



## **“The Neil Rosa Athletic Program of Excellence”**

**“The Neil Rosa Program of Excellence” Submission of Data Cover Sheet**

**Submitting School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Athletic Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Submission:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal’s Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please organize your data in the following order and identify each category within your data. Where multiple examples are provided within a category, please title each example for clarity.

1. Philosophy of Education-based Athletics
2. Education Strategies
3. Risk Management
4. Access/Equity
5. Assessment
6. Technology/Media
7. Sports Medicine
8. Innovation/Creativity
9. Continuous Improvement



## **“The Neil Rosa Athletic Program of Excellence”**

### **Purpose:**

To recognize programs that are doing a superior job of conducting diverse activities with a focus on providing a safe and positive experience for all participants - including athletes, parents, and coaches. These schools demonstrate best practices within education-based athletic programming on an ongoing basis.

The objective of the “*Neil Rosa Athletic Program of Excellence*” is to recognize those New Jersey interscholastic athletic departments who are purposefully educating and supporting the mission of education-based athletics in New Jersey. Defining success based solely upon “wins and losses” or championship trophies miss the mark of what our interscholastic athletic programs should be targeting. The award is designed to honor and celebrate those school athletic departments that are attempting to shift the sports culture toward the genuine purpose of why athletics are a part of our school and community.

### **Application Process:**

As such, the collection and submission of data are meant to be a reflection of what schools are already doing to underscore the mission of education-based athletics. To create a level of consistency and to maintain an appropriate level of professionalism, submission of school data should follow this protocol:

- **All documentation must be submitted ELECTRONICALLY to Robert Haraka, Athletic Director at Morris Hills High School, [rharaka@mhrd.org](mailto:rharaka@mhrd.org), by NOVEMBER 15, 2022.**
- **HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
- It is highly recommended that the applicant create a Google folder in order to share documentation and evidence with the Program of Excellence Review Committee. The folder should be organized in a manner that is consistent with criteria domains outlined below.
- Awards will be presented annually at the DAANJ Workshop (March).
- Please include the attached “Cover Sheet” with submission.
- Questions regarding the award and data submission can be directed to the appropriate POE Sectional Representative, as follows:

Tripp Becker, Hopewell Valley (Central)  
Carl Buffalino, South River (DAANJ Trustee)  
Derek England, Watchung Hills (North II)  
Steve Fortis, Absegami (South)  
Rob Haraka, Chair, Morris Hills (DAANJ Trustee)  
Gus Kalikas, A.L. Johnson (DAANJ Trustee)  
Tom Mullahey, Clifton (North I)

**Award Criteria:**

The Athletic Director must be a DAANJ member in good standing. Applicants may submit data (as indicated below) at any time of the school year.

- An individual school may win the award once during a 48-month period.
- All data submitted must have been deployed, created or accomplished within the past 12-month period at the time of submission.
- Submissions will be reviewed by a committee composed of DAANJ members from the four sections of the state, as well as members of the DAANJ Board of Directors.
- Recognition of schools/athletic departments for the attainment of the award will be made at the annual DAANJ Awards Banquet.

**Criteria Domains:**

1. Philosophy of Education-Based Athletics
2. Education Strategies
3. Risk Management
4. Access/Equity
5. Personnel and Program Assessment
6. Technology/Media
7. Sports Medicine
8. Innovation/Creativity
9. Continuous Improvement

**Provisions for submission of evidence:**

**1. Philosophy of Education-based Athletics**

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Athletic department philosophy statement which *specifically identifies* the mission of interscholastic athletic programs as extensions of the curricular/academic program within the school district. The statement should include the *educational objectives* of the athletic department/programs.
- Evidence of Board of Education adoption of athletic department philosophy.
- Evidence of athletic department philosophy posted in/on following:
  - Athletic Department Handbook
  - Coach/Athlete/Parent Handbook
  - Athletic department statement on the school website
  - Coaches job descriptions
  - Vacancy Postings
  - Long-range strategic plan

**2. Education Strategies**

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance at the annual DAANJ Workshop and a member in good standing
- Serve as a presenter at the DAANJ in the prior three years of this application
- Serve as a presenter at the NIAAA in the previous three years of this application
- Completion of at least one Leadership Training Course (LTC)
- Have you published articles/books relative to Athletic Administration
- Attainment of one or more of the NIAAA certifications:
  - RAA
  - RMSAA
  - CAA
  - CMAA
- Show evidence that you published books or magazine articles
- Earned a Master's degree in Education or Athletic Administration
- Earned a Doctorate degree in Education or Athletic Administration

- The applicant school's athletic administrator must be a member of the DAANJ for the school year of the award submission
- NIAAA Membership
- Regular coaches meetings (pre- and in-season)
- In-services specific to interscholastic athletic topics
- Mentoring
- Strategic planning committee
- In-house seminars on media/public relations
- Promotion of *Accredited Interscholastic Coach* certification (NFHS online courses)
- Promotion of Sport Specific Certifications (NFHS online courses)
- All Coaches are required to take NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching
- Maintains documentation of all coaches' certifications and professional development activities

