

Athletic Committee
December 21, 2022 4:30 PM
Central Services Board Room

1. Call to Order - Mr. Robert Safdie
2. Moment of Silence/Pledge - Mr. Robert Safdie
3. Approval of Committee Minutes
4. Nomination and Election of Committee Chair
5. TMSAA
6. Other Discussion
7. Adjournment

**Athletic Committee Meeting January 5, 2022
Central Services Board Room**

PRESENT:

Mr. Tony Brock, 5th District
Mr. Robert Safdie, 2nd District
Dr. Ina Maxwell, Director of Schools
Ms. Anita Hale, 4th District
Kacee Harris, CFO
Brian Parker
Pat Teeples
Scott Maddox: CTE Director/High School Supervisor
Stephanie Barnes, CAO

ABSENT:

1. Call to Order 1:00 p.m.– Mr. Tony Brock

2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance – Mr. Tony Brock

3. Approval of Committee Minutes

Safdie made a motion to approve minutes with Hale with a second and accept as presented.

VOICE VOTE: Safdie (mover-yes) Hale (seconder-yes)

All Ayes

MOTION: Carried Unanimously

4. Coaching Supplements

Mr. Brock noted that this was the only agenda item and stated it had been percolating for some time now through a lot of conversations.

Brock: This is an idea that has been out there for some time and it is to consider an increase in coaching supplements. Unless someone has information contrary, it's been 25 years or something like that since this was addressed. One thing I'd like to point out, is when we hear coaching supplements, so many people will think football, basketball and maybe baseball. And it ends there. It goes far beyond that. We're also talking about a lot of positions that may be some extra-curricular, but they certainly fit in the curriculum. It's more than just your traditional sporting. I will throw this out there and give credit where credit it due. A large part of what we have present is thanks to the hard work and excellent presentation by coach Brian Parker. Well done, again. It should inform you of what is and what has been and maybe some ideas of what could be. Open to any suggestions. Just to get the ball rolling, Brian did come up with a couple of ideas. Brian, I assume you've consulted with other schools, other coaches, other sports in

order to come up with these ideas? But if we could, let's take a quick look at 2 proposals. And then we'll go from there.

Hale: Question before we get started. Is this information, is this where we are on now? This is the one where it just says all the supplements, is this how we go now?

Parker: No this is what it would be if the proposal were accepted.

Hale: Oh, ok. Thank you.

Parker: That would be the pay-scale if the proposal were accepted. Right now, it's simply this column and that's it.

Brock: The great thing about this, to me, is all the supplemented positions is listed somewhere and you can see what's current and what would be the new amounts under the different proposals. As far as BOE, my opinion, we're looking at total impact to the budget. And what we would then consider recommending to the full board, budget committee and where this would have to see through. Could we start with what is page one on mine? It is CCBOE Athletic Committee, Dean Patton, Brian Parker. There you will find 2 proposals. Please coaches and Brian, you stop me if I misstate something or I'm not clear. Essentially there are 2 proposals on the table right now. One of those would be to give a step-raise, generally speaking, longevity, to coaches bases on their experience coaching in Cumberland County. The second proposal is the same, except it would base the same step-raises based on total coaching experience wherever that coaching experience took place. Assuming that the coaching experience checks out.

Parker: That would be effort to pull in coaches.

Brock: It is a recruitment tool. Right now, recruiting a teacher is an issue. Much less adding coaching duties. Using Brian's number, the impact boils down to the difference between 30 something and 50 something...

Parker: 32,800 versus 51,800. In the first year.

Brock: So, a little less than double.

Safdie. I really think we should focus on proposal 1. I'm not sure that they're recruiting....let me you a question Dr. Maxwell, are we recruiting other teachers by offering them an incentive to come to Cumberland County?

Maxwell: So, with our differentiated pay plan, we aren't, are we? No, there's no incentive.

Safdie: By virtue of that, I cannot support...let's just say that I will argue with, for and against it, but a determinate for me would be what are we also offering as incentive for other teachers. I would first like to discuss proposal 1. I notice that it says...Kacee, have you looked at these proposals? Seriously?

Harris: I think it's similar, very similar structure to ones I've looked at in the past. I've not looked at this one in depth.

Safdie: I'm certainly would approve discussing this fully, but after we discuss this, I would want to turn all these numbers over to Kacee and do an in-depth analysis of whether these numbers are accurate or not. Because I don't what we're dealing with here, I don't have the actual spreadsheet, I don't know what the multiples were, and I certainly wasn't going to hand enter this into the spreadsheet and do the calculations myself. I doubt very well, I could do the calculations, thank you, your presentation....

Parker: I can tell you what the numbers are.

Safdie: That's fine, I'm just saying as our roll as the board we have to be fiscally responsible. You've done an outstanding job here, ok, I've never seen it laid out so...my comments are not a reflection on you.

Brock: Just glancing at that, and I won't hold you to it, with the impact number of \$32,800, be close to what you might think that it would be? By close, I mean within 5-10%?

Harris: Yeah, I think lots of time and work have gone into this, so I would think so. You would also be wanting to add like the payroll taxes, so add 18% to that number just to take care of the social security and the retirement we'd have to pull out for full time certified people that are on here.

Safdie: Are these supplements, are they long term supplements, are they cumulative-do they add to the base salary of the teacher?

Harris: They are all a little bit different. Head coaches typically, our head football, and head basketball, head football...

Parker: It's their choice though, they can either have it in every check, or they can do a lump sum at Christmas or end of school year, if that's what you're asking.

?: Are you asking about the 11 months, if they get paid for the extra month?

Harris: Yes.

?: Basketball and Football.

Harris: Basketball and Football. So, the others can choose if they want when their sport is complete, if it's a Fall sport, they can get a lump sum or if it's a Spring sport or all year sport, they can get a May lump sum. Or you can opt to divide.

Safdie: So, the Governor and the state legislature says we're going to have a 4% raise for all teachers, but 4 % raise. Does that 4 % raise apply to the supplement itself?

Brock: No

Harris: This would be separate, totally separate from the teachers...

Safdie: So, the one-time bonus they are receiving is not eligible for the Governors and the legislatures raises that they provide us.

Brock: It's a small compensation and hours and days...

Safdie: Absolutely

Parker: I will say on the totals there, like on that \$32,824, if you had a chance to look at the other spreadsheets, there's a decent number of county wide supplements that the person didn't respond, so if they didn't respond, I put it in as all those people had 5 years' experience so they got that 5 year raise. Now we know that's not the case, more than likely the number will be smaller. This also assumes that none of those people that have the larger supplements, the larger number of years, it assumes (inaudible). And so, it also assumes that every supplement was actually taken, but that's not the case either cause some of the supplements are not actually used. So, this ultimately would be the maximum number, the 32,800. More than likely, it's smaller than that.

Harris: So, kind of worse-case scenario.

Brock: And even throwing the taxes in, we're talking 36,000, I mean 38,000.

Parker: The taxes would probably offset that.

Brock: Within my 10%.

Harris: Yeah, I think the ballpark is there for sure. Especially if this is worst case. Most expensive case.

