously.

### **CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES:**

Deadline for upgrade in classifications for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 classification cycle is **December 1, 2025.**

Governor Shapiro has signed the legislation to adopt the state budget. Below are two items written into the public-school code that will impact how all of us do business.

- **Section 511.1. Admission Fees for School-Sponsored Activities**  
For school entities, including a non-public school and the PIAA, that collect fees for admission to a school-sponsored activity, cash must be accepted as a payment option. Payment options in addition to cash may also be accepted. More information is available on the PIAA website.

- **Section 1604-A. Council Recommendations and Standards**

Requires the PIAA to adopt a policy that requires the live streaming of all meetings on the PIAA’s website. Beginning January 1, 2026, requires PIAA to post a free of charge recording of an open meeting, no later than ten (10) days after the meeting, on PIAA’s website.

Chairman Straub announced the upcoming retirement of Dr. Robert A. Lombardi, PIAA’s Executive Director, at the end of December 2025. Misty Hartle moved to purchase a gift card to have presented to Dr. Lombardi on behalf of the Committee. Motion was seconded by John Sherry and passed unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATIVE: Eligibility & Co-op Requests**

**TRANSFER REQUESTS: (For 2025-2026 School Year)**

<u>Student #</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Motion/Second</u>	<u>Approve/Deny</u>
T-12	DuBois Christian	DuBois Area	B.Howard/P.Esposito	Approved – Reg (Post N/A)
T-13	Warrensburg, MO	Moniteau	M.Hartle/B.Jordan	Approved – Regular season only
FE-3	Germany	Coudersport	B.Howard/M.Hartle	Approved
EC-3	Bradford Athlete (Medical)		D.Osborne/S.Daum	Approved (waived eighteen Doctor excused absences)
PS	Otto-Eldred Athlete		K.Doverspike/E.Baumcraz	Approved – Post season (all sports at O-E)

**Co-op Applications:**

Dave Osborne made a motion, seconded by Scott Daum, to approve a co-op between Clarion Area High School (Host) and Clarion-Limestone High School (sending) in the sport of Varsity and JV Baseball. The co-op would begin in the 2026-2027 school year. The motion failed 12 (No), 2 (Yes), and 1 (Abstention). Clarion can appeal this decision to the State Board if they so choose.

Mike Erickson made a motion to modify the Ridgway (Host) Gymnastics co-op with Johnsonburg to include Brockway High School for the upcoming sport season (25-26). Dave Osborne seconded the motion. Motion passed 14-0 with one abstention.

A motion was made by John Sherry and seconded by Bill Howard to modify Bradford’s (Host) Swimming and Diving co-op with Otto-Eldred (sending) to include Smethport High School sending) beginning in the 25-26 season. Motion passed 14-0 with one abstention.

## **SPORTS SPECIFIC COMMITTEES**

The District IX Competitive Spirit Championships are scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 2025, at DuBois Area High School. Coaches' meeting is at 10:00 a.m. with the 1<sup>st</sup> performance at 11:00 a.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

NONE

### **OTHER:**

A motion was made by Bill Howard, seconded by Roddy Hartle, to adjourn at 2:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting – December 17, 2025 - VIRTUAL**

**Location – Virtual unless we have a hearing or other business**

**Time – 9:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Bonnie S. Wolbert*

Bonnie S. Wolbert  
District IX Secretary  
Female Officials' Representative