



PSADA

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

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Michael A. Gavlik, CAA

FROM THE DESK OF THE PSADA PRESIDENT



As the crisp autumn air settles across the Commonwealth and the foliage transforms our campuses into vibrant backdrops of crimson and gold, we find ourselves at one of the most exciting inflection points in the high school athletic calendar.

Our fields, courts, courses, and pools have been alive with energy since August. Now, as the regular season schedule winds down, the focus turns toward the postseason—a culmination of months of dedication, resilience, and hard work by our student-athletes, coaches, and athletic administration teams.

The fall season represents the heartbeat of interscholastic athletics in Pennsylvania. Across all 12 PIAA districts, our student-athletes have demonstrated remarkable growth and sportsmanship.

As district and state playoff brackets take shape, athletic directors are managing intense playoff schedules, neutral-site venues, and increased spectator turnouts. Ensuring safe, efficient, and welcoming environments for championship events remains our top priority.

With elevated stakes during the postseason, maintaining strict adherence to high standards of sportsmanship is paramount. We encourage all member schools to reinforce expectations with student-athletes, coaching staffs, and student cheering sections.

Beyond the scoreboard, Pennsylvania Athletic Directors continue to lead on key structural and educational initiatives shaping high school sports:

PSADA continues to champion professional growth. We encourage all members to pursue Leadership Training Courses (LTC) and national certifications (CAA, RMSAA, CMAA) through our partnership with the NIAAA.

Athletic departments statewide continue to rely heavily on our dedicated game officials. We urge all athletic directors to promote recruitment initiatives, such as the PIAA Junior Official Program, and to ensure game officials are treated with maximum respect at every venue. PIAA Officials Appreciation week is October 5-10, 2026.

Lastly, our mission extends beyond competition. Providing mental health resources, balancing academic rigor with athletic demands, and promoting multi-sport participation remain central to the student-athlete experience.

While championship banners are still being chased under the Friday night lights and on Saturday morning cross country courses, Athletic Directors know that winter preparation is already well underway.

The work of a high school Athletic Director is often behind the scenes—working long hours under field lights, adjusting schedules around weather disruptions, and managing complex event operations. Your dedication creates life-changing opportunities for thousands of young women and men across Pennsylvania.

As we celebrate our fall champions and open our gymnasium doors for the winter season, thank you for your unwavering commitment to educational athletics.

Best of luck to all teams pursuing playoff glory this fall!

Winter Readiness Checklist:

Indoor Venue Preparation

Finalize gym scheduling, verify scoreboards, sound systems, and spectator seating safety.

Coaching Certifications

Verify mandatory CPR/AED, concussion, and sudden cardiac arrest compliance for all winter coaches.

Transportation & Weather Planning

Establish inclement weather protocols and confirm bus scheduling for indoor sports circuits.

Roster & Eligibility Clearance

Ensure winter student-athletes complete physical examinations and academic eligibility checks prior to the first official practice date.

CERTIFICATION CORNER

Continuing the Commitment to Professional Excellence

Professional growth is an ongoing part of effective athletic administration. Whether you are new to the profession or have served for many years, NIAAA certification provides an opportunity to strengthen your leadership, expand your knowledge, and better serve student-athletes, coaches, schools, and communities.

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) offers three professional designations: Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA), Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA), and Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA). Each represents a commitment to continuous learning and excellence in educational athletics.

Which Certification Is Right for You?

RAA | Registered Athletic Administrator An initial professional designation recognizing qualifying education, experience, and commitment to athletic administration.

CAA | Certified Athletic Administrator A certification demonstrating professional preparation and knowledge, including successful completion of the CAA examination.

CMAA | Certified Master Athletic Administrator The NIAAA's highest certification level, recognizing advanced professional preparation and completion of a culminating project.

Recognizing Our Newly Certified Athletic Administrators

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association congratulates the following 11 athletic administrators on earning NIAAA professional certification during this reporting period. Their achievements reflect a dedication to professional development and leadership in interscholastic athletics.

Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA)

Kyle Epps - Mastery Charter School – Pickett Campus

Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA)

Chris McNeal - Freire Charter School

Amy Barr - Villa Joseph Marie High School

Kaitlyn McGurk-Douglas - Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School

Kallie Mendenhall - Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf

Tobin MacCart - Mastery Charter School – Hardy Williams Camp

Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA)

Jacob Sweitzer - Duquesne University

Taylor Andrisko - Belle Vernon Area High School

Aubrie Breisblatt - Jenkintown Middle/High School

James Riggio - Blackhawk School District

James Evans - TECH Freire Charter School

Congratulations to each recipient! Your commitment to growth strengthens educational athletics across Pennsylvania.

Upcoming CAA Examination Opportunities

Athletic administrators preparing for the CAA examination can consider these upcoming opportunities:

March 17, 2027 - Hershey

July 8, 2027 - Lancaster

October 10, 2027 - Slippery Rock University

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Whether you are pursuing your RAA, preparing for the CAA examination, or working toward the CMAA, professional certification is an investment in yourself and the students you serve. For questions about certification pathways or examination opportunities, contact:

Kevin Morgan | Athletic Director, Central Columbia School District

kmorgan@ccsd.cc • 570-387-1552

*Invest in yourself. Strengthen your profession.
Make a difference for student-athletes.*



LEADING WITH WELLNESS: INTRODUCING OUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

As athletic directors, we are committed to creating environments where student-athletes, coaches, officials, and school communities can thrive. We advocate for teamwork, resilience, and healthy lifestyles every day. Yet amid the demands of leading athletic programs, it is easy to overlook one of our most valuable resources—ourselves.

Recognizing the importance of supporting the people who lead educational athletics, the State Athletic Directors Association is proud to announce the formation of its Mental Health and Wellness Committee.

The committee was established with a simple but meaningful purpose: to promote the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of athletic directors across our state. Athletic administration is one of the most rewarding professions in education, but it also presents unique challenges. Long hours, constant decision-making, crisis management, community expectations, and balancing professional and personal responsibilities can take a significant toll

over time.

Our goal is to create opportunities for athletic directors to prioritize wellness while fostering a culture where seeking support, building resilience, and maintaining healthy habits are viewed as strengths of effective leadership.

The committee will provide educational resources, wellness programming, conference presentations, and practical strategies designed to help athletic directors manage stress, prevent burnout, and enhance both personal and professional well-being. In addition, the committee will encourage meaningful peer connections and serve as a resource for members seeking tools to navigate the challenges of athletic leadership.

This initiative is not about adding another responsibility to an already full schedule. It is about ensuring that those who dedicate themselves to serving others have access to the support, resources, and encouragement

they need to lead with confidence and purpose.

When athletic directors are healthy, entire school communities benefit. Strong leaders cultivate positive cultures, support successful coaches, inspire student-athletes, and strengthen relationships with families and stakeholders. Investing in the wellness of athletic directors is ultimately an investment in the future of educational athletics.

As we launch this important initiative, we invite every member to engage with the committee's programs, share ideas, and help us build a culture where wellness is valued as an essential part of leadership. Together, we can create an association that not only develops exceptional athletic administrators but also supports them throughout every stage of their careers.

Because great leadership begins with well-being.

PSADA HALL OF FAME

The eighth PSADA Hall of Fame Class was introduced at the Pitt Football Game on Saturday, September 12, 2026. This year's class includes: **Jeff Batzel**, former Athletic Director at Northern Bedford High School for 25 years and a member of PSADA Executive Council for 22 years, currently serving as our Secretary; **Joseph Drazenovich**, former Athletic Director at North Allegheny High School for 22 years and a member of the

PSADA Executive Council for 11 years, serving as President from 1985-86; **Brian Koontz**, former Athletic Director at Everett High School for 21 years and a member of the PSADA Executive Council for 13 years, currently serving as the PSADA Executive Director; **Jack Ray**, former Athletic Director at Altoona High School for 25 years and a member of the PSADA Executive Council for 10 years, serving as President from 1975-76

and **Dean Rossi**, former Athletic Director at Hollidaysburg High School for 25 years, was District VI Chairman and a longtime member of the PIAA Board.

