

EXHIBIT A



Bylaws
of the
Florida High School
Athletic Association, Inc.
2015-16 Edition

These Bylaws have been adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Representative Assembly of the Florida High School Athletic Association and are applicable to the 2015-16 school year.

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Revisions to Bylaws for 2015-16 School Year

<u>Bylaw</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>	<u>Revision</u>
1.4.34	6	Adds a new general term relative to “Athletic Program”.
9.2.2	23-25	Section and sub-sections have been re-numbered to mirror the reporting of “Non-Traditional” students.
9.2.2.6	25	Modifies the current subsection relative to member public middle/junior high school varisty level participation at another member public combination school.
9.5.1	29	Modifies the current section relative to limit of eligibility being based on school years.
10.6.5.1	37	Modifies current subsection relative the executive director’s option concerning mediation.
10.6.5.4	37	Modifies current subsection relative to the scheduling of mediation

PLEASE NOTE: *Beginning with the 2015-16 FHSAA Handbook, the Administrative Procedures section will not be printed in the handbook. The Administrative Procedures section will now only be available on the FHSAA website.*



Name, Purpose, Objectives, General Terms and Fundamental Belief

1.1 NAME

The name of this corporation is “Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc.”

1.1.1 Common References. This organization is commonly referred to as the “Florida High School Athletic Association,” the “Association,” or the “FHSAA.”

1.1.2 Location of Office. The FHSAA Office is located in Gainesville, Florida.

1.1.3 Type of Organization. The FHSAA is a voluntary association of middle/junior high schools, senior high schools, combination schools (K-12, K-8, 6-12, etc.) and home education cooperatives that are physically located in Florida. It operates as a not-for-profit corporation.

1.1.4 National Affiliation. The FHSAA shall maintain membership in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

1.2 PURPOSE

The FHSAA provides leadership for the development, supervision and promotion of interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by its member schools. Participation in these programs enriches the educational experience of qualified student-athletes by providing them with opportunities to compete in an equitable, sportsmanlike and wholesome manner.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

To achieve its purpose, the FHSAA will:

- (a) Strive for interscholastic athletics to be an integral part of the educational program;
- (b) Ensure the equitable conduct of interscholastic athletic competitions;
- (c) Promote an understanding that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege earned by those who meet the established requirements;
- (d) Provide rules for administrative control of, and responsibility for, interscholastic athletic programs that is consistent with the rules of the Association;
- (e) Recognize the outstanding accomplishments of student-athletes, coaches, teams and schools;
- (f) Protect member schools from exploitation by organizations and individuals whose purposes are not consistent with educational athletics;
- (g) Encourage cooperation, friendship and sportsmanship among student-athletes, coaches and member schools; and
- (h) Cooperate with the Florida Legislature and the Florida Department of Education in governing interscholastic athletics.

1.4 GENERAL TERMS

1.4.1 Bylaws or FHSAA Bylaws – refers to the rules and regulations of this Association that have been adopted by a two-thirds vote of the Representative Assembly of this Association.

1.4.2 Policies or FHSAA Policies – refers to the rules and regulation of this Association that have been adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

1.4.3 Regulations or FHSAA Regulations – refers to the FHSAA Bylaws and Policies.

1.4.4 Administrative Year – refers to the period of time that begins on July 1 and continues to June 30.

1.4.5 School/Academic/Athletic Year – refers to the period of time which begins with the first day of practice for the fall sports or the first day of classes, whichever comes first for an individual school, and continues until the last day of classes for an individual school.

1.4.6 Summer – refers to the period of time which begins on the first day following the last day of classes for an individual school and continues through the Saturday preceding the first of day of practice for the fall sports.

1.4.7 Permissible Contact – refers to the time in which a coach is allowed to meet with athletes for the purpose of conducting tryouts, demonstrating and instructing sport-specific skills and techniques, and practices for a given sport.

1.4.8 Start of a Sports Season – commences with the first day of permissible contact for the given sport as determined in the FHSAA Planning Calendar.



- 1.4.9 End of a Sports Season – concludes with the last regular season contest for the given sport or the contest in which an individual school has been eliminated from, or has been named the overall champion of, the Florida High School State Championship Series for the given sport as determined in the FHSAA Planning Calendar.
- 1.4.10 Fiscal Year – refers to the period of time that begins on July 1 and continues to June 30.
- 1.4.11 Calendar Year – refers to 365 continuous days.
- 1.4.12 Standardized Calendar – refers to the calendar in which each week is numbered 1 through 52, with Week 1 beginning the first Sunday in July.
- 1.4.13 Semester – refers to that period of time approximately equal to one-half of an academic year (approximately 90 days), with August through December/January as the first semester and January through May/June as the second semester.
- 1.4.14 One Full Semester – defined as being in attendance and earning a grade for an entire semester period (i.e., August through December/January as the first semester and January through May/June as the second semester).
- 1.4.15 Team Sport – refers to any sport in which competition is held between two collective groups of individuals in which winning or losing is by the group as opposed to by individuals (i.e., baseball, basketball, competitive cheerleading, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, water polo, etc.). Only team honors are awarded in team sports.
- 1.4.16 Individual Sport – refers to any sport in which competition is held between or among individuals in which winning or losing is by individuals (i.e. bowling, cross country, golf, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, weightlifting, wrestling, etc.). Team and individual honors are awarded in individual sports.
- 1.4.17 Athletic Activities – refers to contact between coaches and student-athletes including, but not limited to: conditioning, weightlifting, tryouts, practices, intra-squad scrimmages and contests.
- 1.4.18 Representative of a School's Athletic Interests – refers to any independent person, business, organization or group that participates in, assists with and/or promotes that school's interscholastic athletic program. This includes:
- (a) A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
 - (b) The parents, guardians or other family members of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
 - (c) Immediate relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school;
 - (d) A volunteer with that school's athletic program;
 - (e) A member of an athletic booster organization of that school;
 - (f) A person, business, organization or group that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or that is otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program.
- 1.4.19 Grading Period – A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days).
- 1.4.20 Member School – refers to a senior high school, middle/junior high school, a combination school or home education cooperative that is provisionally admitted or duly elected to membership in the Association.
- 1.4.21 Secondary Violations – Secondary violations are those that are isolated or inadvertent in nature, or provide little or no competitive advantage.
- 1.4.22 Major Violations – Major violations are those that are committed intentionally, or that provide a significant competitive advantage, or are committed due to a lack of administrative control of the interscholastic athletic program regardless of whether the school claims ignorance of the rule(s) violated, including, but not limited to, knowingly allowing an ineligible student to participate in a contest or violations to the recruiting and sportsmanship policies of the association. Multiple secondary violations may together be considered a major violation. A secondary violation committed by a school already on probation may be considered a major violation.
- 1.4.23 Residence – Residence as used throughout the rules and regulations of this association is used in two contexts; "school residence," meaning the school at which student attends or represents and "physical residence," meaning the location at which a student lives with his/her parent or guardian. A student and his/her parents cannot occupy a residence at more than one address, and only the student's current residence may be used for eligibility purposes. For those students who are required to have multiple physical residences by a court of competent jurisdiction, please refer to Bylaw 9.2.1.3.
- 1.4.24 Athletic Activities Affiliated with a School** – Athletic activities affiliated with a school are any athletic activities not sponsored by the school but are organized, coached and/or supervised by a school employee, athletic department staff member, or representative of the school's athletic interests or in which the majority of participants are students who attend the school.
- 1.4.25 Principal – A "principal" is the administrator responsible for the day-to-day operation of a school, whether the individual's specific title is principal, headmaster, director, administrator, head of school or otherwise. The principal is responsible for the conduct of the school's interscholastic athletic programs.
- 1.4.26 FHSAA Representative – An "FHSAA representative" is the school representative who represents on behalf of the school in its relationship with the Association. The FHSAA representative is the principal, unless the principal delegates the task to an assistant principal or the athletic director. The principal, however, cannot delegate the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the school's interscholastic athletic programs (s. 1006.20(3)(b) Florida Statutes).

1.4.27 Calendar Week – A “calendar week” is the seven (7) consecutive days Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

1.4.28 School Week – A “school week” is the six (6) consecutive days Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

1.4.29 Guardianship – Guardianship must be permanently appointed legally by a court of competent jurisdiction (s. 745.102(5) and 745.102(9), F.S.).

1.4.30 Traditional Student – Traditional students are students who are enrolled in and physically attend the school at which they participate, except for Dual Enrolled or Early Admission students.

1.4.31 Non-Traditional Student – Non-Traditional Students are students who are not enrolled in and physically attend the school at which they participate, including, but not limited to; Home Education students, certain Charter School students, Special School students, certain Non-Member Private School students and students enrolled in FLVS-FT Public Program.

1.4.32 Combination Middle School Program – A combination senior high school that participates in middle school athletics in one or more sports recognized or sanctioned by this association is considered to have a middle school program and must indicate such on its annual membership application. The middle school teams will be limited to grades 6 through 8.

1.4.33 Clear and Convincing Evidence – Clear and convincing evidence is evidence that is precise, explicit, lacking in confusion and of such weight that it produces a firm belief or conviction, without hesitation, about the matter in issue.

1.4.34 Athletic Program – a school is considered to have an “Athletic Program” if it offers one or more sports at the interscholastic or intramural level

1.5 FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF

Interscholastic athletic programs play a vital role in the education of students who participate in them. Through their participation in interscholastic athletics, students are provided character-building opportunities to demonstrate honesty, integrity, respect, caring, cooperation, trustworthiness, leadership, tolerance and personal responsibility. These fundamental values enable participants to realize and fulfill their potential as students, as athletes, as individuals and as citizens.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 2

Principles for the Conduct of Interscholastic Athletics

FHSAA rules governing the conduct of interscholastic athletic programs are designed to advance one or more basic principles, including the following, to which member schools are committed. In some instances, a delicate balance of these principles is necessary to help achieve the objectives of the Association.

2.1 EDUCATIONAL NATURE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletic programs are designed to enhance the educational experience. The student-athlete is a student first, an athlete second; and each and every practice and competition is an extension of the classroom. This is what clearly separates interscholastic athletics from all other forms of youth sports.

2.2 PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE

Participation in interscholastic athletics by a student is a privilege, not a right. To earn this privilege, students must abide by the rules and meet standards of academic performance and personal behavior that are related to school purposes.

2.3 SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

Interscholastic athletic programs must encourage good character, enhance the integrity of education and promote civility in society. Student-athletes, coaches and all others associated with interscholastic athletic programs, as well as those who attend interscholastic athletic events, should adhere to the fundamental values of honesty, integrity, respect, caring, cooperation, trustworthiness, leadership, tolerance and personal responsibility. Each school is responsible for:

- (a) Establishing policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct in its interscholastic athletic programs that are consistent with the educational mission and goals of the school; and
- (b) Educating, on an ongoing basis, all individuals associated with the school’s interscholastic athletic programs and events about those policies.



2.4 GENDER EQUITY

The FHSAA will conduct its activities in a manner free of gender bias and will adopt rules that enhance schools' efforts to comply with applicable gender-equity laws.

2.5 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY

Each school must control its interscholastic athletic programs by FHSAA rules and regulations. The principal, who is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the school's interscholastic athletic programs, is responsible for ensuring this control, which extends to and includes responsibility for and control over the actions of:

- (a) The administration and faculty;
- (b) The athletic department staff and student-athletes;
- (c) The student body, parents and other spectators at athletic events; and
- (d) Any other individual or group engaged in activities representing, supporting or promoting the athletic interests of the school.

2.6 COMPLIANCE WITH RULES

Each school must comply with all applicable FHSAA rules. The FHSAA will assist schools in their efforts to achieve full compliance with all rules and will establish fair procedures for addressing alleged or identified failures in compliance. A school found to have violated FHSAA rules will be subject to such disciplinary and corrective actions as may be determined to be appropriate by the Association.

2.7 NONDISCRIMINATION AND DIVERSITY

The FHSAA will promote an atmosphere of respect for and sensitivity to the dignity of every person. The Association will not discriminate in its governance policies, programs and employment practices on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, creed, sexual orientation or educational choice. The FHSAA will promote diversity of representation within its governance structure and substructures. Each school is responsible to determine independently its own policies regarding nondiscrimination and diversity.

2.8 COMPETITIVE EQUITY

FHSAA rules will promote the opportunity for equity in competition to assure that individual student-athletes and school teams will not be prevented unfairly from achieving the benefits possible through participation in interscholastic athletics.

2.9 ELIGIBILITY RULES

The FHSAA will adopt and enforce eligibility rules that assure proper emphasis on educational objectives and promote competitive equity among schools.

2.10 FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES COMPETITION

This Association may conduct state championships to determine the official state champion(s) in those sports that are sanctioned by the Board of Directors. The privilege to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series will be limited only to those senior high schools and combination schools that are duly elected to full membership in this Association. The Board of Directors will determine the sports in which state championships are to be conducted and will establish the terms and conditions for each state championship.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 3

Membership

3.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

3.1.1 Opportunity for Membership. A senior high school, a middle/junior high school, a combination school, a charter school, a virtual school or a home education cooperative located in Florida may be a member of the FHSAA if it meets the qualifications, conditions and obligations of membership.

3.1.2 Classifications. Senior high school members may be divided into classifications for purposes of competition in FHSAA championships. The Board of Directors will adopt the criteria for determining these classifications.

3.1.3 Assignment to Geographical Areas. Member schools are assigned to geographical areas for the purpose of representation in the FHSAA governance structure and substructures.

3.1.4 **Deadlines.** When deadline dates fall on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday as established by Florida Law, the deadline will be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

3.1.5 **Termination of Membership.** All privileges of a member school will cease immediately when its membership ends.

3.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

3.2.1 **Member School.** A “member school” is a senior high school, middle/junior high school, combination school, a charter school, a virtual school or home education cooperative that is provisionally admitted or duly elected to membership in the Association. Member school not only refers to the institution, but also to its administration, faculty, athletic staff, student-athletes, student body, and any other individual or group engaged in activities representing, supporting or promoting the athletic interests of the school.

3.2.1.1 **Restricted Member.** A “restricted member” is a member school that has its membership privileges restricted in some manner because it fails to meet the qualifications, conditions and obligations of membership.

3.2.1.2 **Provisional Member.** A “provisional member” is a member school that is under a “provisional period” immediately following its initial application for membership. During the “provisional period,” the school can participate in preseason and regular season interscholastic competition with member schools, but will have no other privileges of a “full member.”

3.2.1.3 **Full Member.** A full member will enjoy all privileges of membership, unless otherwise specifically withheld according to these bylaws. Membership privileges include, but are not limited to, the privilege to compete in FHSAA championships, the privilege to vote in Association elections, the privilege to seek election to positions in the FHSAA governance structure and sub-structures, and the privilege to make application for and serve as host of multi-school events that require FHSAA office approval.

3.2.2 Types of Member Schools.

3.2.2.1 **Senior High School.** A “senior high school” is any traditional public school, charter school, virtual school, private school or university laboratory school that provides instruction to students at one or more grade levels from 9 through 12.

3.2.2.2 **Middle/Junior High School.** A “middle/junior high school” is any traditional public school, charter school, virtual school, private school or university laboratory school that provides instruction to students in middle school configurations (terminal grade of 6, 7 or 8) or junior high school configurations (terminal grade of 9).

3.2.2.3 **Combination School.** A “combination school” is any traditional public school, charter school, virtual school, private school or university laboratory school that provides instruction to students in both middle/junior high school grades and/or senior high school grades (i.e. K-12, K-8, 6-12, 7-12, etc.) under the direction of a single principal as defined in Bylaw 1.4.25 and located on the same campus, except for 9-12 high schools which have 9th grade centers at a separate location, with participation and enrollment based on a single campus site. A combination school must hold membership as a middle school if its terminal grade is grade 6 through 8, as a junior high school if its terminal grade is grade 9, or as a senior high school if its terminal grade is grade 10 through 12.

3.2.2.4 **Home Education Cooperative.** A “home education cooperative” is a parent-directed group of individual home education students that provides opportunities for interscholastic athletic competition to those students and may include students in grades 6–12.

3.3 QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

3.3.1 **Schools.** A senior high school, middle/junior high school or combination school located in the state of Florida may become a member if:

- (a) The principal applies for membership on a form provided for that purpose;
- (b) The school is registered with the Florida Department of Education;
- (c) The school is accredited by an agency approved by the Association;
- (d) The governing body of the school approves the school’s membership in the Association, and adopts these bylaws annually as the rules governing its interscholastic athletic programs;
- (e) The school pays all dues and other fees required of member schools;
- (f) The school maintains the insurance coverage required of member schools;
- (g) The school provides the principal, the FHSAA representative and the athletic director with the appropriate modes of communication;
- (h) The school, if applicable, successfully completes its provisional period; and
- (i) The Board of Directors elects the school to membership.

3.3.1.1 **Loss of Accreditation.** A member school that loses its accreditation will have a maximum of three (3) years to regain accreditation. No privileges of membership will be withheld during this three-year period.

3.3.1.2 **Exemption from Accreditation Requirement.** A middle/junior high school is exempt from the accreditation requirement.



3.3.2 Home Education Cooperatives. A home education cooperative located in the state of Florida may become a member if:

- (a) The principal applies for membership on a form provided for that purpose;
- (b) The governing board of the cooperative adopts these bylaws annually as the rules governing its interscholastic athletic programs;
- (c) The cooperative pays all dues and other fees required of member schools;
- (d) The cooperative maintains the insurance coverage required of member schools;
- (e) The cooperative successfully completes its provisional period;
- (f) The cooperative provides the principal, the FHSAA representative and the athletic director with the appropriate modes of communication; and
- (g) The Board of Directors elects the cooperative to membership.

3.4 PROVISIONAL PERIOD

3.4.1 Requirements of Provisional Period. A two-year provisional period will begin with a school's first year of membership. During the provisional period the school must demonstrate an understanding of and comply with all bylaws and other rules of the Association.

3.4.1.1 First Year. During the first year of the provisional period the school must be represented at an FHSAA compliance seminar by its principal, FHSAA representative and athletic director; and

3.4.1.2 Second Year. During the second year of the provisional period:

- (a) The school must be represented at an FHSAA compliance seminar by either its principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director; and
- (b) The school must submit to an onsite inspection of its interscholastic athletic programs, and
- (c) Demonstrate a working knowledge of FHSAA regulations.

3.4.2 Extension of Provisional Period. The Board of Directors may extend the provisional period for additional years or approve, at the request of a school that has not qualified for full membership, to have their provisional period extended.

3.4.3 Exemption from Provisional Period. A newly opening school created by the consolidation or division of the student populations of existing member schools is exempt from the provisional period if:

- (a) The new school is governed by the same board as the existing member schools; and
- (b) The new school meets all other qualifications and conditions of full membership.

3.4.4 Privileges during Provisional Period. A provisional member may participate in preseason and regular season interscholastic competition with member schools, but will have no other privileges of a full member.

3.5 OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

3.5.1 Administrative Control. A member school must control its interscholastic athletic programs in accordance with the regulations of the Association. Responsibility for this control rests with the principal, who is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the school's interscholastic athletic programs.

3.5.1.1 Scope of Responsibility. Responsibility for control of a school's interscholastic athletic programs extends to and includes the education of, responsibility for and control over the actions of the school's administration, faculty, athletic staff, student-athletes, student body, and any other individual or group engaged in activities representing, supporting or promoting the athletic interests of the school.

3.5.2 Compliance with Rules. A member school must comply with all bylaws and other rules of the Association. The school must monitor its athletic programs to assure compliance with all bylaws and regulations must identify and report to the FHSAA Office instances in which compliance has not been achieved, and must take appropriate corrective actions regarding such instances of non-compliance. Staff members, student-athletes and other individuals and groups representing, supporting or promoting the school's athletic interests must comply with applicable bylaws and rules. The school is responsible for such compliance.

3.5.2.1 Eligibility of Student-Athletes. A member school must certify the eligibility of all student-athletes. The school must not permit a student-athlete to participate in interscholastic competition unless the student-athlete meets all eligibility requirements.

3.5.2.2 Cooperation with Association. A member school must fully cooperate in the investigation of any alleged violation of the bylaws or other rules of the Association. A school that refuses to permit the interview of any individual, to grant access to and inspection of pertinent records, to submit relevant information to the Association upon request, or otherwise interferes with or obstructs the investigation, will be in violation of this provision.

3.5.2.3 Attendance at Compliance Seminar. A member senior high/combo school must be represented by its principal and/or FHSAA representative and/or athletic director at periodic FHSAA compliance seminars as established by the Board of Directors.



3.5.2.4 Audits and Compliance Reviews. The FHSAA Office may review member schools to verify compliance with bylaws and other rules of the Association. A school selected for review must fully cooperate with the review. A school that refuses to grant access to and inspection of records under review or refuses to permit the interview of any individual responsible for maintaining those records, or otherwise interferes with or obstructs the review, will be in violation of this provision.

3.5.3 Insurance Coverage. A member school must verify that athletic accident medical insurance coverage, catastrophic accident insurance coverage, and catastrophic disability insurance coverage is provided for each of its student-athletes. The school also must provide general liability insurance coverage for itself. The Board of Directors will establish the minimum limits for each type of insurance coverage.

3.5.4 Sportsmanship and Ethical Conduct. A member school must establish policies that promote sportsmanship and ethical conduct in its interscholastic athletic programs. These policies must require student-athletes, coaches and all other individuals associated with the school's interscholastic athletic programs to adhere to such fundamental values as respect, fairness, civility, honesty and responsibility. The school must educate, on a continuing basis, all staff members, student-athletes, student body, and other individuals and groups representing, supporting or promoting the school's athletic interests about these policies.

3.5.5 Acceptance of Decisions. A member school must accept in good faith the decisions of the Association. A member school that, by any act or attitude, refuses to accept a decision of the Association, or holds in contempt or derision the decision, or permits or acquiesces in any contempt or derision on the part of any group or individual associated with the school, may be expelled or assigned to restricted membership. This provision does not deny a member school the right to due process within the Association as provided in these bylaws.

3.6 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

3.6.1 First-Time Membership. The principal of a school applying for first-time membership must submit a complete application packet as provided by this association. The application packet must be received in the FHSAA Office on or before a date established by the Board of Directors for the school to be considered for admission in the following school year.

3.6.1.1 Application Packet

3.6.1.1.1 Application Form. The application form must be obtained from the FHSAA Office. The form must be fully completed and signed by the principal.

3.6.1.1.2 Insurance Coverage. The principal must provide photocopies of insurance certificates showing that the school has purchased the insurance coverage required of member schools.

3.6.1.1.3 Financial Condition. The principal must document that the school can meet the financial obligations of membership. This documentation must be one of the following:

- (a) A photocopy of the school's most recent federal tax return;
- (b) A photocopy of financial statements from the most recent period that have been independently audited or reviewed by a certified public accountant;
- (c) A photocopy of prior year operating revenues and expenses as reported to the governing body for the school; or
- (d) A photocopy of operating budget revenues and expenses for the school that has been approved by the governing body.

3.6.1.2 Former Member. A former member school that applies to re-establish its membership must pay a re-admission fee, satisfies any outstanding obligations to the Association, and completes its provisional period, before it becomes eligible for re-election to full membership. These conditions will apply whether the school's previous membership was terminated voluntarily or involuntarily.

3.6.2 Continuing Membership. The FHSAA Office will provide to each member school a form on which to continue its membership for the following school year. The principal must complete, sign and return the form to the FHSAA Office a date established by the Board of Directors. A school that does not submit the form by the deadline will be assessed a late fee. A school whose form is not received by a date established by the Board of Directors may not be considered for reelection to membership for the following school year.

3.6.2.1 Insurance Coverage. A member school continuing its membership must provide photocopies of insurance certificates showing that the school has purchased the insurance coverage required of member schools.

3.6.2.2 Good Standing. A member school must be in good standing with the Association to continue its membership without restriction. Good standing requires the school to satisfy all outstanding obligations to the Association by the conclusion of the current school year.

3.7 PROCEDURES FOR ADMITTANCE AND ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

3.7.1 First-Time Admittance. The Board of Directors, at its final meeting of each school year, will determine if a school applying for first-time membership in the Association will receive provisional admission in the following year. The FHSAA Office will recommend whether the school should be admitted.



3.7.2 Election to Full Membership. The Board of Directors, at its final meeting of each school year, will determine whether to elect to full membership a school that has applied for first-time full membership or has applied to continue its full membership for the following school year.

3.7.2.1 First-Time Full Membership. A school that has completed its provisional period will be considered for first-time election to full membership. The FHSAA Office will report to the Board of Directors whether the school has satisfied the conditions of its provisional period and meets fully the qualifications and conditions of membership. The FHSAA Office also will recommend whether the school should be elected to full membership.

3.7.2.2 Continuing Membership. A member school that applies to continue its membership will be considered for reelection to full membership. The FHSAA Office will report to the Board of Directors whether the school continues to meet fully the qualifications and conditions of membership and is a member in good standing. The FHSAA Office also will recommend whether the school should be reelected to full membership.

3.7.3 Advance Notice of Unfavorable Recommendation. The FHSAA Office will provide advance notice in writing to the principal of a school that will not be recommended for admittance, election or reelection to membership. The notice must contain the reason for the unfavorable recommendation. The principal will be advised that he or she may appear before the Board of Directors at the meeting to explain why the school should be admitted, elected or reelected to membership.

3.7.4 Decision of Board of Directors. The decision of the Board of Directors whether to admit, elect or reelection a school to membership must be by majority vote. The decision will be final.

3.7.4.1 Reconsideration of Decision. A school that is not admitted, elected or reelected to membership by the Board of Directors may request that the decision be reconsidered. The Board of Directors may reconsider the decision at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The school, however, will not be permitted to compete against member schools until it is admitted, elected or reelected to membership.

3.8 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES

3.8.1 Annual Dues. The Board of Directors will determine the annual dues to be assessed each member school.

3.8.2 Membership Fees. The Board of Directors may assess additional membership fees to be paid by each member school.

3.8.3 Payment. Dues and fees are payable each year in accordance with the deadline set by the Board of Directors.

3.9 PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

3.9.1 Privileges of Full Membership. A full member will enjoy all privileges of membership, unless otherwise specifically withheld according to these bylaws. Membership privileges include, but are not limited to, the privilege to compete in FHSAA championships; the privilege to vote in Association elections; the privilege to seek election to positions in the FHSAA governance structure and sub-structures; and the privilege to make application for and serve as host of multi-school events that require FHSAA Office approval.

3.9.1.1 Schools Not Eligible for FHSAA Championships. The following member schools are not permitted the privilege of participation in FHSAA championships:

- (a) Senior high schools during its provisional period;
- (b) Middle/junior high schools, as well as home education cooperatives comprised entirely of students in middle/junior high school grade levels;
- (c) Schools operated by the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- (d) Schools contracted by the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide juvenile justice educational programs, if students attending those programs are permitted to represent the school in interscholastic competition; and
- (e) Schools that provide housing to students but are not recognized as boarding schools by the Board of Directors, if students housed by the school are permitted to represent the school in interscholastic competition.

3.10 TERMINATION AND RESTRICTION OF MEMBERSHIP

3.10.1 Suspension. The FHSAA Office may suspend a member school that fails to meet one or more of the qualifications, conditions and/or obligations of membership until the deficiency is corrected.

3.10.1.1 Failure to Pay Dues and Fees. A member school that does not pay its dues and fees by the deadline set by the Board of Directors will be suspended from membership. The suspended school may be reinstated at any time prior to December 31 by paying its dues and fees, and an additional reactivation fee. Membership is terminated if the suspended school fails to pay in full its dues and fees by December 31.

3.10.1.2 Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance. A member that fails to provide the FHSAA Office with proof that it has the required insurance coverage will be suspended until the proof of insurance coverage is provided.

3.10.2 Expulsion. The Board of Directors may expel a member school that fails to meet one or more of the qualifications, conditions and/or obligations of membership, or fails to support and adhere to the purposes and policies of the Association.



3.10.2.1 Restricted Membership. The Board of Directors, instead of expulsion, may restrict one, more or all of the membership privileges of the school. The school remains a member even if all of its membership privileges are restricted.

3.10.3 Cessation of Privileges. All privileges of a member school will cease upon any termination of its membership.

3.11 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

3.11.1 Method of Division. The Board of Directors will divide the Association's membership along existing county lines into four contiguous and compact administrative sections, each containing an equal or nearly equal number of member schools, to ensure equitable representation in the FHSAA governance structure and substructures.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 4

Organization and Governance

4.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

4.1.1 Form of Government. The FHSAA is a representative democracy.

4.1.2 Governance. These bylaws, administrative policies and other regulations, as well as Florida Statutes pertaining to the FHSAA or interscholastic athletics in general, govern the Association.

4.1.2.1 Constitutional Bylaws. Constitutional bylaws establish the name, purpose, membership requirements and structure of the Association, as well as the more important principles for the conduct of interscholastic athletic programs. Only the Representative Assembly may adopt or amend constitutional bylaws.

4.1.2.2 Operating Bylaws. Operating bylaws govern the responsibilities of school administrations in conducting interscholastic athletic programs, the obligations of and relationships between schools in interscholastic contests, the eligibility of student-athletes, the penalties for rules infractions, and the procedures for appeals. Only the Representative Assembly may adopt or amend operating bylaws.

4.1.2.3 Administrative Policies. Administrative policies are adopted by the Board of Directors and are the basis for the regulations that govern the various FHSAA programs. Only the Board of Directors may adopt or amend administrative policies.

4.1.3 Florida Sunshine Law. All FHSAA meetings are conducted in compliance with the Florida Sunshine Law (s. 286.011, Florida Statutes). All records are subject to the Florida Public Records Law (s. 119.01, Florida Statutes).

4.1.3.1 Telephone Conference Meetings. On reasonable notice, the President of the Association may conduct a meeting of the Board of Directors by telephone conference call for routine administrative action or for emergency action. The telephone conference call shall be stenographically recorded and shall be conducted in such a manner that any member of the public shall have access to the telephone conference by telephone. The notice of such meeting shall provide the information necessary to allow public access by telephone to the telephone conference meeting.

4.1.4 Florida Statutes. The FHSAA cannot waive any provision of Florida Statutes.

4.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

4.2.1 Year of Service. A person who serves on a body in the FHSAA governance structure has served one year of his/her term of service if he/she was elected or appointed in advance of the first regularly scheduled meeting of the body in a school year. A person who is appointed to fill a vacant seat on a body after it has held at least one meeting in a school year will not be considered to have served a full year.

4.3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.3.1 Composition. The Board of Directors is composed of the following sixteen (16) members (s. 1006.20(4)(a), Florida Statutes):

- (a) Four public school representatives, one elected from each administrative section;
- (b) Four non-public school representatives, one elected from each administrative section;
- (c) Two district school superintendents elected by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents – one from administrative sections 1 or 2, and one from administrative sections 3 or 4;
- (d) Two district school board members elected by the Florida School Boards Association – one from administrative sections 1 or 2, and one from administrative sections 3 or 4;
- (e) Three persons appointed at large by the Commissioner of Education. One must be appointed from administrative sections 1 or 2. One must be appointed from administrative sections 3 or 4. The third must help balance the Board of Directors for racial diversity or state population trends, or both, and may be appointed from any administrative section; and



(f) The Commissioner of Education or his/her designee from the Department of Education executive staff.

4.3.1.1 Restrictions. A district school superintendent and district school board member from the same public school district cannot serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.

4.3.1.2 Quorum. A quorum of the Board of Directors consists of nine members.

4.3.1.3 Passage. A majority of votes cast by board members voting is required to pass any measure.

4.3.2 Duties and Responsibilities. The Board of Directors:

- (a) Adopts and amends administrative policies and regulations to govern the Association's programs;
- (b) Employs the Association's Executive Director;
- (c) Approves and oversees the Association's budget;
- (d) Assesses annual membership dues and other fees;
- (e) Provides strategic planning for the Association;
- (f) Authorizes statewide competitions that may or may not lead to state championships and establishes regulations governing those competitions;
- (g) Serves as the highest and final appellate authority of the Association.

4.3.2.1 Budget and Audit. The Board of Directors at its final regularly scheduled meeting of a school year approves a preliminary budget for the next school year. It approves a final budget for the school year at its first regularly scheduled meeting of that school year. The Board of Directors provides for an annual audit of all accounts by a certified public accountant and the report is made available upon request.

4.3.2.2 Appellate Authority. The Board of Directors interprets and renders a final decision on all questions and appeals that result from the Association's supervision of interscholastic athletic programs. It has administrative responsibility and rule making authority for the Association's appellate branch. As such, the Board:

- (a) Reviews, at the Executive Director's request, the decision of a Sectional Appeals Committee or the Infraction Appeals Committee that directly conflicts with decisions of other Sectional Appeals Committees or the Board of Directors on the same question or rule, or that in the Executive Director's opinion conflicts with the rules of the Association or has a great effect on the proper administration of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state; and
- (b) Renders at the Executive Director's request an advisory opinion addressing issues as provided by rule.

4.3.2.3 Delegation of Duties and Responsibilities. The Board of Directors, when it deems appropriate, may assign for recommendation specific matters to committees that it creates for those purposes. The Board of Directors will make a final determination based on the committee's recommendation.

4.3.3 Meetings. The Board of Directors meets a minimum of five times each school year. It sets the date and place of each meeting. The president may call additional meetings if needed.

4.3.4 Selection/Term of Service

4.3.4.1 Selection. Each constituent group selects its representatives to the Board of Directors. The school representatives who represent each administrative section are elected by a majority of votes cast by all school representatives within the administrative section.

4.3.4.2 Term of Service. The term of service for a board member is three school years, beginning July 1 following his/her election or appointment. A board member may be reelected or re-appointed to a second three-year term, but cannot serve more than a maximum of six consecutive school years. These term limits, however, do not apply to the Commissioner of Education or his/her designee, whose term is unlimited.

4.3.5 Officers. The officers of the Board of Directors are a president and a president-elect. Each serves a term of one school year, which runs concurrent with one year of his/her term of service on the board. Neither can serve consecutive like terms.

4.3.5.1 President. The president presides over all meetings of the Board of Directors and performs other duties of the office. The president's term of service begins on July 1 following a one-year term of service as president-elect.

4.3.5.2 President-Elect. The president-elect is elected by the Board from among its members at its last regularly scheduled meeting of each school year. To be eligible for election, the president-elect must have not fewer than two years remaining in his/her current term of office, or have not less than one year remaining in his/her current term of office and be eligible for reelection or re-appointment. The president-elect performs the duties of the president if he/she is absent or unable to act. The president-elect's term of service begins on July 1 following his/her election to the office. The president-elect becomes president on July 1 of the next school year.

4.3.5.3 Vacancies.

- (a) If the president vacates the office before the end of his/her term, the president-elect will serve as president for the remainder of the vacated term and then as president for the term to which he/she was elected.
- (b) If the president-elect vacates the office before the end of his/her term, the Board of Directors elects a new president-elect during its next regularly scheduled meeting.



- (c) If both the president and president-elect vacate the offices before their terms end, the board elects an acting president and acting president-elect for the remainder of the school year at its next regularly scheduled meeting. A new president and president-elect for the following school year then will be elected at the final regularly scheduled meeting of the year.

4.4 REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

4.4.1 Composition. The Representative Assembly is composed of the following delegates (s. 1006.20(5)(b), Florida Statutes):

- (a) An equal number of school representatives from each of the four administrative sections;
- (b) Four district school superintendents elected by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents – one from each administrative section;
- (c) Four district school board members elected by the Florida School Boards Association – one from each administrative section; and
- (d) The Commissioner of Education or his/her designee from the Department of Education executive staff.

4.4.1.1 Diversity Appointments. The Board of Directors may appoint additional delegates if necessary to ensure racial and gender diversity in the Representative Assembly. There must be an equal number of appointees from each administrative section.

4.4.1.2 Delegate Restrictions. No member of the Board of Directors other than the Commissioner of Education or his/her designee can serve as a delegate to the Representative Assembly.

4.4.1.3 Quorum. A quorum of the Representative Assembly consists of one more than half of its member delegates.

4.4.1.4 Passage. A two-thirds majority of votes cast by delegates present and voting is required to pass any proposed amendment.

4.4.2 Duties and Responsibilities. The Representative Assembly's only duty and responsibility is to act on proposed amendments to the bylaws of the Association that are submitted for its consideration. The assembly cannot propose any amendment for its own consideration.

4.4.2.1 Meetings. The Representative Assembly meets one time each school year. The Board of Directors sets the date and place of each meeting. The president of the Board of Directors can call additional meetings if needed.

4.4.3 Selection/Term of Service.

4.4.3.1 Selection. Each constituent group selects its delegates to the Representative Assembly. The school representative delegates from each administrative section or legislative division, if applicable, are elected by a majority of votes cast by all school representatives within the administrative section or legislative division.

4.4.3.2 Term of Service. The term of service for a Representative Assembly delegate is two school years. A delegate may be reelected or re-appointed to two additional two-year terms, but cannot serve more than a maximum of six consecutive school years. These term limits, however, do not apply to the Commissioner of Education or his/her designee.

4.4.4 Officers. The officers of the Representative Assembly are a chairperson and a vice chairperson. The assembly elects both from among its members at the beginning of its meeting. Both may be reelected to their offices at consecutive meetings if they continue to serve as delegates to the assembly.

4.4.4.1 Chairperson. The chairperson presides over the meeting of the Representative Assembly at which he/she is elected.

4.4.4.2 Vice Chairperson. The vice chairperson performs the duties of the chairperson if he/she is absent or unable to act.

4.5 SECTIONAL APPEALS COMMITTEES

4.5.1 Composition. There will be one Sectional Appeals Committee in each of the four administrative sections. Each committee will consist of the following seven (7) members:

- (a) Two members representing public schools elected by and from among the public school representatives in the section;
- (b) One member representing non-public schools elected by and from among the non-public school representatives in the section;
- (c) One member representing public school districts selected on a rotating basis, when possible, by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents from among district school superintendents, or by the Florida School Boards Association from among district school board members in the section.
- (d) One member representing recognized non-public school accrediting associations selected by the Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools from among district-, regional- or school-based non-public school administrators or governing board members in the section;
- (e) One at-large member from an under-represented gender and/or race appointed by the Board of Directors from among district-, regional- or school-based administrators in the section; and



- (f) One attorney from among attorneys living in the section, who within the last five years has been a member in good standing of the Florida Bar or the bar of any other state in the union.

4.5.1.1 Restrictions. No member of the Board of Directors can serve on a Sectional Appeals Committee.

4.5.1.2 Criteria for Board-Appointed Members

4.5.1.2.1 At-Large Member. If 60 percent or more of the schools within a section are public, the Board of Directors must appoint a public school administrator as the at-large member. If less than 60 percent of the schools within the section are public, the Board of Directors must appoint a non-public school administrator as the at-large member.

4.5.1.2.2 Attorney. The attorney cannot be connected with any member school, public school district or non-public school accrediting organization, or represent student-athletes, coaches or athletic directors in any manner.

4.5.1.3 Committee Officers

4.5.1.3.1 Chairperson. The attorney serves as chairperson. He/she presides over all meetings of the committee and is the only member who may have contact with the FHSAA staff relative to any case pending before the committee.

4.5.1.3.2 Vice Chairperson. The committee elects a vice chairperson from among its members at the first meeting of each school year. The vice chairperson presides over meetings of the committee when the chairperson is absent or unable to act.

4.5.1.3.3 Vacancies. If the chairperson vacates the office before the end of the term of service, the Board of Directors will appoint a replacement during its next regularly scheduled meeting. The vice chairperson, meanwhile, will serve as chairperson until a replacement is appointed. If the vice chairperson vacates the office before the end of the term of service, the committee will elect a new vice chairperson during its next regularly scheduled meeting.

4.5.1.4 Conflict of Interest. A member of a Sectional Appeals Committee who is associated with a school that files an appeal to the committee must disqualify himself or herself from hearing the case to avoid any conflict of interest.

4.5.1.5 Quorum. A quorum of a Sectional Appeals Committee will be four members. The Executive Director will appoint a qualified person or persons to serve as substitute members to ensure the presence of a quorum when it is known a committee member or members will not be present.

4.5.1.6 Passage. A majority of votes cast by committee members voting will be required to pass any measure.

4.5.2 Duties and Responsibilities. Each Sectional Appeals Committee will:

- (a) Decide requests by schools seeking exceptions to bylaws and regulations of the Association;
- (b) Decide undue hardship eligibility cases that are filed by schools on behalf of students; and
- (c) Decide appeals of decisions rendered by the Executive Director that are filed by member schools. The Section Appeals Committee can only sustain or overturn the decision, but cannot modify the decision.

4.5.2.1 Florida Statutes. A Sectional Appeals Committee will not have the authority to waive any provision of Florida Statutes.

4.5.2.2 Meetings. Each Sectional Appeals Committee will meet as needed to carry out its duties and responsibilities nine times each school year. These nine meetings must be held the months of August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March and April on such dates as adopted by the Board of Directors.

4.5.3 Selection/Term of Service

4.5.3.1 Selection. Each constituent group will select its representatives to the four Sectional Appeals Committees. The FHSAA Office will conduct an election in each administrative section to determine the school representatives who will serve on the committee. All school representatives within the section may vote in this election.

4.5.3.2 Term of Service. The term of service for a member of each Sectional Appeals Committee will be three school years. A committee member may be reelected to a second three-year term, but cannot serve more than a maximum of six consecutive school years.

4.6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

4.6.1 Employment. The Executive Director is the Association's chief executive officer. The Board of Directors selects and employs the Executive Director by written contract for a stated period of time. This contract of employment may be renewed under conditions that are mutually satisfactory to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. No person, however, can be employed as Executive Director beyond the end of the school year in which he/she reaches the age of 70.

4.6.1.1 Staff. The Executive Director is authorized to employ additional persons as needed to efficiently conduct the business of the Association. Such additional persons shall report directly to the Executive Director or his/her designee.

4.6.2 Duties and Responsibilities. The Executive Director:

- (a) Manages and directs the affairs of the Association;
- (b) Administers and enforces FHSAA rules and impose sanctions when he/she finds that violations have occurred;



- (c) Presents an operating budget to the Board of Directors each year for approval, acts as custodian of all Association funds, and updates the Board of Directors on the Association's financial status at each of its meetings;
- (d) Waives bylaws in order to comply with changes to Florida Statutes;
- (e) Prepares and issues to schools all necessary publications, forms and other materials, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Annual Calendar of events and activities;
 - 2. Handbook of Bylaws and Policies;
 - 3. Current Membership List and Membership Directory; and
 - 4. Manuals and Guidebooks.
- (f) Receives and checks all reports submitted by schools;
- (g) Rules on the eligibility of all student-athletes who participate in interscholastic athletic programs in the sports recognized by the Association;
- (h) Calls upon the Board of Directors for advice and assistance, and performs such duties as may be necessary and expedient;
- (i) Keeps a record of all meetings of the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors, Sectional Appeals Committees and Infractions Appeal Committee;
- (j) Mediates controversies between schools at their request;
- (k) Represents, or designates a representative for, the Association in mediation of student eligibility issues;
- (l) Refers to the Board of Directors for its review any decisions of Sectional Appeals Committees that he/she believes directly conflict with decisions of other Sectional Appeals Committees, of the Infractions Appeal Committee or of the Board of Directors or the same question or rule, or that, in his/her opinion, conflicts with the rules of the Association or has a great effect on the proper administration of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state;
- (m) Approves and supervises all tournaments, meets and contest schedules under the rules of the Association;
- (n) Refers any of his/her decisions or rulings to the appropriate Sectional Appeals Committee, the Infractions Appeal Committee or the Board of Directors upon the request of a school;
- (o) Oversees and directs audits and compliance reviews; (see Bylaw 3.5.2.4);
- (p) Performs any other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

4.6.2.1 Emergency Power to Grant Provisional Eligibility. The Executive Director's office may grant provisional eligibility; such as, but not limited to, sub-varsity participation, to a student-athlete who suddenly becomes ineligible if, in its opinion:

- (a) The circumstances that cause the student-athlete to be ineligible are of a sudden and extraordinary nature and are completely beyond the control of the student-athlete, his/her parents, or school; and
- (b) The student-athlete will miss all or most of the sport season in which he/she participates if required to wait for the opportunity for a hearing before a Sectional Appeals Committee.

4.6.2.1.1 Period of Provisional Eligibility. Any period of provisional eligibility granted to a student-athlete will end with the next regularly scheduled Sectional Appeals Committee meeting, during which his/her undue hardship waiver request will be considered. The student-athlete will immediately become ineligible for further competition if the Sectional Appeals Committee does not grant the waiver. The school that permitted the student-athlete to participate during the period of provisional eligibility, however, will not be penalized unless it is determined that provisional eligibility was granted on the basis of erroneous information provided by the student-athlete, his/her parents, or school.

4.6.2.2 Power to Mediate Student Eligibility. After a sectional appeals decision has been rendered, the Executive Director may resolve issues solely related to a student's eligibility through mediation in accordance with these Bylaws. In this mediation the student athlete will be represented by his/her member school.

4.6.2.3 Compliance Reviews and Investigative Procedures. The Executive Director or his/her designee is authorized to assign individuals to investigate matters of student eligibility and/or bylaw/policy violations. The procedures outlined in Policy 37 (Policy on Investigative Procedures), which shall be in full compliance with Florida Statute 1006.20(2)(g), will be followed for such investigations. Information and evidence obtained by an investigator will be submitted to the Executive Director or his/her designee for determination of eligibility and compliance. A determination of ineligibility or violation of bylaws/policies must be made in writing, setting forth the findings of fact and specific violation upon which the decision was based.