Brock: Are we in agreement, can we look at whether we agree that we should make every effort to give, to recommend an increase in a coaching supplement committee?

Maxwell: Absolutely.

Safdie: Inaudible

Brock: We need that out of the way to proceed.

Safdie: So now it's a question...

Hale: How much we can give.

Safdie: Our accountant, our CFO.

Hale: I'm sure you've been a coach in the past, I've been a coach in the past. Never the longevity of these, but there's a lot of work that goes in to coaching, even if you're just on the yearbook committee. I took that \$500.00 and split between 3 people.

Brock: That's a 10/11 month job, at the high school it's a 12 month job.

Safdie: I'm looking at just that point that you made, but I'm not sure it's our job at this point to say, look, that dance teacher is only getting \$800 and I think she should be getting \$1200. I don't think that's within the role of we're playing right now. The color guard teacher gets 500 and I think it should be 700. That's not what...

Hale: No, and I understand that.

Parker: That's not what the proposal is for. If anybody that comes in here is a first year coach, would still get the pay that everybody currently gets and got 25 years....this is basically rewarding longevity.

Safdie: I like that.

Parker: And as far as proposal 2 goes, if you ask any principal, and Mr. Maddox can probably attest to this as well, I'm sure he's lost teacher/coaches that saw something like I can go here and get a better supplement, and it doesn't really matter where I teach, but I can get a better supplement. And I know we've lost potential teacher/coaches because of that. They may get 4 or 5000 here at this place and they see it's 3400 in Cumberland County and no chance of increases and that can drive people away. I don't want you to dismiss proposal 2 because of that, because you are losing teachers because they coach also, and they can't come here and get even the same amount.

Brock: I can tell you off the top of my head, absolutely I think retaining coaches....and I assume if you coached 5 years, 10 years, 15 years you must be doing something right.

Hale: And you must enjoy, because it's a lot of work.

Brock: You are talking generational loans there. These people are really doing it out of the goodness of their hearts. It's almost like teaching school. It's a calling, not something one does for money. I don't think Saban is going to leave Alabama for Cumberland County High School, but...

Safdie: It would be a good opportunity for him. He could coach both schools.

Brock: Those rules are flexible.

Parker: I think it's worth nothing, these proposals are not asking you to keep with any other counties or anything like that. It's asking you to almost keep up with inflation. From my little bit of research, it would take 11.5% instead of the 10% to keep up with inflation. I'm just asking all of us to keep up with inflation.

Safdie: That's a very fair request.

Brock: Ok, I absolutely believe that we should...assuming these numbers are within reason, I will go with my 10%, that we pass, at least proposal 1, on to the Budget Committee and have Kacee review and give some official estimates.

Safdie: Do we want her to do the analysis before we send it to the Budget Committee or do we want that recommendation that we send it to the Budget Committee and have it on hand?

Brock: I think if it's, I'll go ahead and say within 10% because if it's not, there's a problem. But within 10%, even with the 18%, let's say \$38,000 impact, if it's within 10% of that, that it be passed on to the full Budget Committee for full consideration.

Safdie: What you're saying is, if it's within 10%, but how do we know if it's within 10%? If we don't have Kacee do the analysis.

Brock: After Kacee has done the analysis.

Safdie: Oh, ok, gotcha.

Brock: And if it's not then Kacee you would contact me or this committee and say the numbers don't jive and at that point we reconvene and reconsider.

Safdie: So, the proposal is to send it to, hand it over to the CFO to do the analysis and if the analysis is more than 10% of these numbers here, then it automatically will be passed on to the Budget Committee?

Brock: Correct. Before this consideration is seconded, there's always proposal 2, if you want to go there. It won't hurt my feelings.

Safdie: I'm going to second and then we can have a discussion.

Brock: Ok.

Safdie: So, I second.

Brock: We have a motion and a second, all in favor please say aye.

Safdie: I stand fast with, I would like to know that we are recruiting adequate teachers, whether they are coaches, whether they are Math teachers, English teachers or Language teachers and I'm not sure where there's the golden need in this case. It makes sense to me that if these coaches have not received cost of living raises on their supplements for 25 years, that has to be corrected.

Hale: I agree

Safdie: I'm not so sure, until we get a broader plan of incentives, a broader plan to provide incentives for teachers across the board in speciality areas, that we need to vote on the second proposal now.

Hale: I agree with that.

Teeples: Can I say something? We're paying teachers...if we have a Math teacher that comes here from another county and they've been a 20-year Math Teacher, they are paid on that experience. Why wouldn't the coaches be the same? That's my perspective.

Safdie: Thank you for contributing that, that's important.

Parker: If I've been coaching in another county for 20 years, depending on the county where I might be getting a percentage raise, or I might just be paid more in general, which is the case in a lot of counties, especially if you came from Maryville, of course that's a much higher for example. It may be 2 or 3 thousand-dollar pay cut in coaching supplements for me. And so, with this, it's going to reduce that amount of pay cut if not maybe leave it the same because you're taking in to account my 20 years of experience when I come to you instead of now, I would be going, even though I have 20 years' experience, I would come and be paid what a first year coach is paid.

Brock: Athletic Directors, what do you have to say? Former Principal, Athletic Director.

Maddox: I appreciate Mr. Parker putting this together. I tend to agree with option 2, because I've been in the shoes where I've had to hire coaches. Guys when you are talking about coaches with a major sport-your basketball and footballs and things of that nature, we really don't have a clue how much these people are making outside of Cumberland County. And to have someone come up and interview and when you give them a total of a \$5,100 supplement and get laughed at as a Principal. Every semester. They turn around and go away and shake their head and go y'all are crazy, I won't do it. And I give you example after example. Because what we're faced with here when we start looking, just like when coach Teeples and Mr. Hall was looking for a head football coach, we don't get coaches coming in that have retired or want to move to the state of TN and want to start coaching. What we find we end up getting is people in-house or we get someone looking for that very first coaching experience they can coach here.

Teeples: And a lot of them to get that experience will take the pay cut.

Maddox: Will take the pay cut in order to get that experience.

Teeples: To move up to be a head coach, they are taking a pay cut to be an assistant elsewhere.

Parker: This will offset some of that.

Brock: Would you see some of that situation as them looking as it being a stepping-stone opportunity where they get the head coaching experience here and then leave...

Maddox: It can happen. We're very fortunate right now, I think we're in the best shape we've been in since I've been in Cumberland County. Is having the coaches we have right now.

Parker: I would say just from personal experience, this really doesn't matter that much to what we're discussing, but essentially what you're hoping for I guess, is someone like me who just loves Crossville and loves this town and is willing to take a pay cut because I did that. I took a significant pay cut in July to come back to Crossville because this is my home. And I love it here. But I took a significant pay cut as Athletic Director and, on my salary because this is my home. Very few, if any people, are going to have that sentiment when we're trying to attract high quality candidates for any position. And so, to honor someone's experience in teaching and coaching is paramount.

Brock: 2 points. The budgetary impact is almost done. I know it's not quite that, but let's go with that. That's something to remember. Again, if we're looking for quality, if we're looking for the ability to recruit, then guys I'm sorry, it's going to have to be a little bit nicer, juicer.