The 2027 Class of the PSADA Hall of Fame will be formally inducted at the Conference Awards Luncheon on Thursday, March 18, 2027 at noon.

PSADA
COMMITTED TO *Excellence!*



PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION



2026-27 Membership & Conference Registration Form



The Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) is a statewide organization administered by and for secondary school athletic administrators. The mission of the association is to instill the need for integrity, ethical behavior, and citizenship by all involved with interscholastic athletics. The association strives for excellence by providing leadership training for all members through a professional development program. Finally, PSADA strengthens creativity within athletic administration through communication, networking, technology, and research.

PSADA is committed to supporting the expanding role of the athletic directors in secondary education through it's:

- **Professional Development Program:** A comprehensive plan designed to encompass all levels of athletic administration from novice to experienced and provide professional growth opportunities for members at both the state and national levels.
 - **Mentorship Program:** An extensive program for newly appointed athletic directors, aimed to assist them with a successful transition to a new position. This program develops a unique professional opportunity by providing assistance and guidance for both athletic directors.
 - **Awards Program:** An established program to annually recognize individuals at the state conference who have made significant contributions to interscholastic athletics and PSADA, regarding their efforts, contributions, dedicated service, and leadership.
 - **Publications:** An integrated series of publications that include the PSADA newsletters, an Information Folder, the Strategic Plan, A Guide to Evaluating Coaches, the Professional Development Booklet, etc.
 - **Scholarship Foundation:** An established scholarship award program to recognize student-athletes at the schools of award-winning athletic directors.
 - **PSADA Annual Conference:** A premiere four-day March conference, which attracts nearly 400 members and includes professional development opportunities, general sessions, and an awards banquet.
 - **Additional services and benefits:** A comprehensive Coaching Education Program; State Collegial Alliances with PDE, PSBA, PASA, PASSP, PIAA and PATS; National Liaisons with NFHS, NIAAA, and ASEP; as well as Partnerships/Sponsorships, Professional and Educational Resources, and Delegate Assembly opportunities.
- I encourage you to get involved in your future. Join PSADA and become a member of one of the most respected and influential high school athletic administrators' associations in the country.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

REGULAR: Open to anyone employed by a school district in Pennsylvania who has among their responsibilities the administration of interscholastic athletics.

RETIRED: Open to any retired person who has been a regular member and includes opportunities to serve on PSADA committees without having the ability to vote or be elected to an office.

ASSOCIATE: Open to anyone interested in interscholastic athletics, athletic administration, or in the State Association. They may attend the annual conference but do not have the ability to vote or be elected to an office.

LIFE: Granted to its past presidents and to those individuals who have been active members of the Association and have distinguished themselves in the interest of athletic administration, after receiving a majority vote by the PSADA Executive Council. Life members have full benefits of an active membership and shall not pay dues.

HONORARY: Granted to those persons who have distinguished themselves in the interest of interscholastic athletics and in the Association after receiving a majority vote by the PSADA Executive Council. Honorary members shall not have the right to vote or hold office and shall not pay dues.

INTERN/STUDENT: Open to any student interested in interscholastic athletics, athletic administration, or in the State Association. They may attend the annual conference but do not have the ability to vote or be elected to an office.



2026-2027 MEMBERSHIP FORM & CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Mail Form(s) & Payment To: Tim Foor, Financial Manager

12 Calvin Drive

Selinsgrove, PA

E-Mail: foort@shikbraves.org

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PSADA & NIAAA MEMBERSHIPS & CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

First: _____ M.I. _____ Last: _____

PIAA DISTRICT: _____

Suffix: _____ Informal First: _____ Title (CAA/Etc.): _____

PSADA Member Since: _____

School: _____

Certification: RAA CAA CMAA ATC

School Address: _____

NIAAA Membership Number: _____

City, State: _____, _____ Zip: _____

Jacket Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Female Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Phone: (____) _____ - _____ FAX: (____) _____ - _____

Shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Female Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL

Home Address: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: School Home

City, State: _____, _____ Zip: _____

Cell or Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Office Use Only

Check/Money Order # _____

Check/Money Order Date _____

School – Personal – Money Order – Cash

PSADA Membership Choices – please circle the choice that applies to you. (District 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 and <u>12 Public Schools</u> should circle Regular D5, 6, 7, 9, 10 or <u>12 Public only</u> below and enter \$0.00 for total cost. The reason for this is their District Association pays for their membership dues.)							Enter Amount Due Below (Line 1)
Regular \$50.00:	Regular D5, 6, 7, 9, 10 or <u>12 Public only:</u> \$0.00	Retired \$25.00:	Intern/Student \$25.00:	Past President: \$0.00	Associate: \$50.00		↓
NIAAA Membership Choices – please circle the choice that applies to you. (District <u>12 Public Schools</u> should circle <u>D12 Public only</u> below and enter \$0.00 for total cost. The reason for this is the <u>D12 Public Schools</u> pay for NIAAA membership)							Enter Amount Due Below (Line 2)
Regular: \$100.00	Regular <u>D12 Public only:</u> \$0.00	Retired: \$50.00	Student: \$30.00	Associate: \$100.00	Lifetime: \$1,000.00		↓
Conference Registration Choices – please circle the choice that applies to you. (Please note the cost of registration is high for those that are not members of PSADA)							Enter Amount Due Below (Line 3)
Regular Member: \$350.00		Retired Member: \$150.00	Intern/Student Member \$150.00	Associate Member \$350.00			↓
Make Check/Money Order Payable to PSADA							Total Cost
(Add Lines 1, 2 and 3 and enter to the right for total cost)							

Conference Registration Fee will increase by \$50 after February 27, 2027

Legal Updates

TRANSGENDER RULING – WHAT IT MEANS FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS*By W. Scott Lewis, J.D.*

This June the Supreme Court decided the cases of *Little v. Hecox* and *West Virginia v. B.P.J.* (now known as *West Virginia v. B.P.J.*) and addressed one of the most closely watched Title IX questions in decades: whether states may restrict participation in girls' and women's scholastic athletics based on biological sex. Although the cases arose from different state laws and legal claims, both lawsuits challenged state statutes limiting female athletic participation to athletes whose biological sex is female.

A big question leading up to the decision centered on prior 2020 Supreme Court decision, *Bostock v. Clayton County*, the Court held that employment discrimination on the basis on sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity violated Title VII, essentially saying the word "sex" in Title VII included those categories as protected classes. The thinking was, if "sex" in Title VII prohibits discrimination based on transgender status in employment, then a law or policy that on its face excludes transgender individuals would also be considered discrimination under Title IX.

However, in *B.P.J.*, the Supreme Court's answer was more nuanced than some anticipated because the Court treated sports and athletics as requiring a different legal analysis. It is important to note that *Bostock* remains good law, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, transgender status, and gender identity in employment contexts. In other words, the transgender coach is protected, but the transgender athlete is not.

Why? Well, the Court essentially said, "Because...well, sports." This is not the actual quote from the court, but it captures the essence of the opinion. Competitive athletics has long occupied a unique place under Title IX. The Court determined that safety, fair competition, physiological differences, roster opportunities, championships, scholarships and competitive balance all create considerations that do not exist in employment. So, the Court largely just accepted that sports present different legal questions requiring different analyses.

'The facts matter a lot in this case. B.P.J.'s Equal Protection claims presented interesting arguments, in that B.P.J. argued that because she had undergone hormonal treatment prior to puberty, the law was not substantially related to the State's justification of safety and competitive fairness. The Court was ultimately not persuaded by this argument, which paves the way for additional states to potentially enact restrictions on transgender female athletic participation - or not.