4.7 ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

4.7.1 Elections

4.7.1.1 Positions Held by School Representatives. The FHSAA Office will conduct elections for school representative positions on the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors and Sectional Appeals Committees at such time as adopted by the Board of Directors each year in each administrative section as follows:



4.7.1.1.1 Declaration of Candidacy. The FHSAA Office will notify school representatives of elections that must be held, and will place on the Internet a declaration of candidacy form for each race. A school representative who wants to run in a particular race and is eligible to do so must download, complete and fax to the FHSAA Office the form for that race. The form must be completed, signed and received in the FHSAA Office by the deadline listed on the form to be valid. A school representative who is not a principal must have the form signed by his/her principal granting him/her permission to run. A school representative who wants to run in more than one race may do so, but must file the appropriate form for each race.

4.7.1.1.2 General Election. The FHSAA Office will provide each school representative of each constituency group, who is eligible to vote in the general election, a ballot for that constituency group. The ballot will list the names of all candidates in each race. The school representative may vote for only one candidate in each race, and will be allowed 5 business days from the date the ballot is first provided to complete and submit the ballot. The candidate in each race, of each constituency group, receiving the majority of votes cast will be the winner.

4.7.1.1.2.1 Provisional Member School Representatives. The representative of a school that is in its provisional period of membership is not eligible to run for or vote in any election.

4.7.1.1.3 Run-Off Election. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes in the general election, the FHSAA Office will provide to each school representative who is eligible to vote in the run-off election a second ballot. The run-off ballot will list the names of the candidates who received the most and second-most votes in the general election. The school representative may vote for only one candidate in the race, and will be allowed 5 business days from the date the ballot is first provided to complete and submit the ballot. The candidate receiving the majority of votes cast will be the winner.

4.7.1.1.4 Tie in Elections. The Board of Directors, by majority vote during its final regularly scheduled meeting of the school year, will determine a winner in any election that ends in a tie. Each candidate shall have the opportunity to submit a resume to the Board of Directors for its consideration.

4.7.1.2 Positions Held by District School Superintendents and District School Board Members. The Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida School Boards Association will determine the method for electing their representatives to the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors and Sectional Appeals Committees and will conduct those elections.

4.7.2 Vacancies

4.7.2.1 Positions Held by School Representatives. The Board of Directors will appoint an eligible person to fill a school representative position on the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors or Sectional Appeals Committees when the person holding the position vacates before the end of his/her term of service. The person appointed to the position will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

4.7.2.2 Positions Held by District School Superintendents and District School Board Members. The Florida Association of District School Superintendents and the Florida School Boards Association will determine the method for replacing their respective representatives on the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors and Sectional Appeals Committees when the person holding the position vacates before the end of his/her term of service. The person appointed to the position will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

4.7.2.3 Positions Held by At-Large Appointees of Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education will appoint an eligible person to fill an at-large position appointed by the Commissioner of Education when the person holding the position vacates before the end of his/her term of service. The person appointed to the position will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

4.7.2.4 Determining Year of Service for Person Appointed to Fill Unexpired Term. A person appointed to fill a position on the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors or Sectional Appeals Committees for the remainder of an unexpired term is considered to have served a full year only if he/she was appointed prior to and attended the first meeting of the year.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 5

Amendments

5.1 SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS

5.1.1 Submission. Each member school representative, the Board of Directors acting as a whole or as members acting individually, any advisory committee to be established by the Association acting as a whole, and the Association's Executive Director are empowered to propose amendments to the Bylaws. Any other individual may propose an amendment by securing the sponsorship of any of the aforementioned individuals or bodies. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted to the Executive Director by such date as adopted by the Board of Directors for consideration by the Representative Assembly. All proposed amendments received by the deadline shall be submitted by the Executive Director directly to the Representative Assembly for its consideration.

5.2 ACTION BY REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

5.2.1 **Action.** The Representative Assembly shall consider, adopt, or reject any proposed amendments to these Bylaws. The Representative Assembly may not, in and of itself, as a body be allowed to propose any amendment for its own consideration. Any revision to a proposed amendment by the Representative Assembly shall require the written authorization of its original sponsor(s). Such revisions shall require a majority of the votes cast by delegates present at the Assembly.

5.2.2 **Passage.** A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by delegates present is required for passage of any proposal. A vote on the final passage of any proposal shall be by roll call or signed ballot with the vote cast by each delegate reported to the member schools.

5.3 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENTS

5.3.1 **Effective Date.** An amendment shall become effective on the first day of July following its adoption unless otherwise specified.

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 6

Authority and Responsibilities of the Principal

6.1 DEFINITION AND RESPONSIBILITY

6.1.1 **Responsibilities.** The principal's responsibilities include the following:

- (a) Sign membership renewal application.
- (b) Assure that all contracts for interscholastic athletic competition have been duly executed, including those entered into by a predecessor.
- (c) Enforce the Association's bylaws and policies in his/her school.
- (d) Maintain institutional control of all phases of interscholastic athletic activities within a member school, including the activities of its student-athletes, booster clubs, parent groups, etc.
- (e) Keep on file all records required by this Association for the current school year.
- (f) Keep each of the following, but not limited to, required forms on file for at least seven (7) years:
 1. EL2 – Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation; and
 2. EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate; and
 3. EL3CH – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate for Concussion and Heat-Related Illness; and
 4. AT18 – Post Head Injury/Concussion Initial Return to Participation (if applicable).
- (g) Keep each of the following, but not limited to, additional forms (if applicable) until the student completes the terminal grade of the school:
 1. EL4 – Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International Student or Immigrant Student;
 2. EL7 – Registration Form for Home Education Student;
 3. EL7V – Verification of Student Registration with Public School District Home Education Office;
 4. EL12 – Registration Form for Non-Member Private School Student;
 5. EL14 – Verification of Student Controlled Open Enrollment Option with Public School District;
 6. GA4 – Affidavit of Compliance with the Policies on Athletic Recruiting & Non-Traditional Student Participation.

6.1.2 **Delegation of Responsibilities.** The principal may delegate his/her duties as the official representative to this Association to another member of his/her staff. This does not relieve the principal of the obligation to ensure that these bylaws and policies are adhered to.

6.2 CERTIFICATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

6.2.1 **Eligibility Reports.** The principal or designee must annually submit all eligibility reports electronically and sign all eligibility correspondence.

6.2.1.1 **Accuracy.** The principal or designee shall certify that the information provided to the Association is accurate, and that the students named in the report are eligible in accordance with these bylaws.



6.2.2 Principal is Unavailable. An assistant principal designated by the principal or the school's representative to the Association, if other than the principal, may electronically submit eligibility reports or sign eligibility correspondence if the principal is unavailable, provided that the circumstances are noted on the report or correspondence.

6.3 RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS

6.3.1 General Principle. Recruitment or attempted recruitment of students for athletic purposes is an act of unsportsmanlike conduct and is expressly forbidden.

6.3.2 Definition of Recruiting. Recruiting is the use of undue influence or special inducement by anyone associated with the school in an attempt to encourage a prospective student to attend or remain at that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

6.3.2.1 "Undue Influence and Special Inducement" Defined. The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain a policy which defines undue influence and special inducement; lists examples of violations; establishes penalties; and regulates academic recruitment and financial aid programs. Refer to Policy on Athletic Recruiting for details.

6.3.3 Liability for Recruitment. A member school is responsible for any violation of this bylaw and/or the recruiting policies committed by any person associated with the school, including the principal, assistant principals, athletic director, coaches, teachers, any other staff members or employees, students, parents, or any organizations having connection to the school, such as booster clubs. The member school is also responsible for a violation committed by any third party under the direction of the school or anyone associated with it.

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 7

Sportsmanship

7.1 SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

7.1.1 Sportsmanship Requirement. Players, coaches, administrators, spectators, contest officials and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school shall practice and promote the highest standards of sportsmanship and ethics before, during and after any interscholastic event.

7.1.2 Principal's Duty. It shall be the responsibility of each member school principal to exercise control over all individuals to the extent necessary to ensure safety and fair play for all participants and adherence with these standards.

7.2 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

7.2.1 "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" Defined. A student who commits an act of malicious and hateful nature toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct. Such acts may include, but are not limited to, profanity, striking or threatening a contest official; physical contact with an opponent which is beyond the normal scope of competition; spitting on a contest official or opponent; directing gender, racial or ethnic slurs toward a contest official, an opponent or any other person attending an athletic contest; or other such acts deemed to be unacceptable conduct according to the principal of the member school the student attends or this Association.

7.2.1.1 Penalty for Students. Students who are found to have committed unsportsmanlike conduct will be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition for a penalty period up to one or more calendar years.

7.2.1.2 Restoring Eligibility. The Executive Director, the Sectional Appeals Committee, or the Board of Directors on appeal, may restore the student's eligibility prior to the end of the penalty period, when in the discretion of the Executive Director, the student has been properly disciplined and the student signs a written statement of his/her intention to comply with these standards in the future.

7.2.2 Executive Director's Powers. The Executive Director shall have full authority to investigate allegations and incidents of unsportsmanlike conduct and invoke penalties against member schools or individuals involved.

7.2.3 Disqualifications. The disqualification from participation of a coach or student, or removal of a spectator or other representative of a member school due to unsportsmanlike conduct during an interscholastic event will subject the school to the appropriate penalties.

7.2.4 Removal by Coach or Administrator. The removal of a team or individual competitor by a coach or administrator because of their dissatisfaction with contest officials or other conditions of the contest shall be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and will subject the school to the appropriate penalties.

7.2.5 Unsportsmanlike Conduct at Tournaments, Meets, or Contests. The Executive Director, in the event of unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of a representative of the member school during an athletic tournament, meet, or contest, shall have the authority to deny further participation at said tournament, meet, or contest, to such team or individual.



7.2.6 Unsportsmanlike Conduct – Human Growth Hormone, Steroids, Performance-Enhancing Drugs, or Schedule 3 Narcotics. The use of human growth hormone, steroids, performance-enhancing drugs, or schedule 3 narcotics by a student is considered to be an act of unsportsmanlike conduct, and as such the student shall be ineligible for competition until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of human growth hormone, steroids, performance-enhancing drugs, or schedule 3 narcotics.

7.2.6.1 Any student-athlete under the care of a pediatric endocrinologist or an appropriately trained specialist being treated with idiopathic short stature (ISS) as outline by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) may appeal for exemption and shall provide appropriate medical documentation to the principal prior to competition.

7.2.6.2 Any student-athlete, under the direct care of a physician, who has been prescribed to use any hormone replacement drug shall provide the appropriate medical documentation to the principal prior to competition.

7.2.7 Crowd Control. Any member school whose principal commits unsportsmanlike conduct or whose principal fails to control the conduct of the student body, faculty, and spectators shall be subject to the appropriate penalties, which may include expulsion from membership in this Association.

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 8

Interscholastic Contests

8.1 INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST

8.1.1 Definition of Interscholastic Contest. An interscholastic contest is any competition between organized teams or individuals of different schools in a sport recognized by this Association, and therefore shall be subject to all regulations pertaining to such contests.

8.1.2 Protests. Any decision made by a contest official shall not be contested. The decisions of the contest officials are final.

8.2 RULES OF COMPETITION

8.2.1 NFHS Rules. Unless waived by at least a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, the rules published by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), or those approved by it, shall be the official rules for interscholastic athletic competition in all sports.

8.3 SCHOOLS WITH WHICH CONTESTS MAY BE HELD

8.3.1 Eligible Contestants. Member schools may only engage in interscholastic contests with the following:

- (a) Schools which are members of this Association;
- (b) Florida schools which are not members of the FHSAA (Non-FHSAA member school), provided:
 1. The Non-FHSAA member school must verify that athletic medical, catastrophic accident and catastrophic disability insurance coverage is provided for each of its student athletes (Policy 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3). The Non-FHSAA member school must provide general liability insurance for itself (Policy 8.4). The minimum limits for each type of insurance coverage must be the same as those established for FHSAA member schools (Policy 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4). The Non-FHSAA member school principal, or head of school, must provide the FHSAA with copies of certificates of coverage for each of these various insurance types, verifying that the Non-FHSAA member school has purchased the insurance coverage required (Bylaw 3.5.3 and 3.6.1.1.2); and
 2. An FHSAA game/contest contract (see Bylaw 8.4.1) has been fully executed by all participating schools; and
 3. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, meet the eligibility criteria listed in Florida Statutes for student athletes of FHSAA member schools(F.S. 1006.15); and
 4. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, have appropriate insurance as specified in F.S. 1006.16; and
 5. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation as specified in F.S. 1006.20(2)(c), and
 6. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must have on file a signed consent and release form (waiver of liability and parent permission to participate) as specified in F.S. 1006.20(2)(k), and
 7. Non-FHSAA member schools must agree to abide by the NFHS and FHSAA rules for the contest or event being conducted (Bylaw 8.2.1).



- (c) Out-of-state schools which are members in good standing of associations that are members of the NFHS or affiliate members of the NFHS and regulate interscholastic athletics for schools within their state. They must follow comparable eligibility guidelines and the season for the sport involved must run concurrently with that of the Florida High School Athletic Association.
- (d) Member schools shall not participate in athletic contests or contractually obligate themselves to participate in any tournament, meet or contest in which any schools which do not meet these criteria are scheduled to participate, or with non-school teams, groups or club teams.
- (e) Competition involving middle schools (grades 6-8), combination middle school programs (grades 6-8) and junior high schools (grades 7-9) must be between middle schools, combination middle school programs and junior high schools, respectively, as well as between middle schools and combination middle school programs.

8.4 CONTRACTS

8.4.1 General Principles. Contracts are required for all interscholastic athletic contests involving member schools and/or non-FHSAA member Florida schools, excluding the Florida High School State Championship Series. The principal and the designated FHSAA Representative (where applicable) or Athletic Director must execute such contracts.

8.4.1.1 Forms. In order to be valid, the contracts shall be executed utilizing the official Association process, as approved by the Executive Director.

8.4.1.2 Time Constraints. Member schools may not enter into a contract which purports to bind those schools for interscholastic athletic competition longer than three (3) years from the date on which it was executed.

8.4.1.3 Contract Terms. Details must be specific. Definite dates, sites, financial arrangements, process for selecting officials, and other items of interest to both parties should be specified. All parties agree to have the appropriate limits of catastrophic and liability insurance coverage.

8.4.2 Cancellation of Contract. Contracts may be canceled by mutual consent any time at least seven (7) days prior to the event.

8.4.2.1 Disputed Cancellation. If the parties fail to reach agreement on contract cancellation, the matter will be referred to the Executive Director for adjudication.

8.4.2.1.1 Appealing of Decision. If the Executive Director's decision is appealed, the decision of the Sectional Appeals Committee or Board of Directors shall be final.

8.4.2.1.2 Failure to Comply. Non-compliance with the final decision by either principal shall subject the school to a penalty, which may include expulsion.

8.4.2.2 Use of Ineligible Athletes. Contracts between member schools shall be subject to cancellation whenever either party proposes to allow the use of ineligible students. Member schools are prohibited from competing with schools which propose to use ineligible students. FHSAA member schools will be held accountable for complying with FHSAA bylaws, policies, rules and regulations, when competing with non-FHSAA member schools.

8.4.2.3 Suspended or Expelled Schools. When a member school is placed on suspension probation or expelled from membership, all contracts which the principal has executed shall be null and void. The contract may be renewed when the penalized school's punishment has ended if those dates have not yet been filled.

8.4.3 Failure to Meet Contractual Obligations. Any school which does not fulfill the terms of any valid contract or enters into an invitational tournament and does not compete until elimination shall be subjected to a financial penalty at the discretion of the Executive Director.

8.5 CATEGORIZATION OF SPORTS

8.5.1 Sports May be Categorized as Recognized or Sanctioned. All sports which are not recognized or sanctioned by the Board of Directors shall be considered club sports and are not under the jurisdiction of this Association.

8.5.1.1 "Recognized" Sports. Recognized sports require that participants abide by Association bylaws, policies, rules and contest regulations with regard to student eligibility and sportsmanship in interscholastic contests.

8.5.1.2 "Sanctioned" Sports. Sanctioned sports may require participants to adhere to stricter guidelines established by the Board of Directors. Sanctioned sports may be eligible for the Florida High School State Championship Series status pursuant to Bylaw 8.8.1.

8.6 PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

8.6.1 Girls on Boys' Teams. Girls may play on a boys' team in a sport if the school does not sponsor a girls' team in that sport.

8.6.2 Boys on Girls' Teams. Boys may not participate on a girls' team in any sport if the school's overall boys' athletic program equals or exceeds the girls' overall athletic program.



8.6.3 Mixed Gender Teams. Team sports that have both boys and girls are required to compete in the boys division in that sport.

8.6.4 Florida High School State Championship Series. In an individual sport, girls may not participate on boys' teams in the Florida High School State Championship Series when a sport is offered in the Florida High School State Championship Series for girls.

8.7 FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

8.7.1 Florida High School State Championship Series. For the purpose of determining the official state champion(s) in those sports that are recognized or sanctioned by the Board of Directors, this Association may conduct a Florida High School State Championship Series.

8.7.1.1 Determining Which Schools Are Eligible. Participation is limited to member senior high schools, combination schools and home education co-ops only. This excludes member middle or junior high schools and nonmember senior high schools.

8.7.1.2 Determining Which Sports Are Eligible. The Board of Directors shall determine which sports will conduct a Florida High School State Championship Series and shall set the terms and conditions of each series.

8.7.1.3 Commitment Form. Member schools choosing to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series must complete and submit to the Association a binding "Commitment Form."

8.7.2 Disbursement of Funds Raised. Member schools which host a Florida High School State Championship Series shall disperse funds in accordance with conditions established by the Board of Directors. Failure to do so will result in restrictive probation for all sports until proper remuneration is made.

8.7.3 Officials Assignments. The assignment of officials to officiate during the Florida High School State Championship Series will be made by the assignment officer of the local association at the district level and by the FHSAA Office at the regional and state level. The officials assigned to these contests are independent contractors and are not employees of the local associations or the FHSAA.

8.8 SEASON LIMITATIONS

8.8.1 General Principles. The Board of Directors shall adopt season limitations in each sport which conducts a Florida High School State Championship Series. These limitations shall establish the earliest and latest permissible dates for practice and competition, as well as the maximum number of regular season contests in each sport. The limitation on boys and girls will be the same for common sports. Member schools shall not conduct practice or competition in a sport during the established off-season for that sport.

8.8.2 Off-Season. The Board of Directors shall establish guidelines to govern interactions between member schools and student-athletes during the off-season. The off-season is the period of time outside the season limitations for a sport but during the school year.

8.9 USE OF REGISTERED OFFICIALS

8.9.1 Sports Requiring the Use of Registered Officials. All officials for interscholastic contests in the sports of baseball, basketball, football (flag and tackle), lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, water polo and wrestling must be registered with this Association in the sport the individual is to officiate.

8.9.2 Registration Policies. The Board of Directors shall establish the policies and procedures for the registration of officials, who shall be independent contractors. Registered officials must be members of an officials association which is sanctioned by this Association.

8.9.3 Failure to Use Registered Officials. It shall be the responsibility of the hosting member school principal for contracting registered officials through the officials association sanctioned by this Association. Violation of this regulation shall subject the school to a financial penalty.

8.9.4 Failure to Provide Registered Officials. Failure of the sanctioned officials association to provide registered officials as contracted shall subject the officials association to a financial penalty.

8.9.5 Conflicts of Interest. Coaches or other persons connected with competing schools shall not officiate in contests except with the consent of all competing schools. The principal, athletic director or team coach from all competing schools may grant consent.



Student Eligibility

9.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

9.1.1 Participation in Interscholastic Athletics a Privilege. Participation in interscholastic athletic programs by a student is a privilege, not a right. Students who participate are required to meet the requirements established in state law, FHSAA regulations, and by their respective schools.

9.1.1.1 Local Rules May Be More Stringent. Schools and /or school districts may adopt more stringent rules for the students under their supervision. No school or school district, however, may adopt rules that are less stringent than those of the FHSAA.

9.1.2 School Responsible to Ensure Student Eligibility. A school must not permit a student to represent it in interscholastic athletic competition unless the student meets all eligibility requirements and the school has certified the student's eligibility to the FHSAA Office.

9.1.2.1 Ineligible Student. An ineligible student shall not be allowed on the players' bench, in the team box or on the field of play wearing any portion of a team uniform.

9.1.2.2 Falsification of Information. A student and/or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction falsifies information to gain eligibility shall be declared ineligible to represent any member school for a period of one year from the date of discovery.

9.1.2.3 Eligibility of Recruited Students. A student may be declared ineligible based on violation of recruiting rules if:

- (a) The student or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has falsified any enrollment or eligibility document; or
- (b) The student or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction accepted any benefit or any promise of benefit if such benefit is not generally available to the school's students or family members; or
- (c) The benefit or promise of benefit is based in any way on athletic interest, potential, or performance.

9.1.3 Rationale for Eligibility Standards. Eligibility rules are necessary for participation in interscholastic athletics because:

- (a) They protect the opportunities of qualified students to participate; and
- (b) They promote competitive equity among schools; and
- (c) They encourage academic achievement by student-athletes.

9.2 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

9.2.1 Student May Only Participate at School he/she First Attends Each School Year. A student must attend school, and may participate only in the interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by the school he/she first attends each school year, which is either: (s. 1006.20(2)(a), Florida Statutes)

- (a) The school where the student first attends classes; or
- (b) The school where the student first participates in athletic activities on or after the official start date of that sport season before he/she attends classes at any school.

9.2.1.1 Definition of "Attend School." A student attends school if he/she is present in a school classroom on a regular basis or is a "Non-Traditional" student participating for a member school. A student can attend only one school at a time for the purposes of interscholastic athletic eligibility.

9.2.1.2 Definition of "Interscholastic Athletic Programs." Interscholastic athletic programs encompass all activities relating to competitive sport contests involving individual students or teams of students from one school against individual students or teams of students from another school. Such activities include, but are not limited to, tryouts, offseason conditioning, summer workouts, preseason conditioning, in-season practice and contests.

9.2.1.3 Students with Multiple Residences. A student who, through the actions of a court of competent jurisdiction, is required to have multiple physical residences will establish his/her school residence as per Bylaw 9.2.1.

9.2.2 Attendance Exceptions

9.2.2.1 Home Education Student. A legally registered home education student may participate at one of the following: (s. 1006.15(3)(c), Florida Statutes)

- (a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or



- (b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student; or
- (c) A private school that will accept the student for participation; or
- (d) A home education cooperative to which the student belongs.

9.2.2.1.1 Home Education Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(c)1-7, Florida Statutes)

- (a) register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides; and
- (b) register with the school of his/her intent to participate before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wants to participate; and
- (c) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students; and
- (d) certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation; and
- (e) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and
- (f) must be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

9.2.2.2 Charter School Student. A student who attends a charter school that does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in one or more sports may participate in the sport or sports not sponsored by the charter school at either of the following schools: (s. 1006.15(3)(d), Florida Statutes)

- (a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or
- (b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

9.2.2.2.1 Charter School Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a charter school student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(d)1-7, Florida Statutes)

- (a) meet the requirements of the charter school education program as determined by the charter school governing board; and
- (b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and
- (c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and
- (d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and
- (e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and
- (f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements (no form is required).

9.2.2.3 Students in Alternative or Special Schools. A student who attends an alternative school or other special school operated by a school district and does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program may participate at:

- (a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or
- (b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

9.2.2.3.1 Alternative or Special School Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, an alternative or special school:

- (a) Must be reported by the district superintendent or district athletic director as a school qualified to allow students to participate under this bylaw; and
- (b) The student must register his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and
- (c) The student must meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements.

9.2.2.4 Non-member Private School Students. A student who attends a private school shall be eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a public high school, a public middle school, or a combination public school that the student is zoned for the physical address at which the student resides if: (s. 1006.15(8), Florida Statutes)

- (a) The private school in which the student is enrolled is not a member of the FHSAA; and
- (b) The private school does not offer an interscholastic or intrascholastic athletic program; and
- (c) The private school enrollment consists of 125 students or fewer.



9.2.2.4.1 Non-member Private School Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a non-member private school student must: (s. 1006.15(8), Florida Statutes)

- (a) make all student records, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of the FHSAA; and
- (b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and
- (c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and
- (d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and
- (e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and
- (f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and
- (g) be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

9.2.2.5 Florida Virtual School – Full Time Program (FLVS-FT) Students. A student of the Florida Virtual School full-time program may participate in any interscholastic extracurricular activity at:

- (a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or
- (b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

9.2.2.5.1 FLVS-FT Student Requirement. To participate in interscholastic athletics, an FLVS-FT student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(e)1-5, Florida Statutes)

- (a) meet any additional requirements as determined by the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School; and
- (b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and
- (c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and
- (d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and
- (e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and
- (f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements.

9.2.2.6 Middle School Students Attending Non-member Public Schools. A student in grades 6 through 8 who attends a public school that is not a member of this Association and has no athletic program due to low student population may represent a member public school that is part of the same school district in interscholastic competition, provided such participation is at the junior high or middle school level. In the event the member public school is a combination school, i.e. grades k-12 or 6-12, the student may represent that school in interscholastic competition at the varsity level (NOTE: these students are considered “Non-Traditional” students and must be reported to the association as such).

9.2.2.7 Students in Dual Enrollment and Early Admission Programs. A student who attends a dual enrollment or early admission program operated by a community college or university may participate at the school the student would attend if:

- (a) The school awards credit toward graduation for the work the student completes at the community college or university; and
- (b) The community college or university officially issues grades on the same schedule as the school’s semester; and
- (c) The student has not met the graduation requirements as specified by the school’s or school district’s student progression plan for high school graduation; and
- (d) The student does not participate in the intercollegiate athletic programs of the community college or university; and
- (e) The student meets all other FHSAA eligibility requirements (no form or letter is required).

9.2.2.8 Participation in Summer Athletic Activities by Students Changing Schools or Entering a Member School or Combination School for the First Time. A student may participate in athletic activities sponsored by a school during the summer period immediately preceding attendance in that school if the student has been assigned to or accepted by the school and no longer attends his/her previous school. A student who is assigned to and/or accepted by more than one school will be considered to have established residence in the school he/she first attends or participates in summer athletic activities prior to attendance, whichever comes first.

9.2.3 Attendance Within First 10 Days of Semester Required. A student must attend classes within the first 10 school days of a semester. Otherwise, the student will not be eligible until:

- (a) The student has made up all class work missed during his/her absence; and
- (b) The student has attended one school day for each school day missed.



9.2.4 **Contact between Member School Coach and Student in Non-School Athletic Activities.** The FHSAA supports and endorses Florida's philosophy of school of choice for academic purposes. However, if a student chooses to attend or participate for a school, public or private, the following shall affect student eligibility related to participation in any non-school athletic activities affiliated with a member school followed by attending the affiliated member school within 365 days. If a student begins attending or participating for a school, public or private, within 365 days following direct contact with a member school's coach, during the previous school year and in a non-school activity the student's participation is impacted in the following manner:

- (a) The student must participate at the sub-varsity level for the sport(s) in which the contact occurred, for a period of 365 days; the student may participate at the varsity level for every other sport sponsored by the member school at the school's discretion; OR
- (b) The student may participate at the varsity level in any sport, provided the student began attending the new school due to the fact that he/she could no longer attend the previous school because of its terminal grade; OR
- (c) The student may participate at the varsity level of the sport(s) in which the contact occurred, however, the school's coach shall not participate in any manner at the school in the impacted sport(s) for a period of 365 calendar days.

This does not preclude the determination of a violation of the FHSAA's policy on Athletic Recruiting by clear and convincing evidence. A member school which allows a student to participate without meeting any of the aforementioned provisions shall be considered to have allowed an ineligible player to participate in accordance with Bylaw 10.

9.2.4.1 Non-School Athletic Activities Affiliated with a School. Non-school athletic activities affiliated with a school are any athletic activities not sponsored by the school but are organized, coached and/or supervised by a coach (paid or unpaid) of an FHSAA member school. Such activities include, but are not limited to:

- (a) club/travel teams;
- (b) recreational league teams;
- (c) personal instruction sessions; and
- (d) any other type of activity determined by the FHSAA to be an athletic activity.

9.2.5 **Relocation of a Coach.** A student who establishes residence at a school within one year of the relocation of any member of the coaching staff of the sport(s) in which the student participates, on any level regardless of which level the student participated, may participate at the new school under the following provisions:

- (a) The student must participate at the sub-varsity level for the sport(s) in which the contact occurred, for a period of 365 days; the student may participate at the varsity level for every other sport sponsored by the member school at the school's discretion provided the coach does not coach in any other sport; OR
- (b) The student may participate at the varsity level in any sport, provided the student began attending the new school due to the fact that he/she could no longer attend the previous school because of its terminal grade; OR
- (c) The student may participate at the varsity level of the sport(s) in which the contact occurred, however, the school's coach shall not participate in any manner at the school in the impacted sport(s) for a period of 365 calendar days.

This does not preclude the determination of a violation of the FHSAA's policy on Athletic Recruiting by clear and convincing evidence. A member school which allows a student to participate without meeting any of the aforementioned provisions shall be considered to have allowed an ineligible player to participate in accordance with Bylaw 10.

9.2.6 **Ineligible Student Cannot Change Schools to Become Eligible.** A student who is deemed ineligible for a period of time cannot change schools and become eligible. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

9.3 TRANSFER REGULATIONS

9.3.1 "Transfer" Defined. A transfer occurs when a student makes any change in schools after he/she establishes residency at a school each year.

9.3.2 **Transfer Eligibility.** A student who transfers from one school to another will be eligible at the new school provided the student qualifies under one of the following:

9.3.2.1 **Transfer of Schools before a Sport Season.** The student transfers and begins attending the new school on or prior to the beginning date of the sport season, as established in the FHSAA Calendar, meets all other eligibility requirements in Article 9 and provided:

- (a) The transfer has been approved pursuant to district school board policies in the case of a transfer to a public school or pursuant to the private school policies in the case of a transfer to a private school; and
- (b) A form to be provided by the association (EL6 Form – Notice of Transfer) has been submitted to the association.

9.3.2.2 **Full and Complete Move to New Residence.** The student moves to a new home address due to a full and complete move by the student and the persons with whom he/she has been living for at least one calendar year that makes it necessary for the student to attend a different school and the student meets all other eligibility requirements in Article 9. A student and his/her parents cannot occupy a residence at more than one address, and only the student's current residence may be used for eligibility purposes.



9.3.2.2.1 Full and Complete Move Defined. The following items are evidence a move is full and complete:

- (a) The former residence is not occupied for any purpose at any time by the student or any of the persons with whom the student has been living; and
- (b) All personal belongings are moved from the former residence; and
- (c) Mail is received at the new residence; and
- (d) All utilities are transferred to the new residence; and
- (e) Driver's license, voter registration and other forms of legal identification are changed to the new residence.

9.3.2.3 Necessary Relocation to Residence of Another Individual. The student transfers because he/she has to move into the residence of another person who lives at a residence that makes it necessary for the student to attend a different school and the student meets all other eligibility requirements in Article 9. This exception applies only to the following specific situations:

- (a) One of the persons with whom the student has been living dies; or
- (b) One of the persons with whom the student has been living is imprisoned or committed by court order to a mental facility; or
- (c) The student is made a ward of the court or state and is placed in a foster home by a court of legal jurisdiction. In this case, a certified copy of the court order, a copy of the petition upon which the order was based, and other evidence the court had to consider in issuing the order must be provided to the FHSAA Office. Permanent guardianship must be appointed legally by a court of competent jurisdiction.

9.3.2.4 Move to New Residence Following Marriage. The student marries and immediately establishes a new residence with his/her spouse at a residence that makes it necessary for the student to attend a different school and the student meets all other eligibility requirements in Article 9.

9.3.2.5 Reassignment by District School Board. The student is reassigned during the school year to a different school by the district school board, as long as the reassignment is not for athletic or disciplinary reasons, and is not requested by the student or his/her parents, and the student meets all other eligibility requirements in Article 9. In this case, the student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition at the public school where he/she is assigned or a private school he/she chooses to attend.

9.3.2.6 Transfer of Schools within the First Twenty Days. The student transfers schools within the first twenty (20) school days of the academic school year, meets all other requirements in Article 9 and provided:

- (a) The student has not engaged in any athletic activities affiliated with either school prior to the transfer; and
- (b) The student has not been recruited; and
- (c) The student is not transferring in whole or in part for athletic reasons; and
- (d) The student is not transferring because of disciplinary reasons and/or misconduct; and
- (e) The new school principal communicates and verifies with the losing school principal that 9.3.2.6 (a)-(d) have been met by the student.

9.3.2.7 Need to Attend a Different School Defined. When determining whether a change in residence makes it necessary for a student to attend a different school as required in Bylaws 9.3.2.2, 9.3.2.3 and 9.3.2.4, the FHSAA Office will consider the following criteria:

- (a) Is the student not permitted to attend his/her old school by the district school board because the new residence is outside the school's attendance zone?
- (b) Is public transportation from the student's new residence to the old school not provided?

9.3.3 Qualifying Transfer Student Becomes Eligible on Sixth Day of Attendance. A transfer student who qualifies under one of Bylaws 9.3.2.2, 9.3.2.3, 9.3.2.4, 9.3.2.5 or 9.3.2.6 will be eligible for competition on the sixth school day of attendance at the new school if:

- (a) The school has received and evaluated the student's official sealed transcript provided by his/her former school; and
- (b) The school has determined that the student meets all eligibility requirements.

9.3.3.1 Transfer Student Must Provide Academic Records. A student who transfers to a member school from a nonmember school after beginning high school must provide the member school with an official sealed transcript showing all grades he/she has received at all schools attended since beginning eighth grade. The student must also provide the school with all information the school needs to determine the student's eligibility using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2. The student cannot be declared academically eligible by the member school until all such information is received to its satisfaction. Final grades previously earned by the student shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.

9.3.3.2 Transfer Student's Former School Must Verify Eligibility Status Upon Request. The member school formerly attended by a transfer student must verify the student's eligibility status if requested to do so by the student's new school.



9.3.3.3 **Transfer Student Not Eligible for One Full Semester if Transcript Cannot be Obtained.** A transfer student whose former school cannot or will not provide an official sealed transcript will not be eligible in the new school until he/she has been in attendance for one full semester and has established a cumulative GPA. The school must submit a written report to the FHSAA Office that includes the student's name, date of first attendance in the school, and the beginning and ending dates of the previous semester.

9.3.4 **Ineligible Student Cannot Transfer to Become Eligible.** A transfer student who is deemed ineligible for a period of time cannot transfer schools and become eligible. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

9.3.4.1 **Students Under Expulsion.** A student who has been expelled by a school district or school shall not be considered eligible at any member school during the length of the expulsion. If the student who chooses not to attend an alternative school, if offered by the school district or school, shall be ineligible to represent a member school for the next two consecutive "full" semesters. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

9.3.5 **Transfer Students Who Are Not Eligible.** The following transfer students are not eligible in their new school even if they otherwise qualify under one of Bylaws 9.3.2.1, 9.3.2.2, 9.3.2.3, 9.3.2.4, 9.3.2.5 or 9.3.2.6.

9.3.5.1 **Student Who Transfers After the Florida High School State Championship Series in a Sport Begins.** A student who transfers to any school after the Florida High School State Championship Series in a sport begins will not be eligible to participate in that sport through the conclusion of the Florida High School State Championship Series.

9.3.5.1.1 **Student Who Participated in a State Championship Series in Another State.** A student who attends a member school after having participated in a state championship series in a sport in another state is ineligible to participate in that sport for that school year.

9.4 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

9.4.1 **2.0 GPA Required for Academic Eligibility.** A middle/junior high student must have 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, at the conclusion of each semester. A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester (s. 1006.15(3)(a)1, Florida Statutes). Final grades previously earned by the student from another school shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.

9.4.1.1 **Courses to be Used in Calculating GPA.** The grades from all courses required for graduation that a student takes, including those taken by the student before he/she begins high school, must be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative GPA at the conclusion of each semester. For public school students, this includes the courses listed in s. 1003.43(1), Florida Statutes.

9.4.1.2 **Academic Eligibility/Ineligibility is for a Semester.** A student who is academically eligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically eligible for that entire semester. Likewise, a student who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically ineligible for that entire semester, except as provided in Bylaw 9.4.5.1.2. The student's academic eligibility for each successive semester will depend upon his/her cumulative GPA at the conclusion of the previous semester.

9.4.1.3 **Attendance During Previous Two Consecutive Semesters Required.** A student cannot be academically eligible if he/she has not attended school and received grades for all courses taken during the previous two consecutive semesters.

9.4.1.4 **Exception – First Semester of High School Attendance – Ninth Grade.** A first-year high school student, entering the ninth grade for the first time, is academically eligible during his/her first semester of high school attendance. The student, however, must have the cumulative 2.0 GPA at the conclusion of his/her first semester of high school attendance to be academically eligible to participate during his/her next semester of attendance.

9.4.1.5 **Academic Performance Contract.** A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1), F.S., must, upon discovery, execute and fulfill the requirements of an Academic Performance Contract between the student, the school, and the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, which at a minimum must require that the student attend summer school, or its graded equivalent (i.e. adult education, Florida Virtual School, etc.), between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11, as necessary. (s. 1006.15(3)(a)2, F.S.).

9.4.1.6 **Using Semester GPA for Ninth and Tenth Grade.** A student who is academically ineligible during the second semester of ninth grade or during the first semester of tenth grade and does not regain a cumulative 2.0 GPA at the conclusion of the semester of ineligibility may be granted academic eligibility for the next semester if:

- (a) The student signs an academic performance contract with his/her school as per Bylaw 9.4.1.5; and
- (b) The student sits out the semester of ineligibility; and
- (c) The student earns a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken during the semester of ineligibility.

9.4.1.7 **No Exceptions During the 11th and 12th Grade.** Once a student has completed 10th grade, he/she must have the cumulative 2.0 GPA as required by Bylaw 9.4.1 for the remainder of his/her high school career (s. 1006.15(3)(a)3, Florida Statutes).



9.4.1.8 Students in Dual Enrollment or Early Admission Programs. Students who participate in dual enrollment programs or early admission programs must have the cumulative 2.0 GPA as required in Bylaw 9.4.1 to be academically eligible.

9.4.1.9 Student Not Eligible for One Full Semester if Transcript Cannot be Obtained. A student whose former school cannot or will not provide an official sealed transcript will not be eligible in the new school until he/she has been in attendance for one full semester and has established a cumulative GPA. The school must submit a written report to the FHSAA Office that includes the student's name, date of first attendance in the school, and the beginning and ending dates of the previous semester.

9.4.2 Mandatory Grading Scale to be used in Calculating GPA. All member schools must use the following alphabetical grading scale as mandated in s. 1003.437, Florida Statutes, when calculating the grade point averages of high school students to determine their academic eligibility:

- Grade "A" is 90 to 100 percent and has a GPA value of 4;
- Grade "B" is 80 to 89 percent and has a GPA value of 3;
- Grade "C" is 70 to 79 percent and has a GPA value of 2;
- Grade "D" is 60 to 69 percent and has a GPA value of 1; and
- Grade "F" is 59 percent or less and has a GPA value of 0.

9.4.2.1 Incomplete Grade is a Failure. An incomplete grade must be counted as a failure (Grade "F") when calculating a student's cumulative GPA.

9.4.3 Effect of Summer School or its Graded Equivalent Courses on Cumulative GPA. A student may raise or lower his/her cumulative GPA by attending summer school or its graded equivalent if:

- (a) The summer school or its graded equivalent is regularly scheduled and regularly organized under the direction of a district school board or private school;
- (b) All coursework taken by the student is completed before the first day of classes in the subsequent semester; and
- (c) All courses taken by the student, in which he/she receives a grade, whether during the regular academic year or summer school, or its graded equivalent, must be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.

9.4.3.1 "Forgiveness." If a student repeats a course, regardless of whether he/she passed or failed the course on the first attempt in which the student earned a "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," the grade may be replaced with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, provided for required courses the course is the same or comparable course, or with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher for an elective course and that grade will be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA (s. 1003.428(4)(d), note, Florida Statutes).

9.4.3.1.1 Grade GPA Calculation. For the purposes of GPA calculation, each subsequent unsuccessful attempt on a course taken for forgiveness must be computed in the calculations. One successful attempt will over write the original grade and all previous unsuccessful attempts.

9.4.3.2 Course Taught by Private Tutor Cannot be Used to Raise GPA. A school cannot accept a grade received by a student in a class conducted by a private certified tutor to raise his/her cumulative GPA for academic eligibility purposes.

9.4.4 Determination of Academic Eligibility at Conclusion of Each Semester. A school must calculate the cumulative GPA of a student at the conclusion of each semester to determine the student's academic eligibility for the next semester. Only those grades that are first reported by the student's teachers at the conclusion of the semester can be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.

9.4.4.1 Definition of "First Reported." "First reported" means the grades that are originally submitted by the student's teachers at the conclusion of the semester. Changes to grades that are first reported by a student's teachers may only be made according to the published policies of the school.

9.4.5 Course Work must be Completed by First Day of Next Semester. A student must complete all work required to earn credit in a course taken during a semester by the first day of the next semester. A grade of "incomplete" must be considered a failing grade when calculating a student's cumulative GPA.

9.4.5.1 Considerations

9.4.5.1.1 Special Course Work That Cannot be Completed by First Day of Next Semester. An exception to Bylaw 9.4.5 is made for students taking courses such as agriculture, which have special projects that cannot be completed until late summer.

9.4.5.1.2 Work Not Completed Due to Illness or Excused Absence. A student who is academically ineligible because of a failure to complete his/her course work by the first day of the next semester due to an extended illness, supported by a physician's report, or other excused absence may have his/her academic eligibility restored once the course work is completed and the student receives a passing grade that raises his/her cumulative GPA to 2.0 or above. A school must notify the FHSAA Office in writing whenever this occurs.



9.4.6 **Change in Eligibility Status.** If a student's academic eligibility changes at the end of a semester, the student will become eligible or ineligible on the sixth school day of the next semester as published on the school's official calendar for that school year. Even if the last day of the semester coincides with the last day of school for the winter holidays, the student will not become eligible or ineligible until the sixth school day of the next semester that follows the winter holidays as published on the school's official calendar for that school year.

9.4.7 **Student Must be an Undergraduate.** A student must not have completed the terminal grade of high school in the secondary education system of the U.S. or any other country. The terminal grade of the student is based on the graduation requirements of the country the student last attended school, including the completion of the GED or its equivalent.

9.5 LIMIT OF ELIGIBILITY

9.5.1 **High School Student Has Four Years of Eligibility.** A student is limited to four consecutive school years of eligibility beginning with school year he/she begins ninth grade for the first time. This does not imply that the student has four years of participation. After four consecutive school years, the student is permanently ineligible.

9.5.1.1 **Student Whose Limit of Eligibility Expires During Sports Season.** A student whose four-year limit of eligibility expires during the season of a sport in which the student is participating may complete the season if the student continues to meet all other eligibility requirements. The student, however, will not be permitted to participate in any other sport that begins after his/her limit of eligibility has expired.

9.5.1.2 **Participation Prior to High School Does Not Affect Limit of Eligibility.** A student's four-year limit of high school eligibility is not affected by the student's participation in interscholastic athletics before beginning the ninth grade for the first time.

9.5.2 **A 6th, 7th or 8th Grade Student Has 1-Year Limit of Eligibility in Each Grade.** A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student may participate only one year in each grade level. A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student who repeats a grade will not be eligible during the grade being repeated.

9.6 AGE

9.6.1 **High School Age Limit.** A student may participate at the high school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 19 years 9 months if the student has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility. The student becomes permanently ineligible at the high school level on the day he/she reaches the age of 19 years 9 months. Beginning with students entering grade 9 in 2014-15, and thereafter, a student who reaches the age of 19 on or after September 1st, and who has not exceeded his/her four-year limit of eligibility, may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.

9.6.1.1 **Student Who Reaches Age Limit During the Florida High School State Championship Series.** A student who reaches the age of 19 years 9 months during the Florida High School State Championship Series in which he/she is participating may complete the Florida High School State Championship Series if the student continues to meet all other eligibility requirements. The student, however, will not be allowed to participate in any other sport that begins after he/she has reached the age of 19 years 9 months.

9.6.2 **Junior High School Age Limit.** A student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition at the junior high school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 16 years 9 months. The student becomes permanently ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at the junior high school level on the day he/she reaches the age of 16 years 9 months. Beginning with students entering grade 7 in 2014-15, and thereafter, a student who reaches the age of 16 on or after September 1st may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.

9.6.2.1 **When Junior High Age Limit Applies.** The 16 year 9 month junior high school age limit applies to a participating student only when:

- (a) Teams representing junior high schools compete against each other; or
- (b) Teams representing the junior high school departments of combination junior-senior high schools compete against each other.

9.6.3 **Middle School Age Limit.** A student may participate in interscholastic athletic competition at the middle school level until the day he/she reaches the age of 15 years 9 months. The student becomes permanently ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at the middle school level on the day he/she reaches the age of 15 years 9 months. Beginning with students entering grade 6 in 2014-15, and thereafter, a student who reaches the age of 15 on or after September 1st may participate in interscholastic athletics during that school year.

9.6.3.1 **When Middle School Age Limit Applies.** The 15 year 9 month middle school age limit applies to a participating student only when:

- (a) Teams representing middle schools compete against each other; or
- (b) Teams representing the middle school departments of combination middle-senior high schools compete against each other.



9.6.4 School Must Verify Age of Student. A school must verify the age of each student who represents it in interscholastic athletic competition. The student must provide documented proof of his/her age for this purpose. A student who is unable to provide documented proof of his/her age cannot participate.

