

PIAA DISTRICT IX COMMITTEE MEETING

January 21, 2026

The District IX Committee met on January 21, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Aaron Straub at 9:05 a.m. by Google Meet. The meeting was changed to a “remote meeting” due to unfavorable weather conditions. The following members were present via the internet: 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, Peter Grecco, Kevin Doverspike, Aaron Straub, and Bonnie Wolbert.

Excused from the meeting was Dr. Josh Williams (a non-voting member).

MINUTES:

Misty Hartle made a motion, seconded by Scott Daum, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE:

Misty Hartle made a motion, seconded by Phil Esposito, to approve the updated treasurer’s report and balance sheet from December 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by John Sherry and seconded by Roger Walter to accept the Competitive Spirit financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMITTEE ACTION:

An informative letter was presented from Dr. Joe Carrico, the superintendent of Clarion Area High School, and Mr. Brian Weible, the superintendent of Clarion-Limestone High School, regarding the formation of a varsity baseball co-op between the two schools beginning in the school year 2026-2027. The co-op had previously been denied by the District IX Committee in December. An appeal was filed to the PIAA Board of Directors who, in turn, overturned the decision. The Board voted unanimously to allow the co-op to be formed. The letter from the superintendents was accepted with gratitude.

Seven (7) championship sites have been selected for the PIAA Fall Championships. All sites below were selected and approved for four (4) years; 2026-2027, 2027-2028, 2028-2029, 2029-2030 sports seasons.

Championships

Golf

Tennis - Team

Tennis – Singles & Doubles

Cross Country

Field Hockey

Volleyball

Soccer

Football

Approved Sites

Penn State Golf Courses, State College, PA

Hershey Raquet Club, Hershey, PA

Hershey Raquet Club, Hershey, PA

Big Spring School District, Newville, PA

Cumberland Valley School District
Mechanicsburg, PA

Saint Francis University, Loretto, PA

Highmark Stadium, Pittsburgh, PA

Cumberland Valley School District
Mechanicsburg, PA

Dr. Bill Jordan has sent letters informing all the DIX schools about the upcoming deadline for applying for the Robert Tonkin Athletics for Life Scholarship(s) for 2025-2026.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES:

Chairman Straub gave a summary of the recent State Board Meeting.

The Committee thanked Bud Brennen for his years of service as the Male Officials' Representative. Mr. Brennen's 2-year term as the Male Official's Representative will conclude on June 30, 2026. Mr. Brennen has served in the capacity as Male Official's Representative for 16 years. His work and dedication have been exemplary.

Mr. Dan Boyer will begin his two-year term as the new Male Officials' Representative for District IX on July 1, 2026. Bonnie Wolbert will continue as the female official's representative.

With Easter Sunday celebrated on March 28, 2027 the basketball championships and playoffs for the 2026-2027 season will move up one-week next year. A schedule will be released shortly.

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>
EC	Oswayo Valley		D.Osborne/R.Walter	Approved (waived 5 Doctor excused absences) 15-0
PS	Redbank Valley		D. Osborne/Scott Daum	Approved – Post season 14-0-1
PS	Moniteau (C.F.)		S.Daum/P.Esposito	Denied – Post Season (15-0)
PS	Moniteau (A.Z.)		M.Hartle/A. Orton	Denied – Post Season (15-0)

Co-op Applications: NONE

SPORTS SPECIFIC COMMITTEES

The District IX Competitive Spirit Championships were held on Friday and Saturday, January 9 and 10, 2026, in Johnstown at the Summit Arena. Congratulations to the six (6) teams who qualified for the state championships from District IX. Those teams were the C-L/Clarion Central Wildcats, the DuBois Area Beavers, the Elk County Crusaders, the Punxsutawney Chucks, the Karns City Gremlins, and the A-C Valley/Union U-Birds. Those teams placing in the top five (5) in their division at the PIAA Championships included the A-C Valley/Union U-Birds (4th Place in the Co-ed Division) and the Elk Co. Catholic Crusaders (5th Place in the Small Division).

Team Wrestling Championships are scheduled for Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Brookville High School, Brookville, PA. A motion was made by John Sherry and seconded by Dr. Jordan to keep the INDIVIDUAL wrestling seeding the same as in the past. It should line up with the coaches' vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Basketball seeding will take place at the February 12, 2026, D9 meeting at 8:30 a.m.

A discussion on the seeding procedure for the DIX Wrestling tournament was held. On a motion by John Sherry and second by Bill Jordan the seeding procedure for Individual wrestling will remain the same as in the past.

OLD BUSINESS:

RFP's will be sent/accepted in the near future regarding awards, merchandise, and the D9 website.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OTHER:

A motion was made by Bill Howard, seconded by Misty Hartle, to adjourn at 11:39 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – February 12, 2026

Location – Fox's Restaurant in Ridgway, PA

Time – 10:00 a.m.

Seeding meeting – 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie S. Wolbert

Bonnie S. Wolbert
District IX Secretary
Female Officials' Representative