However, while the Court upheld the constitutionality of the state laws that prohibit participation by athletes in sports, it did not hold that Title IX requires every school to separate athletic participation based on biological sex or prohibit transgender girls and 'women from participating on girls' and women's teams. In other words, the Court said that a state can pass a law like

West Virginia or Idaho, but it does not have to. So, it is essentially a state-by-state determination.

Also, the Court did not resolve every question involving transgender students and Title IX. For example, if "sex" under Title IX 'means "biological sex" and not gender identity, what will happen when stereotypical assumptions about biological sex result in discrimination against people based on their sexual characteristics?

In other words, if a coach or administrator thinks someone is not acting "masculine" or "feminine" enough, that would likely still be sex discrimination. Many appeals courts have ruled that Title IX affords protections when sex stereotypes and assumptions about sex characteristics lead to discrimination. Those decisions are not overruled by BPJ.

This decision invites additional litigation about other related legal questions, such as the applicability of the *Bostock* analysis to bathrooms and locker rooms, among others. Those questions are already beginning to make their way through the courts.

Now, the more difficult part is determining what this decision 'means for your school or district.

1. Pay attention to your state laws. If LGBT are protected under your state laws, you are not likely to have a law like West Virginia or Idaho pass. So, your district or state association is bound by state law. (But a few districts are wanting to challenge this.)
2. Consult with your legal counsel if there is discussion of instituting a policy that restricts participation.
3. If you cross state lines to compete, know the laws in the state where you are competing if, on the off-chance, you have an athlete to whom these rules would apply.

That reality also serves as an important reminder about Title IX practice itself. The work often can't be separated from the overlapping requirements of state or local law, as well as institutional or district policy.

Lastly, pay close attention to what this means for women's sports. As the women's rights groups in sport champion this case as a victory for protecting women's sports, the next logical step is to force a re-examination of the other inequities in women's sports ~ most notably the funding and facility discrepancies. Districts would do well to do a self or external audit to determine areas of exposure and develop a plan to resolve those issues.

A Supreme Court decision like this is never the end of the conversation, just the beginning of more questions. Some old, some new, but all on the table now. Stay tuned to future issues of HST for updates.

THE AD WE CHOOSE TO BE: MOVING FROM MANAGING ATHLETICS TO LEADING EDUCATIONAL-BASED ATHLETICS

By Brian L. Koontz, CAA - PSADA Executive Director

As we move into the heart of the fall athletic season, athletic administrators across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are managing busy schedules, solving daily challenges, supporting coaches, communicating with parents, and making countless decisions that keep our athletic programs moving forward. The demands of the position are significant, and much of our work happens behind the scenes.

But amid the daily responsibilities, we must ask ourselves an important question:

Are we simply managing athletics, or are we leading educational-based athletic programs?

There is a difference.

Managing athletics involves organizing schedules, coordinating facilities, overseeing budgets, and ensuring that events run smoothly. These responsibilities are essential to our profession. However, leadership goes way beyond the daily checklist. Leadership is about building relationships, developing coaches, establishing a positive culture, and ensuring that every decision supports the educational mission of our schools.

As athletic directors, our influence extends far beyond the outcome of a game. We shape experiences that teach students accountability, resilience, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect. We also guide the adults who work with student-athletes each day and help set the standards for our programs.

Our greatest success may not be measured by championships won, but by the people we help develop along the way.

That responsibility begins with our coaches. Coaches are often the most influential adults in a student-athlete's experience outside the classroom. By investing in coach education, providing meaningful support, and maintaining open communication, athletic directors can help coaches become better leaders, educators, and role models. When we develop our coaches, we strengthen our programs and improve the experience for our student-athletes.

Leadership also requires us to examine how we approach change. Our profession has a proud history, built by dedicated athletic administrators who established the traditions and standards we value today. We should respect that foundation while recognizing that the needs of our schools, coaches, and student-athletes continue to evolve.

Respecting our past does not mean standing still. It means using the lessons of the past to build a stronger future.