### 3. Risk Management

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Provide evidence of cautionary statement provisions shared with parents and students (per sport)
- Describe protocols currently in place to assess atmospheric (heat, humidity) and severe weather (lightning) emergencies for athletic teams.
- Provide policy documentation that coaches are required to chart cautionary practices. For example: contact in football; pitch counts; safety checks of player equipment, facility safety checks
- Training of public address announcers to enhance a safe athletic environment. For example emergency information; sportsmanship statements
- Provide documentation of coaches orientation of 14 legal duties /related school safety policies
- Provide evidence of process for yearly ongoing coaches professional growth training for First Aid, Heat Acclimatization, Concussion Education, etc.
- Provide examples of Emergency Action Plans, such as:
  - EAP On-site Plan
  - EAP Off-site Plan
  - Active Shooter
  - Bomb Threat
  - Violence and Gang Activity
  - Spectator Ejection Policies and Procedures
- Evidence of AED access and utilization
- Provide documentation of your administrative practice to minimize risk/liability (Examples: equipment safety checklist; Gmax recording; reconditioning)

### 4. Access/Equity

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Facility inventory (listing of boys and girls facilities, age/condition of facilities, fiscal support for upkeep, etc.)
- Line-item budget comparisons (by sport; by gender)
- Title IX surveys and/or studies
- Provisions and accommodations for students with disabilities (*"How are special needs students engaged within your interscholastic athletic programs?"*)
- Evidence of coach's pre-season parent meetings
- Provide documentation of Parent / Athlete communication protocols
- Evidence of a Unified Sports Program

### 5. Personnel and Program Assessment

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Description of the process utilized to evaluate and assess coaches within your interscholastic athletic program. More than just the evaluation tool (form), what protocol is utilized to review and target improvement within the coach(es) and the sport-specific program?

- Evidence that the assessment program focuses on educational values
- The assessment program is used to prioritize resources to implement improvement of programs
- Athletes provide opinions in the assessment program
- A document that parents provide opinions in the assessment of programs
- Documentation of tools and timelines used to discontinue a sports program
- Documentation and protocols to add a sports program

## 6. Technology/Media

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Posting and accessibility of team schedules
- Use of electronic media for communicating Athletic Department information (i.e. schedules, alerts, registration/medical clearance procedures, contest cancellations, department policies, etc.) with coaches, parents, students, and community members.
- Local/School/Public media access to interscholastic sports programs and events
- Online feedback and survey opportunities for stakeholders and/or community
- Evidence of utilization of Student Information Systems for ensuring and monitoring academic eligibility
- Utilization of an on-campus lightning detection system
- Utilization of a live streaming platform
- Evidence of student education regarding proper use of social media
- Utilization of a digital ticketing system for home events
- Communication of Acceptable Use Policies to coaching staff
- Examples of presentations to BOE where technology was used
- Documentation of Department web site availability of public access information
- Online coaching evaluation tools

## 7. Sports Medicine

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Facility layout
- Entry and exit routes (particularly for EMS and evacuation routes)
- Location of rescue and first aid equipment
- Location of landline telephones with emergency numbers and personnel posted
- Location of emergency supplies (e.g. flashlights, fire extinguishers, masks, gloves, etc.)
- Supply Documentation of:
  - A full time Certified Athletic Trainer with no other duties
  - Certified Athletic Trainer under temporary or contract
  - Team Physicians coverage at home football games
  - Orthopedic doctor coverage at home football games
  - School district supplies free sports physicals
  - Volunteer coach disclaimer/permission authorization for emergency treatment
  - Documentation of coaches access to student-athlete emergency information
  - Evidence of approved instructional progressions of sports with the high impact of injury
  - Evidence of medical training for coaching staff

## 8. Innovation/Creativity

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- High School athletic teams engaged with K-8 students
- Students who audition and perform the “National Anthem” at athletic events
- Non-participant student involvement; e.g., student media crew for graphics or video board at game events, student host squad for guest teams or game officials, etc.
- Student Leadership opportunities (ex: Student-Athlete Advisory Council)
- Student body sportsmanship efforts
- Students as greeters to visiting teams or ambassadors
- Student interns in the athletic office

- Community stakeholder engagement with planning, advisory or feedback groups related to interscholastic athletics
- Student-athlete community service programs
- Athletic Awards Programs
- Presentations to students and parents such as “Hazing”, etc.
- Supply any other examples of non-contact engagement of students and/or adults
- Supplemental Funding:
  - Evidence of corporate sponsorships
  - Evidence of community foundational support
  - Supply grant support
  - Document marketing strategies to increase attendance

### 9. Continuous Improvement

Examples of evidence may include, but are not limited to:

- Identify at least one organized event/activity where the educational mission and purpose of interscholastic athletics is clearly and intentionally stated.
- Provide an example of how the athletic department delivers a *continuing* message and supports Sportsmanship initiatives within your school and league.

**DEADLINE: November 15, 2022**

**Submit in electronic format to the DAANJ POE Committee Chair:  
Robert Haraka, Athletic Director at Morris Hills High School, [rharaka@mhrd.org](mailto:rharaka@mhrd.org)**

**NO HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS.**

