

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:02 p.m.
Greetings and introduction
Prayer
- II. **Roll Call**
All teams present.
- III. **Approval of 2026 Preseason Minutes**
Motion #1: (Darrow/Kanzer) Motion to accept the meeting minutes from February 11, 2026. 24 in favor/0 opposed. Motion Carries.
- IV. **Award Distribution**
- V. **School and Team Updates**
 - A. *Review of Team Mergers:* St. Petronille formally objected to the merger of Sts. Peter and Paul and All Saints. The coach from Sts. Peter and Paul shared roster numbers broken out by grade to demonstrate the disparity between the number of SSPP athletes vs. ASCA. SSPP athletes comprise approximately 75% of the roster. It was recommended that ASCA consider joining another smaller team. This merger will be reevaluated at the preseason meeting.
 - B. *Universal List:* As league positions are changing, the Universal List will be updated. The Secretary will send the updated version to the league.
- VI. **League Positions**
The following Executive Board positions were elected:
 - A. President position was filled by Notre Dame. John Darrow will assume the position.
 - B. Safety Officer will stay with St. Petronille. Craig Cudzilo will remain in the position.
 - C. Rules Chair will stay with St. Francis Xavier. Jeremy Strayer will remain in the position.
 - D. Scheduling Chair will be filled by St. Raphael through the Universal List. Chair TBD by St. Raphael.
- VII. **New Format Feedback and Proposals**
 - A. *Summary of Feedback:* John Darrow shared a summary of the feedback that was gathered throughout the season on the new format.
 - 1. Overall, there was positive feedback to combined grade meets, use of FAT, and IESA participation. Note to include IESA State Recognitions in the post-season meeting agenda going forward.
 - 2. While check-in procedures were challenging at the beginning of the season, by the League Finals meet, the process was streamlined. Secretary to work with St. Francis to document Check-In procedures.
 - 3. League Finals meet was longer than anticipated. The League Finals meet concluded at 3:30 p.m.
 - 4. Field event conflicts not handled consistently or according to documented procedure
 - 5. Field event rules were not enforced. Discus procedure was noted.
 - 6. Concessions were not offered at all meets. John Darrow reminded the league that schools can run their own concessions as a fundraiser. Some host schools also volunteer to run concessions.
 - B. *League Finals:* John Darrow also presented a summary of the top recommendations for the League Finals for open discussion and consideration. For each recommendation, there was a vote by show of hands which recommendations to consider further.

1. Recommendation to return to the AM/PM format with JV in the morning and Varsity in the afternoon. Discussion included concerns that we would lose Varsity athletes with the old format. It was also noted that in prior years, the League Finals meet often ran into the early evening, and that there were ample opportunities to reduce the meet time by 1-2 hours by combining heats of the distance events and having League Finals at an 8-lane track. It was noted that there should be a 20-minute break at the switch and that teams should set expectations with parents that the League Finals meet runs longer. *General consensus:* Keep the combined meet format for League Finals.
 2. Recommendation to return to the Open 100M dash concept (only if no AM/PM format). Staging officials noted that the 100M dash ran smoothly and that the hold-up was not that event. *General consensus:* Leave 100M dash as-is.
 3. Recommendation to reduce field event entries to two for HJ and three (reduced from four) for all other field events. It was noted that long jump was particularly crowded at League Finals. *General consensus:* Reduce field event entries. This will be formally proposed by the Events Committee at the preseason meeting.
 4. Recommendation to limit field event practice throws/jumps to 1 (only if no AM/PM format). There is concern that it is difficult for jumpers to find their marks with only one practice attempt. *General consensus:* Keep as-is.
- C. All Meets
1. Recommendation to add 1600 distance medley relay (DMR), replacing the 800M sprint medley relay. The DMR is an IESA event that includes sprints and middle distance legs. Recommendation to limit entries in this event to 1 JV entry (5th & 6th graders) and 1 Varsity entry (7th and 8th graders). In IESA, this event is run first. Recommendation to align to the IESA calling order of events. This will be formally proposed by the Events Committee at the preseason meeting.
 2. Recommendation to combine grade races (JV - 5th & 6th) and (Varsity 7th & 8th) for the distance events 800M / 1600M run / 4x400 relay, when feasible. *General consensus:* In favor of this change. This will be formally proposed by the Events Committee at the preseason meeting.
 3. Recommendation to start running events at 8:00 a.m. *General consensus:* In favor of this change. This will be formally proposed by the Events Committee at the preseason meeting.
 4. Noted that the league was very lenient this year and did not enforce the "no team camps on infield" rule. As check-in procedures have improved, this rule will be enforced next year.
 5. Recommendation to amend discus and shot rules to align with the IESA. Currently, there is a weight variance between IESA and SPL rules. At some sectionals, the IESA required a wood discus with metal rims whereas the SPL requires a rubber discus. This will be reviewed and formally proposed by the Events Committee at the preseason meeting.
- D. Weeks 1 & 2 Meets:
1. Recommendation to allow three attempts for the high jump, long jump, and triple jump. It was suggested that the Games Committee could make this call based on number of participants. The Rules and Events Committees will discuss this recommendation prior to the preseason meeting.
 2. Noted that the last minute change to have girls run first at a Week 2 meet caused athletes to drop out last minute.