This mindset is important for PSADA as well. Our association must continue to provide meaningful professional development, encourage collaboration, strengthen our professional network, and identify new ways to support athletic administrators throughout Pennsylvania. We must be willing to share ideas, learn from one another, and challenge ourselves to find better ways to serve our members and our students.

No athletic director has to do this work alone. Some of the most valuable ideas and solutions come from conversations with colleagues who understand our challenges because they face them every day. When we communicate, collaborate, and support one another, we strengthen not only our individual programs but also our profession as a whole.

As you move through the fall season, take a moment to reflect on the kind of athletic director you want to be. Are you creating an environment where coaches feel supported? Are you building relationships that foster trust? Are you making decisions that put the educational experience of students first? Are you helping prepare the next generation of athletic administrators?

The answers to these questions define our leadership.

At PSADA, we have an opportunity to continue building on a solid foundation while embracing new ideas, new partnerships, and new opportunities for professional growth. Our future will be shaped by our willingness to work together, remain committed to our mission, and recognize that our most important work is the development of people.

The future of educational-based athletics will not be determined by what we have always done. It will be determined by the leaders we choose to become and the positive impact we make on the students we serve.

Let us continue to lead with purpose, serve with integrity, and work together to make Pennsylvania's educational-based athletic programs the best they can be.

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NCAA'S NEW AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY RULE: WHY ACADEMIC READINESS MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

What Pennsylvania Athletic Directors Must Know to Protect Students' Recruiting Opportunities and Time to Compete

By Honest Game

The NCAA's new age-based eligibility model raises the stakes for academic readiness.

Once a student-athlete's five-year eligibility period begins, time spent academically ineligible does not stop the clock. A missing NCAA-approved course or insufficient Core GPA can therefore cost more than a delayed college debut, it can put recruiting opportunities at risk and reduce the time available to compete.

The rule does not increase NCAA academic requirements. **It increases the consequences of being unprepared.**

For Pennsylvania Athletic Directors, the priority is clear: identify and address academic eligibility gaps while students still have time to fix them. Waiting until graduation, or until a college coach requests a transcript, can leave students with fewer options.

What the New Rule Changes

Often called "5-in-5," the new NCAA Division I and Division II model establishes a continuous five-year eligibility period. It does not guarantee every student five seasons of competition.

The period begins at the earlier of initial full-time college enrollment and attendance, including at a two-year college, or the beginning of the regular academic year following the student's 19th birthday. For birthdays from September 1 through December 31, the age-based trigger is the fall term in the next calendar year, unless college enrollment starts the clock earlier.

Once the period begins, it runs continuously. Sitting out because of academic ineligibility or injury does not preserve time for later. The new model removes traditional athletics redshirts and medical-hardship and eligibility-extension waivers. Limited exceptions remain for pregnancy, active-duty military service, and official religious missions.

Students need to arrive academically eligible to make the most of their available time to compete.

Why the Class of 2027 Needs This Information Now

Students initially enrolling full-time at any college in fall 2027 or later will be subject to the age-based model only. Students first enrolling during the 2026 - 27 academic year fall under transition provisions allowing the more beneficial outcome under the previous or new rules.

Current seniors need this information before making decisions about early graduation, spring college enrollment, a gap year, or postgraduate study. Younger students need academic monitoring now, while they still have time to adjust schedules, complete required courses, and improve their Core GPA.

Before families commit to an enrollment timeline, connect them with the prospective college's compliance office. **A decision intended to create more opportunity can reduce the time available to compete if the eligibility implications are overlooked.**

Academic Eligibility Belongs in Every Recruiting Conversation

College coaches invest in recruits they believe can contribute to their programs. Academic uncertainty introduces another risk: will the student be cleared to compete when needed, and how much eligibility time will remain?

The recruiting implication is clear: demonstrating academic readiness can give a college program greater confidence in a recruit. Unresolved eligibility gaps may make that student a riskier investment and narrow their options.

Athletic ability can attract a coach's attention. Academic eligibility helps a student act on that opportunity.

Graduation does not guarantee NCAA eligibility. A recruiting offer does not resolve an academic gap. And five years of potential eligibility does not guarantee five years on the field.