9.6.4.1 What is Documented Proof of Age? Documented proof of age is one or more of the following:

- (a) An original birth certificate issued by the office of vital records in the country, province, state, county or city where the student was born;
- (b) A passport, visa or “green card” that lists the student’s date of birth; or
- (c) An official record of birth from the hospital in which the student was born.

9.7 PHYSICAL EVALUATION (FHSAA Form EL2 – Pre-participation Physical Examination)

9.7.1 Student Must Have a Physical Evaluation Each Year. A student must have a physical evaluation each year and be certified as being physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletic programs. A physical evaluation shall be valid for a period not to exceed one calendar year from the date of practitioner’s signature. The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed physical evaluation form is on file in the school (s. 1002.20(17)(b), Florida Statutes).

9.7.2 Qualified Practitioners. The annual physical evaluation must be administered either by a licensed physician, a licensed osteopathic physician, a licensed chiropractic physician, a licensed physician assistant, or a certified advanced registered nurse practitioner.

9.7.3 Filing Requirements. The student-athlete shall be required to file with the principal or his/her designee a fully executed physical evaluation form signed by the practitioner and medical history questionnaire signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

9.7.4 Evaluation Requirements. The Board of Directors shall adopt minimum requirements for the physical evaluation to which each member school shall adhere.

9.8 CONSENT AND RELEASE (FHSAA Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate)

9.8.1 Student Must Provide School with Signed Consent and Release Form to Participate. A student must have the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to participate in interscholastic athletic programs at a member school. The student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must also release the FHSAA, its member schools and contest officials from all liability for any injury or claim that may result from the student’s participation in interscholastic athletics. This consent and release from liability must be provided in writing on a form developed by this Association for that purpose. The form must be signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed consent form is on file in the school.

9.8.1.1 Board of Directors to Adopt Language for Consent and Release Form. The Board of Directors will adopt the language that must be contained in the consent and release form, which, at a minimum, will include the following:

- (a) A statement acknowledging that participation in interscholastic athletics may require the student to miss classes;
- (b) A statement authorizing the school to provide to the FHSAA for inspection the student’s academic, attendance and financial assistance records when requested;
- (c) A statement warning of the health risks involved in participating in interscholastic athletics;
- (d) A statement authorizing the use or disclosure of the student’s individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary; and
- (e) A statement granting to the released parties the right to photograph and videotape the student and to use his/her name, face, likeness, voice and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional and commercial materials without reservation or limitation.

9.9 AMATEURISM

9.9.1 General Principles. A student may not participate in an athletic activity of this Association unless he/ she is an amateur. An amateur is one who engages in athletic competition solely for the physical, mental, social, and pleasure benefits derived from the activity.

9.9.2 Forfeiture of Amateur Status. A student-athlete forfeits amateur status in a particular sport for one year by:

- (a) Competing for money or other monetary compensations;
- (b) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the FHSAA;



- (c) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of a monetary nature;
- (d) Signing a professional playing contract in any sport or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career;
- (e) Competing under an assumed name.

9.9.3 Permissible Awards, Gifts, or Other Compensation. A student-athlete will not forfeit his/her amateur status for accepting:

- (a) Symbolic awards such as school letters, medals, trophies, ribbons, plaques, pins, keys, or ribbons of small monetary value purchased from an established awards company;
- (b) Rings, sweaters, jackets, or award blankets provided that they are presented by the school which they represent and do not exceed the value of the purchase price from an established awards company;
- (c) Remuneration of “essential expenses” for any game in which he/she participates as a player; limited to meals, lodging, and transportation;
- (d) A college scholarship offer.

9.9.3.1 Amateur Sports Guidelines. The FHSAA uses the guidelines of the national governing body of a particular sport, when applicable, to determine the types and amounts of benefits an amateur may receive.

9.9.4 Violations. Violation of the amateur rule in one sport does not make a student ineligible in all other sports.

NOTE: Any student who may consider participating in athletics as an amateur after high school should determine whether any action they intend to take while in high school would violate the amateurism regulation of the governing body at the level of competition at which he or she intends to participate.

9.10 STUDENT-ATHLETE PARTICIPATION

9.10.1 Athletic Participation Defined. A student in athletic uniform during an athletic contest is defined as having participated. Any member school which allows a student to participate in interscholastic athletic competition (dress in any part of the full uniform worn for that contest with the exception of a cap) in violation of the regulations of this Association will be held guilty of using an ineligible student and subject to the penalties assessed.

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 10

Compliance and Enforcement

10.1 PRINCIPLES AND PENALTIES

10.1.1 General Principles. The Executive Director shall have the authority to direct audits and compliance reviews and to investigate all alleged violations of this Association’s Bylaws, as well as regulations, guidelines, policies or procedures established by the Board of Directors. The procedures outlined in Policy 39 (Policy on Investigative Procedures), which shall be in full compliance with Florida Statute 1006.20(2)(g), will be followed for such investigations. All findings shall be disclosed to the member school in writing, setting forth the findings of fact and specific violation upon which the decision is based.

10.1.2 Penalties and Sanctions. The Executive Director shall have full authority to invoke one or more of the following penalties and/or sanctions against the violating school or person:

- (a) REPRIMAND—An official letter of censure to the concerned party in regard to the offense committed which warns against further violations. This letter will be kept on file for future reference.
- (b) FINE—A monetary payment.
- (c) FORFEIT—The forfeiture of an interscholastic athletic contest.
- (d) PROBATION—Types of probation that may be imposed are as follows:
 - 1) Administrative Probation—The school or person is reprimanded, fined and served notice that it is in a period of warning for a minimum of one calendar year. Additional violations during this time will result in increased penalties which may include expulsion.
 - 2) Restrictive Probation—The school or person faces the same penalties as administrative probation, with the additional consequence of restriction from participation in championship competition in one or more sports, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the Executive Director, for one or more calendar years.
 - 3) Suspension Probation—The school or person faces the same penalties as administrative probation, with the additional consequence of suspension from one or more sports for one or more calendar years.
- (e) EXPULSION—Involuntary termination of a school’s membership in the Association for one or more calendar years. Any member school that competes with a currently expelled school may subject itself to expulsion from the Association for one calendar year.



10.1.2.1 **Restricted Membership.** The Board of Directors, instead of expulsion, may restrict one, more or all the membership privileges of the school. The school remains a member even if all of its membership privileges are restricted.

10.1.2 **Reimbursement of Expenses.** A member school found to have committed a violation shall pay to this Association any expenses incurred related to such violation, including, but not limited to, the costs of the investigation, attorney's fees and legal costs, and all other related costs.

10.1.2.1 If a member school is assessed a financial penalty as a result of a coach committing a major violation, the coach shall reimburse the member school before being allowed to coach, participate in, or attend any athletic activity sponsored, recognized, or sanctioned by the FHSAA and a member school.

10.1.3 **Sanctions on Coaches.** Sanctions placed upon an individual coach may include, but are not limited to, prohibiting or suspending the coach from coaching, participating in, or attending any athletic activity sponsored, recognized, or sanctioned by the FHSAA and the member school for which the coach committed the violation. If a coach is sanctioned by the FHSAA and the coach transfers to another member school, those sanctions remain in full force and effect during the term of the sanction.

10.1.4 **Court Injunctions.** If a member school or student, in violation of or noncompliance with any provisions of this Association's rules, competes based on an injunction or restraining order which is later voluntarily vacated, stayed or reversed, or it is determined that injunctive relief is not or was not justified, they will still be subject to the penalties listed in 10.1.2.

10.2 FORFEITURE OF CONTEST

10.2.1 **General Principle.** If an ineligible student is intentionally permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest, forfeiture of the game and honors shall be automatic and mandatory. If an ineligible student is inadvertently permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest, forfeiture of the game and honors shall be automatic and mandatory if the coach or school administrator knew or should have known that such use would be a violation of the association's rules and regulations.

10.2.1.1 **Team or Individual Sports.** In team sports, the contest and honors shall be forfeited. In individual sports, the points won by the ineligible student, individually or as the member of a relay team shall be forfeited. If an ineligible student participates on a relay team, the relay team shall be disqualified.

10.2.1.2 **Procedures.** If an ineligible student is allowed to participate in an athletic contest, the principal shall notify the Executive Director the dates of the competition and provide copies of the letters of forfeiture to the opposing school(s) the student participated against.

10.2.1.3 **Intentional Use of Ineligible Students.** The Executive Director shall have full authority to invoke additional penalties against a member school that in his/her determination intentionally permits an ineligible student to participate.

10.2.1.4 **Prospective Contests.** The association will not limit the competition of student athletes prospectively for rule violations of the school by its coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests. The association will not unfairly punish student athletes for eligibility or recruiting violations perpetrated by a teammate, coach, administrator or other representatives of the school's athletic interests. Contests will not be forfeited for other eligibility or recruiting violations in excess of the number of contests that the coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests responsible for the violations are prospectively suspended.

10.3 PROTEST PROCEDURE

10.3.1 **Protesting Actions of Another School.** Any member school filing a protest over the eligibility of a student or the actions of a member school shall submit to the Executive Director in writing a full statement of the facts signed by the principal. The Executive Director shall provide the accused party or parties with a copy of the accusation and determine if the allegations warrant an investigation. If allegations concerning the eligibility of a student warrant an investigation, The procedures outlined in Policy 37 (Policy on Investigative Procedures), which shall be in full compliance with Florida Statute 1006.20(2)(g), will be followed for such investigations.

10.3.2 Protesting Actions of Contest Officials. The decisions of contest officials shall be final and not subject to review. Member schools should file reports with the Executive Director of unsatisfactory performance by contest officials which may be due to alleged lack of knowledge of the rules, errors in judgment or improper conduct.

10.4 DUE PROCESS

10.4.1 **Eligibility Appeals.** When a student is determined to be ineligible by a member school and/or is ruled ineligible by the Executive Director, the member school principal may appeal the ruling of the Executive Director if he/she or the student takes issue with it, and must do so at the student's request. If possible, such disposition of the appeal is to be made before the end of the applicable sport season.

10.4.2 **Rules Violations Appeals.** Any student athlete, coach or member school who is found to be in violation of the rules of this Association may appeal the finding of the Executive Director if he/she takes issue with it, or may appeal the penalty imposed if he/she believes it to be too severe, and must be done at the student's request.



10.4.3 Disputes Between Member Schools Appeals. A member school principal may appeal the findings by the Executive Director which arise from a dispute between one or more member schools.

10.4.4 Undue Hardship Waivers. A member school principal may file a request for undue hardship waiver on behalf of the student when enforcement of the provision(s) which render(s) the student ineligible works an undue hardship upon the student, and must do so at the student's request.

10.4.4.1 Basic Principle. The eligibility rules of this Association are designed to promote academic achievement and to encourage students to advance with their graduating class. Unless a student exerts every reasonable effort to make up credit not earned, such effort including attendance at summer school or other alternative programs, an undue hardship request seeking a waiver of the limit of eligibility shall not be granted.

10.4.4.2 Criteria for an Undue Hardship Waiver Determination. By seeking an undue hardship waiver, the student and the member school accept the fact that the student is ineligible under the FHSAA Bylaws but are asking for a grant of waiver of those Bylaws. For the purpose of determining whether to grant or deny an undue hardship waiver the Sectional Appeals Committees and the Board of Directions shall be guided by the following criteria, other criteria contained in these Bylaws and FHSAA Policies, and their respective experience related to high school athletics.

10.4.4.2.1 Insufficient Grounds for Undue Hardship Waiver. The fact that a student is retained in a lower grade shall not be sufficient grounds for granting an undue hardship waiver if the student fails to pass the required number of courses, or is voluntarily withdrawn from school, or repeats a lower grade to gain physical, social or emotional maturity

10.4.4.2.2 Potentially Sufficient Grounds for Undue Hardship Waiver. The fact that a student is unable or desires to participate in interscholastic athletics shall not, in and of itself, be grounds for granting an undue hardship waiver request. The fact that a student is retained in a lower grade because he/she misses school for a prolonged period of time due to serious injury or illness, which must be supported by a physician's record indicating that the absence was directly and solely related to such injury or illness, or events which were beyond the control of the student and/or the parent or guardian which causes the student to miss school for a prolonged period of time causing the student to repeat a grade, may be grounds for granting an undue hardship waiver request.

10.4.5 Mediation of Decisions. The principal of a member school, on behalf of a student, may request that the Executive Director mediate the decision of the Section Appeals Committee regarding the student's eligibility.

10.4.6 Waiver of Bylaws Due to Special Circumstances. The principal of a member school or his/her designee may request a waiver of any Bylaw or other regulation, guideline, policy or procedure of this Association not directly related to student eligibility when special circumstances, in the opinion of the person or entity making the appeal, call for a relief from or a modification to the effects of the rule.

10.4.7 Appeals of Executive Director's Findings. The principal of a member school or his/her designee, or any other individual, who is found to be in violation of the rules of this Association by the Executive Director, whether or not such finding results in the imposition of penalty, may appeal the finding of the Executive Director if he/she takes issue with it, or may appeal the penalty imposed, if any, if he/she, while not disagreeing with the finding, believes the penalty to be too severe.

10.4.8 No Appeal or Waiver of Florida Statutes. The Sectional Appeals Committee, the Infraction Appeals Committee and the Board of Directors do not have the authority to waive a provision of the Florida Statutes including but not limited to:

- (a) Mandatory GPA requirements (s. 1006.15(3)(a)2, Florida Statutes);
- (b) Definition of a grading period as being one semester;
- (c) Mandatory grading scale (s. 1003.437, Florida Statutes);
- (d) Authority of school districts to establish codes of conduct by which students must abide to be eligible to participate in interscholastic competition;
- (e) Home Education guidelines (s. 1006.15(3)(c)1-7, Florida Statutes) ;
- (f) Charter School guidelines (s. 1006.15(3)(d)1-7, Florida Statutes);
- (g) Non-FHSAA Member Private School guidelines (s. 1006.15(8), Florida Statutes);
- (h) Florida Virtual School guidelines (s. 1006.15(3)(e)1-5, Florida Statutes).

10.5 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR APPEALS AND REQUESTS FOR WAIVER

10.5.1 Cost of Appeal. The cost of an appeal, if any, including the Association's attorney fees, shall be borne by the person or entity making the appeal if the finding of the Executive Director or the penalty imposed is upheld or if the request for waiver is denied as in Bylaw 10.4.1.

10.5.2 Burden Of Proof. The burden of showing error in the determination of ineligibility or in showing why a waiver should be granted is on the person or entity making the appeal. Such proof shall include, as a minimum, a brief statement of the facts involved, the specific bylaw(s) or policy(s) involved and argument in support of the relief requested. This statement shall be supported by any relevant documentary evidence available.



10.5.3 Complete and Accurate Submissions. The person or entity making the appeal must ensure that the information submitted to support such appeal or request is complete and accurate. Additional information may be submitted and heard at the time of the appeal, for student eligibility cases. In the event a decision by the Sectional Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors was made based on incomplete or inaccurate information, the decision shall be withdrawn and the sanctions provided by these bylaws shall apply.

10.5.3.1 Eligibility Appeal Process. A school or student athlete filing an eligibility appeal is permitted to present information or evidence that was not available at the time of the initial determination of eligibility. The appeal committee hearing the appeal:

- (a) may consider the new information or evidence during the appeal and render a decision; or
- (b) may suspend the determination of the appeal and remand the appeal to the Executive Director for a new determination; and
- (c) the decision on the appeal must be made in writing, setting forth the findings of fact and the specific violation(s) upon which the decision is based.

10.5.4 Request for Eligibility Ruling. Each member school principal or his/her designee having reasonable cause to believe that a student is ineligible to participate in, or continue to participate in, interscholastic athletic competition under any provision of these regulations may request an official ruling on the student's eligibility from the Executive Director on a form to be provided by this Association, and must do so at the student's request. The Executive Director or his/her designee, through the use of clear and convincing evidence, shall issue a ruling based on the statement of facts and any other additional information made available to the Executive Director or his/her designee, such additional information shall be included in the official ruling related to the student's eligibility. In the event the Executive Director later determines that incomplete or inaccurate information has been included in the statement supporting the member schools request for an eligibility ruling, the ruling may be retracted and such penalties as deemed appropriate may be imposed by the Executive Director against the member school requesting the ruling.

10.5.5 Initial Appeals or Requests for Waivers. Initial appeals or requests for waivers will be heard by the Sectional Appeals Committee.

10.5.6 Subsequent Appeals or Requests for Waivers. Unfavorable decision found on the initial appeal or request for waiver rendered by the Sectional Appeals Committee will be heard by:

- (a) The Sectional Appeals Committee, provided new information is provided, or
- (b) The Board of Directors, which will consider any evidence that was presented to the Sectional Appeals Committee, and decisions will be final.

10.5.7 Appeals of Major Violations. Appeals of major violations will be heard by the Infraction Appeals Committee. Decisions of the Infraction Appeals Committee can be appealed to the Board of Directors. Decisions by the Board of Directors will be final.

10.5.7.1 Infraction Appeals Committee

10.5.7.1.1 Purpose of Committee. The Board of Directors appoints an Infractions Appeals Committee to hear and act upon appeals of schools found to have committed major violations.

10.5.7.1.2 Composition of Committee. The committee is composed of five members as follows:

- (a) One public school member, who must be a school-based administrator;
- (b) One public school member, who must be either a school-based administrator or a district-level administrator;
- (c) One private school member, who must be a school-based administrator;
- (d) One private school member, who must be either a school-based administrator or a regional or state-level administrator in a private school accrediting organization that is recognized by the FHSAA; and
- (e) One attorney who within the last five years has been a member in good standing of the Florida Bar or the bar of any other state in the union, and who cannot be connected with any member school, public school district or private school accrediting organization, or represent student-athletes, coaches or athletic directors in any manner.

10.5.7.1.2.1 Restrictions on Appointments. No member of the Board of Directors or any Sectional Appeals Committee can serve on the Infractions Appeals Committee. The two public school members cannot be from the same public school district. The two private school members cannot be from the same private school accrediting organization. Otherwise, there are no restrictions on who may be appointed to the committee.

10.5.7.1.2.2 Quorum and Alternate Members. A quorum of the committee is four members. The Board of Directors will designate alternates the Executive Director may call as substitutes to ensure a quorum when regular committee members are absent.

10.5.7.1.2.3 Attorney Serves as Committee Chair. The attorney member chairs the committee, and is the only committee member who may have contact with the FHSAA staff regarding any case. The committee elects from among its remaining four members a vice chair who presides when the chair is absent or unable to act.

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COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT



10.5.7.1.3 Term of Service. A member serves a term of three years, except as stipulated in paragraph 10.5.7.1.3.1 below. A member may be reappointed to a second term, but cannot serve more than six years on the committee.

10.5.7.1.3.1 Initial Terms of Service to Establish Rotation. To ensure that the terms of all members of the committee do not expire at the same time, each member initially appointed to the committee will serve the following initial terms of service:

- (a) The attorney will serve an initial term of five years and may be reappointed to a second term of three years;
- (b) One of the public school administrators and one of the private school administrators, selected at random by the Board of Directors, will serve an initial term of four years and may be reappointed to a second term of three years; and
- (c) The remaining public school administrator and private school administrator will serve an initial term of three years and may be reappointed to a second term of three years.

10.5.7.1.4 Authority and Duties of Committee. The committee:

- (a) Hears and acts upon appeals of schools found to have committed major violations; or
- (b) Hears and acts on appeals arising from a situation involving or affecting member schools in more than one administrative section; or
- (c) Hears and acts on requests of waiver of a rule that, if granted, would affect member schools in more than one administrative section; or
- (d) Makes recommendations to the Board of Directors and FHSAA staff relative to the formulation and revision of FHSAA enforcement policies and procedures.

10.5.7.1.5 Committee to Meet as Needed. The committee meets as needed upon call of the chair in consultation with the Executive Director.

10.5.8 Emergency Hearings. The President of the Association may conduct an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors by telephone conference call if, and only if, a decision made by the Executive Director or a Sectional Appeals Committee would eliminate a school, in a team sport, or an individual, in an individual sport, from a Florida High School State Championship Series contest before the next meeting of the Board of Directors. The President shall not conduct an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors to consider undue hardship cases, or other cases, affecting a student's eligibility unless such student's eligibility would eliminate a school, in a team sport, or the student, in an individual sport, from a Florida High School State Championship Series contest before the next meeting of the Board of Directors. In the event a member school requests an emergency hearing before the Board of Directors, requesting such hearing the member school consents to the hearing being conducted by telephone conference call and agrees to pay all expense including expenses such as the cost of the telephone conference call and the costs of the stenographic recording of such hearing.

10.5.8.1 Emergency Appeals Committee

10.5.8.1.1 Purpose of Committee. The Executive Director authorizes an Emergency Appeals Committee solely to decide those issues normally decided by the Sectional Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors in which elimination from the Florida High School State Championship Series has occurred.

10.5.8.1.2 Composition of Committee. The committee will be composed of five ad hoc members as follows:

- (a) One non-attorney member from each of the four Sectional Appeals Committees; and
- (b) One attorney member from one of the four Sectional Appeals Committees. The attorney member shall chair the Emergency Appeals Committee.

10.5.8.1.3 Selection of Committee Members. When requested by the Executive Director, the Emergency Appeal Committee members will be selected as follows:

- (a) Each non-lawyer member will be designated by the Chairperson of the respective Sectional Appeals Committees; and
- (b) The attorney member, who will serve as the chair of the committee, will be designated by the Executive Director.

10.5.8.1.4 Authority and Duties of Committee. The committee:

- (a) Shall decide those issues normally decided by the Sectional Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors when a school, in team sport, or an individual, in an individual sport, would be eliminated from a Florida High School State Championship Series contest before the next meeting of the Sectional Appeals Committee or Board of Directors;
- (b) Shall not be called upon to decide undue hardship cases, or other cases, affecting a student's eligibility unless such student's eligibility would eliminate a school, in a team sport, or the student, in an individual sport, from a Florida High School State Championship Series contest before the next meeting of the appropriate Sectional Appeals Committee or the Board of Directors.

10.5.8.1.5 Committee to Meet as Needed. The committee meets as needed upon call by the Executive Director.

10.5.8.1.6 Appeal of Decisions. The decision of the Emergency Appeals Committee can be appealed by the member school or the Executive Director at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.



10.6 APPEAL AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER PROCEDURES

10.6.1 Filing an Initial Appeal or Request for Waiver. An appeal or request for waiver must be filed with the Executive Director on the form(s) provided by this Association and must be accompanied by all necessary documentation. The appeal or request, including all required documentation, must be signed by the principal and received in the office of this Association not later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on the filing dates established by the Board of Directors and printed in the FHSAA Planning Calendar. Appeals and requests received after the deadline date will not be considered at that Sectional Appeals Committee meeting, but will be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting. Incomplete appeals or requests for waiver will be returned to the person or entity making the appeal for an opportunity to resubmit with all the necessary information prior to the deadline, if time allows.

10.6.2 Filing an Appeal or Request for Waiver to the Board of Directors. The request for an appeal hearing before the Board of Directors must be made in writing to the Executive Director, must be signed by the member school principal or his/her designee and must be received in the office of this Association within five (5) business days following the date of the Sectional Appeals Committee meeting or the Infraction Appeals Committee meeting. Failure to file a request for an appeal hearing before the Board of Directors within the five (5) business days following the date of the Sectional Appeals Committee meeting or the Infraction Appeals Committee meeting shall be deemed a waiver of the right of an appeal as granted herein.

10.6.3 Appearances Before Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee, Emergency Appeals Committee and/or Board of Directors. The person or entity making the appeal has the opportunity to appear before the Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee, Emergency Appeals Committee and/or the Board of Directors if he/she so chooses. The person or entity making the appeal must give notice of their choice to appear at the time the appeal or request for waiver is filed. Appearance by the student and a school representative is mandatory for an appeal or request for undue hardship waiver involving age, limit of eligibility and unsportsmanlike conduct provisions when heard by the Sectional Appeals Committee, and is optional when heard by the Board of Directors.

10.6.3.1 Procedure for Appearance. A person or entity making the appeal who is required, or who chooses, to appear before the Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee and/or the Board of Directors will be assigned a time for the appearance. A twenty (20)-minute block will be allotted for each case involving an appearance.

10.6.3.2 Student Appearance. A student who is required, or chooses, to appear before the Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee and/or the Board of Directors must be accompanied by a school representative and may be accompanied by his/her parent(s) or other individuals with whom he/she lives. The school representative who is required to accompany the student must be a full-time employee of the school and must be identified on the form at the time of filing. The student may be represented by an attorney. Such representation will not excuse the appearance of a student when that appearance is required.

10.6.3.3 Additional Information. Additional information may be submitted and heard at the time of the appeal, for student eligibility cases.

10.6.4 Appeals of Executive Director's Findings. To appeal the finding of the Executive Director, the appeal must be filed so that it is received in the office of this Association within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the Executive Director's finding and/or notification of the imposition of penalty. Failure to file an appeal so that it is received in the office of this Association within the ten (10) business days allowed shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal as granted herein.

10.6.5 Mediation

10.6.5.1 Written Notice. The request for mediation must be made in writing to the Executive Director on the form(s) provided by the Association, must be signed by the member school principal or his/her designee and must be received in the office of this Association within five (5) business days following the date of the Sectional Appeals Committee hearing. The request must include a declaration of what the member school, as the representative of the student, is seeking as a successful mediation of the eligibility issue. The Executive Director may accept the terms of this mediation request without further action, he/she may set the request for mediation or he/she may decline this mediation request.

10.6.5.2 Mediators. If mediation is set, the mediator shall be selected from a panel of experienced mediators designated by the Board of Directors for the purpose of mediating eligibility decisions.

10.6.5.3 Parties to the Mediation. The parties to the mediation shall be the Executive Director, or his/her designee on behalf of the Association, and a representative from the member school and the student and/or parent(s) on behalf of the student.

10.6.5.4 Mediation Date. Mediation hearings, if needed, will be scheduled monthly. Mediation hearings will not be scheduled for cases that are in conflict with state statutes.

10.6.5.5 Mediation Procedures. Mediation sessions should not require more than twenty (20) minutes per session. However, if the mediator determines that the mediation is proceeding toward a positive resolution, the mediation session may be extended. Mediation shall be held at the FHSAA building unless the parties and the mediator agree to a telephonic/electronic mediation.

10.6.5.6 Terms from Mediation. If the parties reach an agreement at mediation, then the member school and student waive all rights to further appeals of this matter. If the parties do not reach an agreement at mediation, then the member school may proceed with an appeal to the Board of Directors. Notice of appeal must be in writing and received within 5 business days following the mediation session.



10.6.5.7 Cost of Mediation. The cost of mediation shall be shared equally by both parties.

10.6.6 Infraction Appeals Committee Appeals Procedure

10.6.6.1 Written Notice of Appeal. To be considered by the appropriate appeals committee, the school's written notice of appeal of the findings of fact or the penalty imposed, or both, must be received in the FHSAA Office not later than 10 business days from the date that the school receives the FHSAA staff's decision in secondary cases, or confirms its receipt of the infractions report in major cases. The notice of appeal must indicate whether the school will submit its appeal in writing only or whether it will appear before the appeals committee at the time the appeal is considered. The school must submit supporting information for its appeal, if any, to the FHSAA Office by the deadline established by the FHSAA.

10.6.6.1.1 Appeal of Secondary Violations. Sectional Appeals Committees hear and act on appeals of secondary cases.

10.6.6.1.2 Appeal of Major Violations. The Infractions Appeals Committee hears and acts on appeals of major cases.

10.6.6.2 Basis for Granting an Appeal

10.6.6.2.1 Appeal of Findings. An appeals committee may set aside findings of fact and violations arrived at ONLY if the school shows that:

- (a) The finding of the FHSAA staff is clearly not supported by evidence that is credible, persuasive and of a kind on which reasonably prudent persons rely in the conduct of serious affairs;
- (b) The school's actions do not constitute a violation of FHSAA rules; or
- (c) A procedural error affected the reliability of the information that was used to support the FHSAA staff's finding. In this case, the school must demonstrate how it contends the staff was in error.

10.6.6.2.2 Appeal of Penalties. An appeals committee may set aside a penalty imposed by the FHSAA staff if the appeals committee determines that the penalty is excessive or inappropriate based on all the evidence and circumstances. Only the Board of Directors may modify a penalty imposed by this Association.

10.6.6.2.3 Committee Acts on Basis of Record in Case. An appeals committee can act only on the basis of the record in the case. This record consists of the notice of inquiry and/or allegations to the school, the report of the investigator and the written response by the school. The committee cannot consider information that was not available to the FHSAA staff when issuing its finding and imposing the penalty.

10.6.6.2.3.1 New Evidence. The appeals committee may stay an appeal when new information is introduced and refer the case back to the FHSAA staff for review if the committee concludes that:

- (a) The new information was not available, and through the exercise of reasonable due diligence could not have been available, at the time the FHSAA staff issued its finding; and
- (b) The new information is demonstrably relevant to the findings of the staff.

10.6.6.3 Appeal of Unfavorable Decision by Appeals Committee. A school that is unsuccessful in its appeal to the Sectional Appeals Committee or Infractions Appeals Committee may appeal the committee's decision to the FHSAA Board of Directors. The school's written notice of appeal of the committee's decision must be received in the FHSAA Office not later than five business days from the date of the hearing before the appeals committee. The notice of appeal must indicate whether the school will submit its appeal in writing only, or whether it will appear before the Board of Directors at the time the appeal is considered.

10.6.6.3.1 Board Acts on Basis of Record in Case. The Board of Directors can act only on the basis of the record in the case. This record consists of the information that was available to the appeals committee at the time it rendered its decision. The Board of Directors may stay an appeal when new information is introduced and refer the case back to the FHSAA staff for review per the conditions of paragraph 10.6.6.2.3.1.

10.6.7 Emergency Appeals Committee Appeals Procedures

10.6.7.1 Request for an Emergency Appeal. A request for an emergency appeal shall be filed with the Executive Director within 48 hours after the member school learns that there is a need for a decision before the matter can be considered at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Sectional Appeals Committee. Failure to file a request within 48 hours shall be deemed a waiver of the right of an emergency appeal.

10.6.7.2 Telephone Conference Call. By requesting a hearing by the Emergency Appeals Committee, the member school consents to such a hearing being conducted by telephone conference call and shall be governed by Bylaw 4.1.3.1.

10.6.7.3 Cost of Emergency Appeal. By requesting a hearing by the Emergency Appeals Committee, the member school agrees to pay all expense including expenses such as the cost of the telephone conference call and the costs of the stenographic recording of such hearing.

10.7 EMPOWERMENT

10.7.1 Sectional Appeals Committee Powers. The Sectional Appeals Committee is empowered to consider a request from member schools seeking exceptions to Bylaws and regulations, to hear undue hardship eligibility cases filed by member schools



on behalf of student-athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member schools or other individuals. The decision in each case shall be by majority vote and may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

10.7.1.1 **Reliance on a Sectional Appeals Committee Decision.** A school that allows a student to participate in accordance with a Sectional Appeals Committee decision that is later reversed by the Board of Directors will not be subject to the penalties normally assessed a school that allows participation by an ineligible student.

10.7.2 **Infraction Appeals Committee Powers.** The Infraction Appeals Committee is empowered to hear and act upon appeals of schools found to have committed major violations and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors and FHSAA staff relative to the formulation and revision of FHSAA enforcement policies and procedures. The decision in each case shall be by majority vote and may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

10.7.3 **Board of Directors Powers.** The Board of Directors is empowered to review appeals and requests for waivers and sustain, modify or overturn the decision of the Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee and/or the Executive Director in each case that comes before it.

10.7.3.1 **Finality of Ruling.** The decision of the Board of Directors in each case shall be by majority vote and shall be final.

10.7.4 **Executive Director's Powers**

10.7.4.1 **Executive Director Initiated Reviews.** The Executive Director may refer to the Board of Directors for review a decision of a Sectional Appeals Committee that directly conflicts with decisions of other Sectional Appeals Committees or of the Board of Directors on the same question or rule; or that, in the opinion of the Executive Director, is rendered in conflict with the rules of the Association or will have a great effect on the proper administration of the interscholastic athletic programs throughout the Association. The Executive Director will notify a member school in writing when a decision rendered by Sectional Appeals Committee will be referred to the Board of Directors for review.

10.7.4.2 **Appeal of Infraction Appeals Committee Decisions.** The Executive Director is empowered to appeal any decisions made by the Infraction Appeals Committee to the Board of Directors.

10.8 **PROCEDURE IN CASES OF EXPULSION**

10.8.1 **Procedures.** When the Executive Director believes that his/her findings in any investigation into any violation of any rule of this Association warrants the expulsion of a member school or a restriction of its membership privileges, the following procedure must be followed:

- (a) **Notice.** The Executive Director will notify in writing the principal of the school of the date, time and site of the Board of Directors meeting at which a hearing on the school's membership status will be conducted. The notice must state the findings of the Executive Director and must advise the principal of his/her obligation to represent his/her school at the hearing. This notice must be received by the principal of the school not fewer than 10 business days in advance of the date of the hearing.
- (b) **Hearings.** During the hearing before the Board of Directors, the school may have an attorney present, may present witnesses, testimony, and any other relevant evidence or information for consideration by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director may also present witnesses, testimony, and any other relevant evidence or information for consideration by the Board of Directors.
- (c) **Final Decision.** Following the presentation of evidence and arguments, the Board of Directors will render its decision by majority vote. The Board of Directors is empowered to sustain, modify or reject the findings and recommendation of the Executive Director. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final.

10.8.2 **Applying for Reinstatement.** A school that has been expelled or has had its membership privileges restricted for a period of one or more calendar years may apply for readmission or reinstatement of its membership privileges after a period of one calendar year and then yearly thereafter. The principal of the school must notify the Executive Director in writing that he/she intends to apply for readmission or reinstatement and request to be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The principal will make a verbal appeal for readmission or reinstatement before the Board of Directors at that meeting. A school that has been expelled or has had its membership privileges restricted may be readmitted or have its membership privileges reinstated only upon approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

10.9 **COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS**

The administrative decisions of the Board of Directors, Infraction Appeals Committee, Sectional Appeals Committee and Executive Director shall be accepted in good faith by all member schools. The principal of any member school who, by any act or attitude, shall refuse to accept, or shall hold in contempt or derision, or shall permit or acquiesce in such contempt or derision on the part of any group or individual associated with his/her school, shall subject his/her school to expulsion from this Association. These provisions are not to be construed as preventing the principal of a member school from exercising his/her school's right to due process by appealing decisions of the Executive Director to the Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee and/or the Board of Directors.







Administrative Policies of the Florida High School Athletic Association, Inc. **2015-16 Edition**

Pursuant to the authority granted it in Article 4.3 of the FHSAA Bylaws, the FHSAA Board of Directors has established the following policies to govern the Association's interscholastic athletic programs. In the case of any conflict, whether actual or believed, with the Bylaws of the FHSAA, the Bylaws shall control. Any understanding, misunderstanding, opinion or belief by an individual as a result of reading these policies shall not be binding on the FHSAA. The term "Executive Director" as used throughout these policies shall mean the Executive Director of the FHSAA or his/her designee, unless otherwise specifically noted. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal or designated official representative of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director or his/her designee. Only a formal ruling by the Executive Director or his/her designee is binding on the FHSAA. General failure to comply with FHSAA Policies will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$100 per occurrence. Substantive changes for the 2015-16 school year are shaded.

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Revisions to Administrative Policies for 2015-16 School Year

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>	<u>Revision</u>
1.1.4	45	Modifies the policy to conform to the next 6 year apportionment cycle.
3.3.2	46	Modifies the policy and applicable sub-sections to change the minimum requirement for recognition.
3.4.2	46-47	Modifies the policy and applicable sub-sections to change the minimum requirement for sanctioning.
4.1.1	47	Modifies the policy to emphasize the requirement by Bylaws for contracts.
4.1.2	48	Modifies the policy, providing for a temporary provision to be later added to the Bylaws related to contests with non-member school in and out of the state of Florida.
4.1.3.1	48	Modifies the policy by stipulating that varsity and sub-varsity schedules must be provided.
4.1.3.2	48	Modifies the policy by stipulating that varsity and sub-varsity football schedules must be provided.
4.1.4.1	48	Modifies the policy by stipulating that varsity and sub-varsity rosters must be provided.
5.1	51	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to the annual Compliance Seminars.
6.1.2	52	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to wrestling contest limitations.
6.1.2.1	53	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to levels of participation.
7.8	55	Modifies the policy and applicable sub-sections by adding a definition of a "Third Party", adds clarifying language relative to fees associated with "Third Party" events and adds clarifying language relative to "Third Party" events associated with colleges or universities.
9.1.5	56	Adds a new policy relative to financial operating philosophy of the association.
9.2.1	56	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to the payment of membership dues.
9.2.2.1	56	Modifies the policy by adding language relative to middle school application fees.
9.2.3	56	Modifies the policy by adding language relative to reactivation fees for suspended schools.
9.5.1	57	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language and modifies applicable sub-sections by reducing administrative fees charged for tournaments.
9.7.1	57	Modifies the policy to provide for multiple options for ticket pricing at Championship events.
9.9.1	58	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to requiring payment at the time of filing the financial report.
9.10.3	59	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to distribution of profit or loss.
9.10.4.5	59	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to net loss reimbursement.
10.5.1	62	Modifies the policy by providing that commitment to participate in team sports be made annually.
10.5.3	62	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to withdrawal of commitment to participate.
10.6	62-63	Modifies the policy and applicable sub-sections by changing intention to commitment, providing that commitment to participate be made annually and by adding clarifying language relative to withdrawal of commitment to participate.
11.1	63	Modifies the policy by re-organizing and removing redundant language from previous Policy 11.2.
12.2.1	65	Modifies the policy and applicable sub-sections by bringing the language into conformity with bylaws.
12.4.2.1	67	Modifies the policy by policy providing for a 9 class classification of baseball and softball and providing for 9 classes in the classification of basketball and girls volleyball in subsequent years.
13.2.2.5	69	Modifies the policy by adding a sub-section providing for sub-district competition.
14.1	71	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to minimum specification of facilities.
16.7.2	76	Modifies the policy and applicable sub-section to provide for the re-verification that a non-member private school still meet statutory requirements.
16.10	77	Modifies the policy, providing for a temporary provision to be later added to the Bylaws for a new due process provision, providing for a Teleconference option for Sectional Appeals Hearings.
17.1.4.1	78	Modifies the policy adding a new sub-section to provide for semester participation for certain youth exchange students.
17.2	79	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to "dependent" visas.
17.2.6	79	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to undergraduate status to match a bylaws.
17.3.4	79	Modifies the policy relative to translated transcripts for foreign students.

Revisions to Administrative Policies for 2015-16 School Year*(continued)*

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>	<u>Revision</u>
17.3.5	79	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language relative to returning youth exchange and international students.
18.1.1	80	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language related to non-traditional students.
18.2	80	Modifies applicable sub-sections to provide for participation of transfer students, adds clarifying language and provides for 8th grade participation for students attending private schools.
18.3	80-81	Modifies applicable sub-sections to provide for participation of transfer students, adds clarifying language and provides for 8th grade participation.
19.6	83	Modifies applicable sub-sections by adding clarifying language related to the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.
19.8.3.3	84	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language related to the Public Liaison Committee.
22.4	87	Modifies the policy to match language of similar bylaw.
28.7	91	Modifies the policy by adding clarifying language related to officials officiating at certain contests.
30.2.1	92-93	Modifies applicable sub-sections by adding clarifying language related to suspension of student athletes.
30.3.1	93-94	Modifies applicable sub-sections by adding clarifying language related to suspension of coaches.
34.3	96	Modifies the policy by adding a new sub-section related to the use of drones.
37.2.2.14	101	Modifies the policy by adding new language related to impermissible benefits.
38.1.1.4	102	Modifies the policy by providing a list of the current approved financial assessment companies.
40	105-106	Modifies applicable sections and sub-sections by adding clarifying language and a new section, with sub-sections, related to sanctions on coaches.
42	108-109	Adds a new policy with sections and sub-sections related to Sudden Cardiac Arrest.
43	110	Modifies applicable sub-sections by adding clarifying language related to licensing.
44	111	Modifies the policy and applicable sections by adding clarifying language related to media credentials.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning with the 2015-16 FHSAA Handbook, the Administrative Procedures section will not be printed in the handbook. The Administrative Procedures section will now only be available on the FHSAA website.



POLICY 1**APPORTIONMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECTIONS**

1.1 Board of Director Apportionment Charge. Bylaw 3.12.1 charges the Board of Directors with the responsibility of dividing the Association's membership along existing county lines into four contiguous and compact administrative sections, each containing an equal or nearly equal number of member schools to ensure equitable representation on the Association's Board of Directors, Representative Assembly and Sectional Appeals Committees.

1.1.1 Executive Director Evaluation. The Executive Director, each six years, shall be directed to undertake and prepare for review by the Board of Directors an evaluation of the existing apportionment of the administrative sections. This evaluation shall be presented to the Board of Directors as an informational item not later than its September meeting.

1.1.2 Need for Reapportionment. Should the Board of Directors determine that a reapportionment of the administrative sections is needed, it shall direct the Executive Director to develop one or more reapportionment plans for its consideration. The reapportionment plans will be advertised on the FHSAA website and placed on the agenda for action by the Board of Directors at its November meeting.

1.1.3 Effective Date of Reapportionment. The reapportionment of administrative sections shall be effective with the annual election of the Association that begins in February of that school year to seat member school representatives of the Board of Directors, Representative Assembly and Sectional Appeals Committees in the following school year.

1.1.4 Next Review Period. Pursuant to this policy, the next review of the apportionment of administrative sections by the Board of Directors shall be conducted in Fall 2020. Any reapportionment resulting from this review shall be in effect for the elections to be conducted beginning in February 2021.

POLICY 2**DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP**

2.1 Diversity in Leadership. The Florida High School Athletic Association recognizes the diversity of its membership and believes that it is best served by a diverse leadership. Accordingly, the Association shall promote diversity of representation within its governance structure (Board of Directors, Representative Assembly, Sectional Appeals Committees) and substructures (advisory and other committees).

2.1.1 Charge to Executive Director. The Executive Director shall actively solicit and encourage eligible individuals from under-represented groups to seek election to available member school positions within the Association governance structure.

2.1.2 Charge to Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall actively seek out and recommend to the Board of Directors eligible individuals from under-represented groups for appointment to fill vacancies in member school positions within the Association governance structure whenever such vacancies occur.

2.1.3 Charge to Commissioner of Education, Superintendents, and School Boards. The Executive Director shall encourage the Commissioner of Education, the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents to seek out eligible individuals from under-represented groups when appointing and/or electing their respective representatives to positions in the Association governance structure.

2.1.4 Charge to Advisory Committees. The Executive Director and staff shall actively seek out and appoint eligible individuals from under-represented groups to fill vacancies on the various advisory committees whenever such vacancies occur.

2.1.5 Diversity Statement. All written materials for nominations and elections prepared by the Association will include the following statement: "The FHSAA values and seeks a diverse leadership."

2.1.6 Barriers Addressed. Barriers that may inhibit eligible individuals from under-represented groups from seeking or attaining leadership positions will be identified and addressed.

2.1.7 Report by Executive Director. On an annual basis, the Executive Director will report to the Board of Directors the Association's progress toward diversity.

POLICY 3**CATEGORIZATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS**

3.1 General Principles. The following guidelines shall govern the categorization of interscholastic sports programs sponsored by member schools, as well as the implementation of Florida High School State Championship Series competitions in



those sports. These guidelines establish the thresholds (minimum standards) that sports must meet for categorization and Florida High School State Championship Series implementation. Any member school that sponsors a sport, as defined in Administrative Procedure 2, that is recognized or sanctioned by this Association shall abide by all regulations of this Association.

3.2 Club Sports

3.2.1 Club Sports Defined. Any sport that is not categorized as either a recognized sport or a sanctioned sport by the Board of Directors as stipulated herein shall be considered to be a club sport and shall not be under the jurisdiction of this Association. No Association bylaw, policy, rule or contest regulation shall apply to competition in a club sport. Public member schools, however, shall be required to abide by the academic eligibility requirements as set forth in Florida Statutes.

3.3 Recognized Sports

3.3.1 Recognized Sport Defined. A recognized sport is a sport that is recognized by the Board of Directors as being played on an interscholastic basis by member senior high schools.

3.3.2 Requirements for Recognition. The Board of Directors may extend recognition to a sport, effective with the beginning of the next school year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, when a minimum of 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership and that are geographically situated in at least two (2) of the four (4) administrative sections submit letters of petition requesting recognition status for the sport on their respective schools' official stationery. Not more than three-fourths of these schools may be located in the same one administrative section. Each school submitting a letter of petition must have sponsored a program in the sport for a minimum of two (2) years in which it actively engaged in competition in the sport with other schools. The letters of petition must be submitted by the requisite number of member senior high schools within the same school year, and shall become invalid at the conclusion of that school year.

3.3.3 Florida High School State Championship Series for Recognized Sports. The Board of Directors may authorize the conduct of a Florida High School State Championship Series in a sport which has been recognized for at least one (1) school year, effective with the following school year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.

3.3.3.1 Requirements for a Florida High School State Championship Series. A minimum of 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership must have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the recognized sport for a minimum of two (2) years.

3.3.3.2 Commitment to Participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series. When the Board of Directors authorizes a Florida High School State Championship Series in a recognized sport, the FHSAA Office shall mail to all member senior high schools a form on which to record its intention with regard to participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series. A minimum of 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership, of which not more than three-fourths may be geographically located within the same one administrative section, must respond in the affirmative on the commitment form for a Florida High School State Championship Series to be implemented. These schools must have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of one (1) year since the sport was given recognition status. It is not necessary that all member senior high schools that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of one (1) year since the sport was given recognition status. It is only necessary that at least 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series have done so. In committing to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series, schools shall agree to abide by all season limitations, as well as all terms and conditions for the Florida High School State Championship Series, as established by the Board of Directors. If the requisite number of member senior high schools does not commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series under these conditions, the Florida High School State Championship Series shall not be implemented at that time.