Parker: Let me give you a little bit of insight as well on why that number is bigger. Here's some examples. You've got a coach at Cumberland County High School with 24 years' experience but only 8 in the county. So that's the person, that would bump that number up, cause 24 years' experience. So, they would get a decent bump because of that. And that's just one person. You've got another person at Cumberland County High School with 16 years' experience, but they've only been in the county for 2 years. So, if you add a lot of those people up, and you've got people like me-I've got a lot of experience, but it's all been in Cumberland County. Coach Capps-a lot of experience, but it's all been in Cumberland County. But there's a decent number of people who have that 10 or 15 years more experience outside the County. And so, that's what's bumping those numbers up currently. If those people weren't in the county, you wouldn't have that number. But if you're recruiting coaches who have that kind of number, that's going to keep that number up there. That 51,000.

Brock: But as far as the impact on the budget, the higher paid positions, the higher compensated positions generating revenue, generating sports, that aren't that many people we're talking about. Because what does an elementary basketball coach make?

Barnes: Varsity is \$2000.00.

Brock: \$2000.00. Ok. Many of these positions pay, we're not talking about a lot of money either way. Again, you can look at which coaching positions getting the most and deserve the most.

Safdie: Well unfortunately, I don't...I understand that the Math teachers are getting a higher salary as they come in to Cumberland County. Is that correct?

Parker: Experience. If we're paying the Math teacher for the experience they've gained elsewhere, we are we not doing the same thing for a coach?

Safdie: Ok. What other teachers are paid for experience?

Parker: All teachers.

Safdie: So, then the issue is does a supplement, should a supplement be evaluated in the same fashion? Same way?

Barnes: Something to think about. The coaches have a huge impact on our students just as our teachers do. So, we have to think about that as well when you think about experience. They have a huge impact on their lives.

Safdie: Would this be retroactive? So that all teachers, all coaches....

Brock: No, this would be for next year. It could be next years' budget guys. It would not be for this school year.

Harris: It would be for all existing coaches. Like, starting next year, if you had 25 years then you're going to get the full amount.

Parker: Whoever is on staff come August.

Harris: We might not have any coaches.

Brock: Right, but it will be for next year. Next years' budget.

Safdie: Ok, and so if you have 18 years in Cumberland County and have no credit for the 10 years you served as a coach in a previous life, in a previous Cumberland County life. You would be eligible for...

Parker: 30% of your current supplement. That would be your raise basically. 10% for the 15 years you have in, then 2 years later you get another 10%. Now, keep in mind it's just 10% of your supplement, not a full pay.

Brock: So, taking an elementary coach who currently makes \$2000 and let's say they coached for 10 years. They would essentially be getting a \$400 raise?

Parker: Yes.

Brock: I'm sorry guys, if somebody has coached 10 years at the elementary level, or any level, I mean come on, they are obviously doing their job, they are a positive influence on the kids, taking care of everything, they aren't running into problems, at least none they could handle, and you've done it for 10 years, \$400. Let me tell you, you coach elementary basketball, and even though the seasons aren't quite as long as they were at one time, they now have all kinds of opportunity to go to camps, other stuff, travel ball, guys divide it by the number of hours. Don't tell them that, they'll leave.

Parker: I did it one year, I kept up with it and made .86 cents. This is as much about "hey we care that you're staying here and doing this", it is about the little bit of increase that we get.

Brock: We're probably not going to recruit an elementary basketball coach with the supplement. Let's be straight. We're talking about high school coaches.

Parker: You kind of did recruit because you say hey we need somebody to do this and we just increased the supplement, so will you please do it? That's what elementary principals are saying.

Brock: Former principals, administrators, sometimes it's kind of hard to find a cheerleading sponsor or dance team coach.

Safdie: So, are you saying this elementary sports teacher, a teacher who's volunteered for sports, that we would actively seek someone at the elementary school with 20 years' experience?

Hale: No, I don't think so, I think they're thinking about that for the high school level.

Parker: That's really more for the high school level.

Hale: And my question is, and I'm not wanting to step on anybody's toes. Principals for high school, when they interview these coaches, what teaching position are they offering them? They have to have a teaching position.

Parker: Right, it's whatever is available.

Barnes: It's what they're certified in.

Hale: What they are certified in. PE? Physical Education?

Parker: Not necessarily.

Hale: Not necessarily? Could be History?

Parker: It could be anything. Right now we need a soccer coach, but we don't have a teaching position.

Teeples: We've got assistant football coach we're looking and talking to but we don't have positions for.

Parker: Might have a good coach, great coach for a position, but there's not a position for them and so you lose that candidate.

Teeples: Coach Parker teaches Math.

Safdie: I'm going to withdraw my second.

Brock: Granted.

Safdie: Do you withdraw your motion?

Brock: And I will withdraw my motion.

Safdie: Let us make the same motion with proposal 2.

Brock: Would you like to do that or would you like for me to?

Safdie: I would like to do it but I don't have the memory.

Brock: You back me up on that. New motion. I make the motion that we send to our CFO for analysis the second proposal to increase all supplements based on a longevity table for consideration. I'm going to have to redo my numbers on it. So, that's \$60,000, if it's within 10% of \$60,000, I didn't teach Math, but I know how to add money. If it's within \$60,000, or within 10% of these numbers, plus the tax liability, that it be referred to the Budget Committee with our recommendation. If those numbers are not within those parameters, our CFO would refer back to this committee.

Safdie: Yeah, cause these numbers would really be inflated for proposal 2. New incoming high school coaches, being football, basketball, soccer, these major sports items, we look at them and say well we vacant one position right now and we have an opening and one candidate has 15 years of experience and the other candidate has 10 and they both have high recommendations, then it's a flip of the coin whether you would choose the 15 year experience or the 10 years, but whatever is chosen, this board has nothing to do with that decision. It is not our row. However we look at elementary school teachers and band teachers, we apply to a band teacher to have cumulative experience cause we know how important band...all these sports are important, but we know band teachers, especially sometimes have 100 students in their classes, so my thinking is this number of \$51,881 the first year would be significantly less, that's what I would think. So, anyway, I second the motion.

Parker: And if you can get Bruce Mullins to retire, it will go down \$5000.

Maxwell: This may the incentive to stay.

Brock: Not going to happen. Ok, we have a motion and a second, all in favor? Aye

Hale/Safdie: Aye

Brock: Well done. Coaches, Athletic Directors, please let me say this. this is our recommendation and I hope you see that we're fully aware of the situation and the need and we're doing what we can. It will go to the Budget Committee. But their job is to take a whole lot more money, a whole slew of categories and a dollar amount and say where is it going? But this is a good first step.

Safdie: Right, and you've got to remember that we've lost about 500 students this year from last year. 7,400 or 7,200 and now it's down to 6,900, 6,800.

Maxwell: We're gaining though. We're back up.

Safdie: There's no telling what the budget will be.

Harris: And with funding changes.

Maxwell: Right.