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Scheduling - Proposal to move the John Mulholland Relays to Week 0. There was low participation in the meet for 1A/2A schools, and many athletes missed the opportunity to participate in this fun event because of Sectionals. Week 0 meets are difficult to schedule because of Easter, but it does work in 2027. Recommendation to treat this meet as a “rust buster” and to eliminate field events for this meet only. Events Committee to recommend new Meet Administration for the John Mulholland Relays in accordance with these recommendations.
- B. Proposed schedule as follows:
 - 1. Week 0 - John Mulholland Relays - 4/10
 - 2. Week 1 - 4/17
 - 3. Week 2 - 4/24
 - 4. League Finals - 5/1
 - 5. Sectional 1A/2A - 5/8
 - 6. Sectional 3A/4A - 5/14
- C. Rules: No update.
- D. Events: No update.
- E. Treasurer
 - 1. Review of finances - The league is in a surplus, but it is noted that Palatine Pack fees will go up next year due to the complexity of our meets. In addition, we had lower than anticipated track rental fees this year. We booked Willowbrook twice, which was favorable to the league, and Hinsdale South has not invoiced us.
 - 2. Recommendation to have a fee schedule based on roster size and using a “per athlete” cost. A proposal will be sent to the league for review.
 - 3. Proposal to amend Dues and Fees requirements. If a team wants to temporarily withdraw from the league, they will no longer be required to pay a discounted rate for the year. Rather, they will pay a \$100 re-entry fee when they rejoin the league. Teams must notify the league by January 31 of the calendar year of this intention to withdraw without further penalty. **Motion #2** (Busche/Darrow) Motion to adopt new withdrawal fee requirement. 24 in favor/0 opposed. Motion Carries.

IX. Sub-committee Reports

- A. Equipment: With the new check-in procedures, it is recommended that the league procure additional bullhorns and replace existing bullhorns that don't work well.
- B. Awards: No update.
- C. Safety: No update.

- X. League Records:** Confirmed that per the new rules, all FAT scores are eligible for League Records. Coaches and ADs should submit new league records to John Darrow with name, age, event, and the new time/mark. John Darrow will update the website, and the league records will formally be approved at the spring preseason meeting.

- XI. Open Forum:** Clarification that the prohibition on 4th graders participating in practice was removed by vote at the preseason meeting. Schools are still subject to the rules of their dioceses and the IESA (if they participate). Diocese of Joliet Superintendent Dr. Quaid does allow 4th graders to practice with teams, but as he is retiring, the incoming superintendent will need to be consulted by individual schools.

- XII. Meeting Adjourned: Motion #3** (Kanzer/Twohy) Motion to adjourn. 24 in favor/0 opposed. Motion Carries. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

2026 SPL Track and Field Postseason Meeting Postseason Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2026