3.3.4 Current Sports Holding Recognition. Sports that hold recognition status only are girls bowling, boys bowling, competitive cheerleading, girls flag football, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, boys volleyball, girls water polo, boys water polo and girls weightlifting.

3.4 Sanctioned Sports

3.4.1 Sanctioned Sport Defined. A sanctioned sport is a recognized sport in which, in the determination of the Board of Directors, a representative number of member senior high schools has engaged in interscholastic competition for a sufficient period of time to warrant sanction of the sport as being eligible for official Florida High School State Championship Series competition. Bylaw 8.5.1 states that sanctioned sports, in which an official Florida High School State Championship Series competition is implemented, may require participants to adhere to a greater degree of regulation subject to terms and conditions established by the Board of Directors.

3.4.2 Requirements of Sanctioning. The Board of Directors may sanction a recognized sport as being eligible for official Florida High School State Championship Series competition, effective with the beginning of the following school year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, when a minimum of 20 percent (20%) of the total senior high school membership, which are geographically situated in at least two (2) of the four (4) administrative sections, have sponsored a program in, and competed in, a recognized sport for a minimum of two years. Not more than three-fourths of these schools may be located in the same one administrative section.



3.4.3 Implementation of a Florida High School State Championship Series. When a sport is sanctioned by the Board of Directors as being eligible for official Florida High School State Championship Series competition, the FHSAA Office shall mail to all member senior high schools a form on which to record its intention with regard to participation in an official Florida High School State Championship Series in the sport. A minimum of 20 percent (20%) of the total senior high school membership, of which not more than three-fourths may be geographically located within the same one administrative section, must respond in the affirmative on the commitment form for an official Florida High School State Championship Series to be implemented in a single classification in the following school year. These schools must have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of two (2) years since the sport was given recognition status. It is not necessary that all member senior high schools that commit to participate in the official Florida High School State Championship Series have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of two (2) years since the sport was given recognition status. It is only necessary that at least 20 percent (20%) of the total senior high school membership that commit to participate in the official Florida High School State Championship Series have done so. Otherwise, the official Florida High School State Championship Series shall not be implemented at that time. Any Florida High School State Championship Series that has been implemented and is being conducted in the sport, however, shall be continued.

3.4.4 Season Limitations for Sanctioned Sports. A sanctioned sport, in which an official Florida High School State Championship Series is implemented, shall be regulated by the Association. All Association bylaws, policies, rules and contest regulations shall apply to the sport and to the member schools that sponsor programs in the sport, regardless of the schools' intent with regard to participation in an official Florida High School State Championship Series in the sport. The Board of Directors shall establish season limitations to which all member schools sponsoring a program in the sport shall adhere. These season limitations shall include, but not be limited to, beginning and ending dates for practice and competition, as well as a maximum number of regular season contests that schools shall not exceed.

3.4.5 Current Sanctioned Sports. Sports that currently are sanctioned by the Board of Directors are boys baseball, girls basketball, boys basketball, girls cross country, boys cross country, boys 11-man football, girls golf, boys golf, girls soccer, boys soccer, girls fast-pitch softball, girls swimming & diving, boys swimming & diving, girls tennis, boys tennis, girls track & field, boys track & field, girls volleyball, boys weightlifting and boys wrestling.

3.5 Revocation of Categorization Status

3.5.1 Empowerment of Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may revoke the status given any sport, and suspend or discontinue the Florida High School State Championship Series or official Florida High School State Championship Series in any sport, upon recommendation of the Executive Director, when any one of the following occur:

3.5.1.1 Below Requisite Number. The requisite number of member senior high schools no longer sponsor a program in the sport; or

3.5.1.2 Majority of Members Seek Revocation. Two-thirds of the member senior high schools that sponsor a program in the sport submit letters of petition on their respective official stationery requesting that the status of the sport be revoked and/or the Florida High School State Championship Series or official Florida High School State Championship Series in the sport be suspended or discontinued; or

3.5.1.3 Financially Unfeasible. It is determined that it is no longer financially feasible for the Association and its member schools to supervise and regulate the sport, and/or conduct a Florida High School State Championship Series or official Florida High School State Championship Series in the sport; or

3.5.1.4 Revocation Due to Unsportsmanlike Conduct. The number and nature of acts of unsportsmanlike conduct, or other acts of a flagrant and malicious nature, that are committed by student-athletes and coaches during competition in the sport, reach such a level as to make it no longer in the best interests of the Association or its member schools to recognize and/or sanction competition in the sport.

POLICY 4

INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS

4.1 Interscholastic Contests

4.1.1 Interscholastic Contests Defined. FHSAA Bylaw 8.1.1 defines an interscholastic contest as “any competition between organized teams of different schools in a sport recognized or sanctioned by this Association.” All such contests are subject to FHSAA Bylaws as well as the guidelines, regulations, policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors for that sport and in general. All contests must have a fully executed contract as stated in Bylaw 8.4.

4.1.1.1 Penalties Assessed to Schools.

- (a) Permitting a student-athlete to compete in an interscholastic contest prior to his/her name being submitted to the FHSAA on a sport eligibility roster will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$50 per student.
- (b) Failure to contract with sanctioned local officials associations for registered officials at all interscholastic home contests will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$100 per contest.



- (c) Actions which may not be regarded as unsportsmanlike which result in a contest being prematurely concluded will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$100.

4.1.2 Eligible Contests. Member schools may only engage in interscholastic contests with the following:

- (a) Schools which are members of this Association;
- (b) Out-of-state schools which are members in good standing of associations that are members of the NFHS or affiliate members of the NFHS and regulate interscholastic athletics for schools within their state. They must follow comparable eligibility guidelines and the season for the sport involved must run concurrently with that of the Florida High School Athletic Association.
- (c) Member schools shall not participate in athletic contests or contractually obligate themselves to participate in any tournament, meet or contest in which any schools which do not meet these criteria are scheduled to participate, or with non-school teams, groups or club teams.
- (d) Competition involving middle schools (grades 6-8), combination middle school programs (grades 6-8) and junior high schools (grades 7-9) must be between middle schools, combination middle school programs and junior high schools, respectively, as well as between middle schools and combination middle school programs.

4.1.2.1 Exception. Out-of State schools may be contracted by participating FHSAA member schools, provided:

- (a) An FHSAA game/contest contract (see Bylaw 8.4.1) has been fully executed by all participating schools; and
- (b) All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, meet the eligibility criteria listed in Florida Statutes for student athletes of FHSAA member schools (F.S. 1006.15) and FHSAA Bylaws; and
- (c) All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, have appropriate insurance as specified in F.S. 1006.16; and
- (d) All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation as specified in F.S. 1006.20(2)(c), and
- (e) All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must have on file a signed consent and release form (waiver of liability and parent permission to participate) as specified in F.S. 1006.20(2)(k), and
- (f) Non-FHSAA member schools must agree to abide by the NFHS and FHSAA rules for the contest or event being conducted (Bylaw 8.2.1), and
- (g) Multi-Team events and tournaments must meet the provision of Policy 7.

4.1.3 Submission of Schedule

4.1.3.1 Sports Other Than Football. Member schools must submit their schedules for all home contests, at all levels (i.e. varsity, sub-varsity, etc.), including preseason/spring classics and jamborees, to the FHSAA online via C2C Schools prior to the first week of regular season competition of the sport.

4.1.3.2 Football. Each member school must submit to the FHSAA via C2C Schools not later than March 31 of each year their football schedule for all home contests, at all levels (i.e. varsity, sub-varsity, etc.), including preseason/spring classics and jamborees, the following school year.

4.1.3.2.1 Out of State Football Games. Schools that have scheduled games with out of state opponents must enter each out of state opponent's football schedule into the C2C Schools football schedule.

4.1.4 Sport Rosters

4.1.4.1 Initial Sport Roster. Member schools must submit to the FHSAA online via C2C Schools their initial varsity and sub-varsity sports roster for each sport by the first regular season competition of the sport. Rosters can continue to be added to and deleted from until the date of the last regular season contests.

4.1.5 Reporting Scores

4.1.5.1 Team Sports Other Than Football. Member schools, committed to either Florida High School State Championship Series or independent, must report to the FHSAA, via C2CSchools, no later than 5 p.m. ET of Monday of each week the scores of regular season varsity games as follows:

4.1.5.1.1 The HOME team shall report the score of the previous week's games.

4.1.5.1.2 In the event a member school plays in a game hosted by a school outside of the state of Florida or plays a nonmember Florida school permissible by state statute, the member school shall be required to report the score following the same procedure in 4.1.5.1.1.

4.1.5.2 Football. Member schools, committed to either Florida High School State Championship Series or independent, must report to the FHSAA each week the scores of regular season varsity football games as follows:

4.1.5.2.1 The HOME team shall report the score of the previous week's games to the FHSAA online via C2C Schools no later than 9 a.m. ET of the day following the game.



4.1.5.2.2 In the event a member school plays in a game hosted by a school outside of the state of Florida or a nonmember Florida school per state statute, the member school shall be required to report the score following the same procedure in 4.1.4.2.1.

4.1.6 Prohibited Contests

4.1.6.1 Practice games, exhibition games, non-contract games and scrimmage games with other schools, groups, alumni or league teams are strictly prohibited. All such games or sessions shall be on an intra-squad basis. Non-squad members may not participate in any team practice, game or contest.

4.1.6.2 Games, tournaments or meets with schools in sports that are not sanctioned by or recognized by an NFHS member association or an Affiliate NFHS member association are prohibited.

4.1.7 Absence from School

4.1.7.1 Travel Within Florida. No more than one school day or part of one school day may be missed in a week for traveling to, traveling from and participating in an athletic contest(s) unless approved by the Executive Director.

4.1.7.2 Travel Outside Florida. No more than two school days or part of two school days may be missed in a week for traveling to, traveling from and participating in an athletic contest(s) unless approved by the Executive Director.

4.1.8 Sunday Contests. No interscholastic athletic contest may be held on a Sunday except under emergency conditions in tournaments or meets which are approved by the Executive Director or the Board of Directors. The conduct of practice sessions of any kind on a Sunday is prohibited.

4.1.9 Tournaments and Meets. Tournaments/meets shall be limited to a maximum field of 32 teams. Tournaments/meets exceeding the maximum field may be subject to conditional approval by the Executive Director. Single elimination, double elimination, round robin and pool play formats are permissible. Each and every contest played by the team in a tournament, however, shall count toward the maximum contest limitations.

4.1.9.1 Penalties Assessed to Schools. Exceeding the number of contests allowed in a tournament or withdrawing from a tournament to avoid exceeding number of contests allowed will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$250.

4.1.10 Student Participants. Only students in grades 6 through 12 are allowed to practice or participate in interscholastic athletics for a member school.

4.2 Outcome of Interscholastic Contests

4.2.1 Outcome is Final. The outcome (i.e. winners and losers) of all interscholastic contests are final, and cannot be reversed, except where the rules of the sport permit or in the case where a winner must forfeit its victory or points.

4.2.2 Elimination is Final. Elimination from a Florida High School State Championship Series competition of individuals or teams is final. Defeat by individuals or teams that are later ordered to forfeit their victory, place and/or points, or are vacated from the bracket, will not bring about reinstatement or advancement in the Florida High School State Championship Series competition on the part of the individual or team that has been eliminated.

4.2.3 Championship is Final. Championships or other placements in Florida High School State Championship Series competitions are final. Championships or other placements ordered vacated by individuals or teams, will not bring about advancement in placements or receipt of awards for those placements.

4.3 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION

All eligible students should have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity and expression, irrespective of the gender listed on a student's birth certificate and/or records. Should any situation arise regarding a student's request to participate in a gender-segregated athletic event consistent with his/her gender identity and expression, a student may seek review of his or her eligibility for participation through the procedures set forth below:

4.3.1 Notice to the School. The student and parent(s) or guardian(s) shall contact the school administrator or athletic director, prior to the official start date of the sport season as listed on the FHSAA Website, indicating the student has a consistent gender identity and expression different than the gender listed on the student's school registration records and the student desires to participate in a gender-segregated athletic sport in a manner consistent with his/her gender identity and expression.

4.3.2 Documentation. The appealing student must provide the principal or athletic director, and the FHSAA, the following documentation and information:

4.3.2.1 Current transcript and school registration information;

4.3.2.2 All information required for participation and eligibility in FHSAA athletics (i.e. birth certificate, proof of residency, EL2, EL3 and EL3CH);

4.3.2.3 A written statement from the student affirming the consistent identity and expression to which the student self-relates;



4.3.2.4 Documentation from individuals such as, but not limited to, parents /legal guardians appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, friends and/or teachers, which affirm that the actions, attitudes, dress and manner demonstrate the student's consistent gender identification and expression;

4.3.2.5 A complete list of all the student's prescribed, non-prescribed or over the counter, treatments or medications;

4.3.2.6 Written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist) of the student's consistent gender identification and expression; and

4.3.2.7 Any other pertinent documentation or information which the student or parent(s) /legal guardian(s) appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction believe relevant and appropriate.

4.3.3 Notice to the FHSAA. The school administrator shall contact the FHSAA, which will assign a facilitator who will assist school and student in preparation and completion of the FHSAA "Gender Identity Eligibility Review Process".

4.3.4 First Level of Review. The student will be scheduled for a review hearing before a committee specifically established to preside over gender identity reviews. The FHSAA will schedule a hearing as expeditiously as possible but in no case later than fifteen (15) school/business days after the first practice date for the sport which is the subject of the petition, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergencies or extenuating circumstances. Such hearing may be held telephonically. Any costs associated with such hearing shall be equally shared by the student's school and the association. A written determination of the student-athletes eligibility to participate in a gender-segregated athletic sport consistent with his or her gender identity and expression will be provided by the association.

4.3.4.1 The Gender Identity Eligibility Committee. The committee will be comprised of a minimum of three of the following categories, one of which must be from the physician or mental health profession category:

- (a) Physician with experience in gender identity health care and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care.
- (b) Psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health professional familiar with the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care
- (c) School administrator from outside the member school's FHSAA administrative section
- (d) Athletic Director from outside the member school's FHSAA administrative section
- (e) An athletic coach, of the sport in which participation is desired, from outside the member school's FHSAA administrative section
- (f) An Individual selected by the FHSAA familiar with Gender Identity and Expression issues

4.3.5 Second Level of Review. Any school, on behalf of a student-athlete, which was denied participation at the First Level of Review wishing for a Second Level of Review of the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee's decision shall file notice with the Executive Director of the FHSAA on or before the tenth (10th) school/business day following the date of receipt of the written decision of the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee. The Executive Director shall schedule a Second Level of Review hearing to commence on or before the fifteenth (15th) school/business day following the date of receipt of the written notice, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergencies or extenuating circumstances. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to petitioner's school, for personal delivery to the student-athlete and parent(s) /legal guardian(s) appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction. Such hearing may be held telephonically. Any costs associated with such hearing shall be equally shared by the student's school and the association. A written determination of the student-athletes eligibility to participate in a gender-segregated athletic sport consistent with his or her gender identity and expression will be provided by the association.

4.3.6 Final Determination of Review. When there is sufficient documentation and confirmation of a student's consistent gender identity and expression, the eligibility committee will affirm the student's eligibility to participate in FHSAA athletics consistent with the student's gender identification and expression. Once the student has been granted eligibility consistent with his/her gender identity and expression, the eligibility is granted and binding for the duration of the student's participation in every sport season of every school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request.

NOTE: The Florida High School Athletic Association will assist and facilitate the provision of resources and training for any member school seeking assistance regarding gender identity and expression procedures and requirements.

4.3.7 Exemption. This policy shall not apply to a private school member of the Association which, because of its strongly held religious beliefs, would be entitled to the exemption provided to educational institutions of religious organizations by USCA Title 20, Section 1681(a)(3). Any school claiming this exemption shall notify the Executive Director, or his/her designee, of such claim on the proper form provided by the Association. The school shall make the claim of exemption at its own risk of litigation and shall hold the Association harmless from any and all actions that may be taken against the Association by a student of the school, or his/her behalf or in his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), who sues the Association over his/her school's right to claim an exemption.



POLICY 5

MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Attendance at Compliance Seminar

5.1.1 Senior High Schools Required to Attend. Member senior high schools are required to attend a compliance seminar held in their administrative section.

5.1.2 Rotating Seminars Every Two Years. Compliance seminars will be conducted every school year in two (2) of the four (4) administrative sections. Seminars in administrative sections 1 and 3 will occur in odd years, and seminars in administrative sections 2 and 4 will occur in even years.

5.1.3 Continuing Full Member Schools. A continuing full member senior high school required to attend a compliance seminar must be represented by its principal, athletic director or FHSAA representative.

5.1.4 First Year Provisional Member Schools. A senior high/combination school in its first year of provisional membership must be represented at the New Member School Compliance Seminar by its principal, athletic director and FHSAA representative. A middle/junior high school in its first year of membership must be represented at the New Member School Compliance Seminar by its principal or athletic director or FHSAA representative.

5.1.5 Continuing Provisional Member Schools. A continuing provisional member senior high school must be represented at a sectional compliance seminar by its principal, athletic director or FHSAA representative until full membership is achieved.

5.1.6 First Time Athletic Directors. Schools that have an athletic director who is in the position for the first time in the state of Florida will be required to attend a sectional compliance seminar that year. Attending a sectional compliance seminar in an administrative section that is not the same as the school's sectional rotation, as defined in Policy 5.1.2, will not alter the rotation for required attendance at future sectional compliance seminars.

5.1.7 Unlisted Athletic Director. Schools that do not have an athletic director listed on the application for continuing membership and have not alerted the FHSAA an athletic director has been hired by July 1 must send the principal or FHSAA representative to a sectional compliance seminar that year. Attending a sectional compliance seminar in an administrative section that is not the same as the school's sectional rotation, as defined in Policy 5.1.2, will not alter the rotation for required attendance at future sectional compliance seminars.

5.1.8 Choice of Seminar Site. Continuing member schools attending a compliance seminar may choose from either Sectional Compliance Seminar held in the state that year.

5.1.9 Required Attendance. Schools attending a compliance seminar in a year not required to attend will not alter the rotation for required attendance at future compliance seminars.

5.1.10 Failure to Attend. Failure to attend a required compliance seminar will subject the school to a minimum \$250 monetary penalty.

5.2 Membership Applications

5.2.1 Continuing Membership. A completed membership packet must be on file at the FHSAA office on or before April 30. A school whose form is not received by May 15 may not be considered for reelection to membership for the following school year.

5.2.2 First-Time Membership. A completed membership packet must be on file at the FHSAA office on or before April 30 for the school to be considered for admission the following school year.

5.3 Approved Accrediting Agencies

5.3.1 Accreditation for purposes of membership will be accepted from any of the following agencies:

- (a) Association of Christian Schools International;
- (b) Association of Christian Teachers and Schools;
- (c) Association of Independent Schools of Florida;
- (d) Christian Schools of Florida;
- (e) Council of Bilingual Schools;
- (f) Episcopal Diocese of Florida;
- (g) Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools;
- (h) Florida Catholic Conference;
- (i) Florida Coalition of Christian Private Schools;
- (j) Florida Conference of Seventh Day Adventist Schools;



- (k) Florida Council of Independent Schools;
- (l) Florida League of Christian Schools;
- (m) Lutheran Schools Florida-Georgia District;
- (n) National Independent Private School Association;
- (o) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

5.4 Suspension of Membership

5.4.1 Penalties Due to Suspension. Schools whose membership has been suspended for any reason will lose all privileges listed in Bylaw 3.9.1 for the duration of the suspension.

POLICY 6

SPORTS SEASONS LIMITATIONS

The following guidelines shall govern season limitations, contest limitations and individual student limitations for all member schools participating in FHSAA-sponsored sports.

6.1 General Principles.

6.1.1 Season Limitations. A member school shall not organize its teams for interscholastic practice or interscholastic competition in a sport outside of the dates listed for that sport. The Board of Directors will establish the dates for the first day of allowable practices/tryouts, pre-season contests, first and last days of regular season contests and the Florida High School State Championship Series for each sport. These dates will be published on the FHSAA Website. There will be no further practices following the date of the last regular season contest or the date of elimination from Florida High School State Championship Series competition, whichever is last to occur.

6.1.1.1 Spring Practice. Competitive Cheerleading and football may engage in spring practice for a maximum of 20 sessions conducted exclusively during month of May or the last 20 days of the school year, whichever comes first. The varsity team and each individual student may compete in 1 jamboree or 1 spring classic game during the final week, which must be counted as one of the 20 sessions.

6.1.1.2 Restrictions for Football and Wrestling

6.1.1.2.1 Football. Due to the protective equipment required in football, these procedures apply for both fall and spring practices:

- (a) the first two (2) days of practice are restricted to helmets only,
- (b) days 3-5 can introduce shoulder-pads with shorts,
- (c) beginning day six (6) of practice, full gear can be utilized and body-to-body contact is permitted.

Student-athletes who begin practice with a team after the start of official practice will be required to follow this same 6 day procedure. During the initial five (5) days, the use of arm shields, tackling and blocking dummies, sleds and other devices can be used for instructional purposes, however, deliberate body-to-body contact is prohibited.

6.1.1.2.2 Wrestling. Each student must participate in minimum of 10 practice sessions on 10 separate days prior to first competition (except a student who participates in a fall sport may compete after participating in 5 practice sessions on 5 separate days).

6.1.1.3 Penalties to School. Failure to comply with this policy will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$250.

6.1.2 School Contest Limitations. School contest limitations are for regular season contests only and are not inclusive of permissible preseason or postseason contests. Each sport will have the following game/meet/match limitations for each level (i.e. varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.) regardless of how many teams participate at each level, which will be inclusive of all games/meets/matches played in tournaments (for the sports of bowling, tennis and wrestling, each tournament counts as 2 matches):

- (a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo – 25 games/matches
- (b) Bowling, Lacrosse and Tennis – 18 games/matches
- (c) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field and Weightlifting – 13 meets
- (d) Flag Football – 12 games
- (e) Football and Competitive Cheerleading – 10 games, high school varsity level; 8 games, all other levels
- (f) Golf – 14 matches
- (g) Wrestling – 20 matches, 2 of which may only be single dual matches



6.1.2.1 Levels of Participation. A member school is limited to one varsity team per sport but may have multiple sub-varsity teams, including, but not limited to, one or more freshman teams, one or more junior varsity teams, etc., each level of which having the limits as specified in 6.1.2.

6.1.2.1.1 Exception. A school which participates as an independent in all sports offered by the school may have multiple varsity team sports, each of which having the same individual limitations as specified in Policy 6.1.3.

6.1.2.2 Penalties to School. Failure to comply with this policy will subject the school to a monetary penalty and a reduction of contests for the following school year for that specific sport and level.

6.1.3 Individual Limitations. An individual student shall not exceed the established contest limitations, as listed in Policy 6.1.2 (except for football), during any school year, regardless of whether the student transfers attendance to a different school, moves back and/or forth between varsity and sub-varsity levels or competes at the high school or middle/junior high school level. An individual student cannot participate as a member of varsity and sub-varsity teams on same day.

6.1.3.1 Football. The season limitation for football is 11 games, inclusive of all games played. After the conclusion of the sub-varsity season, sub-varsity players may complete the varsity regular season. A student-athlete can participate in only one (1) football contest during the same school week; Monday through Saturday (exclusive of the Florida High School State Championship Series).

6.1.4 Standardized Calendar. All FHSAA Sports Seasons will be determined by dates established in accordance with the standardized calendar developed by the National Federation of State High School Associations. This calendar will number the weeks of the year, with Week One (1) being the first full week of July (Sunday through Saturday). Hereinafter, this calendar will be referred to as the FHSAA Standardized Calendar.

POLICY 7

MULTI-SCHOOL, SPECIAL AND SANCTIONED ATHLETIC EVENTS

The Board of Directors has established the following policy for the approval of a member school to host interscholastic multi-team athletic events, tournaments and sanctioned events. Multi-team athletic events and tournaments in recognized sports do not require approval by the FHSAA Office unless the event meets the definition of a Third Party Special Event in Policy 7.8 or the event requires NFHS sanctioning. See Policy 9.9 for fees and reporting requirements for football classics and jamborees. See Policy 7 for deadlines for filing and late filing financial penalties.

7.1 Definitions.

7.1.1 Multi-Team Event. A multi-team event is an event of convenience in scheduling due to time, site or facility constraints by the participating schools.

7.1.2 Tournament. A tournament is any event in which any, but not limited to, of the following occur:

7.1.2.1 Brackets of any type for the event are established (i.e. Round Robin, Single Elimination, Double Elimination, Shoot-outs, etc.); or

7.1.2.2 Awards of any type are given for placement in the event (i.e. 1st Place, 2nd Place, etc.); or

7.1.2.3 Sponsorship of any part of the event is secured, including, but not limited to, corporate sponsors, booster clubs or titled events; or

7.1.2.4 Entry fees are charged.

7.1.3 Special Events. A special event is, but not limited to, a preseason jamboree game or tournament, preseason classic game or tournament, spring football jamboree or classic, football post season game, and third party organized or sponsored games or tournaments (i.e. KSA Events, ESPN, Paragon Sports, etc.).

7.1.4 Sanctioned Events. A sanctioned event is any event that requires a sanction application (i.e. regular season multi-school meets or tournaments, interstate and international multi-school meets or tournaments, etc.) by the FHSAA and/or the NFHS as part of the requirement for the event.

7.1.5 Host

7.1.5.1 A member school is considered a host when it organizes, produces and manages the event on campus or through rights to use an off campus facility and provides all event staff, officials, ticket sales, insurance, concessions and parking. In addition, the Host would retain all event revenue.

7.1.5.2 Colleges, Universities, and/or Third Party entities, including private corporations and non-profit organizations requesting to host events must enter into a contract directly with the FHSAA for sanction approval.



7.2 Multi-Team Events and Tournaments.

7.2.1 Application. Any athletic event hosted by an FHSAA member senior high school in a sanctioned sport which involves three or more schools such as a tournament or meet; preseason classic tournament; preseason jamboree; fall or spring football jamboree or classic; or any tournament or meet which is held to determine the champion of a city, county, conference or league, must be approved by the FHSAA Office. Approval is not required for multi-team regular season events, such as tri-meets and quad-meets, in individual sports or for any event hosted by a member middle school or junior high school. The member school is responsible for making application for approval on the forms entitled “Application for Approval of Athletic Event”: Form AT2. See Policy 9.5 and 9.9 for administrative fees for these events. The application for approval must be submitted to the FHSAA Office utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, with a time stamp bearing a date not later than 30 days prior to the first day of the event to avoid, in addition to the standard administrative fee, the following late processing fees:

- 7.2.1.1 Fewer than 30 days prior to the first day of the event: \$50;
- 7.2.1.2 Fewer than 10 days prior to the first day of the event: \$100; and
- 7.2.1.3 After the first day of the event: \$200.

7.2.2 Events Between Middle/Junior and Senior High Schools. Independent middle schools and/or junior high schools shall not be permitted to enter teams into tournaments or meets in which senior high school teams participate.

7.2.3 Sub-Varsity Restrictions. No junior varsity, middle/junior high or other sub-varsity team may participate in a tournament involving a varsity team. Junior varsity, junior high and other sub-varsity tournaments, if held, must be held as separate events.

7.2.4 Preseason. A varsity team may participate in either a preseason jamboree or classic, but not both. Sub-varsity preseason jamborees and classics are prohibited.

7.3 Interstate Sanctions. A member school which hosts a multi-school athletic event in which an out-of-state school(s) is invited to participate may be required to submit to the NFHS an online application for “Sanction of Interstate Athletic Event” in addition to the FHSAA form entitled “Application for Approval of Athletic Event” (Forms AT2 or AT3). NFHS procedures regarding application for sanction of interstate athletic events are available at NFHS.org.

7.4 International Sanctions. A member school which hosts any multi-school athletic event or single athletic contest involving a team from another country or affiliate member of the NFHS must submit to the FHSAA an AT2S or AT3S (“Application for Approval of Athletic Event-Supplement”)Form, in addition:

7.4.1 NFHS Online Application. Member schools must submit an online NFHS application for “Sanction of International Event”. NFHS procedures regarding application for sanction of international athletic events are available at NFHS.org.

7.4.1.1 Exception. Two (2) and three (3) school competitions with a school or schools from Canada or Mexico which are a member in good standing of associations that are members of NFHS or affiliate members of the NFHS and/or which necessitates a round trip of less than 600 miles are not required to submit the NFHS application.

7.5 Participation by Member School in Out-of-State Event or Contest. A member school which is invited to participate in a multi-team athletic event or single athletic contest which is to be conducted outside the neighboring states of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi is required to submit an AT16 form which must be submitted to the FHSAA Office within 60 days of travel. A member school is not required to submit an application for sanction for this event or contest to the FHSAA Office. Such application must be submitted by the host school through its state association to the National Federation of State High School Associations and approved by the FHSAA Office. No member school may participate in any event or contest in which any school that is not a member in good standing of associations that are members of NFHS or affiliate members of the NFHS and which regulates interscholastic athletic competition within its state is scheduled to participate. Out-of-state events which do not adhere to the FHSAA policy will not be approved by the FHSAA Office.

7.6 Participation in Unsanctioned Events or Contests. Member schools are prohibited from hosting or otherwise participating in multi-team athletic events or single athletic contests on an intrastate, interstate or international basis which are not sanctioned or approved by the FHSAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations.

7.7 Penalty for Violation of Sanction Policy. A minimum financial penalty of \$100 and probation, administrative and/or restrictive, will be assessed against any member school which violates any provision of this Sanction Policy.

7.8 Third Party Special Events

A third party is any entity that is not a member of the FHSAA and is organizing, producing or managing an event that involves FHSAA member schools or NFHS schools from out of state, regardless of where the event is held.



7.8.1 Member schools serving as Host (as defined in Policy 7.1.5) for an event on campus or through rights to use an off campus facility where the event is co-sponsored or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community with a third party entity, or the event involves a national television network (i.e. but not limited to, KSA Events, ESPN, ESPNU, Fox, TBS, Paragon Sports, etc.), must obtain permission to participate a minimum of 60 days prior to the event by filing Form AT2 or AT3 along with the required supplemental form AT2S or AT3S. All such events hosted within the state of Florida must include the FHSAA as a party to the contract with the third party promoter and the administrative fee due to FHSAA shall be individually negotiated for each event with a minimum fee equivalent to 20 percent (20%) of gate receipts and entry fees for non-televised events, or a minimum fee equivalent to 25 percent (25%) of gate receipts and entry fees for televised events unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. The event fee is due to FHSAA within 30 days following the event. A member school who files form AT2 or AT3 on behalf of a promoter is fully responsible for all financial obligations of the event in regard to payment to the FHSAA. This policy applies only to national promoters and does not apply to locally televised regular season events.

7.8.2 Third party events held in private or corporate facilities, or on school facilities where the member school is not fulfilling "Host" duties as defined in Policy 7.1.5, require a direct contract between the FHSAA and third party for sanction approval.

7.8.3 Any event hosted by or held on a college or university campus must be directly sanctioned by the college, university or third party with the FHSAA. If a member school is affiliated with the college or university and typically uses the college or university facility as their home facility, normal sanctioning approval stipulated in Policy 7.2.1 shall apply.

POLICY 8

MEMBER SCHOOL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

All member school principals must certify on the membership application that all of the coverage referenced below has been obtained, and must also provide a certificate of coverage from their insurance carrier or broker for the catastrophic accident medical, catastrophic disability and general liability coverage. The Board of Directors has established the following requirements with regard to insurance coverage for member schools:

8.1 **Athletic Medical Base Plan.** Up to \$25,000 limit is required for medical expenses for each participant in interscholastic athletics sponsored, supervised and engaged by the school. The member school principal will be allowed to accept certification from parents that the coverage is in place for the student-athlete on a family plan that meets this requirement. If the student-athlete is not covered under his/her parents' family plan, then the school must provide a plan for the student that will satisfy these requirements. The student may purchase this plan individually or the school may purchase a blanket plan for all members of its athletic teams. The principal must certify on the membership application that each student has the minimum coverage.

8.2 **Athletic Catastrophic Accident Medical Plan.** Minimum limits of \$1,000,000 is required for medical expenses for each participant in interscholastic athletics sponsored, supervised and engaged in by the school. This coverage is to be in excess of the athletics base plan medical policy limits or the policy can include the base plan medical coverage within the policy. The policy must provide no fault coverage.

8.3 **Athletic Catastrophic Disability.** Minimum limits of \$500,000 is required for total disability of any participant in interscholastic athletics sponsored, supervised and engaged in by the school. Structured pay-out benefits may vary. Coverage must also include some limited benefits for partial disability. The policy must provide no fault coverage.

8.4 **General Liability.** A general liability plan with minimum limits of \$1,000,000 is required.

POLICY 9

FINANCES

9.1 Definitions

9.1.1 **Gross Receipts.** All revenue derived from gate receipts and entry fees charged in conjunction with an athletic event. Gross receipts do not include revenue derived from food and beverage concessions, souvenir merchandise sales (except as stipulated in Policy 42, Licensing and Royalties), parking fees, corporate support or other contributions, or any other form of revenue.

9.1.2 **Gate Receipts.** All revenue derived from the sale of all forms of tickets (including advanced, reserved, general admission, etc.), passes or other forms of special admissions (i.e. day passes, event passes, tournament, etc.), and any and all other forms of paid admission to an athletic event.



9.1.3 Entry Fees. All revenue derived from any fees or other charges paid by any school and/or individual to participate in an athletic event.

9.1.4 Non-Tax Sources of Funds. All funding derived from sources that are not state or federal revenue or local derived tax dollars. Examples of non-tax sources include, but are not limited to: internal activity funds, booster club funds, donations, corporate sponsorships, event sales of tickets, parking, concessions, or any other revenue generated from sales to the public.

9.1.5 Operating Fund Balance. To ensure the financial strength and stability of the general operations of the Association, the adopted budget shall include public acknowledgement of the planned ending fund balance, not classified as restricted, committed, or non-spendable, of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) and not more than one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of operating revenues. In the event the unreserved fund balance decreases to less than seventy-five percent (75%) or increases to more than one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the Association's general fund budget, the Executive Director shall prepare for Board of Director approval, a financial plan and timeline to restore the ending fund balance to the amount set forth herein.

9.2 Membership Dues and Fees

9.2.1 Membership Dues.

9.2.1.1 Continuing Senior High School Members. Dues for the current school year are \$25, regardless of school size. Dues will be billed on or before July 1. Payment of dues must be received in the FHSAA Office by September 30. Per FHSAA Bylaw 3.10.1, schools will be suspended from membership after September 30, if dues have not been paid. In order for the suspended school to be reinstated, it must pay dues and an additional reactivation fee stated in 9.2.3 prior to December 31. Failure to pay late dues and reactivation fee by December 31 will result in termination from membership.

9.2.1.2 First-Time Senior High School Members. Dues for the first school year of membership are considered paid within the membership application fee and no further membership dues will be assessed during the first year.

9.2.1.3 Continuing Middle/Junior High Schools. Dues for the current school year, regardless of school size are \$10. Dues will be billed on or before July 1. Payment of dues must be received in the FHSAA Office by September 30. Per FHSAA Bylaw 3.10.1, schools will be suspended from membership after September 30, if dues have not been paid. In order for the suspended school to be reinstated, it must pay dues and an additional reactivation fee stated in 9.2.3 prior to December 31. Failure to pay late dues and reactivation fee by December 31 will result in termination from membership.

9.2.1.4 First-Time Middle/Junior High Schools. Dues for the first school year of membership are considered paid within the membership application fee and no further membership dues will be assessed during the first year.

9.2.2 Membership Fees.

9.2.2.1 Application Fee for First-Time Members. A school applying for first-time membership must pay a non-refundable \$150 application fee. A school applying for first-time middle school membership must pay a non-refundable \$60 application fee.

9.2.3 Reactivation of Suspended and Re-admission of Former Member Schools. Reactivation fees for a member school that has been suspended based on failure to pay member dues by the deadline established in Policy 9.2.1 is \$125 for high schools and \$50 for middle schools. A former member school that applies for re-admission will be assessed an administrative fee of \$250 for high schools and \$75 for middle/junior high schools (this is in addition to the member application fee as per Bylaw 3.6.1.2).

9.3 Legal Cost Sharing

9.3.1 Senior High Schools (Full Members).

9.3.1.1 Renewing Members. The member's share of legal costs of the FHSAA for a senior high school renewing its full membership for the current school year shall be determined by taking the total legal expense incurred by the FHSAA during the previous school year, subtracting the total flat fee assessed junior high school and middle school members, and dividing the balance equally by the total number of senior high school members at the close of the previous school year. The total legal expense includes all attorney's fees, court costs, settlements and judgments.

9.3.1.2 New Members. A senior high school joining the Association effective with the current school year will not be assessed legal cost sharing in its initial year of membership.

9.3.2 Middle/Junior High Schools. The member's share of legal costs of the FHSAA for a renewing middle/junior high school member shall be \$25.

9.4 Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Dues

Junior, middle and senior high schools which are full members of the FHSAA shall be required to hold membership in the Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (FIAAA). Annual dues are \$25 regardless of school size.



9.5 Administrative Fees:

9.5.1 A non-refundable administrative fee shall be assessed each member school making an application on Form AT2 for approval to host an event in the following sports. Refer to Policy 7 for filing deadlines and late filing financial penalties and third party fees. There are no financial reporting requirements for these events. See Policy 9.9 for football classics and bowl games.

9.5.1.1 The administrative fee in the sports of baseball, basketball, football, soccer and softball shall be as follows:

- (a) Preseason classic tournaments and jamborees: \$100; Preseason classics and jamborees exceeding four (4) teams are subject to additional fees of \$50 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director;
- (b) Tournaments – 4 or fewer teams: \$35; 5 to 8 teams: \$90; 9 to 16 teams: \$175; 17 to 20 teams: \$265; 21 to 24 teams: \$350; 25 to 32 teams: \$525;
- (c) Tournaments exceeding 32 teams are subject to conditional approval by the Executive Director.
- (d) Football fall jamboree: \$450, Football spring jamboree \$150.

9.5.1.2 The administrative fee in the sports of girls volleyball and wrestling shall be as follows:

- (a) Preseason classic tournaments: \$75; Preseason classics and jamborees exceeding four (4) teams are subject to additional fees of \$50 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director;
- (b) Tournaments – 8 or fewer teams: \$35; 9 to 16 teams: \$50; 17 to 32 teams: \$90;
- (c) Tournaments exceeding 32 teams are subject to additional fees of \$20 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director and will be assessed \$90, plus an additional \$20 per team in excess of 32.

9.5.1.3 The administrative fee in the sports of boys weightlifting, track & field, cross country, swimming & diving shall be as follows:

- (a) Preseason classic tournaments: \$50; Preseason classics and jamborees exceeding four (4) teams are subject to additional fees of \$50 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director;
- (b) Tournaments – up to 4 teams: Sanction approval is not necessary and there are no administrative fees; 16 or fewer teams: \$20; 17 to 32 teams: \$35; Tournaments exceeding 32 teams are subject to \$90 fee and conditional approval by the Executive Director.

9.5.1.4 There is no FHSAA prior approval process or administrative fee or financial reporting requirements for school participation in multi-team events in the sports of tennis, golf, bowling, competitive cheerleading, flag football, water polo, boys volleyball, lacrosse, and girls weightlifting. See Policy 9.9 for fees and reporting requirements for football classics and jamborees. However, member host schools for these sports must follow NFHS fees and requirements for events involving teams from out of state.

9.6 Admission to Special Events

9.6.1 Preseason and Post Season Jamborees, Classics, Tournaments and Meets. The admission price to preseason and post season Jamborees, Classics, Tournaments, Meets and Bowl Games in all sports, including any student discounts, shall be determined and stated within the contest contract by the host school.

9.7 Admission to Florida High School State Championship Events

The FHSAA reserves the right to establish ticket prices for all Florida High School State Championship Series contests. The Executive Director reserves the right to increase the ticket price for any contest up to an additional \$3.00 per ticket for tickets purchased at the gate when pre-sale ticket sales have been made available for that contest. The Executive Director reserves the right to establish single day and/or full tournament ticket pricing, at a price not to exceed the value of the total number of single session events included in the single day or tournament pricing at Championship events. The Executive Director also reserves the right to establish premium seating ticket prices for a Florida High School State Championship Series contest when the venue can provide for such seating, unless otherwise stipulated below. The following admission prices shall be charged by the host school/organization for all Florida High School State Championship Series contests unless waived in writing by the Executive Director or his/her designee in advance of the event. In the event a waiver is granted to reduce or not charge admission, a financial report must still be submitted and the Host is not eligible for loss reimbursement funding.

9.7.1 Baseball, Cross Country, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Girls and Boys Volleyball and Wrestling. The admission price to tournament sessions in the Florida High School State Championship Series shall be as follows: district tournaments/meets, \$6; regional tournaments/meets, \$7; Florida High School State Championship Series, general admission \$9.

9.7.2 Girls and Boys Basketball. The admission price to tournament sessions in the Florida High School State Championship Series shall be as follows: district tournaments, \$6; regional tournaments, \$7; Florida High School State Championship Series, general admission \$10, reserved seating \$15.



9.7.3 Football. The admission price to games in the Florida High School State Championship Series shall be as follows: district tie-breakers, \$7; regional tournament games, \$8 general admission, \$9 reserved seating; state semifinal games, \$9 general admission, \$10 reserved seating; Florida High School State Championship Series, general admission \$12, reserved seating \$17, premium seating packages \$27.

9.7.4 Girls Weightlifting and Boys Weightlifting. The admission price to meets in the Florida High School State Championship Series shall be as follows: Florida High School State Championship Series, \$9.

9.7.5 Bowling, Flag Football, Lacrosse and Water Polo. The admission price to tournament sessions in the Florida High School State Championship Series shall be as follows: district tournaments/meets, \$6; regional tournaments/meets, \$7; Florida High School State Championship Series, \$8.

9.7.6 Golf and Tennis. No admission shall be charged for Florida High School State Championship Series events in these sports.

9.7.7 Cheerleading. The admission price to the Florida High School State Championship Series meets shall be as follows: district meets \$5; regional level meets \$6; Florida High School State Championship Series \$10.

9.8 Ticket Policy for Florida High School State Championship Series Events

9.8.1 Host school/organizations for all Florida High School State Championship Series contests shall adhere to the following guidelines with regard to the sale of tickets at such contests:

9.8.1.1 Numbered tickets or arm bands shall be sold at each Florida High School State Championship Series game, tournament or meet at which admission is required to be charged. Children age 3 and under may be admitted free of charge.

9.8.1.2 Each ticket must be torn in half by ticket-takers so that they cannot be resold. Torn tickets cannot be accepted for re-entry. Arm bands or hand stamps may be used for re-entry where monitored and permitted by the host. The host has the authority to enforce a no re-entry policy at their discretion.

9.8.1.3 All tickets sold must be accounted for on the financial report form.

9.8.1.4 Host school/organizations may sell pre-numbered arm bands in lieu of tickets provided the bands are applied to each person at the time of purchase and cannot be removed for resale.

9.8.1.5 Allocation of Tickets. The visiting school for a regional, quarterfinal, semifinal or final game may request from the host school up to 40 percent of the available tickets to be sold for the game. This request must be made by noon of the day following the previous round game. Any unsold tickets shall be returned to the host school not later than noon on the day of the game.

9.9 Special Events Financial Reporting and Revenue Sharing

9.9.1 Preseason and Spring Classics. The FHSAA will not require a financial report following the event or receive any percentage of the gross receipts from preseason classic tournaments in any sports other than football. Refer to Policy 7.8 if the event involves a Third Party promoter. Flat rate administrative fees may be required on sports other than football (refer to policy 9.5). In the sport of football only, the FHSAA shall receive 20 percent of the gross receipts of all football classic games or a flat fee as listed below, whichever is less:

Classification	Fall Classic Fee	Spring Classic Fee
8A, 7A, 6A, 5A	\$1,150	\$600
4A, 3A, 1A	\$ 750	\$350
2A, Independent	\$ 450	\$200

The visiting school shall receive 35 percent of the net profit after the host pays expenses, including the FHSAA share, unless a mutual agreement is reached for an alternative split prior to the event. Financial Report Form FB4 and payment must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee shall be assessed as follows: 1 to 60 days late, \$50; 61 to 90 days late, \$75; beyond 90 days late, \$100. If a Classic is cancelled after receiving sanction approval, the host must notify FHSAA of the cancellation by the deadline for the Financial Report Form FB4 or the host may incur a \$50 late filing fee.

9.9.2 Postseason Football Bowl Games. The FHSAA shall receive eight (8) percent of the gross receipts of all postseason football bowl games. Refer to Policy 7.8 if the event involves a Third Party promoter. The balance of gross receipts shall be divided between the participating schools in accordance with the agreement between them. Financial Report Form FB3 must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee shall be assessed as follows: 1 to 60 days late, \$50; 61 to 90 days late, \$75; beyond 90 days late, \$100.