Brock: Do we know if they're going to hold numbers against us, or can we count whole numbers, as a decision...we don't know anything about that? That's what I'm saying, we don't even know how much money is going to be on the table, or available, or allotted, whatever word you want to use there. This committee will certainly represent the need, the goodness of the intent. If it gets kicked back, like Anita is saying here, they might say we don't have that much and then we might go back to number 1 and see if we can't carve that out. We won't forget you, but don't you let us forget.

Parker: I just want to say there's always been a reason and will always be a reason not to. And that's been going on for 25 years. And it shouldn't continue till I after I retire. Is there any other job where you don't get a raise? Teachers get raises. That's what I'm saying. Coaching is defiantly a job and there's not been a raise in 25 years.

Brock: Brian I know you're not going to forget. And I'm going to ask you, don't let me forget.

Parker: I won't, believe me.

Harris: Let me take this opportunity to plug...we've all probably heard that the state is looking at totally revamping, maybe throwing away the BEP formula, which does not fund, they don't even think about extra-curricular supplements in that formula, so the public comment is still open. The administration here personally, I specifically asked whatever the new formula is, that extra-curricular supplements and coaching at their level be included in the funding that even comes down from the state. My voice is one. But the more voices they hear that from, that's another audience that could benefit. They don't care about specifics, but just for coaches and sponsors to even be included in the funding formula that comes down from the state, I think is very important. And I'm also married to one. That's something I encourage everybody to do.

Maxwell: It's on the Tn Dept of Ed website, the web address, where you can send in your comments. It's in the December newsletter.

Brock: That would be good a thing, if you could put it out in some public way, your individual school newsletters. Booster clubs, whatever it takes. Any other comments? Old business.

VOICE VOTE: Brock (mover-yes) Safdie (seconder-yes)

MOTION: Carried Unanimously

Adjournment

Safdie: Move to adjourn.

Hale: Second.

Brock: Thank you ma'am, we're gone.

(The meeting was adjourned at the approximate hour of 1:47)

Dr. Ina Maxwell
Director of Schools

Tony Brock
Chairman of the Athletic Committee

Diane McCartney
Executive Assistant for the Director of Schools and BOE

2022-23 TMSAA Handbook

TSSAA CONSTITUTION CHANGES APPROVED FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Article IV, Section 6 (Legislative Council Meetings)

This change states the Legislative Council shall meet in December and April of each school year.

TSSAA BYLAWS CHANGES APPROVED FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Article I, Section 9 (Coaches)

This change outlines the specific fine for schools that fail to submit non-faculty and classified employees on the Portal prior to coaching each year.

2. Article II, Section 25(B) (Home School Rule)

This change removes the August 15th deadline that homeschool students must notify the member school administration of their intent to try out for a school team. It now states that they must notify the Principal of the member school of their intent to tryout before the first official practice date for that sport.

3. Article II, Section 27 (Virtual School Rule)

The Legislative Council adopted rules allowing member virtual school students who reside in the geographic area of the LEA of the member virtual school to participate at their zoned public school provided they meet all other eligibility requirements and the virtual school decides not to have its own athletic program.

2022-23 TMSAA Handbook

TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Article I Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of the corporation shall be the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, and hereafter shall be referred to as TSSAA.

Section 2. The purposes of the corporation shall be as stated in the Charter of Incorporation and, in addition, to stimulate and regulate interscholastic athletic competition among the member schools in accordance with the standards established by those schools in the TSSAA Bylaws.

Section 3. The mission of the TSSAA is to serve its members by providing leadership and coordination for the administration of interscholastic athletics, which will enhance the educational experiences of students. The TSSAA will promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through interscholastic athletics, which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.

Section 4. The Middle School Athletic Association is an affiliate of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. All expenses associated with the formation and operation of the Middle School Athletic Association shall be borne by the member schools of such Association. Failure to meet the financial obligations of the Middle School Athletic Association will result in the immediate dissolution of the Middle School Athletic Association.

Article II Athletic Districts

Section 1. For the purpose of administration only, the state shall be divided by counties into the following athletic districts:

First Athletic District: Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington.

Second Athletic District: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Union.

Third Athletic District: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie.

Fourth Athletic District: Bedford, Cannon, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Moore, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rutherford, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, White, Wilson.

Fifth Athletic District: Davidson, Macon, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale.

Sixth Athletic District: Cheatham, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Perry, Wayne, Williamson.

Seventh Athletic District: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Madison, McNairy.

Eighth Athletic District: Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Haywood, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton, Weakley.

Ninth Athletic District: Shelby.

Athletic Districts 1, 2 and 3 shall comprise the Grand Division of East Tennessee; Athletic Districts 4, 5 and 6 shall comprise the Grand Division of Middle Tennessee, and Athletic Districts 7, 8 and 9 shall comprise the Grand Division of West Tennessee.

2022-23 TMSAA Handbook

Article III Board of Control

Section 1. Administration: The administrative authority of the TSSAA shall be vested in a Board of Control composed of twelve members. This Board of Control shall be composed of four representatives from each of the three Grand Divisions of the State. The terms of office shall be staggered such that the terms of four members of the Board of Control, one from two Grand Divisions and two from one Grand Division of the State, shall expire each year. The election shall take place in an annual meeting of the schools in each Grand Division.

Section 2. Election: In each Grand Division, there shall be a minimum of one Independent School representative. Only administrators of member Independent Schools in that Grand Division shall be eligible for election to the Independent School seat. Each member school of the Grand Division that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each Independent School seat to be filled at the meeting.

Administrators from all member schools shall be eligible for election to the other three seats. Nominations shall come from the schools within the Athletic District, and only the members of that Athletic District may vote for their representative on the Board of Control. Each member school of the Athletic District that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each seat to be filled at the meeting. In the event of a tie vote, all member schools in that Grand Division represented at the meeting shall continue to vote until the tie is broken.

The term of office for members of the Board of Control shall begin December 1 following their election.

All members of the Board of Control must be full-time employees (minimum of 100 school days) who are principals, assistant principals (who devote full-time duties to administration), heads of schools, school-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), district-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), or director of schools. District-level athletic directors, County and City superintendents of no more than one four-year high school or senior high school shall be eligible to serve. No individual can serve as a member of the Legislative Council and Board of Control at the same time.

Section 3. Officers: The officers of the Board of Control shall be a president and a vice president. These officers shall be elected annually by the members of the Board of Control and each shall perform the duties usually required of the office. The President and Vice-President of the Board of Control shall serve as President and Vice-President of the TSSAA. The President of the Board of Control shall also attend all meetings of the Legislative Council. The Executive Director shall act as Secretary of the Board of Control.

Section 4. Vacancies: Withdrawal from the teaching profession, suspension or lapse of membership of the school represented, or removal from the Athletic District represented shall immediately terminate membership on the Board of Control, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided below.

Vacancies on the Board of Control shall be filled by the members of the Board of Control representing the Grand Division wherein the vacancy occurs. Such members shall serve until the next annual meeting of the member schools of the Grand Division, at which time vacancies shall be filled by regular election.

