



# BOCES Southern Westchester

THE BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

IN ONE

JENNIFER SIMMONS  
Director

Southern Westchester BOCES  
Center for Interscholastic Athletics  
Section I  
450 Mamaroneck Avenue  
Harrison, NY 10528

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors and Guidance Counselors

FROM: Jennifer L. Simmons 

RE: **Section I - Sectionals, Regionals & Finals, S.A.T. Test Dates,  
Missed Class Time & Special Events**

DATE: June 15, 2018

Along with all the new State mandates and higher student achievement expectations has come increased pressure on teachers and administrators to prepare students for our new state standards and assessment system. As we know from research, there is a high correlation between class attendance and academic success. Therefore, having high attendance rates needs to be a goal if we are to see student success.

It is not surprising that just as coaches want their student-athletes to be at each practice, teachers want their students to be in attendance for each class. The Section I Executive Committee and many Section I Superintendents have requested that Section I, whenever possible, schedule contests with a minimum of lost school time. We are trying to accommodate where possible, but are somewhat limited with options.

One of the major stumbling blocks is the limited number of acceptable and available facilities or facilities with lights. The restriction on Sunday contests creates another difficult obstacle in scheduling. It should also be noted that statewide championship dates dictate to some extent our scheduling opportunities. Much time and effort is spent trying to secure the best possible sites for the Section I finals including some locked in contracts for some of the facilities. By the time we get to this point in the season our flexibility to change is very limited.

We are trying to use as many Saturdays as possible, which creates another Regional problem. During the fall season November 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Saturday when many Sectional finals are scheduled including Field Hockey, Football, Boys and Girls Soccer, and Regional Girls and Boys Volleyball. It also happens to be one of many S.A.T. test dates. We are informing you of the scheduling conflict so that you can advise your student-athletes and parents that it would be wise to use the S.A.T. dates of October 6<sup>th</sup> or December 1<sup>st</sup> instead of the November 3<sup>rd</sup> date.

Additional conflicts occur over the course of the school year for the winter and spring Sectional and Regional contests. The winter Sectionals begin in February and end in the middle of March. These span winter recess for many districts as well as the March 9<sup>th</sup> S.A.T. date. The spring season brings many culminating events including Awards, Proms, and Concerts. Again, these are all important event nights, but we as a Section have limited flexibility for the schedules. Please keep this in mind as the season comes to a close, as we will not be able to change dates and will be playing contests that might conflict. June 1<sup>st</sup> is another large S.A.T. date and State Finals and Regionals will be played on that date.

(over)

**PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!** Inform all involved that Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> is a Section I final day and that it would be better for student-athletes to use the alternative S.A.T. dates of October 6<sup>th</sup> or December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Of course, the College Board allows, for a small fee, to change their S.A.T. date if they do sign up for the November date and then find that they have made it to the Section I finals. There are also many different sites where the tests are administered allowing students a choice so that they might be nearer a Section I final site.

We are hopeful in getting this information out in advance so that we can avoid as many conflicts as possible and alleviate any questions. The Section will be as flexible as we can during the "regular" season with such conflicts. During post-season, however, we will not have the flexibility and will be scheduling contests on these dates.

Athletic Directors please copy and distribute to all of your Coaches.

Thank you.

file:sectI