9.10 Florida High School State Championship Series Games, Tournaments & Meets Financial Reporting and Revenue Sharing

9.10.1 Football. Each district tie-breaker, regional tournament game and state semifinal game shall be financially independent. The total gate receipts of each district tie-breaker, regional tournament game and state semifinal game shall be divided as follows:



FHSAA shall receive 25 percent of gate receipts or the total net profit after host expenses, whichever is less. The amounts remaining after host expenses and FHSAA share are paid shall be divided 55 percent to the host school and 45 percent to the visiting school(s). If, however, a district tie-breaker, regional tournament game or state semifinal game shows a net profit of \$250 or less, the host school shall retain the net profit and no percentage shall be paid to the visiting school(s) or the FHSAA. In the event the host school reports a net profit of \$250 or less, the host school must provide supporting documentation for all expenses claimed. The net profit is determined by subtracting total expenditures from the total gate receipts on the financial report form. If a district tie-breaker, regional tournament game or state semifinal game shows a net loss on the financial report form, the FHSAA shall compensate the host school up to \$350 for the loss, subject to the provisions of 9.10.4. Financial Report Form FB5 for district tie-breakers, regional and state semifinals must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee shall be assessed as follows: 1 to 60 days late, \$50; 61 to 90 days late, \$75; beyond 90 days late, \$100.

9.10.2 Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Girls Volleyball. Each district tournament and regional tournament contest shall be financially independent. The total gate receipts of each district tournament and each regional tournament contest shall be divided as follows: FHSAA shall receive 15 percent of gate receipts or the total net profit after host expenses, whichever is less. The amounts remaining after host expenses and FHSAA share are paid shall be divided 55 percent to the host school and 45 percent to the visiting school(s). If, however, a district tournament or regional tournament contest shows a net profit of \$250 or less, the host school shall retain the net profit and no percentage shall be paid to the visiting school(s) or the FHSAA. The net profit is determined by subtracting total expenditures from the total gate receipts on the financial report form. If a district tournament or regional tournament contest shows a net loss on the financial report form, the FHSAA shall compensate the host school up to \$350 for the loss, subject to the provisions of 9.10.4. Financial Report Form FN2 for district and regional tournaments must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee shall be assessed as follows: 1 to 60 days late, \$50; 61 to 90 days late, \$75; beyond 90 days late, \$100.

9.10.3 Bowling, Cross Country, Flag Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Boys Volleyball, Water Polo, Weightlifting and Wrestling. The FHSAA will not receive any percentage of the gross receipts from district or region tournaments or meets or any Florida High School State Championship Series play-in games. Host schools of district tournaments or Florida High School State Championship Series play-in games in these sports do not need to file a financial report. District planning meetings should determine how the district host should distribute net profits or loss. In regional tournaments, the host school is fiscally responsible for all losses and must redistribute profits as stated in policy 9.10.2.

9.10.4 Net Loss Reimbursement. To be eligible to receive the \$350 maximum compensation for a net loss shown on the financial report forms FB5 and FN2, a host school must:

- 9.10.4.1 Charge the full admission price established in Policy 9.7 without waiver;
- 9.10.4.2 Sell numbered tickets and account for all tickets sold as stipulated in Policy 9.8;
- 9.10.4.3 File a financial report form for the game, tournament or meet as stipulated in Policy 9.10 (the sports listed in Policy 9.10.3 are ineligible since they do not file financial reports);
- 9.10.4.4 Submit with the financial report form the Florida High School State Championship Series Contest Pass Gate Sign-In Form(s) as stipulated in Administrative Procedure 3.11;
- 9.10.4.5 Provide supporting documentation for all expenses reported and follow expense limitations on form FN2 regarding event manager, facility rental and trophies; and
- 9.10.4.6 Be in compliance with all policies for the event.

9.10.5 Hosting a Florida High School State Championship Series Tournament at Multiple Sites. Regardless of number of sites required to play a District or Regional Florida High School State Championship Series Tournament, there shall be one recognized host school that is responsible for filing the FN2 financial report along with FHSAA payment. Only one report shall be submitted for the sum total of all satellite sites that comprise a District or Regional Tournament. All games or matches played in a tournament are combined into one report for determining the share to be paid to the FHSAA and for purposes of determining a profit or loss. The overall profit or loss is determined by combining ticket revenues from all locations and deducting qualifying expenses from all locations. District Planning meetings should determine how satellite sites will report to the District Host and how the District Host should distribute overall profits or loss. In Regional Tournaments and in the absence of District Planning Meeting guidance on how to split profits and losses, the Host School is fiscally responsible for all losses at the satellite site(s) and must redistribute profits as stated in policy 9.10.1 and 9.10.2.

9.10.6 Entry Fees for a Florida High School State Championship Series. Entry fees may only be charged to participating teams in a Florida High School State Championship Series event in the following situations:

- (a) Cross Country event held on property that does not permit ticket sales. Fees may be assessed to cover reasonable costs of the event
- (b) Tennis and Golf event where fees are assessed to share reasonable costs of the event with the host
- (c) Swimming & Diving events where host incurs a pool rental fee and splits the cost of the rental with participating schools (see policy 14 for maximum rental fees)
- (d) Sharing shortfalls on a District Florida High School State Championship Series event after FHSAA loss reimbursement, when authorized by the District Planning Meeting
- (e) Upon prior written permission from the Executive Director or his/her designee



9.10.7 Florida High School State Championship Series Awards

- (a) In the sport of football, the District Champion/Runner-up may elect to purchase District Championship/Runner-up Trophies, and if so, must purchase these from the FHSAA authorized award vendor.
- (b) In the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Girls Volleyball, the Host may elect to purchase District Championship trophies, and if so, must purchase these from the FHSAA authorized award vendor and report the expense on the FN2 financial report for the event.
- (c) In all sports, Regional Championship trophies may be purchased by the Champion school from the FHSAA authorized award vendor after the event. The cost of Regional Championship trophies may not be claimed by the Host as an expense on the FN2 form.

9.11 Compensation to Schools Participating in Florida High School State Championship Series Events

9.11.1 Football. When net profits after expenses allow, the FHSAA shall pay to each school an amount based upon its mileage from the site of the Florida High School State Championship Series as follows: \$4,250 plus \$5 per mile. Neither the FHSAA nor the host organization shall assume responsibility for any other team expenses of any kind except for those expenses specified above. When net profits after expenses do not allow for the payment of this schedule, participating teams shall divide 100 percent of the net profit based on their pro-rata share of the formula. In such cases, the FHSAA will not retain any share of the net profit. At no time shall participating schools be paid reimbursement for expenses when the Florida High School State Championship Series do not show a net profit after expenses.

9.11.2 Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Girls Volleyball. When net profits after expenses allow, the FHSAA shall pay to each school an amount as follows: \$2,000 plus \$2.50 per mile. Neither the FHSAA nor the host organization shall assume responsibility for any other team expenses of any kind except for those expenses specified above. When net profits after expenses do not allow for the payment of this schedule, participating teams shall divide 100 percent of the net profit based on their pro-rata share. In such cases, the FHSAA will not retain any share of the net profit. At no time shall participating schools be paid reimbursement for expenses when the Florida High School State Championship Series do not show a net profit after expenses.

9.11.3 Competitive Cheerleading, Cross Country, Golf, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Bowling, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Boys Volleyball and Water Polo. No reimbursement of any kind shall be paid to schools which qualify teams and/or individual contestants to the Florida High School State Championship Series. Neither the FHSAA nor the host school or organization shall assume responsibility for any participating school or individual contestant expenses of any kind.

9.12 Athletic Events Not Held Due to Unusual Circumstances, Including Inclement Weather

9.12.1 If severe weather occurs in the area prior to the start of, or during, any scheduled outdoor game, tournament or meet and the event is delayed, postponed, suspended or canceled, special rules apply. If for other unforeseen reasons, a game, tournament or meet is delayed, postponed, suspended or canceled, special rules apply.

9.12.2 If tickets have been sold for the event and any revenue related to the event is retained by the school, then the regular financial reporting process must be completed with payments to the FHSAA and to the participating school(s). If free entry is given for a future event, the revenue received and retained should be reported for the event. If money is refunded and not retained, then it should not be included as revenue reported for the event. If tickets were presold for the event and the event was canceled before it was to begin, then the revenue received and retained (not refunded) from the presold tickets should be reported on the financial report.

9.12.3 If a financial hardship results from the inclement weather and the related loss of playing time, the host school should submit a written request for waiver of financial share payments. Requests should be submitted to the Executive Director or his/her designee. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

9.12.4 The host of any sanctioned event where a cancellation of the event occurs prior to any sales being made, must notify the FHSAA of the cancellation no later than the deadline for the sanction fee or financial report to avoid a \$50 late fee.

9.13 Invoices Charged to Member Schools' Accounts

9.13.1 Invoices. Invoices charged to the school's account with the FHSAA are due and payable within 30 days of the invoice date. The only exception to this rule is the annual membership dues invoice payment that must be postmarked no later than September 30 of each year.

9.13.2 Waiver of Monetary Penalties. Request for waiver of a monetary penalty must be received in the FHSAA Office no later than 30 days from the date of the invoice. Request for a waiver of a monetary penalty must be submitted, in writing, to the FHSAA Office, along with any related documentation supporting the request. The FHSAA Office will notify the school of the decision on the waiver request. The school's account will be adjusted if the waiver is approved. If a school receives a waiver on a monetary penalty that previously has been paid, a reimbursement will be sent to the school.



9.14 Member Schools Limited to Non-Tax Funds. Member schools must only use non-tax sources of funds as defined in Policy 9.1.4 to make payments of any kind to the FHSAA. Payments for administrative fees for tournaments and classics in Policies 9.5 and 9.9, and payments to FHSAA for Florida High School State Championship Series games in Policy 9.10 are deemed to be derived from the public sale of tickets to the event. Member schools must assure payments for membership fees, legal cost sharing and all other fees and fines are made from funds that are not derived from taxes.

POLICY 10

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

10.1 Participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series

10.1.1 Participation is Voluntary. Participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series in each sport by a school is voluntary and is limited to varsity participation only. It, however, is the preference of the Board of Directors that every eligible school that can and should participate, do so.

A school for legitimate reasons may exercise the option of independence. Such reasons include, but are not limited to: a newly opening school; a school that has consistently been unable to compete in the classification to which it is assigned; a school that is geographically isolated and chooses not to participate for financial reasons; a school whose educational philosophies prohibit such extended athletic participation; or a school that does not or cannot compete for religious reasons. The option of independence is not intended for use by one or more schools organizing in protest of the Association's policies and/or to establish a postseason championship competition separate from the Florida High School State Championship Series.

To this end, any such effort by a group of member schools to declare independence in a sport and organize a conference or league with the intent of conducting any form of playoff to determine a champion(s) after the conclusion of FHSAA-approved regular season competition is prohibited unless approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors.

All competitions to determine a champion(s) that are conducted by conferences or leagues whose members also are members of the FHSAA must be conducted as part of the FHSAA-approved regular season.

10.1.2 Participation is for Full Member Senior High Schools. Participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series is limited to varsity participation and only to those full member senior high schools that are members of the Association. Compensation for expenses of schools competing in a Florida High School State Championship Series is not guaranteed.

10.2 Team Participation

10.2.1 Eligibility for Participation. To be eligible for participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series in any team sport:

- (a) The school successfully sponsors a varsity program in the previous school year (i.e. completes a comparable district schedule to the other schools in the district which they would be placed).
- (b) The school files a commitment (team sports) or intent (individual sports) to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series with FHSAA by the specified deadline.
- (c) A varsity team shall engage in a minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests (games, matches or meets) or the required number of district contests as determined in the district meeting, whichever is greater, in the sport. To count as a contest, the school's team actually shall participate in and complete the contest. Scheduled contests that are canceled or not completed (in accordance with the playing rules of the sport in question) may not be counted.
- (d) A varsity team must play not less than 60 percent of its regular season contests in the sport against FHSAA member schools.
- (e) A varsity team must not take more than one trip per school year in the sport beyond the neighboring states of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

10.2.2 Only One Varsity Team May Enter. A school may enter only one varsity team in the Florida High School State Championship Series in a sport.

10.2.3 Provisional Period Members Not Eligible. A provisional period member senior high school shall not be eligible to enter a team into the Florida High School State Championship Series in any sport during its period of provisional membership.

10.3 Individual Participation

10.3.1 Minimum 4 Contest Requirement. To be eligible for participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series in a sport, an individual student-athlete shall participate in a minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests in that sport for the current season, unless a written request for a waiver is approved by the Executive Director or his/her designee. A student-athlete who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a sports season and who regains his/her eligibility during that sports season, but is unable to participate in the minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests in that sport, shall be exempted from this provision.



10.3.2 Individual Honors Requirements. In an individual sport, to be eligible for individual honors on the regional and state levels, a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on the district level. To be eligible for individual honors on the state level, a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on the district and regional levels.

10.4 Mixed Gender Restrictions. Boys may not participate on a girls team or in the girls division in the Florida High School State Championship Series in any sport. In a team sport, a girl may participate on a boys team in the Florida High School State Championship Series only if the school does not sponsor a girls team in that sport. In an individual sport, a girl may not participate in the boys division in the Florida High School State Championship Series if competition is conducted in a girls division in that sport. However, for a girl to participate in the girls division of the Florida High School State Championship Series in a sport, the school must file a “Declaration of Intent to Participate in Florida High School State Championship Series” form in that sport.

10.5 Commitment to Participate Form for Team Sports

10.5.1 Commitment Form. Each member school that elects to participate in a Florida High School State Championship Series competition in a team sport must notify the FHSAA Office of its intent to do so on the “Commitment to Participate in Florida High School State Championship Series” form. The FHSAA issues commitment forms on an annual basis.

10.5.2 Signatures Required. A commitment form, to be valid, must bear the signature of the member school principal and athletic director or FHSAA Representative.

10.5.3 Binding Agreement. A properly executed commitment form is a binding agreement between the member school and the Association. A school that elects to withdraw from its commitment in a team sport, after the commitment deadline, shall notify the FHSAA Office of its decision using the form provided for that purpose. Upon approval of the FHSAA Office, the school shall be assessed a \$250 administrative fee. If, however, the school fails to notify in writing, and secure the approval of, the FHSAA Office of its decision to withdraw from its commitment in a sport prior to the deadline for filing the Official State Entry List (SEL) in the sport, that school shall be assessed an additional \$250 monetary penalty (\$500 total) and its program in that sport placed on administrative probation.

10.5.4 Failure to Commit before Deadline. A school that does not commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in a team sport by the commitment deadline, and later submits a request in writing to the FHSAA Office to participate to the FHSAA Office in that sport shall be assigned to the appropriate classification and district and shall be assessed a mandatory, non-refundable \$100 administrative fee. It shall be the responsibility of the school to schedule the necessary contest(s) with every other school in the district to which it is assigned. If, however, the school is unable to secure the necessary contest(s) with every other school in the district, the school shall not be eligible to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in that sport.

10.5.5 Commitment Agreement. By committing to participate in a Florida High School State Championship Series, a member school agrees to participate in accordance with and abide by all the procedures, guidelines, policies and regulations for the Florida High School State Championship Series as approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

10.6 Commitment to Participate Form for Individual Sports

10.6.1 Commitment Form. Each member school that elects to participate in a Florida High School State Championship Series competition in an individual sport must notify the FHSAA Office of its intent to do so on the “Commitment to Participate in Florida High School State Championship Series” form. The FHSAA issues intent forms on an annual basis.

10.6.2 Signatures Required. A commitment form, to be valid, must bear the signature of the member school principal and athletic director or FHSAA Representative.

10.6.3 Non-Binding Agreement. A properly executed commitment form is non-binding on the member school. A school that elects to withdraw from its commitment to participate in an individual sport may do so without penalty, prior to the deadline for filing the Official State Entry List (SEL) in the sport, by notifying the FHSAA Office of its decision using the form provided for that purpose. If, however, the school fails to notify in writing the FHSAA Office of its decision to withdraw from its commitment to participate in an individual sport prior to the deadline for filing the Official State Entry List (SEL), that school shall be assessed a \$250 monetary penalty and its program in that sport placed on administrative probation.

10.6.4 Failure to Commit before Deadline. A school that does not file notice of its commitment to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in an individual sport by the deadline, and later submits a request in writing to the FHSAA Office to participate in that sport shall be assigned to the appropriate classification and district and shall be assessed a mandatory, non-refundable \$100 administrative fee.

No school, however, under any circumstance, shall be assigned to a classification and district in the Florida High School State Championship Series in an individual sport if its request for such assignment is received in the FHSAA Office on or after the deadline for filing the Official State Entry List (SEL) in that sport.



10.6.5 **Commitment Agreement.** By filing notice of commitment to participate in a Florida High School State Championship Series, a member school agrees to participate in accordance with and abide by all the procedures, guidelines, policies and regulations for the Florida High School State Championship Series as approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

10.7 Failure to Appear

10.7.1 **Team Failure to Appear.** In the event a team fails to appear at the Florida High School State Championship Series event site to play at the scheduled time for its contest, the contest shall be declared forfeited to the team's opponent, and that team shall advance to the next round. In this event, the FHSAA Office must be notified immediately. If a team's arrival is delayed due to mechanical problems or inclement weather, every reasonable effort must be made by the local manager in consultation with the FHSAA Office to make adjustments, if possible, in the starting time of the contest to accommodate the absent team. Otherwise, failure to appear shall subject the school to a \$250 monetary penalty.

10.7.2 **Student Athlete Failure to Appear.** A student-athlete who qualifies in a Florida High School State Championship Series meet as an individual is expected to compete on successive levels of the Florida High School State Championship Series unless ill, injured, suspended due to disciplinary action, or for any other reason acceptable to the Executive Director. If the student-athlete does not compete on a successive level, the student-athlete will not be permitted to compete in any other event in the Florida High School State Championship Series in that sport. Personnel on relay teams may be changed in accordance with the rules governing those sports. A school must submit in writing to the FHSAA Office the name of the student-athlete and an explanation for the inability to compete in advance of the competition whenever situations make it possible to do so. Failure to participate in the district/regional meet by an individual or relay team is a violation of FHSAA policy and shall subject the school to a \$50 penalty unless the reason for failure to participate is approved by the FHSAA Office.

10.8 Neutrality

10.8.1 **Neutrality.** It is the responsibility of the host school to ensure that an atmosphere of neutrality is maintained in all Florida High School State Championship Series events. Such events are not "home contests" for the host schools. Special festivities held as part of, or in conjunction with, regular season home contests (i.e., pregame activities designed to rally support for the home team, such as light shows, or giving special recognition to members of the home team) are not permitted during the Florida High School State Championship Series.

10.9 Allegations and Protests

10.9.1 **Allegations and Protests.** Allegation and/or protesting actions of another school received less than forty-five (45) days prior to the beginning of Florida High School State Championship Series competition in a sport may not be concluded prior to the conclusion of the sport's championship series (corresponding with Bylaw 10.3).

10.9.2 **Withholding Information.** Member schools (or persons defined in Bylaw 1.4.18) who intentionally withhold information impacting Florida High School State Championship Series participation shall be considered unethical and unsportsmanlike and addressed in accordance with Policy 45.

POLICY 11

OFFICIAL STATE ENTRY LIST (SEL)

The following policy shall govern Official State Entry Lists (SEL) for the Florida High School State Championship Series:

11.1 **Submission Required.** Each member school that commits to and qualifies to participate in Florida High School State Championship Series competition in a sport must generate and submit to the tournament/meet manager (regional opponent in football) an Official State Entry List (SEL) by the deadline specified in the FHSAA Calendar, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director. The SEL must contain only the names of those student-athletes who have been previously electronically reported to the FHSAA Office on an eligibility roster utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director and who meet the requirements of Bylaw 9. The tournament/meet manager (regional opponent in football) will receive the SEL via e-mail and may also download the SEL utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director. The SEL must contain the names of those student-athletes who will represent the member school in Florida High School State Championship Series competition in that sport. All student-athletes must be eligible in accordance with all FHSAA rules and regulations in order to be placed on a team roster and the SEL. Permitting a student-athlete to compete in a Florida High School State Championship Series contest who was not submitted to the FHSAA Office on the SEL for that sport will be subject to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$50.



11.2 Number of Participants. The number of student-athletes whose names may be placed on an SEL in a given sport by a member school shall be limited to the following:

- (a) Baseball and Softball – twenty (20) student-athletes;
- (b) Basketball, Cross Country and Volleyball – fifteen (15) student-athletes;
- (c) Bowling – Eight (8) student-athletes;
- (d) Competitive Cheerleading, Flag Football, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field and Wrestling – no limit;
- (e) Football – sixty (60) student-athletes;
- (f) Golf – ten (10) student-athletes, of which any five (5) may participate on a given level of the Florida High School State Championship Series;
- (g) Lacrosse – twenty-five (25) student-athletes;
- (h) Soccer – twenty-two (22) student-athletes;
- (i) Tennis – twelve (12) student-athletes;
- (j) Water Polo – eighteen (18) student-athletes;
- (k) Weightlifting – three (3) student-athletes in each weight class; of which any two (2) may participate;

The terms and conditions governing the Florida High School State Championship Series in each respective sport shall stipulate the number of student-athletes who may actually dress in uniform/participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) in a Florida High School State Championship Series contest.

11.4 Authorization Required. To be valid, the SEL must be authorized by the FHSAA representative or the athletic director.

11.5 Additional Administrative Fees. To avoid additional administrative fees, the SEL must be submitted utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director not later than 5 p.m. local time on the Monday of the week immediately prior to the week during which the tournament/meet is to be held (except football). In the sport of football, the SEL must be submitted utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director not later than 5 p.m. on the Wednesday of the week of the eleventh (11th) football playing date. Schools involved in District Tiebreaker contests must submit a SEL to all tiebreaker participants by 12:00 noon on the day of the tiebreaker contest. A late filing administrative fee of \$50 will be assessed a member school that does not submit its SEL by this deadline. The late filing administrative fee will increase to \$100 if the SEL is not submitted utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director by 5 p.m. local time on the Friday of the week immediately prior to the week during which the tournament/meet is to be held (in the sport of football, Wednesday of the week of the 1st round of regional play-off contests). A school that fails to submit its SEL utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director prior to the scheduled starting time of the first competition (i.e. game, match or event) in the tournament/meet (regional contest in the sport of football) that directly involves the school's team or individual representative may be permitted to participate in competition only with the approval of the FHSAA Office. The school, however, will be assessed a minimum administrative fee of \$250. Under no circumstances shall the manager of a tournament/meet (regional contest in the sport of football) permit a team for which he/she has no SEL to participate in the tournament/meet (regional contest in the sport of football) without the approval of the FHSAA Office.

11.6 Changes. A member school may add previously unlisted student-athletes to, or change or replace existing student-athletes on its SEL according to the following procedure:

11.6.1 Resubmission. Resubmission to the tournament/meet manager (regional opponent in football) utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director is required after any change is made.

11.6.2 Team Sports. For team sports, except football (i.e. baseball, basketball, competitive cheerleading, flag football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo), the addition or change must be submitted to the tournament/meet manager utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director prior to the scheduled starting time of the school's contest in the district, regional or state tournament. No change may be made to an SEL for a contest once that contest begins. Changes in football must be submitted to the regional opponent utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director prior to the scheduled starting time of the school's game in a regional contest, state semi-final contest or state final contest.

11.6.3 Individual Sports. For individual sports (i.e. bowling, cross country, golf, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, weightlifting, wrestling), the addition or change must be submitted to the tournament/meet manager utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director prior to the time agreed to in the tournament/meet planning meeting for submitting to the tournament/meet manager the times, marks, records, etc., for the seeding of individual competitors into flights, heats, matches, etc. No change may be made to an SEL after this deadline, with the exception of swimming & diving and track & field in which changes may be made only for members of relay teams that qualify from the district meets to the regional/state meets and from the regional meets to the state meets.



11.6.4 **Submission of a Change.** The principal or the FHSAA representative or the athletic director must resubmit the SEL with the by the same process as submitting the original SEL. The principal, FHSAA representative, or athletic director must authorize the change and provide a reason why the student was added or removed after the deadline. Changes made prior to the SEL Deadline will not incur a fee.

11.6.5 **Administrative Fee.** The member school will be assessed an administrative fee of \$50 for each addition or change made to its SEL after the filing deadline. This penalty will increase if it is later determined that the student-athlete(s) added to the school's SEL was ineligible. This fee will be waived for changes due to academic eligibility changes from the first semester to the second semester (see Bylaw 9.4.6).

POLICY 12

CLASSIFICATION

12.1 General

12.1.1 Membership Classification. Membership classifications will be applied for administrative and Florida High School State Championship Series purposes. A member school may not participate in a classification above or below that to which it is assigned on the basis of its student population, except as provided herein.

12.1.2 **Senior High Only.** Only senior high schools and combination schools with senior high school grade levels (i.e. grades 9, 10, 11, and/or 12) shall be classified.

12.1.3 Classification Term. Schools shall be classified on a quadrennial basis for the 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

12.1.4 Each Sport Classified. Each sport shall be classified according to the guidelines and criteria herein.

12.2 Classification Criteria

12.2.1 **Existing Member Schools.** An existing full member senior high school shall be classified on the basis of the school's traditional and non-traditional student population in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades combined as reported during the week in October designated by the Florida Department of Education for the fall semester FTE survey of public schools. Each member school shall be responsible for reporting to the FHSAA its student population as required. The FHSAA may spot-check and/or audit the student population report submitted by any member school. Student populations for schools that enroll girls only or boys only (i.e. one gender comprises greater than 90 percent of the student body) shall be doubled for classification purposes.

12.2.1.1 **Traditional Students.** Traditional students are students that are enrolled in and physically attend the school at which they participate.

12.2.1.2 **Non-Traditional Students.** Non-traditional Students are students that are not enrolled in and physically attend the school at which they participate, including, but not limited to; Home Education Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.1 and, Charter School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.2, Special School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.3 and Non-Member Private School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.4 and FLVS-FT Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.5.

12.2.1.3 **Population Count of Non-traditional Students.** The count of non-traditional students will be the average of the number of students in each category for each of the previous number of years as the number of years in the classification term as defined in 12.1.3 (previous 4 years).

12.2.2 **New Member Schools.** A senior high school applying for new full membership in the Association shall be classified in its initial year of membership on the basis of the school's student population in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades combined at the conclusion of the previous school year as reported to the FHSAA on the school's application for membership.

12.2.3 **New Schools.** A newly opening senior high school applying for new full membership in the Association shall be classified in its initial year of membership on the basis of the school's projected student population in the grades with which the school will open. This projected student population must be submitted by the district superintendent for a public school or the senior administrator for a private school, and must be certified with their respective signatures. If the actual student population reported for the school in October of the school year would place it into a classification lower than that of its projected student population, the school shall be required to compete in the Florida High School State Championship Series in the higher classification. If, however, the school's actual student population would place it into a classification higher than that of its projected student population, the school shall not be eligible to compete in the Florida High School State Championship Series in the lower classification. An error margin of 10 percent will be allowed for discrepancies between the projected student population and actual student population of a school that is so classified. If the school's actual student population is greater than 10 percent of its projected student population, the school shall immediately be reclassified on the basis of its actual student population.

12.2.4 Significant Increase or Decrease in Student Population. An existing full member senior high school that expects to incur a significant increase or decrease in student population the following school year due to the opening of a new school or to the redrawing of attendance zone boundaries by the district school board may request to be classified on the basis of the school's projected student population for the following school year rather than the school's actual student population reported in the



current school year. This projected student population must be submitted by the district superintendent for a public school or the senior administrator for a private school, and must be certified with their respective signatures. If a school requesting to be classified on such a projection reports an actual student population in October of the following school year that would place it into a classification lower than that of its projected student population, the school shall be required to compete in the Florida High School State Championship Series in the higher classification. If, however, the school's actual student population would place it into a classification higher than that of its projected student population, the school shall not be eligible to compete in the Florida High School State Championship Series in the lower classification.

12.2.5 Missing Grade Levels. In the event an existing member senior high school does not have each of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades, its student population for classification purposes shall be adjusted as follows:

12.2.5.1 For a three-year senior high school (grades 10, 11 and 12 only) that does not have a 9th grade, the percentage of the total membership's student population in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades that is constituted by the 9th grade shall be added to the school's student population in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

12.2.5.2 For a senior high school in its initial year of existence that opens with the 9th, 10th and 11th grades only or in its second or third year of existence with the 9th, 10th and 11th grades only, the percentage of the total membership's student population in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades that is constituted by the 12th grade shall be added to the school's student population in the 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

12.2.5.3 For a senior high school in its initial year of existence that opens with the 9th and 10th grades only, the percentage of the total membership's student population in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades that is constituted by the 11th and 12th grades shall be added to the school's student population in the 9th and 10th grades.

12.2.5.4 For a senior high school in its initial year of existence that opens with a 9th grade only, the percentage of the total membership's student population in the 9th, 10th and 11th grades that is constituted by the 10th and 11th grades shall be added to the school's student population in the 9th grade.

12.2.6 Executive Director Classification Authority. The Executive Director, at his/her discretion, may administratively assign a school to the next classification lower than the classification to which it would otherwise be assigned if the school is geographically isolated from other schools in the classification to which it would be assigned; and

12.2.7 Geographically Isolated Schools. A school that is geographically isolated from other schools in the classification to which it is assigned may submit in writing to the Executive Director a request that it be administratively reassigned to the next higher classification. The Executive Director may honor such a request if, in his/her opinion, there are other schools in the higher classification that are in closer geographic proximity to the school submitting the request for reassignment.

12.2.8 Re-Classification. A school may be reassigned in classification for the subsequent year(s) of the classification term under the following circumstances:

12.2.8.1 A school that reports in the subsequent year(s) of the classification term an increase in student population that equals or exceeds 20 percent of the student population number that was used to assign the school to its current classification shall be reassigned to a higher classification if:

- (a) the higher student population would place the school into a higher classification; and
- (b) every other school in the current classification that has not experienced an equal or greater percentage increase in student population has a student population that is less than the higher student population of the school in question.

12.2.8.2 A school that will experience an increase in student population in the subsequent year(s) of the classification term due to the addition of one or more grades shall be assigned to a higher classification if:

- (a) the higher student population computed in accordance with this policy would place the school into a higher classification; and
- (b) every other school in the current classification that is not similarly adding one or more grades has a student population that is less than that of the school in question.

12.2.8.3 A school that reports in the subsequent year(s) of the classification term a decrease in student population that equals or exceeds 20 percent of the student population number that was used to assign the school to its current classification shall be reassigned to a lower classification if:

- (a) the lower student population would place the school into a lower classification; and
- (b) every other school in the current classification that has not experienced an equal or greater percentage decrease in student population has a student population that is more than the lower student population of the school in question.

12.2.8.4 A school that will experience a decrease in student population in the subsequent year(s) of the classification term due to the opening of a new school or the redrawing of school attendance boundaries shall be assigned to a lower classification if:

- (a) the lower student population projected by the district school board office would place the school into a lower classification; and
- (b) every other school in the current classification that is not similarly decreasing in student population because of these reasons has a student population that is more than that of the school in question.



12.3 Football

12.3.1 Number of Classifications. The FHSAA State Football Series for the current classification term shall be conducted in eight (8) classifications. The eight classifications are 8A, 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

12.3.2 Division of Classifications.

12.3.2.1 The total number of existing member schools that committed to participate in the FHSAA State Football Series for the current classification term shall be ranked in descending order of student population and divided into eight basic classifications (8A, 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A). The highest two-thirds of schools, by student population, will be as evenly divided as possible into the top four classifications (8A, 7A, 6A and 5A) and the remaining one-third of schools, by student population, will be as evenly divided as possible into the bottom four classifications (4A, 3A, 2A and 1A). Schools located in geographic areas that are eligible as determined by Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), population density by zip code and median family income by zip code and have an enrollment up to 600 students may be placed in 1A. The student population of the smallest school in each classification shall form the dividing line between that classification and the next lowest classification. Schools that have the same student population as a school whose student population forms the dividing line between classifications shall be placed with that school into the higher classification. The requisite number of schools then shall be assigned to each successive classification. Once the dividing lines between classifications for a classification term are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification term.

12.3.2.2 The dividing lines between the classifications are listed under “Assignments” on the football sport page on the FHSAA Website.

12.3.2.3 A new member school that requests to participate in the FHSAA State Football Series at the time of joining, and is eligible to do so, shall be assigned to the appropriate classification according to its student population or projected student population beginning with the next two-year scheduling cycle.

12.3.3 Assignment to Districts. Schools in each classification shall be assigned to districts on a geographic basis with an effort to balance the number of schools in the districts when possible. The larger four classifications shall be divided into sixteen (16) districts with the top two teams advancing to the regional complex. Schools in the smaller four classifications shall be divided into eight (8) districts with the top two teams advancing to the regional complex.

12.4 Baseball, Girls & Boys Basketball, Softball, Girls Volleyball

12.4.1 Number of Classifications. The Florida High School State Championship Series in the sports of baseball, girls basketball, boys basketball, softball and girls volleyball for the current classification term shall be conducted in eight (8) classifications. The eight classifications are 8A, 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

12.4.2 Division of Classifications.

12.4.2.1 For the sports of boys and girls basketball and girls volleyball, the total number of existing member senior high schools which commit to participate in boys basketball shall be ranked in order of student population, while for the sports of baseball and softball, the total number of existing member senior high schools which commit to participate baseball shall be ranked in order of student population. Beginning 2015-16 for baseball and softball and 2016-17 for boys and girls basketball and girls volleyball, these rankings shall then be assigned to basic classifications as follows: schools shall be ranked in order of student population and divided into nine basic classifications (9A, 8A, 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A). The highest two-thirds of schools, by student population, will be as evenly divided as possible into the top five classifications (9A, 8A, 7A, 6A and 5A) and the remaining, approximate, one-third of schools, by student population, will be as evenly divided as possible into the bottom four classifications (4A, 3A, 2A and 1A). Schools located in geographic areas that are eligible as determined by Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), population density by zip code and median family income by zip code and have an enrollment up to 600 students may be placed in 1A. The remaining schools shall be evenly distributed among the basic classifications beginning with the lowest classification and working up. The student population of the smallest school assigned to each classification shall form the dividing line between that classification and the next lowest classification. Schools that have the same student population as a school whose student population forms the dividing line between classifications shall be placed with that school into the higher classification. The requisite number of schools then shall be assigned to each successive classification. Once the dividing lines between classifications for a term are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification term.

12.4.2.2 The dividing lines between the basic classifications are listed under “Assignments” on each sport page on the FHSAA Website.

12.4.2.3 A new member school that requests to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in the sports of baseball, girls basketball, boys basketball, softball and girls volleyball at the time of joining, and is eligible to do so, shall be assigned to the appropriate classification according to its student population or projected student population.

12.4.3 Assignment to Districts. Schools in each classification, regardless of the sports in which they sponsor programs, shall be assigned to basic districts on a geographic basis. The actual competitive districts in each sport then shall be determined by deleting from each basic district the schools that do not commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in that sport.



12.5 Girls & Boys Soccer

12.5.1 Number of Classifications. The Florida High School State Championship Series in the sports of girls soccer and boys soccer for the current classification term shall be conducted in five (5) classifications. The five classifications are 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

12.5.2 Division of Classifications.

12.5.2.1 The total number of member high schools with boys soccer programs will be used for the classification of both boys and girls soccer. These shall be ranked in order of student population and shall be assigned to basic classifications as follows; shall be ranked in order of student population and evenly divided across the five basic classifications (5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A). Any remainder shall be evenly distributed among the basic classifications beginning with the lowest classification and working up. The student population of the smallest school assigned to each classification shall form the dividing line between that classification and the next lowest classification. Schools that have the same student population as a school whose student population forms the dividing line between classifications shall be placed with that school into the higher classification. The requisite number of schools then shall be assigned to each successive classification. Once the dividing lines between classifications for a term are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification term.

12.5.2.2 The dividing lines between the classifications are listed under “Assignments” on each soccer sport page on the FHSAA Website.

12.5.3 Assignment to Districts. Schools in each classification – regardless of the sports in which they sponsor programs – shall be assigned to districts on a geographic basis. The actual competitive districts in each sport then shall be determined by deleting from each basic district the schools that do not commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in that sport.

12.6 Bowling, Cross Country, Flag Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Boys Volleyball, Water Polo, Weightlifting and Wrestling

12.6.1 Number of Classifications.

12.6.1.1 The maximum number of classifications in any individual sport shall not exceed four (4).

12.6.1.2 The number of classifications in the Florida High School State Championship Series for the current classification term shall be determined by the number of member senior high schools sponsoring varsity interscholastic programs in those sports. If 200 or more of the member senior high schools sponsor a varsity interscholastic program in a sport, there may be two (2) classifications; if 300 or more of the member senior high schools sponsor a varsity interscholastic program in a sport, there may be three (3) classifications; and if 400 or more of the member senior high schools sponsor a varsity interscholastic program in a sport, there may be four (4) classifications. The number of classifications in a sport shall not be changed except in the first year of a classification term.

12.6.1.3 Sports shall be classified together without regard to gender, unless otherwise stipulated by the Board of Directors.

12.6.1.4 The number of classifications in each sport for the current classification term are as follows: cross country, four classifications (4A, 3A, 2A, 1A); golf, two classifications (2A, 1A); swimming & diving, three classifications (3A, 2A, 1A); tennis, four classifications (4A, 3A, 2A, 1A); track & field, four classifications (4A, 3A, 2A, 1A); boys weightlifting, two classifications (2A, A); wrestling, three classifications (3A, 2A, 1A), a single classification in the sports of bowling, flag football, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, boys volleyball, water polo and girls weightlifting and multiple divisions in competitive cheerleading.

12.6.2 Division of Classifications.

12.6.2.1 Once the total number of classifications in a sport is determined according to the criteria above, the total number of schools that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in the sport shall be ranked in order of student population and evenly divided across the total number of classifications determined for that sport. Any remainder shall be evenly distributed among the classifications beginning with the lowest classification and working up. The student population of the smallest school assigned to each classification shall form the dividing line between that classification and the next lowest classification. Schools that have the same student population as a school whose student population forms the dividing line between classifications shall be placed with that school into the higher classification. The requisite number of schools then shall be assigned to each successive classification. Once the dividing lines between classifications for a classification term are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification term.

12.6.2.2 A new member school that requests to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in an individual sport at the time of joining, and is eligible to do so, shall be assigned to the appropriate classification according to its student population or projected student population.

12.6.3 Assignment to Districts. Schools in each classification shall be assigned to districts on a geographic basis with an effort to balance the number of schools in the districts when possible.



POLICY 13

DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT MEETINGS, SCHEDULING, SEEDING, BRACKETING AND TOURNAMENTS/MEETS

**P
13****DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS**

13.1 District Assignments. Schools that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in a sport shall be assigned on a geographical basis to a district in the appropriate classification. A tournament/meet shall be conducted in each district following the conclusion of the regular season on the dates set by the Board of Directors to determine the two schools that shall represent that district in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championship Series.

13.1.1 District Coordinator. One school in each district will designated as the district coordinator. The FHSAA representative or his/her designee at the district coordinator school shall be responsible for hosting, conducting and reporting to the FHSAA Office results of the district scheduling/planning meeting. The tournament/meet manager is responsible for all aspects of the district tournament/meet, including the seeding of teams, upon conclusion of the district planning meeting and receipt of the meeting's minutes.

13.2 District Scheduling/Tournament Planning

13.2.1 District Schedule. Each school assigned to a district in a team sport shall be required to schedule one or two regular season contests with every other school in that district to be eligible to participate in the district tournament. The results of the district contests shall be used to determine seeding for the district tournament. The decision to play a one-contest district schedule, rather than two, must be by majority vote of representatives present at the district meeting. If a majority cannot agree to play a one contest schedule, then a two-contest schedule shall be played. If a district votes to play a one-contest district schedule and two district opponents elect to play each other more than once, then the results of the contest listed on the master schedule, as scheduled at the scheduling an planning meeting, will count toward district seeding. A school, however, shall not schedule a district contest to be played later than Saturday two weeks prior to the week in which the district tournament is scheduled to be played. If a scheduled district match is postponed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations and can only be played after the deadline, the FHSAA Office may grant permission for the match to be played after the deadline and counted. This exception, however, will be granted only if the match was originally scheduled to be played prior to the deadline. Any school that does not comply with this requirement shall not be permitted to participate in the district tournament.

13.2.2 Scheduling and Planning Meeting. A district scheduling/planning meeting shall be conducted in each sport to determine a site and make arrangements for the district tournament/meet, including the selection of officials, to make arrangements for the district tournament/meet for the following season and for team sports, to determine the number of district contests to be played by district members and to schedule those necessary district contests, according to the following basic guidelines:

13.2.2.1 The meeting in each district shall be conducted by the FHSAA representative of the member school that is designated the coordinator for that district on a date to be determined by the FHSAA Office. The site and time of the meeting shall be determined by the district coordinator, except that the time of the meeting should cause no loss of time from school for any attendee. The district coordinator shall give written notice to the FHSAA representative, athletic director and appropriate head coach of each school in his/her district as to the date, time and site of the meeting at least seven (7) days in advance of the date of the meeting. If, however, the FHSAA representative, athletic director and appropriate head coach at a given school has not received written notification from the district coordinator as to the date, time and site of the meeting, it is his/her responsibility to contact the district coordinator for the arrangements.

13.2.2.2 The athletic director or FHSAA representative of each school in the district is encouraged to attend or otherwise to send a representative to attend the meeting and vote on behalf of the school on all matters pertaining to plans for the district tournament. A school that is not represented at the meeting shall be assessed a \$100 penalty. If a school wishes to submit an invitation to host the district tournament at the meeting and its representative present is not the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director, the representative must have in his/her possession a letter of invitation signed by one or more of the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director. A district coordinator may request of the Executive Director or his/her designee permission to conduct a district scheduling/ planning meeting by teleconference if his/her district is spread over a large geographic area.

13.2.2.3 For team sports, no regular season contest for the following season may be scheduled in advance of the district scheduling meeting. Agreements or contracts to play a contest that is entered into in advance of the meeting are null and void.

13.2.2.4 The decision to play a one- contest district schedule, rather than two, shall be by majority vote of representatives present at the meeting. In the event of a tie vote, a two- contest district schedule shall be mandatory. If a district votes to play a one-contest schedule, but two or more district members opt to schedule and play each other more than once during the regular season, then only the results of the contest listed on the master schedule, as scheduled at the scheduling and planning meeting, between district opponents shall be counted for seeding purposes.

13.2.2.5 The district may vote to divide into two sub-districts within the district to assist with travel issues. Schools would only be required to compete against sub-district opponents during the season. Both sub districts must be represented in the district tournament. The format determining who advances must be predetermined at the district planning meeting and must be recorded in the planning meeting minutes.



13.2.3 **Postponed Contests.** If a scheduled district contest is postponed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations and can only be played after the deadline, the Executive Director may grant permission for the contest to be played after the deadline and counted. This exception, however, will be granted only if the contest was originally scheduled to be played prior to the deadline.

13.2.4 **Satisfaction of Requirements.** The manner in which any two schools within a district satisfy these requirements is at the discretion of the two schools, provided the contests are part of the regular season schedule of both schools and not contests played between the two schools as part of a tournament. It is not necessary that the two contests be played on a home-and-home basis. It is acceptable for the two schools to play either or both contests at a neutral site or both contests at either school's facility. If, however, two schools in a district cannot agree to any alternative arrangement, then they must play each other on a home-and-home basis.

13.3 Seeding and Bracketing

13.3.1 **Bracket Seeding.** Each school in a district shall be seeded and placed on the bracket for its district tournament according to the following provisions:

13.3.1.1 In the sports of baseball, basketball, flag football, lacrosse, softball, volleyball and water polo, each school shall be seeded based on its win-loss record in the contests played against all district opponents during the regular season. The school with the best district record shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-best district record shall be seeded No. 2; etc.

13.3.1.2 In the sport of soccer, each school shall be seeded based on the district points it accumulates in the games played against all district opponents during the regular season. Three (3) points shall be awarded for each victory over a district opponent. One (1) point shall be awarded for each tie with a district opponent. The school with the most district points shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-most district points shall be seeded No. 2; etc.

13.3.1.3 In the event two or more schools within the district are unable to play the required district contests due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations which are deemed acceptable by the Executive Director, all schools within that district shall be seeded according to the percentage of district contests won (average of points accumulated in soccer). The school with the highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 2, etc.

13.3.2 **Two Schools Tied.** When two schools are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

- (a) Won-loss results of head-to-head district competition between the two schools;
- (b) Won-loss record (points in soccer) in district competition of the two schools versus the highest-seeded school (and proceeding through the lowest-seeded school, if necessary);
- (c) Number of district victories (points in soccer) on the road in district games/ matches;
- (d) Number of district victories (points in soccer) at home in district games/ matches; and
- (e) Coin toss or blind draw by the district tournament/meet manager.

13.3.3 **Three (or more) Schools Tied.** When three or more schools are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used in the following order until the tie has been reduced to two schools, then the two-school tiebreaker formula shall be used:

- (a) Total won-loss record (points in soccer) of district contests played among the tied schools;
- (b) Won-loss record (points in soccer) in district competition of the tied schools versus the highest-seeded school (and proceeding through the lowest seeded school, if necessary);
- (c) Number of district victories (points in soccer) on the road in district games/ matches;
- (d) Number of district victories (points in soccer) at home in district games/ matches; and
- (e) Blind draw by the district tournament/meet manager.

13.3.4 **Bracketing.** In the sports of baseball, basketball, girls and boys soccer, softball and girls volleyball, every district member shall be placed on the tournament bracket according to seed. In the sports of flag football, boys volleyball, lacrosse and water polo, the top four seeds only shall be placed on the tournament bracket. A single-elimination, standard progression bracket shall be used. The No. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 seeds shall be placed in the upper half of the bracket and the No. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 seeds shall be placed in the lower half of the bracket. Byes, if any, shall be awarded to the higher-seeded schools. The higher-seeded team of the bracket in each tournament contest shall be designated the home school for that contest.