Section 5. Power and Duties of Board of Control: The Board of Control shall:

- (a) Have general control over all athletic contests in which member schools participate.
- (b) Elect an Executive Director and delegate the authority to interpret and to enforce the Constitution and Bylaws of the TSSAA to the Executive Director.
- (c) Provide office facilities and employees for properly conducting the business of the Association. (The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association is an Equal Opportunity Employer.)
- (d) Determine and authorize all necessary expenditures of money in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.
- (e) Determine methods of, and qualifications for, registration of officials; revoke registration of any official for just cause.
- (f) Hear appeals from decisions of the Executive Director and render final decisions in those appeals.
- (g) Have authority to rule on any cause not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws, until the Legislative Council adopts a rule covering the situation.

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Section 6. Meetings: The Board of Control shall meet in August, November, January, March and June. Other meetings may be called by the President of the Board of Control. The various ex-officio representatives shall be permitted to attend meetings and may provide input on behalf of their constituents but shall have no vote and shall not be or remain present during any meetings held in executive session.

Section 7. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Board of Control shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article IV Legislative Council

Section 1. Administration: The legislative body of the TSSAA shall be a Legislative Council composed of twelve members. This Legislative Council shall be composed of four representatives from each of the three Grand Divisions of the State. The terms of office shall be staggered such that the terms of four members of the Legislative Council, one from two Grand Divisions and two from one Grand Division of the State, shall expire each year. The election shall take place in an annual meeting of the schools in each Grand Division.

Section 2. Election: In each Grand Division, there shall be a minimum of one Independent School representative. Only administrators of member Independent Schools in that Grand Division shall be eligible for election to the Independent School seat. Each member school of the Grand Division that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each Independent School seat to be filled at the meeting.

Administrators from all member schools shall be eligible for election to the other three seats. Nominations shall come from the schools within the Athletic District, and only the members of that Athletic District may vote for their representative on the Legislative Council. Each member school of the Athletic District that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each seat to be filled at the meeting. In the event of a tie vote, all member schools in that Grand Division represented at the meeting shall continue to vote until the tie is broken.

The term of office for members of the Legislative Council shall begin December 1 following their election.

All members of the Legislative Council must be full-time employees (minimum of 100 school days) who are principals, assistant principals (who devote full-time duties to administration), heads of schools, school-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), district-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), or director of schools. District-level athletic directors, County and City superintendents of no more than one four-year high school or senior high school shall be eligible to serve. No individual can serve as a member of the Legislative Council and Board of Control at the same time.

Section 3. Officers: The officers of the Legislative Council shall be a president and a vice president. These officers shall be elected annually by the members of the Legislative Council and each shall perform the duties usually required of the office. The President of the Legislative Council shall also attend all meetings of the Board of Control. The Executive Director shall act as Secretary of the Legislative Council.

Section 4. Vacancies: Withdrawal from the teaching profession, suspension or lapse of membership of the school represented, or removal from the Athletic District represented shall immediately terminate membership on the Legislative Council, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided below.

Vacancies on the Legislative Council shall be filled by the members of the Legislative Council representing the Grand Division wherein the vacancy occurs. Such members shall serve until the next annual meeting of the member schools of the Grand Division, at which time vacancies shall be filled by regular election.

Section 5. Duties: The Legislative Council shall make necessary amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and act upon suggestions submitted by 25 members of the Association.

Section 6. Meetings: The Legislative Council shall meet in December and in **April**. Other meetings may be called by the President of the Legislative Council. The various ex-officio representatives shall be permitted to attend meetings and may provide input on behalf of their constituents but shall have no vote and shall not be or remain present during any meetings held in executive session. The Executive Director shall prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Legislative Council, which shall include:

- (a) Proposals from the regional meetings.
- (b) Proposals from any committee established by the Board of Control or Legislative Council.

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- (c) Proposals from the TSSAA staff.
- (d) Any proposal submitted by the chief administrator of a member school to the Executive Director no later than four weeks prior to the Legislative Council meeting.

The Legislative Council shall not consider any item not on the agenda prepared by the Executive Director.

The agenda shall be published no later than seven (7) days in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Legislative Council.

Section 7. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Legislative Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article V

Executive Director

Section 1. The Executive Director shall be elected for a term of three years by the Board of Control.

Section 2. Under the direction of the Board of Control, the Executive Director shall receive, hold, expand and account for all funds of the Association.

Section 3. The Executive Director shall maintain the records and property of the Association.

Section 4. The Executive Director shall initiate investigations, conduct hearings, collect information, render decisions and fix penalties based on the information provided to the staff, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the TSSAA. Such decisions shall be subject to review by the Board of Control on appeal by the principal of the member school involved.

Some examples of disciplinary action are, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Probation to an individual sport in an athletic program shall result in a fine of \$500.00 annually.
- (2) Probation to a total athletic program shall result in a fine of \$1,000.00 annually.
- (3) Restrictive probation to an individual sport in an athletic program shall result in removal from the tournament series and a fine of \$1,000.00 annually.
- (4) Restrictive probation to a total athletic program shall result in removal from the tournament series in all sports and a fine of \$2,000.00 annually.
- (5) Suspension of an individual sport from participation or the total athletic program from participation.
- (6) No awards shall be given to a member school recognizing their finish in the regular season in any TMSAA sponsored sport if that school has been placed on restrictive probation for that sport.

Section 5. The Executive Director shall attend all meetings and serve as Secretary of the Board of Control and of the Legislative Council.

Section 6. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Board of Control and of the Legislative Council.

Section 7. The Executive Director shall administer the rules and regulations governing the certification of officials as directed by the Board of Control.

Article VI

Hearings

Section 1. Any school charged with violating TMSAA regulations shall be notified of such charges by the Executive Director. If a hearing is desired by the school involved, the Executive Director must be notified immediately in writing. Provisions will then be made for such hearing, and the school so notified.

Section 2. Hearings shall be conducted by the Executive Director in the presence of two or more members of the Board of Control who represent the Grand Division of the state in which the school is located, and who shall act in an advisory capacity. After testimony has been heard, the Executive Director shall meet in executive session with the members of the Board of Control who are present at the hearing. After discussing with the Board members the evidence and possible penalties, the Executive Director shall decide what penalty, if any, is to be placed against the school.

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Section 3. Regardless of whether a member school has sought a hearing under Section 2, the school may appeal any decision of the Executive Director to the Board of Control. If the decision of the Executive Director is sustained, the school making the appeal shall defray the expenses for the meeting of the Board of Control in case a special meeting of the Board is called to consider the appeal.

Section 4. No member of the Board of Control shall serve on the Board while a case involving the school which he/she represents is being heard.

Article VII Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by a majority of the membership of the Legislative Council. The action of the Legislative Council shall be final except that any amendment it makes may be appealed to the entire membership upon request of 25 members of the Association submitted to the Executive Director in writing. An appeal to the membership must be participated in by at least 51 percent of the total membership or the appeal will be void. A two-thirds majority of those voting will be necessary to reject a regulation adopted by the Legislative Council. Any item, not on the regional agenda, that is submitted by a member school to the Legislative Council must be in writing and submitted to the Executive Director no later than four weeks prior to the meeting of the Legislative Council at which the item is to be submitted. Any item to be placed on the agenda of the Legislative Council must be submitted by the chief administrator of a member school, a committee established by the Board of Control, Legislative Council or members of the TSSAA staff.

