

PSAA Badminton Proposal for Spring 2019

Dan Hickey - Stony Brook School

At the Fall PSAA meeting I proposed the idea of adding Badminton as a sport for the Spring 2019 season. My hope is that this information will help you as you make a decision for your program. Currently Stony Brook, Solomon Schechter (L.I.), and Kew-Forest have expressed interest and we would need just one more school to make it an official PSAA sport.

Positives of Badminton

Serves a Different Demographic

Since adding badminton at Stony Brook four years ago, it has been very gratifying to see numerous student-athletes find their niche. Many of my best badminton players did not shine in any other sport and it has been rewarding to see their growth and excitement. For those with a segment of their population from southeast Asia the sport would be a natural fit as many in those countries grow up playing the game.

Low Facilities Impact

Most gyms are vacant on spring afternoons, so there is not likely to be a conflict. If you use your main gym for PE classes throughout the day, badminton equipment is relatively easy to move out of the way and back into place. I have six courts and two people can reset the court in under five minutes.

A Growing Sport

In the last 2-3 years four schools in Suffolk County added badminton. Last year, for the first time, Suffolk County had two badminton leagues. The NYSPHSAA hopes to add a State Championship in the next few years as more sections add the requisite number of teams. It is a sport on the rise and we may be able to catch its ascent at the right time. Very few NYSAIS schools currently have badminton, but if the private school trend follows that of the public schools, the sport will continue growing and our league could be a leader in the burgeoning sport.

Rules

A typical badminton match has 9 matches, 5 singles and 4 doubles, best 2-out-of-3 sets. Sets are played to 15 points and you can only score on serve, as opposed to rally scoring. I spoke with Patrick Murphy, the badminton chair for NYSPHSAA Section XI, and according to him we have the freedom to tailor the game to our league. There are no NFHS rules preventing us from having coed teams, modifying the number of matches within a match, etc. Whatever works for us is what we can do.

Estimated Cost

Below is an estimate of what it would cost to get a program off the ground. Some of the necessities you may already have for your PE classes. In addition, I spoke with a representative of HL Badminton and they would be interested in aiding with the start-up costs of our league by giving significant discounts on racquets, shuttles, and other equipment. They are committed to the growth of the game.

- Floor Tape: 40.00
- Nets: 15.00 ea. (we have 6 courts)
- Poles: 500.00 ea.
 - You can use any stand-alone pole you may use for volleyball or gym class
- Complete Netting System: 50-100.00
 - Plenty of sites sell complete portable netting systems if you'd rather go that route instead of buying the individual nets and poles. These should be 20-foot wide.
- Racquets: 5.00 ea.
 - Experienced players will have their own
- Shuttles: 8.99/can
 - I'd recommend about 30-40 cans for the season
- Uniforms: \$10.00 ea.
 - This could be \$0.00 if your students already have a PE class uniform or a school t-shirt that they wear. Uniform shorts are not required.
- Total: Start-up cost could be as low as \$580.00 depending on what equipment you may already have. Ongoing costs year-over-year would include only new shuttles and floor tape.

Next Steps

If you're interested:

1. Speak with your Head of School, admin team, etc. and see if it's a possibility.
2. Let the student body know and see if you can drum up interest. I think a min. target per team could be as low as 7 athletes. That would give us 3 singles matches and 2 doubled matches for best-of-five team scoring similar to how we do tennis.
3. We can discuss further at our meeting on 1/24.