13.3.5 **Seeding Report.** Each school in the district shall report to the tournament/meet manager its final district win-loss record (points in soccer) not later than 10 a.m. Monday of the week immediately preceding the week in which the district tournament is to be played. The tournament/meet manager then shall seed the schools, place the schools on the bracket according to their seed, and assign contest dates and times in accordance with the provisions herein and the arrangements agreed upon during the district scheduling/tournament planning meeting. A copy of the finalized bracket shall then be faxed by the tournament/meet manager to all schools in the district, as well as to the FHSAA Office.



POLICY 14

MINIMUM FACILITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES CONTESTS

14.1 General Principles. The FHSAA Board of Directors has established the following minimum specifications for facilities in which Florida High School State Championship Series contests in basketball, football and girls volleyball are to be held, unless mutually agreed upon by all involved parties. These specifications do not preclude a school with inadequate facilities from hosting a Florida High School State Championship Series contest in either sport. However, the school will be required, at its own expense, to host the contest in a neutral facility which does meet the necessary specifications. Rental expenses involved in securing an adequate facility for all sports Florida High School State Championship Series contests can only be claimed as a host expense if both the host and visitor schools have inadequate facilities and no reasonable alternative is available. The maximum host expense that can be claimed for costs involving an off campus facility (rent, utilities, cleaning, etc.) on the FHSAA financial report is \$1,000 for all sports, except Swimming & Diving. In the sport of Swimming and Diving, the host may offset a maximum of \$2,000 facility cost with entry fees from participants without approval of the Executive Director. If a school in line to host a contest has inadequate facilities and chooses not to host the contest at another site, the visiting school will be given the opportunity to host the event in its facilities, if adequate, or at an adequate neutral site, if not. A basketball district in which no school has a facility that meets these minimum specifications must either play its district tournament at an adequate neutral facility or place it at the district school whose facility is closest to these minimum specifications. Only those schools that have filed the necessary facility specifications reports with the FHSAA Office will be eligible to host a Florida High School State Championship Series contest in the sports of basketball, football and girls volleyball. Schools that cannot meet the specifications can appeal to the Executive Director or his/her designee for relief.

14.2 Determination of Host School. Determination of a host school is not absolute. In all cases, the FHSAA reserves the right to select an alternate site.

14.3 AED Recommended. It is strongly recommended that an automated external defibrillator (AED) be present and available for use if needed at the site of every preseason and regular season interscholastic athletic contest in which member schools participate. The presence and availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) shall be mandatory at the site of every Florida High School State Championship Series contest on the district, regional, sectional and state levels.

14.4 Minimum Facility Requirements.

14.4.1 Basketball.

14.4.1.1 The facility must be adequately constructed to control the entry and exit of spectators for the purpose of charging admission.

14.4.1.2 The facility must have a minimum of two restrooms (one male and one female) for public use.

14.4.1.3 The facility must have an electronic clock and scoreboard clearly visible to both team bench areas and spectators.

14.4.1.4 The facility must have a public address system.

14.4.1.5 The facility must have separate dressing rooms for both home and visiting teams, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.

14.4.1.6 The facility must have a separate dressing area for officials, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.

14.4.1.7 The facility must have a playing surface which is not fewer than 84 feet from end line to end line and not fewer than 50 feet from sideline to sideline. The court must be properly marked according to National Federation rules, including the proper markings for both teams' coaching boxes.

14.4.1.8 The facility must have a minimum of three feet of unobstructed space from sidelines to seating, walls or other obstacles and a minimum of six feet of unobstructed space from end lines to seating, walls or other obstacles.

14.4.1.9 It is recommended, but not required, that the facility have spectator seating on both sides of the court. In any case, however, the facility must meet the following minimum seating capacities:

- (a) Class 8A – 1,300 seats;
- (b) Class 7A – 1,100 seats;
- (c) Class 6A – 900 seats;
- (d) Class 5A – 700 seats;



- (e) Class 4A – 700 seats;
- (f) Class 3A – 500 seats;
- (g) Class 2A – 300 seats;
- (h) Class 1A – 300 seats.

14.4.2 Football.

14.4.2.1 The facility must be adequately constructed to control the entry and exit of spectators for the purpose of charging admission.

14.4.2.2 The facility must have a minimum of two restrooms (one male and one female) for public use.

14.4.2.3 The facility must have adequate artificial lighting to accommodate night games.

14.4.2.4 The facility must have an electronic clock and scoreboard clearly visible to both team bench areas and spectators.

14.4.2.5 The facility must have a public address system.

14.4.2.6 The facility must have separate dressing rooms for both home and visiting teams, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.

14.4.2.7 The facility must have a separate dressing area for officials, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.

14.4.2.8 The facility should have a minimum of five yards of unobstructed space outside the playing field along each sideline and end line.

14.4.2.9 The facility must have restraining cables, fences, walls, etc., from goal line to goal line to separate spectators from each team box along the sideline.

14.4.2.10 The facility must have bleachers having masonry or metal understructure with footboards and seating properly maintained for both visitor and home fans.

14.4.2.11 It is recommended, but not required, that the facility have equal or near equal spectator seating on both sides of the field. In any case, however, the facility must meet the following minimum seating capacities:

- (a) Class 8A – 2,500 seats;
- (b) Class 7A – 2,000 seats;
- (c) Class 6A – 1,500 seats;
- (d) Class 5A – 1,000 seats;
- (e) Class 4A – 1,000 seats;
- (f) Class 3A – 750 seats;
- (g) Class 2A – 500 seats;
- (h) Class 1A – 500 seats.

A facility with seating capacities less than these minimums may set up portable seating at its own expense in order to satisfy these minimum requirements. Rentals, delivery, set up, and take down expenses involved in securing portable seating cannot be claimed as a host expense on the FHSAA financial report for the event.

14.4.3 Girls Volleyball.

14.4.3.1 The facility must have a minimum seating capacity of 300 seats.

POLICY 15

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES PASSES

15.1 Florida High School State Championship Series Pass. Florida High School State Championship Series passes may be used at district, regional and state Florida High School State Championship Series events. Each member school is eligible to receive two complimentary passes each school year for use by the principal and the FHSAA representative or athletic director, issued in their names. Each school has the option to purchase additional as follows:

15.1.1 Individual passes purchased – must be issued in the name of a specific individuals;

15.1.2 Passes may be issued in the school's name (generic) with all the other passes issued in the names of specific individuals; for every four (4) passes purchased, one (1) generic pass may be purchased, with a limit of five (5) generic passes per school.

15.1.2.1 A lost or stolen Florida High School State Championship Series pass issued as a school pass (generic) will not be reissued.



15.1.3 Each individual who registers as a contest official with the FHSAA also shall be permitted at the time of his/her registration to purchase one Florida High School State Championship Series pass.

15.1.4 The following restrictions shall apply to all Florida High School State Championship Series passes regardless of whether they are issued in the names of specific individuals or in the names of schools (generic):

15.1.4.1 The principal is responsible for the generic passes. The person bearing the generic pass is considered a representative of the school's athletic interest.

15.1.4.2 All pass users shall be 18 years of age or older.

15.1.4.3 Passes are not intended for use by students and must not be issued to students.

15.1.4.4 Each pass will admit only the bearer. Spouses, children and other family members or friends accompanying the bearer of the pass must purchase a ticket of admission to the event.

15.1.4.5 The bearer of the pass must present a valid government-issued photo ID (i.e. driver's license) along with the pass to the pass gate attendant. If the bearer is unable to present a valid photo ID at the pass gate, the pass shall not be honored.

15.1.4.6 The bearer of the pass must make an entry into a "Florida High School State Championship Series Event Pass Gate Log" when entering the pass gate. The bearer must record his/her name, position with member school, type of pass and Florida High School State Championship Series pass number.

15.1.4.7 If the manager of a Florida High School State Championship Series event determines the event is sold out, Florida High School State Championship Series passes cannot be honored at that event.

15.1.4.8 Exceptions to this policy must be approved in advance by the Executive Director.

15.1.4.9 Improperly used passes will be confiscated by the event manager and returned to the FHSAA. Once confiscated, the pass or passes will not be valid for the remainder of the school year. A minimum monetary penalty of \$100 will be assessed for misuse and offending schools may be restricted from purchasing passes in future years.

15.1.4.10 The Florida High School State Championship Series pass only allows admittance into the contest. It does not grant access to the field, court, or pool deck.

15.5 FHSAA Lifetime Pass. FHSAA Lifetime Passes (either the previous white paper or the current gold plastic cards) are issued by the Executive Director to individuals who serve the Association as members of its Board of Directors; office staff upon their retirement; and inductees into its Hall of Fame. This pass will provide the bearer and one (1) guest with complimentary general admission to preseason and regular season events at the discretion of the host school, and to all Florida High School State Championship Series events on the district, regional and state level. The FHSAA Lifetime Pass only allows admittance into the contest. It does not grant access to the field, court, or pool deck. The bearer will be required to show a picture I.D. with the Lifetime Pass and provide a signature on an official Florida High School State Championship Series Contest Pass Log to be provided to each host site by the FHSAA Office.

POLICY 16

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND DUE PROCESS

16.1 GPA Calculation

16.1.1 Middle School GPA Calculation. For grades 6 through 8, the semester GPA will be calculated at the conclusion of each semester by taking the sum of quality points earned (as per Bylaw 9.4.2) divided by the number of credits attempted during that semester.

16.1.2 High School GPA Calculation. For grades 9 through 12, the cumulative GPA will be calculated at the end of the first semester, including high school level grades earned while in grades 6 – 8, and the end of the school year (including summer school or its equivalent, if applicable) by taking the sum of all quality points earned (as per Bylaw 9.4.2) divided by the number of all credits attempted since the student began taking senior high school level courses and adjusting for forgiveness grades as per Bylaw 9.4.3.1. All such high school courses attempted at all schools attended by the student, including out-of-state and/or out-of-country schools, must be included in the cumulative GPA calculation.

16.1.2.1 Exception. Senior high school level courses taken prior to the initial first semester of 9th grade will not be calculated in the cumulative GPA until the conclusion of the initial first semester of 9th grade.

16.1.2.2 End of Course Exams. Grades earned in courses in which an "End of Course Exam" is administered must be included in the cumulative GPA. At the conclusion of the first semester, schools must include the grade the student earned in all "End of Course Exam" courses up to that point; this might necessitate a hand calculation of the GPA for student athletes if the course has not been concluded at the end of the first semester. Upon conclusion of the course or the school year, schools must include the final grade the student would have earned in all "End of Course Exam" courses, including the percentage of the grade from the



“End of Course Exam” as mandated by state statute. A Student whose cumulative GPA falls below the minimum 2.0 due to the final results of “End of Course Exam” courses will not subject the school to penalties due to that student’s participation in contests during the previous semester(s) regarding academic requirement.

16.1.3 Rounding off GPA. No rounding of calculated values will be used in determining the GPA.

16.1.4 Academic Records. A student must provide the school with all information the school needs to determine the student’s eligibility using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2. The student cannot be declared academically eligible by the member school until all such information is received to its satisfaction. Final grades previously earned by the student shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.

16.2 Schools with Alternate Scheduling Formats.

16.2.1 Grading Period. A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days). This definition is applicable to all member schools regardless of the type of scheduling format (i.e. block, traditional, trimester, etc.) they use.

16.3 Special Schools and Special Programs.

16.3.1 Evaluation of Athletes. A student-athlete attending any special school or special program must be evaluated on a semester that is consistent with the semester for all other students attending the member school which the student-athlete represents.

16.3.2 Grade Point Average. The minimum grade point average requirement as stated in s.1006.15(3)1, Florida Statutes, and the Association’s Bylaws must be maintained each semester by all student-athletes attending special schools or special programs regardless of the nature of the special school or special program.

16.4 U.S. Students Studying Abroad

While the FHSAA acknowledges the benefits of U.S. students studying abroad as youth exchange program students, a student who studies abroad will do so at his/her own jeopardy in relation to the following:

16.4.1 Bylaw 9.4, as the student must include grades from all coursework attempted while studying abroad in his/her cumulative GPA. For athletic eligibility purposes, the school must include all such course work on the official transcript of the student.

16.4.2 Bylaw 9.5, as the student may not gain an additional year of eligibility due studying abroad for a semester or full school year.

16.5 Home Education Program Cooperatives

16.5.1 Requirements of Cooperatives. A cooperative of home education programs may become a member of this Association provided:

- (a) the cooperative establishes a Board of Directors or governing body which appoints a designated representative to the FHSAA so far as the obligations of the cooperative to this Association are concerned;
- (b) the cooperative pays membership dues and other such fees as established by the FHSAA Board of Directors under the authority of these Bylaws;
- (c) each participating student has basic medical insurance coverage and has catastrophic insurance coverage provided by the cooperative or independently secured;
- (d) the cooperative purchases and maintains liability insurance coverage which names the FHSAA as an insured party;
- (e) the FHSAA representative at the conclusion of each semester certifies to the Executive Director on a form to be provided by the FHSAA Office that each student participating in interscholastic athletics in the cooperative meets the minimum grade point average standards which are required of all students; and
- (f) each student participating in interscholastic athletic competition is considered a “Non-Traditional” student and must be registered as a home education student with the school district in which the student resides, complete and submit an EL7 Form (Registration Form for Home Education Students), be registered with this association as per Policy 16.7 and comply with FHSAA eligibility requirements regarding age and limits of eligibility.

16.5.2 Ineligibility. A student who withdraws from a regular school program to enroll in a home education cooperative and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition as a member of the home education cooperative until he/she has successfully completed one full semester (see Bylaw 1.4.14) and has met all other eligibility requirements of this association. In determining the academic eligibility of a student who withdraws from a regular school program prior to the normal conclusion of the current semester and subsequently enrolls in a home education program, the grades as posted in each subject for that student on the date of his/her withdrawal from the regular school program shall be used.



16.5.3 Transfers. A student who is attending a school and transfers to a home education cooperative, who is representing a member school as a "Non-Traditional" student (as defined in 16.6.1) and transfers to a home education cooperative or who is representing a home education cooperative and transfer to a different home education cooperative shall be ineligible to represent that cooperative in interscholastic athletic competition for the duration of that school year unless the student meets one of Bylaws 9.3.2.1, 9.3.2.2, 9.3.2.3, 9.3.2.4, 9.3.2.5 or 9.3.2.6.

16.5.4 Athletic Competition. Home education cooperatives which become members of this Association may participate in interscholastic athletic competition as per Bylaw 8.3. Home education cooperatives shall be classified for Florida High School State Championship Series competition based on the total number of students participating in the cooperative in grades 9 through 12.

16.6 Non-Traditional Student Participation at Member Schools

16.6.1 Eligibility for Participation. Non-Traditional students, as defined in Bylaw 1.4.30, are eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school attendance area policies or, except Non-Member Private School Students, the public school which the student could choose to attend pursuant to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment provisions, (completion of the EL14 Form – "Verification of Student Controlled Open Enrollment Option with Public School District" is required) provided these specific requirements are met:

16.6.1.1 Charter School Students. The student must attend a charter school that does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in a sport in which the student desires to participate.

16.6.1.2 FLVS-FT Students. The student must be a full time student of the statewide Florida Virtual School Full Time program (DOE #71-0300 or #71-0400).

16.6.1.3 Home Education Students. The student must be registered as a home education student with the school district in which the student resides. The student is also eligible to participate with a Home Education Program Cooperative or a private school. Completion of an EL7 Form (Registration Form for Home Education Students) is required.

16.6.1.4 Non-Member Private School Students. The student must attend a non-FHSAA member private school consisting of 125 students or fewer in grades 6 through 12 and does not offer an interscholastic or intrascholastic (i.e. intramural) athletic program. Completion on an EL12 Form (Registration Form for Non-Member Private School Students) is required. The student is only allowed to participate at the public school the student is zoned for the physical address at which the student resides.

16.6.1.5 Special/Alternative School Students. The student must attend an alternative school or a special school operated by a school district identified by the Superintendent and does not offer an interscholastic athletic program.

16.6.2 Requirements for Participation. A Non-Traditional student is eligible to participate provided:

- (a) the student meets the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/ she participates; and
- (b) the student meets the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities; and
- (c) the student registers with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletic competition as a representative of the school, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, as outlined in Administrative Procedure 1.2; and
- (d) the student complies with all FHSAA regulations, including eligibility requirements regarding age and limits of eligibility, and local school regulations during the time of participation; and
- (e) the student provides proof of basic medical insurance coverage and both independently secured catastrophic insurance coverage and liability insurance coverage which names the FHSAA as an insured party in the event the school's insurance provider does not extend coverage to such students; and
- (f) the student provides his/her own transportation to and from the school; and
- (g) the student provides to school authorities all required forms and provisions.

16.6.3 Ineligibility. A student who withdraws from a regular school program to establish school residence as a "Non-Traditional" student (as defined in 16.6.1) and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition under the provisions of 16.6.2 until he/she has successfully completed one full semester (see Bylaw 1.4.14) and has met all other eligibility requirements of this association. In determining the academic eligibility of a student who withdraws from a regular school program prior to the normal conclusion of the current semester and subsequently establishes school residence as a "Non-Traditional" student (as defined in 16.6.1), the grades as posted in each subject for that student on the date of his/her withdrawal from the regular school program shall be used.

16.6.4 Transfers. A student who, after the beginning of the school year (see Bylaw 1.4.5), transfers from any school and establishes school residence as a "Non-Traditional" student (as defined in 16.6.1), transfers school residence as a "Non-Traditional" student (as defined in 16.6.1) to any member school or transfers school residence as one type of "Non-Traditional" student (as defined in 16.6.1) and establishes school residence as "Non-Traditional" student of the same or different type (as defined in 16.6.1) is considered a transfer student and is subject to the provisions of Bylaw 9.3. Unless the student meets one of Bylaws 9.3.2.1, 9.3.2.2, 9.3.2.3, 9.3.2.4, 9.3.2.5 or 9.3.2.6, the student will be ineligible to represent a member school in interscholastic competition.



16.6.4.1 Exception. A student, who after making a transfer as described in 16.6.4, does not change his/her affiliation with the member school, will continue to be eligible to represent the member school in interscholastic competition, provided all other eligibility requirements are met.

16.7 Registration of Non-Traditional Students

16.7.1 Non-Traditional Student Defined. Non-traditional Students are students that are not enrolled in and physical attend the school at which they participate, including, but not limited to; Home Education Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.1, Charter School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.2, Special School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.3, Non-Member Private School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.4 and Florida Virtual School-Full Time Public Program Students (FLVS-FT) as per Bylaw 9.2.2.5.

16.7.2 Student Registration Process. The student must register with the school by completing and submitting the EL2, EL3, EL3CH, GA4, EL7 (if applicable, including the EL7V), EL12 (if applicable, including the EL12V) and EL14 (if applicable).

16.7.2.1 Returning Non-Traditional Students. A student who has previously registered intent for a sport or sports by submitting a GA4 and an EL7 (if applicable) or EL12 (if applicable) and an EL14 (if applicable) to participate for a member school and is going to continue to participate for that school in the sport or sports in which he/she originally registered intent need only submit the EL2, EL3 and EL3CH forms for subsequent school years.

16.7.2.1.1 Home Education Student Exception. A home education student must provide the school each year with a completed and signed EL7V Form.

16.7.2.1.2 Non-Member Private School Student Exception. A non-member private school student must provide the school each year with a completed and signed EL12V Form.

16.7.3 School Registration Process. The school must register each Non-Traditional Student with this association, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director and outlined in Administrative Procedure 1.8, each year before adding the student to a roster and allowing the student to participate in an interscholastic contest. It remains the responsibility of the school to verify the eligibility of all returning non-traditional students.

16.8 Use of Ineligible Students.

The intentional or inadvertent use of ineligible students is strictly prohibited by this association and should be reported immediately upon discovery.

16.8.1 Ineligible Student Defined. An ineligible student is one who has been found to have violated one or more the bylaws or policies of this association such as, but not limited to:

- (a) Age (Bylaw 9.6)
- (b) Academic requirements (Bylaw 9.4)
- (c) Attendance requirements (Bylaw 9.2)
- (d) Limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5)
- (e) Transfer regulations (Bylaw 9.3)
- (f) Amateurism (Bylaw 9.9)
- (g) Sport season limitations (Policy 6)
- (h) Non-approved Youth Exchange/International/Immigrant students and non-registered Non-Traditional students (Policy 12.2.1.2, 16 and 17)
- (i) Participation in All-Star games (Policy 26)
- (j) Suspended students due to unsportsmanlike acts (Policy 30 and 31)
- (k) Recruited students (Policy 36)

16.8.2 Penalties for Use of Ineligible Students. Schools found to have used ineligible students could be subject to one or more of, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Forfeiture of contests
- (b) Forfeiture of playoff advancement
- (c) Monetary penalties
- (d) Reprimand
- (e) Probation; administrative, restrictive or suspension
- (f) Expulsion or restricted membership

16.9 Penalties Assessed to Schools.

16.9.1 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL2 form (Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation, see Bylaw 9.7) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$500 per student.



16.9.2 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL3 form (Consent and Release from Liability Certificate, see Bylaw 9.8) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$500 per student.

16.9.3 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed and approved EL4 form (Registration of Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Student, see Policy 17) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$100 per student.

16.9.4 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without properly registering a non-traditional student (see Policy 16.7.3) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum \$100 per student.

16.9.5 Use of an ineligible student when not self-reported, will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$2,500 per contest.

16.9.6 Use of an ineligible student when self-reported, will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$100 per contest.

16.10 Due Process

16.10.1 Sectional Appeal Hearing Option. The person or entity requesting an appeal has the opportunity to appear before the Sectional Appeals Committee at the site of the hearing or via Teleconference. The choice of the method of appearance must be indicated on the form provided by the association.

16.10.2 Sectional Appeal Hearings via Teleconference

16.10.2.1 Teleconference Hearings. By requesting a Sectional Appeal Hearings via Teleconference, the member school and the student consents to such a hearing being conducted via appropriate teleconference methods (i.e. tele/video conferencing, webinar, Skype, etc.). It is the responsibility of the school requesting a hearing before a Sectional Appeal Hearings via Teleconference to provide the appropriate teleconference equipment to participate in the hearing and to have a notary public present at the time and location where the appealing school and student will be located. Filing an appeal through the Teleconference option must meet the same standards as indicated in Bylaw 10.6.1.

16.10.2.1.1 Teleconference Requirements. The telephone conference call shall be stenographically recorded and shall be conducted in such a manner that any member of the public shall have access to the telephone conference by telephone. The notice shall provide the information necessary to allow public access by telephone to the telephone conference meeting.

POLICY 17

ELIGIBILITY OF YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS

The FHSAA acknowledges the importance of permitting foreign-born and U.S. students to experience the benefits of participation in interscholastic athletics. The following policy and procedures shall govern the eligibility of foreign-born students who attend member schools and U.S. students wishing to study abroad. Note: Federal guidelines do not permit students holding a B1 or B2 U.S. Visa or those visiting through the Visa Waiver Program to study for credit in the U.S.

17.1 Students in Youth Exchange Programs

Youth exchange program participants, like all non-immigrant visitors to the United States, are subject to U.S. immigration laws. Educational institutions, including high schools, are subject to immigration regulations with regard to non-immigrant students who visit the United States as F-1 academic students and J-1 exchange visitors. The FHSAA will adhere to the standards adopted by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and will permit a youth exchange student to participate in interscholastic athletic competition under the following conditions:

17.1.1 U.S. Nonimmigrant Registration. Youth exchange students must be registered through one of the following:

17.1.1.1 The F-1 youth exchange student must have a “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status-For Academic and Language Students” (Form I-20A-B) for the high school at which the student is receiving instruction as required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

17.1.1.2 The J-1 youth exchange student must have a “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status” (Form DS-2019) and be sponsored and placed with a U.S. host family by a “bona fide” international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by CSIET and recognized by the U.S. Department of State.



17.1.2 Placement with Host Family

- (a) the school that the student attends may assist with locating and screening potential host families (Note: member schools that participate in locating and screening potential families must develop a written process which may be reviewed by the Association upon request),
- (b) no member of the school's coaching staff may serve as the host family,
- (c) no representative of the school's athletic interest, as defined in Bylaw 1.4.18(c-f), who is associated with the same sport as the youth exchange student, may serve as the host family; and
- (d) the host family placement must be approved by the national headquarters of the sponsoring CSIET organization for J-1 youth exchange students.

This does not preclude a member school or its representatives from violations of the Association's recruiting policy.

Note: certain CSIET agencies, including but not limited to the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, allow or require exchange students to change their host families mid-way through their stay, which will require the student to re-submit a portion of the EL4 Form. If this change requires a change of schools the student will be classified a transfer student (see 17.1.5 below).

17.1.2.1 Host Family Restriction. A host family that wishes to host more than one youth exchange student per school each year, for the same gender and sport, must have approval of the Executive Director.

17.1.2.1.1 Exception. Youth exchange students approved by this office during the 2012-13 school year may remain with their host family for the remainder of their stay.

17.1.3 Visa Requirements. The youth exchange student must possess either an F-1 or a J-1 visa issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or Department of State, respectively. The F-1 academic student program is a non-immigrant visa category intended for the use by nonresident students whose primary purpose for visiting the United States is to study full-time at an approved institution. The J-1 exchange visitor program is a non-immigrant visa category designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through bona fide educational and cultural exchange.

17.1.3.1 Exception: Citizens of Bermuda or Canada. In general, citizens of Bermuda and Canada do not need a visa to travel in the United States. However, these students must meet 17.1.1.1 and have a completed I-20 A-B Form as per the requirements of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).

17.1.4 Attendance. The student must be in attendance at the school within the first twenty (20) days of the school year and must be enrolled in a full-year program, rather than a program of shorter duration such as a six-week, three-month or six-month program, etc.

17.1.4.1 Exception. A student who arrives within ten (10) school days after the start of the second semester of the FHSAA member school, after having completed the full school year in their home country coinciding with the end of the first semester of the FHSAA member school and provided the student has not completed the terminal grade in the home country, may be eligible.

17.1.5 Transfer. Any subsequent transfer by the student to a different school during the school year must meet one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

17.1.6 Eligibility for One Year Only. The J-1 youth exchange student may be eligible for a maximum of one year at any school or combination of schools in this or any other of the United States commencing with his/her initial date of enrollment in a U.S. school. The F-1 youth exchange student, pursuant to federal law, attending a public school is eligible to remain in the U.S. for a maximum of one year and must reimburse the public school for the cost of his/her U.S. education.

17.1.6.1 A youth exchange student (J-1 or F-1) is not permitted to return for any additional years using a different youth exchange Visa (i.e. J-1 or F-1) and participate in interscholastic athletics.

17.1.7 Placed in Academic Track. The student must be placed in a traditional academic track that leads to a high school diploma by the member school.

17.1.8 Must Not Have Been Recruited. The student must not have been recruited to attend the member school for athletic reasons by any individual or agency, whether or not associated with the school's athletic interest, or selected or placed in the school on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. The student must complete and submit a GA4 Form with the school, in addition to the requirements in Policy 17.3, before the student added to a roster and allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest.

17.1.9 Financial Assistance. No individual or agency associated with the school's athletic interest may provide financial assistance to the international student in gaining necessary visas, assist in the payment of the student's transportation to the U.S., or contribute to the student's living expenses while in the U.S.

17.1.10 Student Must be an Undergraduate. The youth exchange student must not have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or his/her home country. Youth exchange students will not be eligible once they have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or their home country. The terminal grade of the student is based on the graduation requirements of the country the student last attended school, including the completion of the GED or its equivalent.

17.1.11 FHSAA Eligibility. The student must meet all other eligibility standards of the FHSAA Bylaws while a student at a member school. Limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5) is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student's former country.



17.2 Other International and Immigrant Students

A “nonimmigrant” student who does not possess an F-1 or a J-1 visa, however does possess a “dependent” form of the same temporary work visa (except for B1/B2 visas) as their parent(s)/legal guardian(s), or an “immigrant” student may be eligible to represent an FHSAA member school in interscholastic athletic competition under the following conditions:

17.2.1 Previous School Attendance. The student must have started and completed the 8th grade, or earlier, for the first time in a U.S. school and have the appropriate school records to verify this fact.

17.2.2 Placed in Academic Track. The student must be placed in a traditional academic track that leads to a high school diploma by the member school.

17.2.3 Must Not Have Been Recruited. The student must not have been recruited to attend the member school for athletic reasons by any individual or agency, whether or not associated with the school’s athletic interest, or selected or placed in the school on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. The student must complete and submit a GA4 Form with the school, in addition to the requirements in Policy 17.3 (if applicable), before the student added to a roster and allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest.

17.2.4 Financial Assistance. No individual or agency associated with the school’s athletic interest may provide financial assistance to the student in gaining necessary visas or other immigration documents, assist in the payment of the student’s transportation to the U.S., or contribute to the student’s living expenses while in the U.S.

17.2.5 Residence. The student must have resided with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction for a minimum of the previous two (2) consecutive full school years.

17.2.6 Student Must be an Undergraduate. The international student must not have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or the country the student last attended school. International students will not be eligible once they have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or their home country. The terminal grade of the student is based on the graduation requirements of the country the student last attended school, including the completion of the GED or its similar equivalent.

17.2.7 FHSAA Eligibility. The student must meet all other eligibility standards of the FHSAA Bylaws while a student at a member school. Limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5) is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student’s former country.

17.3 Registration Procedures

All youth exchange students (J-1 and F-1), in addition to any other international or immigrant students that do not meet the requirements of Policy 17.2, must be registered with this association, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, prior to participation at a member school. Requested with this registration, include the completed EL4 Form (Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Students) electronically submitted to the association and, but not limited to:

17.3.1 Proof of Age. A scanned copy of the student’s original passport or original birth certificate (including translation, if necessary) or U.S. Visa or U.S. Permanent Resident Card;

17.3.2 U.S. Customs Documentation

17.3.2.1 Youth Exchange Students. A scanned copy of the F-1 or J-1 “Eligibility Certificate” (Form I-20 A-B or Form DS-2019, respectively).

17.3.2.2 Other International and Immigrant Students. A scanned copy of the original U.S. Nonimmigrant Visa or a scanned copy of the “Arrival-Departure Record” (Form I-94, which is attached to the student’s passport).

17.3.3 Original Language Transcripts. A scanned copy of the original official transcripts from the school(s) in the foreign country, in the original language (un-translated), of grades since entering the 8th grade (or its equivalent);

17.3.4 Translated Transcripts. The school, with the assistance of the student, the host family or the student’s parent(s)/legal guardian(s), must complete and submit a translation of the original language transcripts on a form provided by the association or an equivalent form provided by the school.

Additionally: For athletic eligibility purposes, after the first semester of attendance at a member school, the school must include all transfer courses on an official transcript of the student and these courses must be reflected in the cumulative GPA for the student. This may require the completion and submission of a form provided by the association.

17.3.5 Returning Students. Returning, previously approved, youth exchange and any other international or immigrant students that still do not meet Policy 17.2, must submit electronically, the EL4 Form, a scanned copy of their I-20A-B Form or I-94 Form, respectively, a complete official transcript from the member school and change of host family residency information (where applicable). **For athletic eligibility purposes, after the first semester of attendance at a member school, the school must include all transfer courses on an official transcript of the student and these courses must be reflected in the cumulative GPA for the student. This may require the completion and submission of a form provided by the association.**

17.4 U.S. Students Studying Abroad

While the FHSAA acknowledges the benefits of U.S. students studying abroad as youth exchange program students, a student who studies abroad will do so at his/her own jeopardy in relation to the association’s limit of eligibility bylaw (Bylaw 9.5.1) and the student will not gain an additional year of eligibility.



POLICY 18

PRACTICES AND SCRIMMAGES

18.1 General Practices

18.1.1 Only those student-athletes who are attending a member school, or who are non-traditional students, as defined in Policy 12.2.1.2, registered with a member school, may participate in the practice of an athletic team which represents that member school.

18.1.2 Practice sessions, practice games or exhibitions/exhibition games in which students from two or more schools participate are prohibited.

18.1.3 The conduct of practice sessions, practice games or exhibitions/exhibition games of any kind on a Sunday is prohibited.

18.1.4 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$250 per occurrence.

18.2 Spring Football Practice

18.2.1 Spring Football practice is a continuation of the regular fall football season. Consequently, a student who transfers schools and does not meet one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2, is not eligible to participate in a spring jamboree or spring classic game at the new school.

18.2.1.1 Exception. A student who transfers schools coinciding with the change of semester may be eligible to participate in a spring jamboree or spring classic game at the new school.

18.2.2 Spring practice is confined to a maximum of 20 sessions commencing with the Monday of Week 44 or the last 20 days of the school year, whichever comes first, inclusive of the spring jamboree or classic.

18.2.3 Students who are seniors may not participate in spring football practice.

18.2.4 Only those students who are enrolled and in attendance in a school may participate in spring football practice at that school.

18.2.5 Eighth grade students may participate in spring football practice at the public high school for which the students are zoned or at the private school at which the student has been accepted and will attend in the ninth grade the following school year under the following conditions:

18.2.5.1 The students may practice on or in the high school facility only if such practice is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.2.5.2 The students may be instructed in practice by high school coaches only if such instruction is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.2.5.3 The principal/head of school of both schools must give their permission in writing to the FHSAA Office for the students to participate in such practice.

18.2.5.4 The students must have catastrophic insurance coverage for such practice.

18.2.5.5 The students must have the written permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in such practice on file in the school office.

18.2.5.6 The students must have undergone a physical examination within the last calendar year.

18.2.5.7 The students must not suffer any loss of time from school.

18.2.5.8 The students may not participate in a spring football jamboree or spring classic game.

18.2.5.9 The students may not participate in practice or have physical contact in any manner with student-athletes in the 9th, 10th or 11th grades who are members of the high school team.

18.3 Spring Competitive Cheerleading Practice

18.3.1 Spring Competitive Cheerleading practice is a continuation of the regular fall competitive cheerleading season. Consequently, a student who transfers schools and does not meet one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2, is not eligible to participate in a spring competitive event at the new school.

18.3.1.1 Exception. A student who transfers schools coinciding with the change of semester may be eligible to participate in a spring competitive event at the new school.

18.3.2 Spring practice is confined to a maximum of 20 sessions commencing with the Monday of Week 44 or the last 20 days of the school year, whichever comes first.

18.3.3 Students who are seniors may not participate in spring practice.

18.3.4 Only those students who are enrolled and in attendance in a school may participate in spring competitive cheerleading practice at that school.



18.3.5 Eighth grade students may participate in spring practice at the public high school for which the students are zoned or at the private school at which the student has been accepted and will attend in the ninth-grade the following school year under the following conditions:

18.3.5.1 The students may practice on or in the high school facility only if such practice is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.3.5.2 The students may be instructed in practice by high school coaches only if such instruction is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.3.5.3 The principal/head of school of both schools must give their permission in writing to the FHSAA Office for the students to participate in such practice.

18.3.5.4 The students must have catastrophic insurance coverage for such practice.

18.3.5.5 The students must have the written permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in such practice on file in the school office.

18.3.5.6 The students must have undergone a physical examination within the last calendar year.

18.3.5.7 The students must not suffer any loss of time from school.

18.4 Scrimmages

18.4.1 Bona Fide Students Only. Only those student-athletes who are attending a member school, or who are either home education program or charter school program students registered with a member school, may participate in the scrimmage of an athletic team which represents that member school.

18.4.2 Multi-Schools Prohibited. Scrimmages and scrimmage games or exhibitions and exhibition games in which students from two or more schools participate are un-contracted interscholastic contests and are prohibited except for FHSAA-sponsored officials clinics (only those students who meet all of the FHSAA eligibility requirements are allowed to participate). Such scrimmages and scrimmage games may be on an intra-squad basis only.

18.4.3 Non-School Groups Prohibited. Scrimmages and scrimmage games involving groups, alumni teams, league teams, etc., comprised in whole or in part of individuals who are not bona fide students of the member school are prohibited. Such scrimmages and scrimmage games may be on an intra-squad basis only.

18.4.4 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$250 per occurrence.

POLICY 19

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

19.1 Advisory Committees. The Board of Directors has established a number of advisory committees comprised of individuals – experts in their field – who work with the various programs of the Association. These advisory committees shall operate according to the following guidelines:

19.2 Purpose, Authority and Compensation

19.2.1 An advisory committee exists solely for the purpose of evaluating the FHSAA program(s) with which it is charged. In achieving its purpose, the committee shall review FHSAA regulations which govern the program(s); offer to the Board of Directors recommendations for change to such regulations as it deems appropriate; and offer advice and guidance to the Board of Directors and staff.

19.2.2 An advisory committee shall have no direct authority to establish guidelines, regulations, policies or procedures; and its decisions and recommendations shall not be final unless adopted by the Board of Directors in general session.

19.2.3 An item must pass an advisory committee by simple majority vote to be referred to the Board of Directors. A tie vote among voting members on any item shall defeat the item.

19.2.4 An item first passed by an advisory committee shall be publicized for one year until the next regularly scheduled meeting of that advisory committee in the following school year. At this meeting, the advisory committee will reconsider the item for second passage. Upon second passage, the item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director, however, may authorize that a recommendation be fast-tracked through the process if he/she determines the recommendation to be essential to the betterment of the program. Any item not passed may not be re-introduced for a minimum of two calendar years.

19.2.5 Vacancies. If, for any reason, a vacancy should occur in any seat with an unexpired term on an advisory committee the Executive Director shall appoint a qualified individual from the represented group to fill the vacant seat for the duration of the unexpired term. In such cases, the individual appointed to complete a term for someone else may succeed themselves one time.

19.2.6 An advisory committee may introduce a proposed amendment to the FHSAA Bylaws for consideration.



19.2.7 No member of the Board of Directors can serve on an advisory committee.

19.2.8 An individual can serve on only one advisory committee.

19.2.9 All advisory committee members, and chaperone for student-athlete members, will be reimbursed for travel following the State of Florida Employee travel regulations and rates.

19.2.10 Committee Chairperson. Each committee shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members. The chairperson will serve as chair of the committee for one year. The vice chairperson will act in the absence of the chairperson and will immediately succeed the chairperson upon the completion of his/her term as chairperson. The vice chairperson must have no fewer than two years remaining in his/her current term in order to serve as the vice chairperson. After the initial election of a chairperson and vice chairperson of a committee, the last order of business of the committee for that year shall be the election of the vice chairperson for the subsequent year.

19.3 Athletic Directors Advisory Committee

19.3.1 Composition. The Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall be comprised of 15 individuals, as follows: one Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (FIAAA) District Director from each of the four FHSAA administrative sections; three executive committee members of the FIAAA (i.e. president, president-elect, immediate past president, etc.); four private school Athletic Directors, one from each of the four FHSAA administrative sections; one Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) athletic director representative appointed by the FACA Executive Director; and three at-large current, active school athletic directors appointed by the FHSAA Executive Director.

19.3.2 Elections. Each FIAAA District Directors representative will be elected by their peers from among the FIAAA District Directors in each of the four FHSAA administrative sections. Each of the four private school representatives will be elected by their peer private school Athletic Directors in each of the four FHSAA administrative sections. Elections for all eight of these representatives will be conducted by the FHSAA.

19.3.2.1 Initial Two Years. For the initial two years, the following procedure will be followed:

- (a) For the 2014-15 school year, two (2) FIAAA District Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 2 and 4; two (2) private school Athletic Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 1 and 3; and the Executive Director will appoint at least one (1) private school Athletic Director (2 appointed positions will be open during this year).
- (b) For the 2015-16 school year, two (2) FIAAA District Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 1 and 3; two (2) private school Athletic Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 2 and 4; and the Executive Director will appoint one at-large position.

19.3.3 Term. All members of the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall serve a term of three years and shall be not be eligible to immediately succeed himself/herself. A rotation of terms shall be established to ensure that not more than one-half of the elected members' terms expire in any given year.

19.3.4 Meetings. The Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall meet three times annually – once following each season's round of sports advisory committee meetings to review the recommendations brought forward by those committees; and to evaluate the entire FHSAA interscholastic athletic program, making such recommendations of its own as it deems necessary. In reviewing the recommendations brought forward by the various sports advisory committees, the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall either give its endorsement or withhold its endorsement on each recommendation, but shall not have the authority to defeat any recommendation.

19.3.5 Quorum. Eight (8) of the voting members of the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

19.4 Sports Advisory Committees

19.4.1 Committees. There shall be an advisory committee in each sport in which the FHSAA sanctions a Florida High School State Championship Series competition. Currently, these sports are baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, girls volleyball, boys weightlifting and wrestling.

19.4.2 Composition. Each sport advisory committee shall be comprised of 10 individuals – two member school head coaches from each of the Association's four administrative sections, the Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) state chairperson in that sport if he/she is not elected to represent a section, and a member of the Officials Advisory Committee in an ex-officio capacity. In sports in which there are both girls and boys teams, representation on the committee shall be one-half girls team coaches and one-half boys team coaches. The FHSAA staff shall establish a rotation to ensure such equitable gender representation.

19.4.3 Elections. Each sport advisory committee member will be elected by their peers from each of the Association's four administrative sections.

19.4.4 Term. Each elected member and the FACA representative of the committee shall serve a term of three years and shall not be eligible to immediately succeed himself/herself. A rotation of terms shall be established to ensure that not more than one-half of the elected members' terms expire in any given year.



19.4.5 Meetings. Each sports advisory committee shall meet once annually following the conclusion of its respective Florida High School State Championship Series to evaluate the FHSAA program for that sport.

19.4.6 Quorum. Five (5) of the voting members of an advisory committee shall constitute a quorum.

19.5 Officials Advisory Committees

19.5.1 Composition. There shall be three Officials Advisory Committees, one for each of the sport seasons. The Fall Sports Officials Advisory Committee shall be comprised of officials from football and girls volleyball. The Winter Sports Officials Advisory Committee shall be comprised of officials from basketball, soccer, and wrestling. The Spring Sports Officials Advisory Committee shall be comprised of officials from baseball and softball. Each committee will be comprised of four officials from each sport, one official from each of the four administrative sections.

19.5.2 Elections. All committee members shall be elected by those officials who are registered and in good standing in that sport and who are in attendance at the mandatory FHSAA Rules Clinics.

19.5.3 Term. Each elected member of the committee shall serve a term of three years and shall not be eligible to immediately succeed himself/herself. A rotation of terms shall be established to ensure that not more than one-half of the elected members' terms expire in any given year.

19.5.4 Meetings. The Officials Advisory Committee shall meet at least once annually to evaluate the FHSAA officials program.

19.5.5 Quorum. A quorum of each Officials Advisory Committee shall consist of one more than half of its members.

19.6 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

19.6.1 Charge. There will be a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to provide a voice in the FHSAA governance structure to the Association's largest constituency – the more than 200,000 participating student-athletes. The committee will focus on the following areas: current issues facing student-athletes, input regarding rules and regulations, input on FHSAA special initiatives (e.g., sportsmanship program), and promoting a positive image of the student-athlete.

19.6.2 Composition. The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will be comprised of 16 members: four student-athletes from each of the four (4) administrative sections.

19.6.3 Nominations. Each member school shall be allowed to nominate one (1) male and one (1) female student-athlete for consideration. To be eligible for nomination, the student-athlete must meet the following requirements:

- 19.6.3.1 Must be an active student-athlete participating in at least one (1) FHSAA- sponsored sport at his/her school;
- 19.6.3.2 Must be a sophomore (rising junior) or junior (rising senior) in good academic and disciplinary standing;
- 19.6.3.3 Must show commitment toward representing the interests of all student-athletes;
- 19.6.3.4 Must display strong character and commitment to sportsmanship and integrity; and
- 19.6.3.5 Must demonstrate leadership in his/her school.
- 19.6.3.6 Juniors may serve a second year on the committee if they continue to meet the requirements above.

19.6.4 Selection. Committee members will be selected by the FHSAA staff. The selection process will take into consideration gender, racial and sport diversity to ensure a well-rounded committee.

19.6.5 Meetings. The committee will meet once or twice annually.

19.6.6 Quorum. Eight (8) of the voting members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

19.7 Sports Medicine Advisory Committee

19.7.1 Composition. Pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(m), Florida Statutes, the Association shall establish, sustain, fund and provide staff support to a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee appointed by the Executive Director and comprised of:

- Eight physicians licensed under chapters 458 or 459 of Florida Statutes, with at least one member licensed under chapter 459; and
- One chiropractor licensed under chapter 460 of Florida Statutes; and
- One podiatrist licensed under chapter 461 of Florida Statutes; and
- One dentist licensed under chapter 466 of Florida Statutes; and
- Three athletic trainers licensed under part XIII of chapter 468 of Florida Statutes; and
- One member who is a current or retired head coach of a Florida high school.

19.7.2 Meetings. The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee shall meet at least once annually to review the interscholastic athletic program and make recommendations on safety and other health-related issues.

19.7.3 Quorum. Eight (8) of the members of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee in attendance shall constitute a quorum.



19.8 Public Liaison Advisory Committee

19.8.1 Composition. Pursuant to s. 1006.20(6), Florida Statutes, the Association shall establish, sustain, fund and provide staff support to a Public Liaison Advisory Committee appointed by the Executive Director and composed of the following:

- The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;
- A member public school principal;
- A member non-public school principal;
- A member school principal who is a member of a racial minority;
- An active athletic director;
- An active coach, who is employed full time by a member school;
- A student athlete;
- A district school superintendent;
- A district school board member;
- A member of the Florida House of Representatives;
- A member of the Florida Senate;
- A parent of a high school student;
- A member of a home education association;
- A representative of the business community; and
- A representative of the news media.

19.8.2 Restrictions. No member of the Board of Directors, a Sectional Appeals Committee or the Representative Assembly is eligible to serve on the Public Liaison Advisory Committee.