Section 2. The Legislative Council shall not act on any proposed rule changes affecting any sport sponsored by TSSAA unless the proposed change has been called to the attention of the membership by letter or by being printed in the TSSAA bulletin.

Article VIII Regional Meeting

Section 1. Regional meetings shall be held in November and/or December of each year at Jackson, Nashville and Knoxville for the purpose of electing members to Board of Control and Legislative Council and of considering proposals to amend the Constitution and Bylaws or other legislative proposals. Proposals for consideration at regional meetings may be submitted by member schools, the Board of Control, or the Legislative Council. All such proposals must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing not later than October 15 of the year they are to be presented at the regional meetings. The Executive Director shall furnish all member schools with a list of all legislative proposals prior to the regional meetings, and the school or group responsible for each proposal shall be indicated. A committee composed of the President and Vice-President of the Legislative Council, the President of the Board of Control, and the Executive Director shall determine the order in which these proposals shall be considered at the regional meetings.

Each member school, provided it is represented by the principal, or by a faculty member designated by the principal, shall be entitled to one vote on all matters considered at the regional meeting held in its area, unless the Board of Control rules in advance of the regional meeting that certain items on the agenda shall not be voted on by the entire membership but that the vote shall be limited to schools concerned with a particular question. Non-voting faculty representatives of member schools have the privilege of speaking for or against any proposal considered.

The action of the member schools at the three regional meetings shall be used as a guide by the Legislative Council in adopting or rejecting legislative proposals.

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DEFINITIONS

Affiliate Member – A school that has all the privileges and responsibilities of membership but does not participate in the tournament series in any sport.

Athletic Program – All aspects of the member school's program of interscholastic athletic competition in the sports listed in Article I, Section 5, of the TMSAA Bylaws.

Athletic Record – A student has an "athletic record" if the student has played in an interscholastic contest at the varsity, junior varsity, ninth grade, or any other level, on behalf a TMSAA member school or a school that is a member of a state athletic association holding membership in the National Federation.

Bona Fide Change of Residence – A move from one community to another that justifies a change of schools. Where a family continues to maintain a previous residence for the residential purposes of that family or any of its members, the move is not one that justifies a change of schools for purposes of the TMSAA Bylaws.

Coach – Anyone who instructs or supervises student-athletes in practices or contests.

Cooperative Program – Two or more member schools forming a single team in a sport in which at least one of the schools does not have a team.

De Novo – Heard anew. Where a decision by the Executive Director is appealed "*de novo*" to the Board of Control, the Board of Control is not in any way bound, restricted, or limited by the findings or conclusions of the Executive Director and may render whatever decision it deems appropriate based on its own review of the facts and circumstances.

Enrolled – A student is considered "enrolled" at a school, for purposes of these Bylaws, when the student has (a) completed all paperwork required for attendance at the school; (b) paid all deposits and tuition due where applicable; and (c) either (i) attended classes for three days; (ii) engaged in three or more days of fall sports practice during the period on or after the Monday of the week of August 1; or (iii) participated in an athletic contest in any sport. A student may not be considered to be enrolled in more than one school at any time.

Guardian – An adult with whom the student has lived for twelve (12) or more consecutive months. For purposes of TMSAA Bylaws, official appointment by a court is not required to establish guardianship; however, no person may be considered a guardian for purposes of these Bylaws unless the student has lived with that person for twelve (12) or more consecutive months, regardless of whether that person has been appointed as a guardian by a court.

Junior Varsity – Any level of play below the varsity level, whether denominated as junior varsity, b-team, or otherwise. The membership of a junior varsity team shall be composed of varsity substitutes and any other non-varsity players identified on the school's eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster).

Last Participation Date – the date of the last interscholastic athletic contest in which the student participated.

Parent – The birth mother and biological father of a student; the person(s) to whom a proper jurisdiction grants adoption of the student; or a step-parent with whom the student regularly resides.

Practice – Any interaction between a coach and student-athlete(s) where instruction, teaching, coaching, etc., is occurring. Happenstance communications between coach and student-athlete(s), in circumstances where attendance by the student-athlete is neither expected nor required, are not considered to be practice. Such communications may not, however, be used to circumvent the requirement in open facilities that a coach act in a supervisory capacity only.

Principal – The chief on-site administrative official of the member school, whether known as "principal," "head of school," "executive principal," or by some other title.

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Regular Attendance – A student is considered to be in “regular attendance” at a school when the student is enrolled at the school; is taking at, or under arrangements approved by the member school, a minimum of five (5) full courses or the equivalent for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student’s completing and passing the courses; and is satisfying the requirements of the school or school system for class attendance applicable to students generally.

School Team – An entity comprised of one or more students in a school, under the control and conduct of the school, which represents the school in interscholastic athletic competition.

Territory – For a public school, the “territory” of the school is the geographic boundaries and bus routes of the area served by that school as established by the local board of education. For a system-wide public school, charter school, or a homeschool student attending the “territory” of the school is the geographic boundaries of the school system. For a non-public school, the “territory” of the school is the area within a twenty (20) mile radius from the school.

Tournament Competition – The TMSAA-sponsored championship tournament series.

Transfer Student – A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest, or terminal, grade at another school. A student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.

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TENNESSEE MIDDLESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

There are three primary objectives that the member schools of the TMSAA attempt to achieve through their Bylaws: (1) maintaining athletics in its proper perspective as subordinate to the primary academic mission of the schools; (2) preventing the exploitation of students for athletic purposes; and (3) fostering fair competition, or a "level playing field," among the TMSAA member schools. While some particular Bylaws may serve additional purposes, all of the Bylaws should be read with these three overriding objectives in mind.

Unless otherwise stated in the TMSAA Bylaws, the Middle School Association does not levy monetary fines. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director, based on the facts.

Article I

Membership and Athletic Program Administration

Membership - Sections 1, 2, and 3

Financial Statement - Section 4

Sponsored Sports - Section 5

Cooperative Programs - Section 6

Responsibility of the Principal - Sections 7 and 8

Coaches - Section 9

Rules Meetings for Coaches - Section 10

Contracts - Section 11

Membership

Section 1. Membership in the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association shall be open to any school that terminates with the 6th, 7th or 8th grade that is approved by the State Department of Education, State Department of Education approved agencies (schools must be in category 1, 2, or 3), AdvacEd, and/or Southern Associations of Independent Schools. Schools with any combination of grades 6-12 will hold only one membership in the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, but may compete in the Middle School Athletic Association, Junior High Division, and Senior High Division.

The TMSAA shall be open to any school that terminates with the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, for boys' and girls' interscholastic competition. Any school that terminates with the 6th grade may be a member for the purposes of forming a cooperative program for the 6th grade students only.

Any member school that withdraws from TMSAA membership must be an affiliate member for one year upon application to renew membership. Affiliate membership is defined as having all rights of other member schools but not being allowed to participate in TMSAA tournament series.

Section 2. Annual membership dues are \$300.00, which includes catastrophic insurance coverage.

