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High school schedules suffer cutback

The state budget crisis has apparently drilled sports in the mouth, again.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association Executive Committee approved during its quarterly meeting Saturday in Binghamton a proposal to reduce the number of games scholastic teams can play in a season.

Of the seven approved cuts that take effective immediately, the biggest involves the reduction of games.

Sports that have 24 games in the regular season were cut to 20, sports with 20 regular-season games were reduced to 18, sports with 18 regular-season games were cut to 16, wrestling has been cut back and football will lose one crossover game — unless a school petitions to play a Week 9 game.

“The representatives serving the executive committee are very concerned with the fiscal challenges schools are facing,” NYSPHSAA Executive Director **Nina VanErk** said in a news release.

The changes go into effect for the 2009-10 school year and will continue through at least 2010-11.

The state budget crisis already has impacted the Empire State Games as state officials cut close to \$3 million in funding. As a result of the state cutting open and senior competitions from this summer’s games and are forcing scholastic athletes to pay \$285 to participate, host region Hudson Valley informed the state two weeks ago it was pulling its bid to host the Games.

Find this article at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/sports/highschool/story/567206.html>

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