19.8.3 Authority and Duties. The authority and duties of the Public Liaison Advisory Committee are as follows:

19.8.3.1 To act as a conduit through which the general public may have input into the decision-making process of the Association and to assist the Association in the development of procedures regarding the receipt of public input and disposition of complaints related to high school athletic and competition programs.

19.8.3.2 To conduct public hearings annually in each of the four (4) administrative sections during which interested parties may address issues regarding the effectiveness of the rules, operation, and management of the organization.

19.8.3.3 To conduct an annual evaluation of its findings, organization as a whole and recommendations to the Board of Directors, to the Commissioner of Education, and to the respective education committees of the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives. The recommendations must delineate policies and procedures that will improve the implementation and oversight of high school athletic programs by the organization.

19.8.4 Meetings. The Public Liaison Advisory Committee shall meet four (4) times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the committee chairperson, the Association president, or the Executive Director.

19.8.5 Quorum. Eight (8) of the members of the Public Liaison Advisory Committee in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

POLICY 20

SUMMER ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

20.1 Policy

20.1.1 Not Regulated in Summer. The FHSAA does not regulate the athletic activities of member schools held with their own students during the summer as defined herein with the exception of football. The individual member school principal, district school superintendent, district school board or private school governing body are responsible for adopting regulations governing the activities of their respective schools during this period of time.

20.1.2 Football. A member school shall not permit student-athletes in its football program to wear helmets or pads or engage in physical contact in any activity sponsored by or under the supervision of the school during the summer. This shall not preclude the school from issuing school-owned equipment to a student-athlete for his/her use at a summer football camp, provided the camp is organized, operated and conducted by a third-party entity. Camps hosted by a third party, which allow the use of helmets or pads or engage in physical contact, may not be held at a participating member school's facility.



20.2 Summer Defined. The summer season is defined as that period of time outside the FHSAA sports year. This period for each member school is defined as beginning the day following the school's last day of classes for the spring semester or the day following the school's last day of spring athletic activities (including spring football practice), whichever is later, or June 1 for schools whose last day of classes for the spring semester occurs on May 31 or thereafter, and concluding with the Saturday of Week 5 in the FHSAA standardized calendar for the following school year.

POLICY 21

OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING

21.1 Definitions.

21.1.1 Off-season. "Off-season" means the period of time during the regular school year but outside the defined sport season for a specific sport.

21.1.2 Sports Season. "Sports season" means the period of time for a specific school team in each respective sport that begins with the first permissible date of practice in that sport and ends either with

21.1.2.1 the last permissible date for a regular season contest (if not participating in Florida High School State Championship Series competition) in that sport; or

21.1.2.2 the date of the team's elimination from Florida High School State Championship Series competition in that sport; or

21.1.2.3 the state championship game in that sport, whichever first occurs for that team.

21.1.3 Conditioning. Weight training is the use of free weights and stationary apparatus. Cardiovascular conditioning is distance and interval training. Plyometrics is the use of pre-set conditioning programs. Conditioning IS NOT teaching sport specific skills and drills, and DOES NOT involve the use of sport specific equipment (i.e. starting blocks, hurdles, rebounders, ball machines, bats, balls, rackets, etc.).

21.2 Off-season conditioning programs conducted by a school shall only be open to participation by all students attending that school or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7.

21.3 All preseason and/or postseason conditioning program participants shall file with the school the "FHSAA Consent and Release of Liability Certificate" and the "FHSAA Pre-participation Physical Evaluation" form.

21.4 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.

21.5 Supervision by school personnel is required.

21.6 Schools shall provide information in the following areas:

21.6.1 Proper use of weight room equipment;

21.6.2 Proper weight training techniques;

21.6.3 Proper nutrition;

21.6.4 Proper cardiovascular conditioning techniques;

21.6.5 Ergogenics.

21.7 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:

21.7.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of \$2,500 per violation.

21.7.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

21.7.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of \$500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

21.7.4 Reduced number of regular season "home" contests.

21.7.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.



POLICY 22

NON-SCHOOL TEAM AND/OR OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION

22.1 Definitions.

22.1.1 Off-Season. “Off-season” means the period of time during the regular school year but outside the defined sport season for a specific sport.

22.1.2 Sports Season. “Sports season” means the period of time for a specific school team in each respective sport that begins with the first permissible date of practice in that sport and ends either with

22.1.2.1 the last permissible date for a regular season contest (if not participating in Florida High School State Championship Series competition) in that sport; or

22.1.2.2 the date of the team’s elimination from Florida High School State Championship Series competition in that sport; or

22.1.2.3 the state championship game in that sport, whichever first occurs for that team.

22.1.3 Coach. “Coach” means any person, regardless of whether he/she is employed by the school or volunteer, who instructs, supervises, or otherwise manages student-athletes in conjunction with a practice, tryout, drill, workout, evaluation or competitive activity.

22.1.4 “Involved In Any Respect.” “Involved in any respect” means engaged in anything to do with a non-school team, including but not limited to coaching, scheduling, transporting, officiating and the hiring of officials, training, taping, managing team expenses, purchasing of uniforms and equipment, etc.

22.2 During the off-season, a coach shall not have contact with students outside the normal teacher-student classroom environment except to:

22.2.1 make arrangements for and assist in the conduct of physical examinations; or

22.2.2 explain eligibility regulations; or

22.2.3 solve insurance problems; or

22.2.4 review films; or

22.2.5 conduct off-season conditioning as defined in the “Off-Season Conditioning Guidelines” as per Policy 21.

22.3 A coach, prospective coach of any member school or any individual involved in any respect may not be involved with a non-school team in a sport unless the non-school team meets the following requirements:

22.3.1 The team must be affiliated with an outside agency promoting athletic participation opportunities such as, but not limited to:

- Baseball – Babe Ruth, American Legion, city/county leagues
- Basketball – AAU, USA, USOC
- Football –USA Football
- Golf – USGA, AJGA
- Lacrosse – US Lacrosse
- Soccer – FIFA, Youth leagues
- Softball – ASA, USSSA
- Swimming & Diving – USS, NISCA, ASCA, CSCAA, AAU
- Tennis – FTA, USTA, USOC, ITF
- Track & Field – USA, AAU
- Volleyball – USVBA, USOC, USA, AVA
- Wrestling – USA, AAU

22.3.2 Participation must include competition in the published scheduled events of the outside agency.

22.3.3 Student athletes and coaches, where applicable, are not permitted to wear any portion of a school’s athletic uniform.

22.3.4 All fees or assessment for participation must be documented.

22.3.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.



22.3.6 Member schools may make their gymnasiums and other athletic facilities available to outside groups or organizations provided a fully executed usage agreement is provided and available upon request.

22.3.7 The personnel affiliated with the non-school team, including, but not limited to, any coach, assistant, director, manager, supervisor, organizer, etc., must provide notification in writing to the student athletes that participation with the team could jeopardize their eligibility to participate in high school interscholastic athletics and verification of such notification must be made utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director (GA6 Form – Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Non-School Teams and Off-Season Participation).

22.4 Participation by a student in non-school athletic activities (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club teams, travel teams, etc.) affiliated with any school other than the school which the student attends, or attended the previous school year, followed by the establishment of school residence by that student at the affiliated school, shall render the student subject to the conditions of Bylaw 9.2.4. A team affiliated with a school is one that is supervised by, organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at that school (Bylaw 9.2.4.1).

22.4.1 Coaches. A coach at a member school that has had more than one (1) appeal denied to waive the above policy or Bylaw 9.2.4 through the due process procedures as per Bylaw 10.4, and did not provide evidence of the written notification to the student athlete as specified in Policy 22.3.7 or by some other effective means by the school, shall not be permitted to coach in any Florida High School State Championship Series contest for one or more years.

22.5 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:

22.5.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of \$2,500 per violation.

22.5.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

22.5.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of \$500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

22.5.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.

22.5.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 23

OPEN FACILITIES PROGRAM

23.1 During the school year, member schools may open their gymnasiums and other athletic facilities only to their students without being in violation of FHSAA Bylaws under the following guidelines:

23.1.1 The facility must be open to all students who are bona fide students in that school as defined in Bylaw 9.2.1 or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7. Opening facilities to a select group of students to practice individual skills for a specific sport is a violation of this policy.

23.1.2 A student may participate in open facility activities only in the school in which he/she is a bona fide student as defined in Bylaw 9.2.1 or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7.

23.1.3 A middle school student cannot participate in open facilities activities offered by a senior high school unless the middle school student is a bona fide student in that senior high school as defined in Bylaw 9.2.1 or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7 and as defined in 3.2.2.3.

23.1.4 Supervision by school personnel is required. School personnel, including faculty and non-faculty coaches in attendance, however, shall not provide coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques in any sport. Their presence may be in a supervisory capacity only.

23.1.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.

23.1.6 No sport-specific tasks or drills shall be taught or assigned to students to perform during open facility activities.

23.1.7 Open facility activities in a specific sport (with the exception of the fall sports) shall be concluded a minimum of two weeks prior to the first permissible date of interscholastic practice in that sport.

23.2 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:

23.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of \$2,500 per violation.

23.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.



23.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of \$500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

23.2.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.

23.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 24

COACHING SCHOOLS, CAMPS, CLINICS, COMBINES OR WORKSHOPS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS

Member schools, coaches or other athletic department employees of member schools, and individuals, groups or organizations related to or affiliated with member schools may conduct coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops provided:

24.1 The event is conducted only during the summer as defined in the “Policy on Summer Athletic Participation.”

24.1.1 Exception. Coaches may participate in camps, clinics, workshops provided the following criteria are met:

24.1.1.1 The event is hosted by a third party (not-for-profit organization), of which the coach is not an organizer, supervisor, owner, etc.; and

24.1.1.2 The coach participates in an instructional capacity only; and

24.1.1.3 The coach does not wear any school paraphernalia which identifies the school with which the coach is affiliated; and

24.1.1.4 The coach is subject to the provisions of Policy 36 and the students are subject to Bylaw 9.2.4 Policy 22.4, and/or Policy 36; and

24.1.1.5 The event is not held on the coach’s school campus.

24.1.2 Exception. Representatives of member schools athletic interests may provide personal instruction provided:

24.1.2.1 The individual providing instruction owns or is employed by a company which provides instruction of athletic skills; and

24.1.2.1.1 Instruction provided to students who attend the school with which the representative of the school’s athletic interests is affiliated may not exceed more than two students during the time of instruction, if the instruction takes place on that school’s campus.

24.1.2.2 The company which the individual owns or is employed by is a licensed business, containing a current tax identification number; and

24.1.2.3 Properly executed facility usage agreement, if instruction is provided on a member school’s campus and made available upon request; and

24.1.2.4 All fees or assessment for participation must be documented; and

24.1.2.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team; and

24.1.2.6 The personnel affiliated with the non-school team, including, but not limited to, any coach, assistant, director, manager, supervisor, organizer, etc., must provide notification in writing to the student athletes that participation with the team could jeopardize their eligibility to participate in high school interscholastic athletics and verification of such notification must be made utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director (GA6 Form – Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Non-School Teams and Off-Season Participation); and

24.1.2.6.1 Owners, managers, etc., who have a general administrative and/or instructional function in the activity are considered to have contact with all students receiving instruction through this activity.

24.1.2.6.2 Individuals who work in an instructional capacity only, are considered to have contact with only the students he/she directly contact through his/her instructional capacity. However, this does not exempt instructors from compliance with Policy 36.

24.1.2.7 The representative of the school’s athletic interests is subject to the provisions of Policy 36.

24.2 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:

24.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of \$2,500 per violation.

24.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

24.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of \$500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.



24.2.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.

24.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 25

PARTICIPATION BY STUDENT-ATHLETES AND TEAMS IN COACHING SCHOOLS, CAMPS, CLINICS, COMBINES OR WORKSHOPS

The following guidelines govern participation of students of FHSAA member schools in coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops for an interscholastic sport.

25.1 Individuals. Students from FHSAA member schools may participate as individuals in coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops at any time of the school year without jeopardizing their interscholastic athletic eligibility, provided:

25.1.1 Students participating in the event do not, in any way, represent their school.

25.1.2 Fees for the students who participate in the event are not paid by the school, coach or school district.

25.1.3 Students provide their own transportation or are provided transportation by their own school. No student may be transported to or from the event by an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of any school other than the school that the student currently attends.

25.2 Teams. FHSAA member schools may permit their athletic teams to participate in coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops without jeopardizing their interscholastic athletic eligibility, provided:

25.2.1 The coaching school, camp, clinic, combine or workshop takes place only during the summer as defined in the “Policy on Summer Athletic Participation.” Participation by school teams in coaching schools, camps, clinics or workshops held during the school year is strictly prohibited.

25.2.2 Fees for the students or team who participate in the event are not paid by the school, coach or school district; however, internal account funds generated from fund-raising activities may be used.

25.2.3 Participation in the event by students is not an actual or implied prerequisite to their membership on the team.

25.3 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:

25.3.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of \$2,500 per violation.

25.3.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

25.3.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of \$500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

25.3.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.

25.3.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 26

PARTICIPATION BY STUDENT-ATHLETES IN ALL-STAR GAMES AND SHOWCASES

The following guidelines govern participation of students of FHSAA member schools in all-star games and showcases for an interscholastic sport. The FHSAA recognizes Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) sponsored All-Star Classics. The FACA meets the provisions of this policy which govern student participation in its All-Star classics. The following guidelines govern participation of students of FHSAA member schools in any all-star games or showcases for an interscholastic sport:

26.1 All-Star Teams. A high school all-star team is a team comprised of athletes who are selected as team members or invited to participate in a tryout for membership on the team as the result of the athletes’ performance as high school athletes. No student at a member school shall participate on a high school all-star team in a sport as a result of his/her performance as a high school athlete until the student completes his/her interscholastic athletic eligibility in that sport.

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COACHING SCHOOLS, CAMPS, CLINICS
COMBINES AND WORKSHOPS



26.1.1 All-Star Games. Students from FHSAA member schools may participate as individuals in all-star games without jeopardizing their interscholastic athletic eligibility, provided:

26.1.1.1 The all-star game, or tryouts or practices for the all-star game, may not be conducted prior to the completion of the regular season in the sport in which the all-star game is to be conducted. An all-star game, however, shall not be played on any date on which an FHSAA Series contest in that sport is scheduled.

26.1.1.2 The student-athlete has exhausted his/her eligibility in the sport in which the all-star contest is to be conducted.

26.1.1.3 Fees for the student-athlete who participates in the all-star contest are not paid by the school, coach or school district; however, internal account funds generated from fund-raising activities may be used.

26.1.2 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the loss of the student's eligibility to represent any FHSAA member school in that sport for a period of one calendar year from the date of participation in the contest.

26.2 Showcases. Showcases are events comprised of athletes who are selected or invited to participate as a result of the athletes' performance as an athlete. Any student athlete who participates in, but not limited to, combines and showcases do so at his/her own peril as it relates to Bylaw 9.2.4.1 and Policy 36.

POLICY 27

SCHOOLS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO FHSAA OFFICIALS

Member schools have the following responsibilities relative to FHSAA officials when serving as host for an athletic contest to which the officials are assigned:

27.1 An authorized representative of the host school shall greet the officials upon their arrival.

27.2 The host school should provide a private, secure place for the officials to park.

27.3 The host school should provide a secure dressing facility which affords privacy.

27.4 The host school should provide the officials access to private shower facilities with hot water whenever possible.

27.5 The host school should provide the officials with refreshments (i.e., water and/or sports drinks) during the halftime intermission, following the conclusion of the contest and other appropriate times.

27.6 The host school must provide pregame, halftime and postgame security for the officials. A school official or principal's designee must escort the officials to and from the playing field or court to prevent harassment.

27.7 The host school principal, principal's designee or game administrator must indicate to the referee or umpire-in-chief his/her seat location should a situation develop where assistance is needed during the contest. The contest coaches should not serve as the principal's designee or game administrator.

27.8 School personnel, including coaches, shall not enter the officials dressing facility while the officials are in attendance except when requested by the officials.

27.9 The host school for Florida High School State Championship Series contests beyond the district level shall provide contest officials with a secure and adequate dressing room (one each for mixed gender crews) with properly operating bathroom facilities including showers with warm water at the site of the contest. If the site does not have such facilities, the host school shall obtain and provide at its expense an appropriate hotel/motel room(s) reasonably close to the site. The host school is required to complete dressing room arrangements and have the information available to the head referee at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. It is the responsibility of the head referee or umpire-in-chief to contact the school administration at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest to verify the arrangements for the contest. The referee or umpire-in-chief shall report to the FHSAA Office the failure of any host school to provide dressing facilities as required.



POLICY 28

RULES OF CONDUCT FOR FHSAA OFFICIALS

A violation of any one of these provisions may subject an offending official to a monetary penalty, suspension as an official, or both.

28.1 All FHSAA officials shall conduct themselves on and off the athletic field in a manner conducive to the best interests of the FHSAA, its member schools, and the interscholastic athletic program in general. No FHSAA official shall pursue a course of action which is detrimental to the welfare of the FHSAA or its member schools.

28.2 All FHSAA officials shall comply with all FHSAA guidelines, regulations, policies and procedures as contained in the FHSAA Officials Guidebook.

28.3 All FHSAA officials shall be neatly dressed in the appropriate uniform as prescribed in the Officials Guidebook, and project a physically fit appearance, when officiating a contest involving an FHSAA member school.

28.4 All FHSAA officials are expected to arrive on time for the contest as required by the rules of the applicable sport.

28.5 All FHSAA officials should be in good physical condition, mentally ready to work the best possible contest and be fully cognizant of the sport's rules. Officials are expected to make each call as they see it without fear or favor, regardless of the score, and hustle at all times.

28.6 No FHSAA official should fraternize with athletes, coaches, or spectators before, during or after a contest.

28.7 No FHSAA official may officiate a contest involving a school in all the following stipulations within the last four (4) years: his/her child or immediate a relative attends or attended, the official himself/herself and/or a relative works or worked and the official attended, graduated or coached, except as provided in Bylaw 8.9.5 of the FHSAA Bylaws, which states, "Coaches or other persons connected with competing schools shall not officiate in contests except with the consent of all competing schools."

28.8 No FHSAA official shall arrive or appear at the contest site with the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his/her breath.

28.9 No FHSAA official shall use tobacco or tobacco-like products during the contest or in the vicinity of the athletic field.

28.10 No FHSAA official shall engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.

28.11 No FHSAA official shall refuse to officiate any contest with another FHSAA official because that same other FHSAA official is or is not also a registered member of a national or international officials organization.

28.12 No FHSAA official shall officiate a contest or part of a contest which is classified as an exhibition or practice game between two or more member schools. Such games are prohibited by the FHSAA Bylaws. This provision, however, does not preclude an FHSAA official from officiating an intra-squad contest or scrimmage in which all participants are students at the same one school.

28.13 No FHSAA official shall publicly criticize or berate a coach or other employee of a member school. Professional ethics require that officials use proper channels to report their problems rather than airing them publicly.

POLICY 29

CROWD CONTROL

29.1 Home/Host School. The home/host school administration is responsible for the control of spectators before, during and after an athletic contest. The FHSAA recommends that the home/host school administration secure uniformed security to assist with this responsibility.



29.2 Visiting School(s). The visiting school administration is encouraged to assist with the control of its own spectators at athletic contests. Visiting school administrators (i.e., principal, FHSAA representative, assistant principals, athletic director, assistant athletic director, assistant coaches, etc.) who are required by their principal to attend the event for supervisory purposes upon presentation of a photo I.D. must be provided complimentary admission to the event, provided the visiting school submits their names to the home/host school administration by fax in writing on school stationery not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the event.

29.3 Florida High School State Championship Series. Participating school administration (i.e., principal, FHSAA representative, assistant principals, athletic director, assistant athletic director, assistant coaches, etc.) must be present at district, regional, and state events when their school is competing. Administration must enforce appropriate behavior of their student/adult fan base.

29.4 Officials. The officials assigned to officiate a contest are responsible for the on-the-court or on-the-field conduct of the contest itself. In the event a spectator or spectators interfere with the conduct of a contest or cause an official to become distracted through continual, unrelenting verbal abuse, the official should immediately stop the action and report the spectator or spectators to the home/host school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer. If the home/host school administration or uniformed security is unwilling or unable to resolve the situation and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point. Under no circumstance should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during or after a contest.

29.5 Reports. Both the officials assigned to officiate a contest and the home/host school administration are required to file with the FHSAA Office within 24 hours a written report on any contest that is terminated due to interference by a spectator(s).

POLICY 30

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

30.1 Sportsmanship and Ethics

Student-athletes, coaches, administrators, spectators and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship and the ethics of competition before, during and after all contests in which they participate and/or attend.

30.1.1 Penalties Assessed the School.

30.1.1.1 Storming the playing field, court, or pool by spectators and students during or at the conclusion of an athletic contest may result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$250 for indoor events or \$500 for outdoor events and may be increased depending on the severity of the incident.

30.1.1.2 Removal by a coach or school personnel of a team or individual from an athletic contest prior to its normal conclusion will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$250.

30.1.1.3 Vandalism by a team, student -athlete, coach or school personnel may result in a minimum \$250 monetary penalty, or any other penalties as outlined in Bylaw 10.1, in addition to the school being financially responsible for restitution of the item(s) vandalized.

30.2 Unsportsmanlike Act by a Student-Athlete

30.2.1 Penalties Assessed the Student-Athlete. Student-athletes who commit unsportsmanlike acts before, during or after a contest will be subject to the following suspension levels as determined by the designee of the Executive Director:

30.2.1.1 **Level 1 Suspension.** A student-athlete who commits an unsportsmanlike act or a flagrant foul for which he/she is ejected from the contest will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the student will be ineligible for a minimum of the next football game, at the same level of participation, and any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport during the period of suspension. If the unsportsmanlike act or flagrant foul occurs in the last contest of a season, the student will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates; or

30.2.1.2 **Level 2 Suspension.** A student-athlete who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act, as defined in Bylaw 7.2.1, will be ineligible to compete in the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or



30.2.1.3 **Level 3 Suspension.** A student-athlete who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to compete in the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year; or

30.2.1.4 **Level 4 Suspension.** A student-athlete who receives three (3) or more Level 2 Suspensions or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for the duration of the student-athlete's high school career.

30.2.1.5 It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This policy applies to all regular season and Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

30.2.2 Penalties Assessed the School.

30.2.2.1 In the event that more than three (3) students from the same school have been assessed with any suspension level, as defined in 30.2.1, in any one sport, beginning with the fourth suspension, the school will be immediately placed on administrative probation in that sport for one or more years, and will be assessed a minimum financial penalty of \$100 per suspension in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season.

30.2.2.2 On the first Level 2 suspension or higher, as defined in 30.2.1, of a student in any sport, a written warning shall be issued to the school that each subsequent suspension, at Level 2 or higher, in any sport will subject the school to a minimum financial penalty of \$250 per occurrence. Beginning with the next suspension of a student, at Level 2 or higher, the minimum financial penalty of \$250 will be assessed.

30.2.2.3 Participation by one or more student-athletes in an altercation in the bench area, or by leaving the bench and entering the court or playing field (i.e., bench-emptying) or by leaving their designated position on the court or playing field to engage in an altercation will subject the school to a minimum \$100 per student monetary penalty.

30.3 Unsportsmanlike Act by a Coach or Other Representative of the School's Athletic Interests

30.3.1 **Penalties Assessed the Coach OR Other Representative of the School's Athletic Interests.** Coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who commit unsportsmanlike acts before, during or after a contest will be subject to the following suspension levels as determined by the designee of the Executive Director:

30.3.1.1 **Level 1 Suspension.** A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who commits an unsportsmanlike act for which he/she is ejected from the contest, will be ineligible to coach or attend the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests will be ineligible for a minimum of the next football game, at the same level of participation, and any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport during the period of suspension. If the unsportsmanlike act occurs in the last contest of a season, the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the coach participates; or

30.3.1.2 **Level 2 Suspension.** A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act, as defined in Bylaw 7.2.1, will be ineligible to coach or attend the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

30.3.1.3 **Level 3 Suspension.** A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

30.3.1.4 When a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests is disqualified (ejected) from a contest, the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests shall immediately leave the premises or facility (i.e. gymnasium in basketball, volleyball and wrestling; stadium/field in baseball, football, soccer and softball, etc.) to a place where the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests is not visible to either student-athletes, officials, spectators or other coaches; and to where the contest itself is not visible to the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests. A disqualified (ejected) coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests shall not have any further contact with or give instruction to athletes or other members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the contest, including halftime intermission, breaks between quarters, periods or innings and post-contest activities.

30.3.1.5 A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests who is suspended from the next contest or number of contests after having been disqualified (ejected) from a previous contest shall not attend the contest(s) from which he/she has been suspended in any capacity and shall not be present at the site(s) of such contest(s). A suspended coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests also shall be prohibited from accompanying his/her team to the site(s) of such contest(s).



30.3.1.6 All coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests who have been disqualified (ejected) from a contest must complete the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course prior to the completion of the suspension or within thirty (30) calendar days, whichever comes first. A copy of the certificate of completion must be sent to the FHSAA at time of completion. This course is accessible from the NFHS Learning Center online.

30.3.2 Penalties Assessed the School.

30.3.2.1 A school whose coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests commits an unsportsmanlike act before, during or after a contest shall be assessed a minimum financial penalty of \$100. Additional minimum monetary penalties up to \$250 (per occurrence) may be imposed for unsportsmanlike conduct such as, but not limited to, use or profanity or other such gutter language or gestures, continuing to give instruction to his/her student-athletes or other members of the coaching staff after having been ejected, pursuit of officials with intent following a contest by a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests, refusal of a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests to leave the court, playing field or team area after being ejected, physical contact by a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests with an official and premature termination of contest by an official due to unsportsmanlike conduct.

30.3.2.2 It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. When a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests is allowed to coach in a or attend contest from which he/she has been suspended, the school shall face additional penalties. This policy applies to all regular season and Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

30.4 Public Criticism of Officials. No coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests may publicly criticize or berate an official prior to, during or following a contest. Professional ethics require that coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests use proper channels, as per Bylaw 10.3.2, to report their complaints about officials rather than airing them publicly. A minimum monetary penalty of \$50 shall be assessed a school whose coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests are in violation of this provision.

30.5 Appeals

The decision to disqualify (eject) a student-athlete, coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) from a contest is a decision of the contest official or FHSAA Administrator. Any penalties imposed may be appealed to the Executive Director, using the AT15 Form, and, from there, through the normal appeals procedures. All periods of ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect during any such appeal unless and until they are modified or reversed.

POLICY 31

USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, HUMAN GROWTH HORMONES, STEROIDS, PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS AND SCHEDULE 3 NARCOTICS

31.1 Use of Alcohol and Tobacco. The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products by student-athletes, coaches and officials is prohibited during the contest and in the vicinity of the playing field or court. A coach or student-athlete in violation of this policy is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, will be ejected from the contest and will be suspended from subsequent contests for a period of up to six weeks in accordance with the FHSAA Policy on Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Additionally, the official must report any violation of this policy by either a student-athlete or coach to the FHSAA Office. Violation of this policy by a student-athlete or coach will subject the school to a monetary penalty. Violation of this policy by an official will subject the official to a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$100 or suspension or both.

31.2 Use of Human Growth Hormones, Steroids, Performance-Enhancing Drugs, or Schedule 3 Narcotics. The use of human growth hormones, steroids, performance-enhancing drugs, or schedule 3 narcotics by a student-athlete is not permissible and shall be reported to the FHSAA and the principal. The use of such substances is considered to be an act of unsportsmanlike conduct. A student-athlete discovered to be using such substances will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic contest until such time as medical evidence can be presented to the FHSAA and the principal that the student's system is free of those substances.

31.2.1 Any student-athlete under the care of a pediatric endocrinologist or an appropriately trained specialist being treated with idiopathic short stature (ISS) as outline by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) may appeal for exemption and shall provide appropriate medical documentation to the principal prior to competition.



31.2.2 Any student-athlete, under the direct care of a physician, who has been prescribed to use any hormone replacement drug shall provide the appropriate medical documentation to the principal prior to competition.

31.2.3 A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interest who facilitates, provides, or condones the acquisition or use of these prohibited substances will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic contest for a minimum of one (1) year.

POLICY 32

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUSPENDED CONTESTS

32.1 **Storms.** If a thunderstorm or electrical storm occurs in the area prior to the start of or during any outdoor contest, the officials must immediately contact the principal or his/her designee of each school involved in the contest to determine if the contest should be played as scheduled, delayed, suspended or postponed. If the principal or his/her designee of either of the schools involved requests that the contest be interrupted or postponed, with the exception of FHSAA State Final events, the officials must immediately honor such request. If the principal or his/her designee of only one of the competing schools is available, with the exception of FHSAA State Final events, his/her request must be honored. The FHSAA administrative staff, State Finals host and officials shall manage any inclement weather situations at FHSAA State Finals events.

32.2 **Safety is Paramount.** The safety and welfare of all concerned is of paramount importance. In no case may an official deny a request by a principal or his/her designee to delay, suspend or postpone an outdoor contest due to inclement weather or imply that the contest will be forfeited as a result of such a request.

32.3 **Suspended Contests.** A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption, unless National Federation Rules, FHSAA Bylaws and/or Policies determine that the contest is a completed contest based on where the contest is at the point of interruption.

POLICY 33

SIDELINE CHEERLEADING

As per s.1006.18, Florida Statutes, the "Spirit Rules," published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, shall be the statewide uniform safety standards for sideline cheerleading.

33.1 General Regulations

33.1.1 Cheerleaders are prohibited from building pyramids higher than two tiers during any routine in practice or during a performance in conjunction with an interscholastic contest. Host school principals are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation during regular season contests. Tournament/Meet managers and directors will be responsible for the enforcement of the regulation during Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

33.1.2 Prior to a student's participation in cheerleading tryouts, practice or performance, the student must secure a physician's certificate to the effect that the student is physically fit for participation.

33.2 Indoor Contests

33.2.1 Cheerleaders must remain in their seats along the sidelines at all times when the ball is alive or a match is in progress.

33.2.2 Officials are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation. First offense – warning; Second and subsequent offense – technical foul in basketball; awarding of point against violating school in volleyball and wrestling.

33.3 **Florida High School State Championship Series.** Sideline cheerleading squads will be permitted to cheer at Florida High School State Championship Series contests provided the cheerleading squads cheered at regular season contests for that sport.

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INCLEMENT WEATHER AND
SIDELINE CHEERLEADING



POLICY 34PHOTOGRAPHING, FILMING AND VIDEOTAPING
ATHLETIC CONTESTS

34.1 Regular Season Contests

34.1.1 Representatives of a school's athletic interest, as defined in Bylaw 1.4.18, of a visiting school may not photograph, film or videotape their team's or contestants' performance in a contest without first obtaining permission from the host school principal or his/her designee. Photographers, videographers and their equipment must be positioned so that they do not block the view of any spectator.

34.1.2 No representative of a school's athletic interest of a school that is not participating in a contest may photograph, film or videotape all or any part of the contest unless permission to do so is granted by the principal or his/her designee of each school that is participating in the contest.

34.1.3 It is recommended that schools videotape injury situations, postgame handshakes and any unsportsmanlike incidents that may occur during any athletic contest.

34.2 Florida High School State Championship Series Contests

34.2.1 Florida High School State Championship Series contests are the sole property of the FHSAA and may not be reproduced and marketed or otherwise distributed or publicly displayed in any manner without the express written permission of the FHSAA. The FHSAA retains all rights to the television broadcast or cablecast, radio broadcast, internet broadcast (audio and/or video), videotaping, filming and photographing of all Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

34.2.2 The FHSAA, subject to the policies of the host facility, allows still cameras and video cameras to be used at Florida High School State Championship Series contests so that participants and spectators may record the event for their own personal use – not for the purposes of commercial resale or public redistribution in any form. Only those duly authorized organizations or individuals who have been granted appropriate rights by contract or by issued credential shall be permitted to sell or publicly display or otherwise redistribute images and sounds of Florida High School State Championship Series contests and then only in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the FHSAA.

34.2.3 Each participating school shall be permitted to photograph, film or videotape, for archival, coaching or instructional purposes, only those Florida High School State Championship Series contests in which its team or contestants perform when arrangements are made with the contest management. Photographers, videographers and their equipment must be positioned so that they do not block the view of any spectator.

34.2.4 There may be additional guidelines or restrictions for Florida High School State Championship Series events. Consult the appropriate section(s) in Administrative Procedures or the state finals information packet, when available, for additional guidelines or restrictions concerning photographing, filming and videotaping at a state championship event in that sport.

34.3 Use of Drones. The use of drones is prohibited on the premises of any FHSAA state series event.

34.4 Penalty

34.4.1 A school that violates these guidelines shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and will be subject to reprimand and the assessment of a monetary penalty of a minimum of \$100 by the FHSAA.

34.4.2 An organization or individual who violates these guidelines, and in so doing infringes upon the rights of the FHSAA, as stated hereinabove, shall be subject to one (1) or more of the following actions: remedies under breach of contract; revocation of credentials; expulsion from the site of competition; and legal action under applicable state and federal laws.

POLICY 35

BOARDING SCHOOLS

A boarding student who attends a boarding school that does not comply fully with the provisions of this policy shall not be eligible to represent the boarding school in interscholastic athletic competition.

35.1 Boarding School Defined. A boarding school is defined as a school that has an enrolled resident boarding school population in the ninth through 12th grades of at least 25 boarding students or 10 percent of the full student enrollment in its ninth through 12th grades, whichever is greater. Schools that do not meet these enrollment requirements must satisfy the additional requirements set forth in paragraph 8 and its subparagraphs herein below.



35.2 Requirements. A boarding school must have appropriate dormitory facilities to house, feed and provide general living accommodations for boarding students. A boarding school must also employ and have on duty 24 hours a day in the dormitories appropriately trained supervisory dormitory personnel.

35.3 Must be Recognized. A boarding school must be recognized as a boarding school in its own literature and must be verified as such by the Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools (FAANS), Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) and/or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

35.4 Per Week Living Requirements. A boarding student must spend at least an average of five (5) days per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session.

35.5 Sport Eligibility. No more than 50 percent of the athletes on any team, sub-varsity or varsity, can be boarding school students, if the team intends to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in that sport. In individual sports, schools with either rosters or SELs consisting of more than 50 percent students who are boarding students shall not be eligible to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in that sport.

35.5.1 Exception. Schools boarding student population which exceeds 50 percent of the total school population may field a team or roster in individual sports proportional to their boarding student population, provided it does not exceed 2/3 of the team membership.

35.5.2 Exception. Boarding students who travel home on the weekends and whose parent's permanent address is inside the county boundaries where the school is located shall not be calculated in the boarding student population as in 35.5 and 35.5.1.

35.6 Supervisors. Coaches or other individuals employed by or associated with a boarding school's athletic program shall not serve as dormitory supervisors or otherwise live with boarding students in school housing.

35.7 Financial Assistance. Only those schools that qualify as boarding schools, as defined herein may provide any assistance for room and board to students who participate in interscholastic athletics, and only if such assistance is based on financial need. In no other schools may room and board expense be included in the determination of school expenses and financial need.

35.8 Compliance Issues. A school that satisfies the requirements of sections 35.2 – 35.7 above, but cannot satisfy the requirements of section 35.1 above, shall comply with the following additional requirements:

35.8.1 The school shall notify the FHSAA in writing of the name of each boarding student, his/her grade in school and the interscholastic sport(s) in which he/she will participate;

35.8.2 Not more than 25 percent of the school's boarding students may be members of the school's varsity or junior varsity athletic teams in any single sport;

35.8.3 The school shall permit the FHSAA to conduct on-site inspections of the school, the full costs of such inspections to be borne solely by the school; and

35.8.4 The FHSAA at any time may disqualify the students enrolled in the school's boarding program from further interscholastic athletic participation should the Executive Director determine that the school is using the boarding program for any improper athletic purpose.

POLICY 36

ATHLETIC RECRUITING

36.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

36.1.1 Athletic Recruiting Forbidden. Athletic recruiting is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics. Athletic recruiting is unethical and unsporting conduct, and is forbidden by FHSAA Bylaws (FHSAA Bylaw 6.3).

36.1.2 Scope of School's Responsibility. A school's responsibility for the conduct of its interscholastic athletic program includes responsibility for:

36.1.2.1 The acts of any employee or athletic department staff member;

36.1.2.2 The acts of third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, that is a representative of the school's athletic interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business or organization is promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program; and



36.1.2.3 The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting at the request, direction, or otherwise on behalf of any employee or representative of the school's athletic interests.

36.1.2.4 The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting on behalf of any student athlete.

36.1.2.5 Informing student athletes and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of potential eligibility issues related to the participation by the student athlete in non-school athletic activities (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.) affiliated with the school through one of its coaches or other athletic department staff members or a representative of the school's athletic interests.

36.1.3 Compliance Programs. Schools are expected to educate all employees, athletic department staff members and representatives of the school's athletic interests about acts that are prohibited by this policy. Schools must immediately report to the FHSAA Office impermissible acts when they are discovered to have occurred.

36.1.4 Academic Recruitment Permissible. A school may conduct an academic recruitment program that is designed to attract students to the school based upon its total educational and extracurricular (athletic and activities) program. A school must not use an academic recruitment program as a disguise for athletic recruiting.

36.1.5 Financial Assistance Permissible. Private schools, as well as developmental research schools operated by state universities, may administer school-based financial assistance programs for students who attend those schools. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic interest, potential or performance. Financial assistance based even partially on a student's athletic interest, potential or performance is not permitted.

36.1.6 Extra Benefit. Student-athletes must not receive extra benefits, which are benefits that are not offered or generally made available to all other students in the school.

36.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

36.2.1 Athletic Recruiting. "Athletic recruiting" is any effort by a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school's athletic interests to pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

36.2.1.1 Representative of a School's Athletic Interests. "Representative of a school's athletic interests" refers to any independent person, business or organization that participates in, assists with and/or promotes that school's interscholastic athletic program. This includes:

- (a) A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
- (b) The parents, guardians or other family members of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
- (c) Immediate relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school;
- (d) A volunteer with that school's athletic program;
- (e) A member of an athletic booster organization of that school;
- (f) A person, business or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or that is otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program.

36.2.2 Improper Contact. "Improper contact" is contact, either directly or indirectly, whether in person or through written or electronic communication, by a school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, with a student or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. See Policy 37.

36.2.3 Impermissible Benefit. An "impermissible benefit" is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not offered or generally made available to all students and/or their families who apply to or attend a school, or that otherwise is prohibited by FHSAA rules. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete or his/her family is not a violation of FHSAA rules if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the school's students or family members and is not based in any way on athletic interest, potential or performance. See Policy 37.

36.2.4 Financial Assistance. "Financial assistance" is funds from various sources that are administered and provided by a school to students to pay or assist in paying costs directly related to their education at the school. See Policy 38.

36.3 ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

36.3.1 References to Athletic Program. Any presentation conducted as part of a school's academic recruitment program must promote the school's overall educational and extracurricular programs. Any mention of the school's interscholastic athletics program must be limited to a listing of the interscholastic sports sponsored by the school and to a description of the school's athletic facilities. It is understood that the presentations and activities of all persons involved in the school's academic recruitment program must



avoid any references to the school's athletic program that might pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for purposes of athletic participation. All such presentations and activities must be in keeping with the general spirit of the rules prohibiting athletic recruiting.

36.3.2 Open Houses. A school may conduct an open house for prospective students and members of their families. Information distributed and presentations made during the open house, as well as advertisements for the open house, must limit references to the school's athletic program to a listing of the interscholastic sports sponsored by the school and to a description of the school's athletic facilities. No information can be distributed or any statement made that in any way implies that the school's interscholastic athletic program is better than any other school's interscholastic athletic program, or that a student would be better served by participating in interscholastic athletics at that school as opposed to any other school.

36.4 COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS

36.4.1 Certification of Compliance Form. Each member school each year must submit to the FHSAA Office, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, certifying that the principal, the athletic director and the president of each athletic booster organization of the school have reviewed the "FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting," and that he/she will comply with all provisions of the policy, and will review the provisions of the policy with school employees, athletic department staff members and representatives of the school's athletic interests. The head coach in each varsity sport offered by the school shall, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, certify that he/she has reviewed the "FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting," will comply with all provisions of the policy and will review the provisions of the policy with his/her coaching staff and players electronically in a process facilitated by the FHSAA. Failure to comply will subject the school to minimum monetary penalty of \$100.

36.4.2 Affidavit of Compliance. A student who for any reason changes schools after beginning the 9th grade, as well as the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must sign in the presence of a notary public an "Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting." The affidavit will be necessary regardless of whether the student changes schools during the school year or during the summer period between school years. The affidavit will be accompanied by an explanation of the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting, including the penalties for violating the policy, as well as the consequences of making a false statement on the affidavit. The student will not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at his/her new school until the school submits the affidavit, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director (GA4 Form – Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting). Failure to comply will subject the school to minimum monetary penalty of \$100.

36.5 PENALTIES

36.5.1 Mandatory Forfeiture. A school that is found to have an athletically recruited student-athlete will forfeit all contests and awards won in team sports and all points earned and resulting awards won in individual sports in which the student-athlete participated. Mandatory forfeiture also will be required when it is determined that a student who received an impermissible benefit was allowed to participate.

36.5.2 Eligibility Effect of Violation. A student who is found to have been athletically recruited or is found to have received an impermissible benefit will be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition for one or more years at the school to which the student was athletically recruited or at which he/she received the impermissible benefit, and may be declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at all member schools for one or more years.

36.5.3 Disciplinary Measures. In addition to the mandatory forfeiture of contests and awards, any one or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:

- 36.5.3.1 Public reprimand;
- 36.5.3.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of \$2,500;
- 36.5.3.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;
- 36.5.3.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including Florida High School State Championship Series competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
- 36.5.3.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
- 36.5.3.6 Participation in interscholastic competition at a higher classification for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
- 36.5.3.7 Restricted membership for one or more years during which time some or all of the school's membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and
- 36.5.3.8 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.



POLICY 37

IMPROPER CONTACT AND IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFITS

37.1 IMPROPER CONTACT

37.1.1 General Regulation. No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may make contact, either in person or through any form of written or electronic communication or through any third party, with a student, or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2 Specific Prohibitions. Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, representatives of the school's athletic interests or third parties with a student includes, but is not limited to, the following:

37.1.2.1 Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic communication to the student or any member of his/her family, in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.2 Visiting or entertaining the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.3 Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively a school's athletic program or implies a school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student's athletic career would be better served by attending a different school.

37.1.2.4 Answering an inquiry by the student or any member of his/her family about athletic participation opportunities at a school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend a different school. The student or family member instead should be immediately referred to the school employee responsible for registrations or admissions.

37.1.2.5 Providing transportation to the student or any member of his/her family to visit a school, to take an entrance examination for a school, to participate in an athletic tryout at a school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member, other representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, as part of an effort to pressure, urge or facilitate the student's attendance at a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.6 Attending an elementary school, a junior high school, a middle school or a non-school athletic contest to identify prospective student-athletes who might be recruited to attend a school.

37.1.2.7 Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee, other representative of the school's athletic interests or any other person, such as an alumnus of a school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.), a coach or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, a scout for a professional team or other third parties, to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.8 Making or arranging any other contact with the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.3 Contact Initiated by Prospective Student. When a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school's athletic interests is contacted by a student who does not attend that school and/or any other member of his/her family, about the school's interscholastic athletic program or attending the school, the school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the school's athletic interests must immediately refer the student and/or his/her family member to the appropriate school personnel who have the responsibility of registering and admitting prospective students. Only during the summer period, as defined in Policy 20, and once the student has registered, been accepted and no longer attends the previous school may the student have contact with athletic department staff members or representatives of a school's athletic interests.

37.1.4 Casual Contact with Students in Normal Community Settings. It is not considered a violation of this policy for an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of a high school to have casual contact with a student who does not attend that school or any member of the student's family in a normal community setting. At no time during such contact, however, may the employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of the high school pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a high school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.2 IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFIT

37.2.1 General Regulation. No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may be involved, directly or indirectly, in promising, offering or giving an impermissible benefit to any student or any member of his/her family for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics, or to any student-athlete who already attends a school.

37.2.2 Specific Prohibitions. Specifically prohibited arrangements, assistance or benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:



37.2.2.1 School-based financial assistance of any kind that exceeds the amount for which a student has been approved by an independent financial needs assessment company that is recognized by the FHSAA or otherwise is in excess of any supplemental assistance provided by a school to each and every student who qualifies for financial assistance.

37.2.2.2 Cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates, coupons or vouchers.

37.2.2.3 Gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.

37.2.2.4 Loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind.

37.2.2.5 Payment for any work or service that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount normally paid for such work or service.

37.2.2.6 Free or reduced-cost transportation.

37.2.2.7 Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests.

37.2.2.8 Free or reduced-cost rent for housing, vehicles or other items.

37.2.2.9 Full or partial payment of moving expenses or assistance of any kind with an actual physical move.

37.2.2.10 Employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid.

37.2.2.11 Promise of a position on an interscholastic athletic team or playing time as a member of the team.

37.2.2.12 Promise of guaranteeing a college athletic scholarship.

37.2.2.13 Free or reduced costs to attend a sport or skills camp.

37.2.2.14 Any other form of arrangement, assistance, **discount** or benefit that is not generally available to other students in the school or their families or that is based in any way on athletic ability.

37.3 PENALTIES

37.3.1 Disciplinary Measures. Any one (1) or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:

37.3.1.1 Public reprimand;

37.3.1.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of \$2,500;

37.3.1.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one (1) or more years;

37.3.1.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including Florida High School State Championship Series competitions, for one (1) or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;

37.3.1.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one (1) or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;

37.3.1.6 Restricted membership for one (1) or more years during which time some or all of the school's membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and

37.3.1.7 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one (1) or more years.

