

## Article

# The Value of Professional Membership

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Over the last several decades, athletic administration, as a profession has changed dramatically. Many of us who were in this profession for 10, 20 or 30 years are no longer there, mostly due to retirements. Newer athletic administrators no longer come from the ranks of physical education teachers/coaches, and many are assigned a wide variety of other responsibilities, including, but not limited to, assistant principal or similar responsibilities. Some have no background in athletic administration other than they may have coached at some time in their career. Very often, their mentors have also moved on into retirement.

“Athletic administration, as a profession, has undergone great and continuous change over recent years. Ever-increasing demands and expectations, sport additions, the changing parental role, fiscal tightening, and managing risk and liability are but a few of the influences that have stretched and challenged the athletic administrator. The future will no doubt continue to provide new ideas and special needs to be met. Technology will alter our profession in ways we cannot imagine today. And, along with improvements in the way we administrator athletics, there will certainly come more challenges for which we must find answers.”\* Needless to say, athletic administration, on the high school level today, has become much more complex in nature. Today’s athletic administrator needs to be well prepared and detail oriented. In addition, they need to be individuals who are able to multi-task and handle a wide variety of different roles. Most of all, they need to be leaders in their school community and promote the values of education-based interscholastic athletic programs. That can be most difficult in the economic climate we face today in our schools.

**For this reason, membership in your professional association is more important than ever.** The value of the money spent for dues in both our state and national associations gets returned in benefits ten times over. As today, the membership dues for both state (NYSAAA) and national (NIAAA) associations are only \$150, combined. That has not increased since 2011, which was the first increase in 10 years. As far as professional memberships go, **it still remains a bargain as compared to other professional memberships.** Check into other professional memberships and you will see what I mean. Many administrator and teacher associations are five or six times that, or more. Both our associations are dedicated to the professional development of the athletic administrator in their ability to perform the tasks involved in this very complex job. There is no other administrator in the schools today, other than the Superintendent, that deals with as wide a variety of complex issues and tasks, as does the athletic administrator. **Membership in your professional association, and your ability to grow professionally, is vital to your success.**

The NIAAA and the NYSAAA are professional organizations administered by and for athletic administrators for the purpose of:

- Promoting the professional growth and image of interscholastic athletic administrators
- Promoting the development and prestige of state athletic administrators organizations which will contribute, in cooperation with state high school associations, to the interscholastic athletic program of each state

\*Quote taken from “Profile of Athletic Administration”, Published by the NIAAA

- Providing an efficient system for the exchange of ideas between the National Federation of State High School Associations and state athletic directors organizations and individual athletic administrators

- Preserving the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the curricula of schools

#### **Benefits of membership include:**

- **Interscholastic Athletic Administration Magazine**, a quarterly professional journal written by and for athletic administrators, NYS Athletic Administrator, Ezine published four times per year
- **\$2,000,000 liability insurance** while performing the duties of an athletic administrator
- **\$2500 term life insurance**
- Ability to purchase **Long Term Health Care Insurance** at discount rates
- Ability to purchase excess **Cancer Insurance and Accident Insurance** at discount rates
- **Discount on registration fees** for the NIAAAA/NFHS National Conference, as well as the NYS AD's Conference for high school directors of athletics
- Opportunities to serve on **national committees**
- Exclusive \$10 per year subscription to receive online **From the Gym to the Jury** publication that includes current legal rulings related to athletics (Subscribe at [www.gym2jury.com](http://www.gym2jury.com) and select "Subscribe Now" - Subscription code is NIAAAA)
- Opportunity to nominate students from your school for the **NYSAAA and NIAAAA Scholarships**, awarded annually
- Opportunity for state and national recognition through the **NIAAAA & NYSAAA Awards Program**
- **Networking Opportunities** with other professional athletic administrators
- **Educational and professional development programs**
- **Accredited Certification programs** developed by and for athletic administrators
- **Summer Leadership Training Institute**

#### **Resources Available:**

Nationally recognized and registered professional **Certification Program** offered nationally and throughout the states

Nationally recognized and accredited **Leadership Training Institute** offered nationally and throughout the states

**College and University Credits** for Leadership Training Professional Education Courses; College/University Credit and Masters Programs in Athletic Administration

#### **Professional Outreach Programs**

##### **State and national athletic director conferences**

Quality state and national **magazines** with the latest in current trends and practices

**NIAAAA Athletic Administration: A Comprehensive Guide** & NYSAAA Handbook for Athletic Administration

**"Guide for College Bound Student-Athletes and Parents"**

**"A Profile of Athletic Administration"**

**Hazing Education DVD**

**Risk Management DVD**

**"Ideas That Work"**

**Fundraiser Guide**

**Substance Abuse Programs**

## **Concussion Management Programs**

### **Buyers' Guide**

As we continue through any school year, please remember the visibility and influence your programs have on the school community. **YOU** are a vital key to the administration of a program that makes a difference in contributing to the educational values we promote through **education-based athletics**. Please take those steps to join our professional association for athletic administrators, and to make the effort towards professional growth. Please know that we are here to help you in every way we can. We hope to see you all at our annual conference in March. This is a great opportunity for professional development over a three-day period. The New York State AD's conference is rated one of the top three in the nation, and many say it's the best.