Schools need a shared view of academic readiness across athletics and counseling so students and families understand where they stand before making recruiting and enrollment decisions.

A Fall Action Plan for Pennsylvania Athletic Directors

Bring athletics and counseling together now to review college-bound student-athletes. Prioritize seniors and identify younger students who need intervention.

Confirm NCAA academic progress: Division I requires 16 NCAA-approved core-course credits and a minimum 2.3 Core GPA. Division II requires 16 approved core-course credits and a minimum 2.2 Core GPA. Division I also requires 10 core-course credits - including seven in English, math, or science - before the seventh semester. A transcript GPA or progress toward a Pennsylvania diploma alone does not establish NCAA readiness.

Verify the school's NCAA-approved course list: Students may be passing classes that fulfill graduation requirements without those courses counting toward NCAA eligibility. Review new courses, course-name changes, and outstanding NCAA reviews before students depend on those credits.

Check coursework before plans change: Review transfer credits and proposed dual-enrollment, virtual, or credit-recovery courses. Confirm what counts toward NCAA requirements before approving an accelerated graduation plan. Early graduates still must meet academic eligibility requirements.

Review age and enrollment timing with families:

Record the student's expected graduation date, intended college start term, and 19th birthday. Ask about postgraduate study or delayed enrollment, and involve the prospective college's compliance office before assuming a year away will preserve eligibility.

Assign responsibility and follow through:

Establish who monitors academic records, maintains the NCAA course list, and follows up with families. Recheck progress after grading periods, schedule changes, and transfers. Give every identified gap a clear next step, an owner, and a deadline.

The goal is to resolve academic gaps before a recruiting opportunity, roster spot, or college start date is at risk.

How Honest Game Helps Schools Act Earlier

Honest Game is the trusted academic eligibility and compliance partner for education. It tracks NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA academic eligibility, giving administrators, counselors, coaches, students, and families real-time visibility into academic progress and college athletic readiness.

Schools and districts use Honest Game to identify at-risk students earlier, simplify NCAA portal maintenance, and reduce manual errors and last-minute surprises. A shared system across athletics and counseling helps staff act while students still have options.

Knowing the rules is one step. A system that applies them to every student-athlete helps protect opportunity.

Are Your Student-Athletes Academically Ready for the New Eligibility Clock?

Your team should be able to answer that question before a college coach asks.

Please [grab a time to learn how Honest Game can support your school or district](#).

We'll discuss how to identify academic eligibility gaps, strengthen NCAA course-list compliance, and give staff and families a clear view of student readiness.

Act now - while students still have time to address the gaps that could cost them recruiting opportunities and time to compete.

SEEKING ATHLETIC DIRECTORS TO OVERSEE AND TEACH NIAAA LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSES IN YOUR PIAA DISTRICT

As we continue to strengthen professional development opportunities across the Commonwealth, PSADA remains committed to making the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Leadership Training Institute (LTI) courses more accessible to our members. These courses—designed by athletic administrators for athletic administrators—provide essential knowledge, best practices, and tools to help us lead education-based athletic programs with excellence, integrity, and effectiveness.

To expand local access beyond the annual conference and online/webinar formats, we are actively seeking qualified Athletic Directors willing to oversee and teach NIAAA LTI courses within their PIAA District. By building a stronger network of district-level instructors, we can offer more convenient, in-person professional development opportunities closer to home for our colleagues.

Why This Matters

The NIAAA LTI curriculum (currently more than 50 courses) supports everything from foundational skills for new administrators to advanced topics in leadership, risk management, facilities, coaching education, and program evaluation. Completing these courses is also a key pathway toward NIAAA certifications such as Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA), Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA), and Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA). Local delivery helps more of our members advance their professional growth while earning Act 48 credits through PSADA's approved provider status.