POLICY 38

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

38.1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

38.1.1 School-Administered Financial Assistance. Financial assistance provided by a school must be administered by the school; meaning that the school, through an established process that conforms to this policy, makes the final determination of the student who is to receive the assistance and the amount of assistance to be given. No student-athlete may accept financial assistance from any other person, business or organization unless it is received from one upon whom the student-athlete is naturally or legally dependent or is received through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida.

38.1.1.1 Criteria for Providing Financial Assistance. School-based financial assistance must be based entirely on financial need as determined by an independent financial needs assessment company that is approved by the FHSAA. A school may supplement the amount of financial assistance for which a student is determined to qualify provided the same form of supplemental assistance is provided to each and every student who qualifies for any amount of financial assistance. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic interest, potential or performance. Financial assistance based even partially on a student's athletic interest, potential or performance is not permitted.



38.1.1.2 Assistance with Room or Meals. School-based financial assistance for costs associated with room or meals, other than those meals made available during the school day to all students, may be provided only to students who board at FHSAA-recognized boarding schools, and then only if such financial assistance is based on financial need.

38.1.1.3 Work-Study Programs. A work-study program in which students receive financial assistance from a school in exchange for labor performed by the student for the school may be operated as follows:

- (a) The school must limit participation in the work-study program to those students who have been independently determined to have a need for financial assistance.
- (b) The school must submit to the FHSAA Office each school year a complete description of the work-study program and the process for determining the students who are chosen for participation.
- (c) The school must maintain detailed records regarding each student who participates in the work-study program. These records must include a description of the job(s) performed by the student, a documentation of the hours worked by the student, and the amount of financial assistance given the student in exchange for his/her labor.
- (d) A student-athlete must not receive financial assistance through a work-study program during the season of the sport(s) in which the student-athlete participates.
- (e) Athletic department staff members and other representatives of the school's athletic interests cannot supervise student-athletes in work-study programs.

38.1.1.4 Approved Financial Needs Assessment Companies. The FHSAA approved independent financial needs assessment companies are as follows:

(a) FACTS Management	www.factsmgt.com
(b) FAST	www.ismfast.com
(c) Financial Aid Independent Review	www.fairtuition.com
(d) Private School Aid Service	www.psas.org
(e) Smart Tuition	www.smarttuition.com
(f) SSS (School & Student Services)	www.sssbynais.org
(g) TADS	www.tads.com

38.1.1.5 Records Relating to Financial Assistance. The school must keep detailed records of school-based financial assistance provided to each student. This includes the report of the student's financial need as determined by the independent assessment company as well as the actual amount of financial assistance provided to the student by the school, and how that actual amount was determined. The school must make all records available to the Executive Director or his/her designee for inspection upon request.

38.1.1.6 Persons Who May Discuss Financial Assistance Opportunities. The only persons who may discuss financial assistance opportunities with a prospective student or any member of his/her family are those school employees who administer the school's registration, admission and financial assistance programs. No other school employee, any athletic department staff member or representative of the school's athletic interests may suggest to or promise a prospective student or any member of his/her family that any part of the student's costs of attending the school may be reduced, waived or paid for, or that financial assistance may be granted for any reason, including financial need.

38.1.1.7 Involvement of Athletic Personnel in Administration of Assistance Program. Athletic department staff members, other than those persons who have as their major responsibility an official leadership role in the academic leadership or admission programs of the school, are prohibited from sitting on the school's financial assistance committee or otherwise playing any role in the process of deciding which students receive financial assistance or the types or amount of assistance they will be given.

38.1.2 Financial Assistance Not Administered by School. Students may apply for and receive financial assistance through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida. These programs are:

38.1.2.1 The Opportunity Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a student in a failing public school may request and receive an Opportunity Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

38.1.2.2 The McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, through which the parent of a public school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's progress may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

38.1.2.3 The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a public school student who qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch may seek a scholarship to attend an eligible private school from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

38.1.3 Contributions by Donor. Funds that are donated to schools by persons, businesses and organizations may be given as financial assistance to students provided the decision as to how the funds are allocated rests exclusively with the school. It is not permissible for a donor to contribute funds to provide financial assistance for a particular student-athlete.



38.2 PENALTIES

38.2.1 **Disciplinary Measures.** Any one or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:

- 38.2.1.1 Public reprimand;
- 38.2.1.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of \$2,500;
- 38.2.1.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;
- 38.2.1.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including Florida High School State Championship Series competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
- 38.2.1.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
- 38.2.1.6 Restricted membership for one or more years during which time some or all of the school's membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and
- 38.2.1.7 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.

POLICY 39

INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES

The FHSAA compliance staff receives information about possible violations from several different sources. Member schools, media reports, confidential/anonymous sources, parent(s) of student-athletes, and other individuals or sources may provide information to be used by this office. In addition to unsolicited information, the staff also cultivates sources that provide information about possible violations.

39.1 **Responsibility for Investigations.** The executive director, or his/her designee, will supervise all investigations, audits and/or compliance reviews. Investigations may be assigned to either FHSAA staff members or approved investigative consultants. The executive director will provide the member school with the specific allegations of an inquiry or investigation and the facts upon which the allegations are being made. The executive director will be responsible for making final rulings/determinations concerning any investigation.

39.2 **Investigators.** The approved FHSAA Investigative Consultant will:

- (a) meet Level 2 screening standards as per s. 435.04, F.S.; and
- (b) be a licensed notary public, with the authority to place individuals under oath; and
- (c) have proper FHSAA photo identification; and
- (d) not determine matters of eligibility; and
- (e) submit information and evidence to the executive director or his/her designee for an unbiased and objective determination of eligibility; and
- (f) attend an FHSAA approved training session/orientation.

39.3 **Nature of Investigations.** Investigations will largely consist of, but not limited to, examinations of school records and any other documents, as well as interviews of individuals who are believed to have knowledge of possible violations or who are implicated in potential violations.

39.3.1 **Interviews of Individuals.** Approved FHSAA Investigative Consultants will make every reasonable effort to interview every individual implicated in a potential violation. Individuals, who are interviewed, may be provided with limited detail about the subject of the investigation to promote honest, candid responses and to protect the integrity of the process. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will conduct interviews on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. only, unless previously agreed to by the interviewee.

39.3.2 **Documents, Correspondence and Other Materials.** In addition to interviews, the investigative consultants may obtain significant supporting documentation, such as compliance files, academic records, e-mails, financial records, etc.

39.3.3 **Additional Information or Evidence.** Student athletes, parents, and schools may present, to the association or to the investigative consultant, any information or evidence that is credible, persuasive, and of a kind reasonably prudent persons rely upon.



39.4 Guidelines for Investigations. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will adhere to the following guidelines when conducting an investigation.

39.4.1 Notification of Investigation. FHSAA Office will notify its member school principal, headmaster or FHSAA Representative when an investigation is initiated. Member school principals shall notify, or cause to be notified in writing, student athletes and parents/legal guardians or other individuals identified by the FHSAA or its investigative consultant.

39.4.2 Investigations Conducted on School Campus. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will contact a school's FHSAA Representative to schedule visits to the school's campus to review records or to interview student-athletes, athletic department staff members, administrators or other representatives of the school's athletic interests who are involved in possible violations at the school.

39.4.2.1 Conflict with Academic Schedule. Interviews of student-athletes and teachers will be scheduled to minimize a loss of time from class.

39.4.3 Investigations Conducted at Residences. Unless otherwise agreed to, FHSAA Investigative Consultants may conduct residential investigations on weekdays (Monday through Friday) between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

39.4.3.1 Searches of Residence. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will obtain written consent of the parent/legal guardian before commencing a search of a family's residence, which might include a search of a student's personal living area(s).

39.4.4 Presence of School Representative and/or Parent During Interview of Student-Athlete. A school representative, preferably the FHSAA Representative, must be present, and a parent/legal guardian may be present, during the interview of a student athlete that is conducted on campus. A parent/legal guardian must be present during the interview of a student athlete that is conducted off campus.

39.4.5 Representation by Legal Counsel. Any individual being interviewed is allowed to have private legal counsel present during interviews.

39.4.6 Notice to Individuals Being Interviewed

39.4.6.1 Disclosure of Purpose of Interview. FHSAA Investigative Consultant will disclose the purpose of the interview.

39.4.6.2 Responsibility to Cooperate. FHSAA Investigative Consultant will remind those being interviewed of their responsibility to cooperate. Individuals who choose to not cooperate with the investigative process may impact student participation in interscholastic contests. Parents and/or students who choose to not cooperate with the investigative process are considered to void their consent to participate as outlined in the EL3 form.

39.4.7 Interview Record. FHSAA Investigative Consultant may electronically record an interview unless the interviewee objects in writing.

39.4.7.1 Access to Recordings. An individual being interviewed may also electronically record the interview or may request and obtain, at their expense, a copy of the interview through the FHSAA office.

39.5 Result of an Investigation. If the investigation uncovers no verifiable evidence of a major violation, the case is closed, no further action is taken and such notice will be sent to the member school. If evidence of a major violation is discovered, the case moves to the next phase, and a notice of preliminary findings is sent to the member school.

POLICY 40

CONCUSSIONS

To help ensure the health and safety of student athletes, the following policy provides guidelines and procedures on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion.

40.1 Concussions. A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Concussions can also result from a fall or from collisions between with one or more individuals or with obstacles. As brain injury, concussions are serious.

40.1.1 Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion including, but not limited to, loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

40.1.2 When you suspect that a player has a concussion, follow the "Heads Up" 4-step Action Plan:

- Remove the athlete from play.
- Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.
- Inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them information on concussion.



- Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until an appropriate health-care professional says he or she is symptom-free and gives the okay to return to activity.

The signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion are not always apparent immediately after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and may develop over a few hours. An athlete should be observed following a suspected concussion and should never be left alone.

40.2 Appropriate Health-Care Professional (AHCP). An appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) is an individual who is trained in the diagnosis, evaluation and management of concussions. Such individuals will be a licensed physician (MD, as per Chapter 458, Florida Statutes) or a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per Chapter 459, Florida Statutes). Consistent with the American Academy of Neurology and other organizations, it is strongly recommended that an AHCP as defined in Policy 40.2 above or an athletic trainer (ATC, as per Chapter 468, Florida Statutes) is present at all sporting events, including practices, where athletes are at risk for concussion or for those classified as a collision sport, whenever possible.

40.3 Mechanics for Removal from Athletic Contest. The FHSAA concussion rule calls for the immediate removal of the participant from the contest or practice. Players, coaches and contest officials should be cognizant of athletes who display signs, symptoms or behaviors of a concussion and immediately stop play for injury evaluation within the rules of the game (the responsibility of the contest official is limited to activities that occur on the field, court, mat, etc.).

40.3.1 Symptoms Reported by the Athlete

- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

40.3.2 Signs Observed by Other Individuals

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about what to do
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit
- Can't recall events after hit

40.3.3 Removal. Once the participant has been removed from a contest due to a suspected concussion, the coach, school and AHCP(s) assumes full responsibility for that athlete's further evaluation and safety. If available, a certified athletic trainer (ATC) under the direct supervision of a MD/DO can assist with the sideline evaluation of a student-athlete when a student-athlete is sent out of a competition or practice, but cannot provide written clearance to return to play (refer to above). If after sideline evaluation, it is determined the athlete does not demonstrate symptoms consistent with a concussion the ATC will follow procedures within a written operational protocol created and signed by a supervising physician to determine return to play. In this situation, the athlete should continue to be monitored for any delayed onset of concussion symptoms and must be removed from activity immediately if signs or symptoms return.

40.4 Return to Play (RTP) Criteria – Recommended Concussion Management

40.4.1 No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a suspected concussion. "When in doubt, sit them out!"

40.4.2 Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an ACHP (as defined above) as soon as possible and practical.

40.4.3 Any athlete who has sustained a concussion must be medically cleared by an AHCP (as defined above) prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.



40.4.4 After evaluation and examination by an AHCP (as defined above), return to play must follow a step-wise protocol as defined by the “Graded Return to Play Protocol” form and under the supervision of an AHCP, athletic trainer, coach or other health care professional (Post Head Injury/Concussion Form).

40.4.5 A written medical clearance from an AHCP (as defined above) is required for return to competition (Post Head Injury/Concussion – RTP Form).

40.5 Education on Management of Concussions

40.5.1 Requirement for Coaches. All FHSAA member school head coaches, paid/supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the FREE online education course “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know”. This NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.5.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, parents and media are encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE online education course “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know”. This free NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.5.3 Additional Information. Current and up-to-date information on concussion can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html>; and
- <http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/highschool.html>.

40.6 Concussion Release Form. Each student-athlete and their parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit a release form provided by the association (Form EL3CH – Concussion& Heat Related Illness Information Release Form).

40.7 Sanctions on Coaches

40.7.1 Level 1 Suspension. A head coach who commits a violation of any condition listed in Policy 40 will be ineligible to coach or attend the next contest, at any level, for a minimum of the next two (2) contests during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) football game; or

40.7.2 Level 2 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 1 Suspension due to a violation of any condition listed in Policy 40, or commits multiple violations in Policy 40 will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

40.7.3 Level 3 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 2 Suspension for violating any condition of Policy 40 or commits an egregious violation of Policy 40, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

POLICY 41

HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION

Heat illness is a cause for concern for high school student-athletes beginning pre-season practices in the warm, summer months and other times of extreme heat. The most serious heat illness, exertional heat stroke, is one of the leading causes of preventable death in these athletes. Heat production during intense exercise is 15 to 20 times greater than at rest and can raise body core temperature one to two degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes unless heat is dissipated. The following policy provides guidelines and procedures for conducting preseason practices and activities to insure the well-being of student-athletes.

41.1 Intent. The intent of this policy is to require FHSAA member schools to follow a preseason acclimatization and recovery model for all sports that enhances student-athlete well-being. The policy also requires individual schools, or districts, to select and promote a method of environmental monitoring to be used outside the acclimatization period and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete.

41.1.1 These policies provide general regulations for conducting preseason practices for secondary school-age student athletes and to provide recommendations for voluntary conditioning workouts.

41.1.2 These policies should be applied before and during the academic year to ensure the athletes arrive with and maintain adequate sport-specific conditioning.

41.1.3 Application of these regulations should not be based solely on the information contained here within; but, should represent the minimal safety precautions promoted through the FHSAA. Coaches and Schools are encouraged to review published recommendations through the NFHS or the National Athletic Trainers Association to further protect student-athletes from the harmful effects of the heat.



41.1.4 Individuals using these guidelines are responsible for prudent judgment with respect to each practice, athlete and facility and each athlete is responsible for exercising caution when following these general requirements.

41.2 Rationale. The recommendation of the National Federation of High School Association's (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) and the National Athletic Trainers' Association's (NATA) Secondary School Committee, that all sports use acclimatization and recovery principles to develop their preseason practice schedules for the purpose of enhancing the student athlete well-being, is based on the following: The primary focus of the preseason period should be to provide an adjustment period to the intensity and duration of exercise and environmental conditions. These procedures are based upon medical literature. Careful consideration should be given to the various levels of fitness in the high school student-athlete.

41.3 Definitions.

41.3.1 Voluntary Conditioning. Voluntary conditioning is defined as any conditioning (i.e. running, weight lifting, warm-up, stretching, or cool-down) that occurs outside the season as defined in Policies 20 and 21.

41.3.2 Official Practice. An official practice is defined as one continuous period of time in which a participant engages in physical activity. It is required that each practice be no more than three hours (3 hours) in length and consist of no more than 90 minutes of intense exercise. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are to be included as part of the official practice time. All conditioning and/or weight room activities shall be considered part of the official practice beginning on the first calendar day of official sport season.

41.3.3 Acclimatization Period. The acclimatization period is defined as the first 14 calendar days of a student-athletes' participation, beginning with the first allowable date of practice in that sport or the first day an athlete begins official practice, whichever is later. All student-athletes, including those who arrive to preseason practice after the first official day of practice, must adhere to the safety precautions afforded by this acclimatization policy. This period does not restrict an athletes' availability to participate in a contest but does restrict the amount of total hours an athlete can participate on a daily and weekly basis.

41.3.4 Walk-Through. A walk-through shall be defined as an additional teaching/learning opportunity for student-athletes and coaches with no protective equipment (i.e. helmets, shoulder pads, shin guards) or equipment related to a given sport (i.e. footballs, blocking sleds, pitching machine, soccer balls, etc.). The duration of any walk-through must not exceed one hour in length. A walk-through shall not include conditioning or weight room activities.

41.3.5 Recovery Period. A recovery period is defined as the time between the end of one practice or walk-through and the beginning of the next practice or walk-through. Physical activity is restricted during this time period (i.e. speed, strength, conditioning, or agility drills). Walk-throughs are prohibited during this recovery period.

41.4 Procedures

41.4.1 Prior to participation in any preseason practice activities, all student-athletes are required to undergo a Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (see Bylaw 9.7, Form EL 2) administered as required by state law.

41.4.2 The student and parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit release forms provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate and Form EL3CH – Concussion & Heat Related Illness Information Release Form).

41.4.3 During the first seven days of an athlete's participation, it is required that participants not engage in more than one practice per day.

41.4.4 If a practice session is interrupted by inclement weather or heat restrictions, it is required the session be divided for the good of the student-athlete's welfare as long as the combined total practice time for that session does not exceed three (3) hours. The addition of a walk-through session in this situation is acceptable provided it is added because of a weather related disruption, and occurs inside an air-conditioned facility.

41.4.5 Competition is counted as three (3) hours. An official practice is not permitted on the same day of a competition.

41.4.6 A walk-through is permitted during Days 1 – 6 of the acclimatization period. However, a one-hour recovery period is required between the end of practice and the start of the walk-through or vice-versa.

41.4.7 Football only (including spring): Due to the protective equipment required in football, these additional procedures apply: the first two (2) days of practice are restricted to helmets only, days 3-5 can introduce shoulder-pads with shorts and then beginning day six (6) of practice, full gear can be utilized and body-to-body contact is permitted. Student-athletes who begin practice with a team after the start of official practice will be required to follow this same 6 day procedure. During the initial five (5) days, the use of arm shields, tackling and blocking dummies, sleds and other devices can be used for instructional purposes, however, deliberate body-to-body contact is prohibited.

41.4.8 For football athletes, the first availability for a contest would be after completion of the 6 practice sessions as listed above in 41.4.6.



41.4.9 Beginning Day 8, it is required that the practice schedule not exceed a 2-1-2-1 format. This means that a day consisting of two practices should be followed by a day with only one practice. One walk-through session may be added to a day with a single practice session. If a two practice day were followed by a day off, a two-practice day would be permitted on the next day.

41.4.10 On days when two practices are conducted, it is required that either practice not exceed three (3) hours in length and student-athletes not participate in more than five (5) total hours of practice activities on these days. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are included as part of the official practice time. Practices must be separated with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between the end of the first practice and the beginning of the very next practice. A walk-through is not permitted on days that have two (2) official practices. Weekly practice time shall not exceed twenty-four (24) hours for days 8-14.

41.4.11 On days when a single practice is conducted, it is required that practices not exceed three hours (3 hours) in length. A walk-through is permitted after a minimum one-hour recovery period between the end of the first practice and the walk-through, or vice-versa.

41.4.12 It is recommended that any voluntary conditioning session is limited to three (3) hours maximum per session and these sessions should include the safeguards listed within 41.5 below.

41.4.13 Cross Country: Individuals must participate in a minimum of 10 practice sessions on 10 separate days prior to the first contest.

41.5 Hydration and Rest. Once the 14 day acclimatization period expires or within ANY voluntary conditioning session, each individual school, or district, must select and promote a method of monitoring the environment for heat related concerns and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete. Schools must continue to adhere to the above hydration/rest policies as well as the time limits and sequencing imposed on practice (2-1-2).

- Rest time should involve both unlimited hydration intake and rest without any activity involved.
- For sports utilizing helmets (i.e. football, lacrosse, baseball, softball and others) helmets should be removed during rest time.
- For every 30 minutes of practice, there must be at least a minimum 5 minute rest and hydration break.
- The area identified for rest should be considered a “cooling zone” and out of direct sunlight. This area can include ice sponges, cold immersion tubs and other cooling alternatives to facilitate the cooling process.
- Coaches should promote a heat injury prevention philosophy by promoting unrestricted access to water at all times without consequence.
- A student-athlete should never be denied access to water if he/she requests.

41.5.1 Suggested methods of monitoring the environment include:

1. Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT)
2. Heat Index
3. Digital meters or Psychrometers

41.6 Sanctions on Coaches

41.6.1 Level 1 Suspension. A head coach who commits a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any contest, at any level, for a minimum of the next two (2) contests during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) football game; or

41.6.2 Level 2 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 1 Suspension due to a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41, or commits multiple violations in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

41.6.3 Level 3 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 2 Suspension for violating any condition of Policy 41 or commits an egregious violation of Policy 41, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

POLICY 42

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of sports-related death. This policy provides procedures for educational requirements of all paid coaches and recommends added training.

42.1 Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA can cause death if it's not treated within minutes.



42.1.1 Symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest include:

42.1.1.1 Sudden Collapse

42.1.1.2 No Pulse

42.1.1.3 No breathing

42.1.2 Warning Signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest include

42.1.2.1 Fainting during exercise or activity

42.1.2.2 Shortness of breath

42.1.2.3 Racing heart rate

42.1.2.4 Dizziness

42.1.2.5 Chest pains

42.1.2.6 Extreme fatigue

42.1.3 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It is strongly recommended all coaches, whether paid or volunteer, are regularly trained in CPR and the use of an AED. Training is encouraged through agencies that provide hands-on training and offer certificates that include an expiration date.

42.1.3.1 Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are required at all FHSAA State Series games, tournaments and meets. The FHSAA also strongly recommends that they be available at all preseason and regular season events as well along with coaches/individuals trained in CPR.

42.1.4 What to do if your student-athlete collapses

42.1.4.1 Call 911

42.1.4.2 Send for an AED

42.1.4.3 Begin compressions

42.1.4.4 Use AED when it becomes accessible

42.1.5 Education of management of Sudden Cardiac Arrest

42.1.5.1 Requirement for coaches: All FHSAA member school head coaches and paid/supplemented coaches are required to annually view the FREE online education course “Cardiacwise 2.0”. This Sport Safety International (SSI) course may be viewed online at www.sportsafetyinternational.org.

42.1.5.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, student-athletes, parents and media are strongly encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE online education course “Cardiacwise 2.0”. This Sport Safety International (SSI) course may be viewed online at www.sportsafetyinternational.org.

POLICY 43

LICENSING AND ROYALTIES

43.1 Rights to FHSAA Properties

The FHSAA owns or controls all rights and interests in its name, logos, trademarks and service marks, whether registered or unregistered, including “Florida High School Athletic Association,” “Florida High School Activities Association,” “FHSAA,” “FHSAA Finals,” “FHSAA Florida Finals,” “Florida Finals,” “FHSAA Championships,” “FHSAA State Series,” “Florida High School State Championship Series,” “Sport the ‘Tude!,” and “Play Strong. Play Hard. Play Fair.” The FHSAA will prosecute infringement of identical or confusingly similar marks. The FHSAA shall maintain control over the nature and quality of the goods and services rendered under the marks; therefore, no use of the marks by others will be permitted in advertising, in association with commercial services or related to the sale of merchandise without the specific approval of the FHSAA.

43.2 Registration

The name, emblem and logos of the FHSAA are registered service marks under the laws of the State of Florida and will be protected from unlawful use for the benefit of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). By virtue of its membership in this Association, each school will be an authorized agent of the FHSAA with respect to use of any or all service marks subject to the terms and conditions of this “Licensing and Royalty Policy.”



43.3 Licensing

43.3.1 Member schools are encouraged and licensed to use the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos and service marks on programs and event merchandise in connection with sanctioned interscholastic events only, as set forth herein. A royalty will be due or owed to the FHSAA for any use of the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos, trademarks and service marks for any item sold or distributed by a member school or outside vendor at or in connection with any such activity during the regular sports season when any official marks or logos are used. Required use during Florida High School State Championship Series events is set forth separately in this policy.

43.3.2 Member schools may not authorize any other individual or entity to use any FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logo or service mark without the prior writ-ten approval of the FHSAA.

43.3.3 Member schools may contract only with those outside vendors who are licensed by the FHSAA to produce event merchandise on which the FHSAA name, emblem and/or logos are displayed. It will be the responsibility of the member schools to refer outside vendors wishing to become licensed to the FHSAA. The FHSAA will prepare and distribute to member schools a listing of such licensed vendors, on a regular basis. The annual licensing fee shall be determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

43.3.4 Any use of the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos or service marks not otherwise specifically stated in this policy, will obligate either the member school or outside vendor doing business with the member school, to remit to the FHSAA, a royalty fee determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

43.3.5 Any other use of the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos or service marks, such as on team patches, shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jackets, towels, artifacts or otherwise, requires the prior written approval of the FHSAA, on terms specified by the FHSAA at its discretion.

43.3.6 Print, radio and television media may use the FHSAA name, emblem and logos as part of their coverage of FHSAA events and/or in any publication, slide, videotape, brochure, pamphlet, advertisement, commercial, etc., relating to coverage of the FHSAA. Permission from the FHSAA is not required and the terms of this "Licensing and Royalty Policy" do not apply. However, the use of any of the official marks in/on any merchandise created and/or distributed in connection with coverage of and/or sale of promotional use is subject to this "Licensing and Royalty Policy."

43.3.7 The enforcement of this policy will be the responsibility of each member school in conjunction with the FHSAA. The collection of the revenue required pursuant to this policy will be the responsibility of the FHSAA via the member school or outside vendor, depending upon who is responsible for arranging for the actual production or distribution of any merchandise for the event.

43.3.8 A member school which contracts with an outside vendor not licensed by the FHSAA to produce merchandise and otherwise in which the FHSAA official marks are displayed, for sale or distribution, at regular season events, will be in violation of this policy and will be assessed a minimum monetary penalty of \$250 plus additional monetary damages for lost royalties, to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

43.4 Florida High School State Championship Series Events

43.4.1 The Florida High School State Championship Series Logo must be conspicuously displayed on all t-shirts, other merchandise, and/or printed materials or otherwise produced and/or distributed in connection with any Florida High School State Championship Series event. Florida High School State Championship Series events include, but are not limited to, all contests, games, meets or other events conducted by or under the auspices of the FHSAA on the district, regional and FHSAA State Championship levels. Merchandise includes, but not limited to, caps, hats, golf shirts, rugby shirts, sweat shirts, muscle shirts, key chains, car tags, bumper stickers, pennants, banners, cups, mugs, posters and similar items. Printed materials are considered to include, but not limited to, programs, heat sheets, bracket sheets, scorecards, placards, promotional posters, flyers, advertisements, billboards and similar items.

43.4.2 The FHSAA will enter into an agreement with one (1) or more vendor(s) to exclusively produce the official merchandise, including t-shirts, for all Florida High School State Championship Series events on the district, regional and state levels. The exclusive vendor(s) of Florida High School State Championship Series event merchandise shall be subject to the Terms and Conditions of the contract between the FHSAA and the vendor. A member school or organization that serves as host for any Florida High School State Championship Series event and wishes to sell souvenir merchandise specific to that event, shall be required to purchase such souvenir merchandise from the exclusive vendor(s). Should the exclusive vendor(s) of the FHSAA elect to come to the site of any Florida High School State Championship Series event and sell such souvenir merchandise directly to the participants and general public at the event, the host school/organization for the event shall be required to grant to the exclusive vendor(s) ingress to and egress from the facility in which the event is to be conducted, as well as space in the facility in which to set up a booth(s) from which to sell the souvenir merchandise. The FHSAA will retain complete control over the design of merchandise to be produced for sale at Florida High School State Championship Series events. In either case, the minimum royalty fee to be paid to the FHSAA is at the discretion of the Executive Director.



43.4.3 No individual(s), including those affiliated with a participating member school, shall bring onto the property of a facility at which a Florida High School State Championship Series event is being conducted, any items (including, but not limited to, t-shirts, caps, posters, bumper stickers, etc.) to be sold or otherwise distributed on the property to student-athletes, coaches or spectators, without the written approval of the FHSAA. An individual(s) found in violation of this provision shall surrender the items for confiscation, shall be expelled from the property and may be subject to legal action. A member school found in violation of this provision shall be assessed a minimum monetary penalty of \$250 and additional monetary damages for lost royalties to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

POLICY 44

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES EVENTS

The FHSAA does not issue credentials to Florida High School State Championship Series contests below the state championship level. Authorized working personnel employed by an outlet which has been approved to broadcast a Florida High School State Championship Series contest must be admitted to the facility without charge upon presentation of proper identification and FHSAA approved media rights.

44.1 Making a Request. Requests for media credentials for each Florida High School State Championship Series state championship event must be made online via the FHSAA media site (<http://www.fhsaa.org/departments/media>) by the deadline established for the event. The online form must be completed in its entirety, submitted by the requestor and approved by the FHSAA for admittance to Florida High School State Championships events, in all sports except, tennis and golf. It is the responsibility of the individual to confirm that his or her request has been received and approved by the FHSAA. Requests may only be made by an editor/manager of a news outlet or publication, or an owner/operator of an Internet site.

44.2 Student-based Media. Credentials to a Florida High School State Championship Series event will be issued, on a space-available basis only, to student-based media of member schools participating in the event [limit of one (1)]. This request must be made by the school's athletic director using the online system;

44.2.1 If a school is unable to secure a credential for a student, an adult staff member of the school or an adult at an outside company who has been hired by the school and had a background check performed, may be issued a credential. This request must be made by the school's athletic director using the online system [limit of one (1)].



POLICY 45**MONETARY PENALTIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES****45.1 Monetary Penalty Schedule**

The following monetary penalties are generally assessed member schools for the most common rules violations. This schedule is not all inclusive and does require the Executive Director to determine monetary penalties for violations not specifically covered herein. In all cases, these amounts are minimums and may be increased relative to the severity of the violation. The following chart is for reference only, when a conflict in language occurs the policies or administrative procedures will take precedence.

#	Minimum Description of Violation and Reference	Amount
45.1.1	General failure to comply with FHSAA Policies or Administrative Procedures (Policies and Administrative Procedures Preambles).....	\$100.00
45.1.2	Permitting a student-athlete to compete in an interscholastic contest prior to his/her name being submitted to the FHSAA on a sport eligibility roster (Policy 4.1.1.1(a)).....	\$50.00
45.1.3	Failure to contract with sanctioned local officials associations for registered officials at all interscholastic home contests (Policy 4.1.1.1(b)).....	\$100.00
45.1.4	Actions which may not be regarded as unsportsmanlike which result in a contest being prematurely concluded (Policy 4.1.1.1(c)).....	\$100.00
45.1.5	Exceeding the number of contests allowed in a tournament or withdrawing from a tournament to avoid exceeding number of contests allowed (Policy 4.1.5.4)	\$250.00
45.1.6	Failure to attend a required Compliance Seminar (Policy 5.1.10)	\$250.00
45.1.7	Violation of the Sanctioning Policy (Policy 7.7)	\$100.00
45.1.8	Failure of a team or student-athlete who has qualified to advance in the Florida High School State Championship Series to participate at the next level (Policy 10.7.1 and 10.7.2)	\$250.00/\$50.00
45.1.9	Permitting a student-athlete to compete in a Florida High School State Championship Series contest who was not submitted to the FHSAA Office on the Official State Entry List (SEL) for that sport (Policy 11.1)	\$50.00
45.1.10	Failure of school to have representative participate in the District Tournament/Meet Planning Meeting (Policy 13.2.2.2)	\$100.00
45.1.11	Improper use of a Florida High School State Championship Series Pass (Policy 15.1.4.9)	\$100.00
45.1.12	Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL2 form (Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form, see Bylaw 9.7), per student (Policy 16.9.1).....	\$500.00
45.1.13	Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL3 form (Consent and Release from Liability Certificate, see Bylaw 9.8), per student (Policy 16.9.2)	\$500.00
45.1.14	Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed and approved EL4 form (Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Student, see Policy 17), per student (Policy 16.9.3)	\$100.00
45.1.15	Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without registering a Non-Traditional Student (see Policy 16.7), per student (Policy 16.9.4).....	\$100.00
45.1.16	Use of an ineligible student when not self-reported, per contest (Policy 16.9.5).....	\$2,500.00
45.1.17	Use of an ineligible student when self-reported, per contest (Policy 16.9.6).....	\$100.00
45.1.18	Conduct of an illegal practice session or illegal practice contest (Policy 6.1.1.3 and 18.1.4)	\$250.00
45.1.19	Conduct of an illegal scrimmage (Policy 18.4.4)	\$250.00
45.1.20	Violation of the Off-Season Conditioning Policy, per violation (Policy 21.7.1).....	\$2,500.00
45.1.21	Violation of the Non-School Teams and Off-Season Participation Policy, per violation (Policy 22.5.1)	\$2,500.00
45.1.22	Violation of the Open Facilities Policy, per violation (Policy 23.2.1).....	\$2,500.00
45.1.23	Violation of the Coaching School, Camps, Clinics, Workshops by Member Schools Policy, per violation (Policy 24.2.1)	\$2,500.00
45.1.24	Violation of the participation by student-athletes and teams in Coaching School, Camps, Clinics, Workshops Policy, per violation (Policy 25.3.1)	\$2,500.00



45.1.25	Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement to each affected school and the FHSAA (Policy 25.3.3).....	\$500.00
45.1.26	Storming the playing field, court, or pool by spectators and students at the conclusion of an athletic contest, indoor events (Policy 30.1.1.1).....	\$250.00
45.1.27	Storming the playing field, court, or pool by spectators and students at the conclusion of an athletic contest, outdoor events (Policy 30.1.1.1).....	\$500.00
45.1.28	Removal by a coach or school personnel of a team or individual from an athletic contest prior to its normal conclusion (Policy 30.1.1.2).....	\$250.00
45.1.29	Vandalism by a team, student -athlete, or school personnel (Policy 30.1.1.3)	\$250.00
45.1.30	Suspension of a student-athlete for unsportsmanlike conduct, beginning with fourth incident during a sports season, per suspension (Policy 30.2.2.1)	\$100.00
45.1.31	Suspension of a student-athlete at the Level 2 Suspension level for unsportsmanlike conduct, beginning with second incident during a school year, per occurrence (Policy 30.2.2.2)	\$250.00
45.1.32	Participation by one or more student-athletes in an altercation by leaving the bench in and entering the court or playing field (i.e., bench-emptying) or by leaving their designated position on the court or playing field, per student (Policy 30.2.2.3).....	\$100.00
45.1.33	Suspension of a coach for unsportsmanlike conduct (Policy 30.3.2.1).....	\$100.00
45.1.34	Use or profanity or other such gutter language or gestures by a coach, per occurrence (Policy 30.3.2.1)	\$150.00
45.1.35	Coach continuing to give instruction to his/her student-athletes or other members of the coaching staff after having been ejected from a contest (Policy 30.3.2.1).....	\$100.00
45.1.36	Pursuit of officials with intent following a contest by a coach or other school personnel (Policy 30.3.2.1)	\$150.00
45.1.37	Refusal of an ejected coach to leave the court, playing field or team area (Policy 30.3.2.1).....	\$100.00
45.1.38	Physical contact by a coach or other school personnel with an official (Policy 30.3.2.1)	\$250.00
45.1.39	Premature termination of a contest by an official due to unsportsmanlike conduct by student-athletes, coaches, other school personnel spectators in attendance (Policy 30.3.2.1).....	\$250.00
45.1.40	Statements of criticism or other derogatory remarks concerning officials which are made by coaches or other school personnel and appear in the news media (Policy 30.4).....	\$50.00
45.1.41	Use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products (Policy 31.1).....	\$100.00
45.1.42	Violation of the photographing, filming and videotaping policy during the Florida High School State Championships (Policy 34.3.1).....	\$100.00
45.1.43	Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a submitted GA4 form (Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting), per student (Policy 36.4.2).....	\$100.00
45.1.44	Violation of the Policy on “Athletic Recruiting” which results in the successful recruitment of a student-athlete (Policy 36.5.3.2)	\$2,500.00
45.1.45	Violation of the Policy on “Improper Contact and Impermissible Benefits” (Policy 37.5.12)	\$2500.00
45.1.46	Violation of the Policy on “Financial Assistance” (Policy 37.5.12).....	\$2500.00
45.1.47	Violation of the Licensing Policy during the regular season (Policy 43.3.8).....	20% of the gross retail sales
45.1.48	Violation of the Licensing Policy during the Florida High School State Championship Series (Policy 43.4.3)	\$250.00 plus damages
45.1.49	Unauthorized broadcast of a Florida High School State Championship Series event (Administrative Procedure 3.12.9).....	\$50.00 per broadcast plus rights fees
45.1.50	Failure to submit team photo and data for publication in Florida High School State Championship Series official souvenir program by deadline (Administrative Procedure 3.4.1).....	\$50.00
45.1.51	Failure to submit team photo and data for publication in Florida High School State Championship Series official souvenir program by deadline if team advances to Florida High School State Championship Series (\$100 photo, \$100 any item of information such as roster, schedule, statistics, etc.)(Administrative Procedure 3.4.1)	up to \$300
45.1.52	Failure to submit up-to-date stats for publication in Florida High School State Championship Series media materials by deadline (Administrative Procedure 3.4.2).....	\$100.00
45.1.53	Violation of the “Exchange of Game Films” Administrative Procedure during the football Florida High School State Championships (Administrative Procedure 4.7.3.5.2).....	\$250.00

**P
45****MONETARY PENALTIES AND
ADMINISTRATIVE FEES**

45.2 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE SCHEDULE

The following administrative fees are generally assessed member schools for failure to file necessary forms or other paperwork by the appropriate deadline, or for other administrative services. This schedule is not all inclusive and does require the Executive Director to determine administrative fees for services not specifically covered herein. In all cases, these amounts are minimums and may be increased relative to the level of service. The following chart is for reference only, when a conflict in language occurs the policies or administrative procedures will take precedence.

#	Minimum Description of Violation and Reference	Amount
45.2.1	Late filing of an Application for Sanction less than 30 days prior to the event (Policy 7.2.1.1).....	\$50.00
45.2.2	Late filing of an Application for Sanction less than 10 days prior to the event (Policy 7.2.1.2).....	\$100.00
45.2.3	Late filing of an Application for Sanction after first date of event (Policy 7.2.1.3)	\$200.00
45.2.4	Application fee for first time membership (Policy 9.2.2.1).....	\$60.00 (MS) \$150.00 (HS)
45.2.5	Re-admission of former members school (Policy 9.2.3)	\$75.00 (MS) \$250.00 (HS)
45.2.6	Reactivation fee for suspended member school (Policy 9.2.3)	\$50.00 (MS) \$125.00 (HS)
45.2.7	Administrative fee for jamborees and classics in sanctioned team sports (except football and girls volleyball) (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$100.00 (additional \$50.00 per team over 4)
45.2.8	Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 4 teams or less (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$35.00
45.2.9	Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 5 - 8 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$90.00
45.2.10	Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 9 - 16 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$175.00
45.2.11	Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 17 - 20 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$265.00
45.2.12	Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 21 - 24 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$350.00
45.2.13	Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 25 - 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$525.00
45.2.14	Administrative fee for jamborees and/or classics in girls volleyball and wrestling (Policy 9.5.1.2)	\$75.00 (additional \$50.00 per team over 4)
45.2.15	Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, 8 teams or less (Policy 9.5.1.2).....	\$35.00
45.2.16	Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, 9 - 16 (Policy 9.5.1.2).....	\$50.00
45.2.17	Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, 17 - 32 (Policy 9.5.1.2).....	\$90.00
45.2.18	Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, more than 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.2).....	\$90.00 + \$20.00 per school over 32
45.2.19	Administrative fee for jamborees and/or classics in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming & diving and track & field (Policy 9.5.1.3)	\$50.00 (additional \$50.00 per team over 4)
45.2.20	Administrative fee for tournaments in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming & diving and track & field, 5 - 16 teams (Policy 9.5.1.3).....	\$20.00
45.2.21	Administrative fee for tournaments in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming & diving and track & field, 7 - 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.3).....	\$35.00
45.2.22	Administrative fee for tournaments in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming & diving and track & field, more than 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.3)	\$90.00
45.2.23	Administrative fee for Spring Football Jamborees (Policy 9.5.1.1)	\$150.00
45.2.24	Administrative fee for Preseason Football Jamborees (Policy 9.5.1.1).....	\$450.00
45.2.25	Late filing of financial report for classics, 30-60 days late (Policy 9.9.2).....	\$50.00
45.2.26	Late filing of financial report for classics, 60-90 days late (Policy 9.9.2).....	\$75.00
45.2.27	Late filing of financial report for classics, more than 90 days (Policy 9.9.2).....	\$100.00
45.2.28	Late filing fee for cancelled sanctioned classic without notification to FHSAA (Policy 9.9.2)	\$50.00
45.2.29	Late filing of financial report for tournaments or meets, 30-60 days late (Policy 9.9.3).....	\$50.00
45.2.30	Late filing of financial report for tournaments or meets, 60-90 days late (Policy 9.9.3).....	\$75.00



45.2.31	Late filing of financial report for tournaments or meets, more than 90 days (Policy 9.9.3).....	\$100.00
45.2.32	Late filing of financial report for football postseason games, 30-60 days late (Policy 9.9.4)	\$50.00
45.2.33	Late filing of financial report for football postseason games, 60-90 days late (Policy 9.9.4)	\$75.00
45.2.34	Late filing of financial report for football postseason games, more than 90 days (Policy 9.9.4)	\$100.00
45.2.35	Late filing of financial report for football Florida High School State Championship Series contests, 30-60 days late (Policy 9.10.1)	\$50.00
45.2.36	Late filing of financial report for football Florida High School State Championship Series contests, 60-90 days late (Policy 9.10.1)	\$75.00
45.2.37	Late filing of financial report for football Florida High School State Championship Series contests, more than 90 days (Policy 9.10.1)	\$100.00
45.2.38	Late filing of financial report for Florida High School State Championship Series sanctioned team sport contests, 30-60 days late (Policy 9.10.2)	\$50.00
45.2.39	Late filing of financial report for Florida High School State Championship Series sanctioned team sport contests, 60-90 days late (Policy 9.10.2)	\$75.00
45.2.40	Late filing of financial report for Florida High School State Championship Series sanctioned team sport contests, more than 90 days late (Policy 9.10.2)	\$100.00
45.2.41	Late filing fee for cancellation of sanctioned event without notification to FHSAA (Policy 9.12.4)	\$50.00
45.2.42	Withdrawal from Florida High School State Championship Series Commitment in Team Sports by deadline for filing of SEL (Policy 10.5.3).....	\$250.00
45.2.43	Withdrawal from Florida High School State Championship Series Commitment in a Team Sports after deadline for filing of SEL (includes \$250 monetary penalty) (Policy 10.5.3).....	\$500.00
45.2.44	Filing a request to participate in Florida High School State Championship Series in a team sport after specified deadline (Policy 10.5.4)	\$100.00
45.2.45	Withdrawal for Florida High School State Championship Series Intent in an Individual Sport after the 5th week of competition (Policy 10.6.3)	\$250.00
45.2.46	Filing a request to participate in Florida High School State Championship Series in an individual sport after specified deadline (Policy 10.6.4)	\$100.00
45.2.47	Filing an SEL after the deadline (Policy 11.4).....	\$50.00
45.2.48	Filing an SEL later than the Friday prior to week of district competition (Policy 11.4)	\$100.00
45.2.49	Filing an SEL after the first contest (Policy 11.4).....	\$250.00
45.2.50	Addition or changes to an SEL after the filing deadline (Policy 11.5.5)	\$50.00
45.2.51	Late submittal of the Member School Athletic Personnel List/FHSAA Identification Card Order Form by the deadline on form (Administrative Procedure 2.13.1)	\$50.00
45.2.52	Submitting schedule after the deadline (Administrative Procedure 2.7.3)	\$50.00
45.2.53	Failure to submit an initial roster by the deadline (Administrative Procedure 2.8.2)	\$100.00
45.2.54	Failure to report results (Administrative Procedure 2.9.3)	\$50.00
45.2.55	Failure to report the results of a Florida High School State Championship Series event (Administrative Procedure 3.6)	\$50.00
45.2.56	Failure to report the results arrangements for the next level Florida High School State Championship Series event (Administrative Procedure 3.6)	\$50.00
45.2.57	Failure to submit Adapted Track and Field Athlete Declaration Form by deadline (Administrative Procedure 4.14.1.2.2 (g))	\$250.00

Please Note: Beginning with the 2015-16 FHSAA Handbook, the Administrative Procedures section will not be printed in the handbook. The Administrative Procedures section will now only be available on the FHSAA website.

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45MONETARY PENALTIES AND
ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

The Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building is located in west Gainesville at 1801 NW 80th Blvd, which runs parallel to the west side of Interstate 75. Take exit 387, SR 26 (Newberry Rd), west to Fort Clarke Blvd, turn right. Proceed north approximately 1/2 mile to NW 15th Pl, turn right. Follow NW 15 Pl 1/4 mile where it will curve sharply left and become NW 80th Blvd. It will dead end into the entrance to the FHSAA drive.

The Robert W. Hughes FHSA Building is located in west Gainesville at 1801 NW 80th Blvd, which runs parallel to the west side of Interstate 75. Take exit 387, SR 26 (Newberry Rd), west to Fort Clarke Blvd, turn right. Proceed north approximately 1/2 mile to NW 15th Pl, turn right. Follow NW 15 Pl 1/4 mile where it will curve sharply left and become NW 80th Blvd. Continue on NW 80th Blvd. It will dead end into the entrance to the FHSA drive.