Membership contracts shall be submitted by August 1 for the subsequent school year. Membership dues shall be paid no later than September 1 and shall be for the school year (August 1- July 31). There shall be a five dollar (\$5.00) per business day late fee charged to any school that fails to remit its membership dues by September 1.

Section 3. Does not apply for the TMSAA.

Financial Statement

Section 4. The fiscal year of the Association shall be from July 1 to June 30. At the close of the fiscal year, the Executive Director shall publish a financial statement. All surplus funds shall be used as directed by the Board of Control.

Sponsored Sports

Section 5. TMSAA shall sponsor the following sports: baseball, girls softball, basketball, bowling, cross country, football, golf, tennis, track and field, girls volleyball, soccer, and wrestling.

Cooperative Programs

Section 6. Member schools may petition TMSAA annually for permission to have a cooperative program in any sport if one of the schools does not have that program. The Executive Director of TMSAA may approve such cooperative

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programs subject to approval by the principal of the schools involved, the governing board of the schools involved, and the Board of Control.

Responsibility of the Principal

Section 7. The principal of each school, in all matters pertaining to the athletic relations of his/her school, is responsible to this Association. Administrators must realize that they have more responsibilities than the general public to understand the purpose of high school athletics and the principles behind the TMSAA rules, and they must maintain that level of understanding and purpose when dealing with the general public and students. The principal shall exercise control over all finances, the scheduling of contests, and all other matters involved in the management of the school's athletic program. Any school whose athletic program is managed by a non-school group shall not be eligible to hold membership in TMSAA.

The principal shall furnish to the Executive Director such information as may be desired concerning eligibility of contestants, participation and reports on officials. Failure to comply within a reasonable time shall subject the school to suspension, fine or other penalty. Any eligibility list shall remain on file in the principal's office for a period of not less than five years.

The principal, assistant principal, or athletic director shall attend the meeting for all administrators annually.

Section 8. All games shall be properly supervised to ensure sportsmanlike contests. The host school shall be responsible for providing sufficient security to ensure orderly conduct on the part of all spectators. Visiting teams shall be accompanied by the principal or someone designated by the principal. If the game is played on a neutral field and neither team is designated as the host team, the competing schools shall share the responsibility of providing sufficient security.

The host school is responsible for the safe passage of the game officials upon arrival and exiting the facility.

Public criticism of game officials by administrators or coaches may result in a fine of \$500.00 assessed to the school.

Member schools are responsible for the conduct of their own fans and students at every athletic contest, regardless of where it may be held.

The coach and principal of each of the schools participating in an athletic contest shall file a report immediately with the state office if there is any unusual incident involving poor sportsmanship, during or following the game, on the part of players, coaches, school administrators, game officials or spectators.

Coaches

Section 9. All coaches must be registered with TMSAA annually and will fall under one of the following categories:

1. Full-time certified teacher (a minimum of 100 school days) of a board of education with a Tennessee state teaching license or the equivalent.
2. Retired educator (five or more years' experience) with a valid Tennessee state teaching license or the equivalent.
3. Non-faculty coach – Anyone approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or local board of education in the normal course of employment procedures in accordance with applicable state law. All non-faculty coaches shall be submitted to the state office annually.
4. Classified Employee – Any individual employed by a member school or school system in a position that does not require a teaching license or the equivalent. A Classified Employee must be employed 30 hours or more per week in a non-coaching position and may not be an independent contractor or an employee of an independent contractor.

A. Coaching Requirements:

1. All coaches must be approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or local board of education prior to coaching.
2. **All coaches must be submitted online and assigned to the appropriate sport(s) in the school's portal account to the state office annually. This should be done prior to coaching.**
3. Non-faculty Coaches and Classified Employee Coaches must complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses prior to assuming the position. Coaches who have successfully completed the ASEP Coaches Education Course prior to May 15, 2013, will not

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be required to take the NFHS courses. A school must pay an annual registration fee of \$25.00 per Non-faculty Coach. There is no registration fee for a Classified Employee.

- B. Use of a coach who does not meet all the requirements listed above shall result in a fine of \$500.00. Use of a Non-faculty Coach or Classified Employee Coach who has met the requirements listed above but has not been submitted to the state office prior to the date of first contest allowed by the Sports Calendar shall result in a fine of \$50.00.** Use of a full-time certified teacher or retired educator who has not been submitted to the state office prior to the date of first contest allowed by the Sports Calendar shall result in a fine of \$50.00.
- C.** All coaches are subject to the TMSAA rules and regulation and must conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a coach and representative of the school. All coaches are responsible to the principal of his/her school. Coaches must realize that they have more responsibilities than the general public to understand the purpose of high school athletics and the principles behind the TMSAA rules, and they must maintain that level of understanding and purpose when dealing with the general public and students. Coaches must be paid entirely from funds approved by either the board of education, governing board of the school, Director of Schools, or the Principal of the school.

Rules Meetings for Coaches

Section 10. A member of the coaching staff in each sport and cheerleading or the Athletic Director shall attend a state rules meeting, if held, or complete the online rules meeting (if available), in the sport involved every year by a set deadline, or the school will be fined \$50.00. The coach must complete a make-up online rules meeting if they missed the face-to-face meeting or did not complete the online meeting by the original deadline. If not, the head coach will not be eligible to coach in the post-season tournament series. The school is still fined if the coach takes the make-up meeting after the original deadline.

Contracts

Section 11. Contracts made and entered into by member schools may be cancelled by mutual agreement or by authority of the Board of Control. All contracts between two schools shall be signed by the principals contracting. In the event a dispute arises under a written contract between two member schools, and the contracting schools are unable to resolve that dispute, either school may request a resolution by the Executive Director. The Executive Director's determination may be appealed to the Board of Control, whose decision shall be final and binding. TMSAA shall not resolve any disputes under contracts that are not in writing.

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Article II Eligibility

- Preamble
- Enrollment - Section 1
- Academic Rules - Sections 2, 3, and 4
- High School Graduate - Section 5
- Eight Semester Rule - Section 6
- Repeating Rule – Section 7
- Eighth Grade Participation - Section 8
- Age Limit - Section 9
- Phys. Exam and Parental Consent - Section 10
- Students Changing Schools - Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15
- Tuition and Financial Aid - Section 16
- Recruiting Rule - Section 17
- Amateur Rule - Section 18
- Award Rule - Sections 19 and 20
- Independent-Game Participation - Section 21
- Specialized Camps - Section 22
- All-Star Games - Section 23
- Special Cases Involving Hardship - Section 24
- Home School Rule - Section 25
- Athletes Participating in Unified Sports – Section 26
- Virtual School Rule – Section 27**

Preamble

The member high schools of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association have adopted, through their elected representatives, an essential inter-related group of minimum eligibility requirements which establish the threshold for participation for all students within the interscholastic program and which work together to define and preserve the fundamental nature of the program.

At the junior varsity or B-Team level, the only eligibility rules that apply are those in Sections 1 (Enrollment), 2 through 4 (Academic Rules), 6 (Eight-Semester Rule), 7 (Repeating Rule), 8 (Eighth Grade Participation), 9 (Age Limit), 10 (Physical Examination and Parental Consent), 13d (Disciplinary Action), 13e (Coaching Link) 25 (Home School Rule) and **27 (Virtual School Rule)**. At the varsity level, all eligibility rules apply.