What We Are Looking For

We need Athletic Directors in each PIAA District who are interested in:

- » Overseeing the coordination and delivery of LTI courses in their district
- » Serving as instructors/facilitators for specific courses

Ideal candidates will have experience as athletic administrators, a commitment to professional development, and a desire to support colleagues across their PIAA district. Standard NIAAA requirements for state/local faculty typically include completion of LTC 501 (Foundations of Athletic Administration), LTC 790 (Instructional Methods and Techniques), and the specific course(s) you wish to teach, along with guidance from our state LTI coordinators.

Benefits of Serving

- » Deepen your own expertise while giving back to the profession
- » Expand your network across your PIAA District and the state
- » Help grow the next generation of athletic administrators
- » Contribute to PSADA's reputation as one of the leading state associations in the nation

If you are interested in learning more about serving as a district-level instructor or overseer of NIAAA courses, please reach out. We are happy to discuss the process, available courses, training support, and next steps.

Contact: Arnie Fritzius CMAA, Chair, PSADA Professional Development, ALFritzius@gmail.com

WHO'S WHO

Frank Barletta

Full name: Fred Barletta

School: Hazleton Area School District

Years in athletic administration: 38 years total - 20 years as ad at Hazleton Area HS; 8 years as Assistant AD at Hazleton Area HS; 10 years as Junior High AD at West Hazleton

Years on PSADA executive council: 14 years

Tell us a little about your background: BS in Education, M. Ed, 35 years teaching at the junior and senior high levels. Married to wife Paula for 40 years, have 2 sons and 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren. Spent 18 years as sports director on cable tv, 20 years as a sports director on radio doing play by play.

What has been one of your most rewarding experiences as an athletic administrator: Watching an undergo achieve success or someone that is not a well known athlete achieve something that noone would have thought would have happened.

What advice would you give to a new or aspiring athletic director: Follow your passion, if you are looking for recognition, try another profession and believe in yourself.

What is something people might be surprised to learn about you: I am a music, history, and sports trivia junkie.

Do you have a favorite quote or motto: Don't sweat the small stuff, it will all work out.

When you are not at work where can we find you: With my family or watching the NY Yankees or NY Giants, or in a book store checking out sports memorabilia or lionel trains.





STRONGER LEADERS.
STRONGER SCHOOLS.
STRONGER STUDENTS.

LEAD. IMPACT. INSPIRE.

THAT'S WHAT PSADA IS ALL ABOUT.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR:

- ✓ LEADER
 - ✓ MENTOR
 - ✓ ADVOCATE
 - ✓ PROBLEM SOLVER
 - ✓ GAME CHANGER
- MAKING A DIFFERENCE
EVERY DAY

A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION ADMINISTERED **BY**
AND **FOR** SCHOOL ATHLETIC DEPARTMENTS



INTEGRITY, ETHICAL BEHAVIOR & CITIZENSHIP

These are the foundation
of our profession and the
communities we serve.



STRENGTHENING CREATIVITY IN:

- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Research

AS A PSADA MEMBER, YOU GAIN ACCESS TO:



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Earn Act 48 hours
through high-quality
learning experiences
and resources.



MENTORSHIP

Connect with
experienced
leaders and grow
your leadership
journey.



AWARDS

Recognize
excellence in
athletics and
celebrate outstanding
achievements.



PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

Stay informed with
our magazine,
newsletters and
resource tools.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Support for students
pursuing careers
in athletic
administration.



CONFERENCES & EDUCATION

Annual Conference
and workshops
focused on today's
topics and trends.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Custom programs
and learning
opportunities
throughout
the year.

WHY *PSADA*?

- ✓ Be part of a statewide network of athletic leaders
- ✓ Advocate for school athletics and student-athletes
- ✓ Access valuable resources and expert guidance
- ✓ Stay ahead of the challenges facing our profession
- ✓ Make a difference in your school and community

*Together, We Lead.
Together, We Make an Impact.*



ADVOCATE

Strong voice for
athletic directors
and students
across Pennsylvania.



COLLABORATE

Build relationships
and share ideas with
ADs statewide.



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to lead with integrity
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AND THE STUDENT-ATHLETES THEY LEAD.



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