Enrollment and Attendance

Section 1. To be eligible, students shall be regularly enrolled, in regular attendance, and carrying at least five full courses or the equivalent. A student is eligible to participate in football, volleyball, cross country, golf, and girls' soccer prior to the beginning of school if the student is enrolled at the school and meets all other eligibility requirements.

A student shall not participate in athletics during any semester unless he/she is duly enrolled on or before the 20th day of the semester. This rule shall not apply to transfer students who have met the attendance requirements in the school last attended.

Academic Rules

Section 2. To be eligible to participate in athletic contests, a student shall have been academically promoted to the next higher grade. Any student repeating a grade is ineligible to participate. A student who is ineligible at the beginning of the school year may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five (5) subjects, or the equivalent, the preceding semester, provided the student is not repeating the same grade.

If a student is forced to withdraw from school, or is prevented from enrolling in school, due to the student's illness, his/her accident, or his/her disability, the principal may request a ruling in regard to the student's eligibility, provided the student was eligible at the time the illness or accident forced the student to withdraw or prevented the student from enrolling in school. If ruled eligible, such a student shall be charged with a semester of attendance for athletic purposes for the semester of non-attendance or withdrawal.

A student who returns to a member school after attendance at a school of correction or alternative school may be eligible for athletic participation provided the school of correction or alternative school is accredited by the Tennessee

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State Department of Education and provided the student returns to the school attended before entering the school of correction or alternative school.

Section 3. For athletic purposes the scholastic record filed in the office of the principal or superintendent at the end of a semester shall be final. Credits earned in a summer school accredited by the State Department of Education shall be recognized for eligibility purposes provided the student was enrolled during the spring semester immediately preceding the summer session and attended at least 40 days of that spring semester.

Section 4. A student who drops out of school before the end of the semester shall be ineligible to participate in secondary school athletics until the student has been in school a semester and has passed in at least five full unit subjects or the equivalent. (To become eligible under this regulation, a student must attend school for at least 40 days of the semester, but in no case shall the eligibility become effective until the beginning of the succeeding semester.)

High School Graduate

Section 5. Does not apply for the TMSAA.

Semester Rule

Section 6. A student shall have 6 semesters to complete 4 possible semesters of participation after entering the 7th grade. Attendance of 40 school days of any semester shall be regarded as a “semester” under this rule regardless of athletic participation. If a student participates in athletics during a period of attendance of any number of days less than 40, he/she shall be charged with a semester of attendance. No student shall participate in any sport more than three seasons.

Repeating Rule

Section 7. Any student who repeats 6th, 7th, or 8th grade shall not be eligible until they have reached the next higher grade. **A student is consider in a grade after attending class 3 or more days.**

Grade Participation

Section 8. No student in a grade below the 6th grade can practice or participate as a member of a team in the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association.

A school with teams in any combination of the Senior High Division, Junior High Division, and Middle School Athletic Association may certify a student for any division in which he or she may participate. A student may participate in only one division at any time. A student who has been certified as a member of the Middle School Athletic Association or Junior High Division may be advanced to a higher division at any time, provided the state office is advised to remove his or her name from the lower division eligibility report and a new eligibility report is filed to show that the student has advanced to a higher division.

Once an eighth grade student who is enrolled and in regular attendance at a high school practices or participates in a sport at that level, he/she will be ineligible to participate in the same sport for a member middle school.

Age Limit

Section 9. No student shall be eligible to compete in the Middle School Athletic Association during any school year if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 1.

Physical Examination and Parental Consent

Section 10. It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file with the principal a preparticipation medical evaluation form signed by a doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner stating that the student has passed a physical examination, not prior to April 15, and that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. In lieu of the form, the principal may accept a signed statement from the health care provider certifying that the student has passed a physical examination that encompasses all elements on the preparticipation medical evaluation form and attesting that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics.

No student shall be required to submit to a physical exam if his/her parent(s) or legal guardian shall file with the principal a signed, written statement (affirmed under the penalties of perjury) declining such physical examination on grounds of sincerely held beliefs or practices.

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It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate

Students Changing Schools

Section 11. General Provisions.

Residence. A student changing schools for any reason, to be eligible, must live at home with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), unless:

- (a) the student is moving to a boarding school and has no athletic record the previous twelve months in any sport;
- (b) the student is moving as a direct result of the dissolution of the student's home due to death;
- (c) the student is moving as a direct result of the divorce of the student's parents; or
- (d) the student is moving as a direct result of the separation of the student's parents, provided a complaint or petition for absolute divorce has been filed with a court having jurisdiction to grant the divorce.

"Transfer Student" Defined. A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest, or terminal, grade at another school. A student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.

Executive Director Approval Required. A school may not allow a transfer student to participate in athletics until his/her eligibility has been verified and approved by the Executive Director. The school is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to the Executive Director for this purpose.

Participation While Ineligible. If a student who is ineligible, under these provisions regarding students changing schools, competes in a contest while ineligible, then the student upon becoming eligible under these provisions will nonetheless be ineligible to participate in twice the number of contests in which he/she participated as an ineligible student or will be ineligible for the remainder of the season, whichever is less.

Section 12. Eligible Transfer Students.

Except as otherwise provided in Section 13 below, the following transfer students are eligible:

- a. The student has no athletic record in the previous twelve months in any sport sponsored by TSSAA;
- b. There has been a bona fide change of residence by the student's entire family unit in which (1) the old residence is outside the territory of the new school, (2) the new residence is outside the territory of the old school, *and* (3) the new residence is inside the territory of the new school. If such a change of residence occurs between school years, the student must transfer at the beginning of the school year to be eligible. If the change of residence occurs during the school year, the student may transfer without loss of eligibility (1) at the time his/her parents change residence; (2) at the end of the next report card period; (3) at the close of the semester or term; or (4) at the close of the school year;
- c. The student changes schools as a direct result of re-zoning or re-assignment of students by the local school system provided the student transfers at the time they are re-zoned or re-assigned;
- d. The student is moving from a boarding school where they are a boarder to the school serving the territory where his/her parents live, or vice versa, provided the student has attended the school he/she is leaving for a minimum of twelve months and provided the principal at the school he/she is leaving indicates in writing that the move is not for athletic or disciplinary reasons. The move must be at the beginning of the school year. (Note: The school must be outside the day school territory of the boarding school.);
- e. The student is transferring to a middle school in the same system into the earliest grade offered at that senior high school, i.e. at the student's first opportunity to move to that school;
- f. The student who has been determined by a Court to be dependent and neglected and consequently changes residences and schools as a result of a Court order;

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- g. The first time the student changes residence from one parent to the other as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons; or
- h. The first time the student changes residence from a guardian to either or both parents as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons;
- i. The student is attending school where the student's parent works as a full-time certified teacher, that parent takes a full-time job as a certified teacher at a different school, and the student transfers to the school where the parent takes the new job. The transfer must take place when the parent takes the job or, if the job change occurs during the school year, the transfer must take place when then parent takes the new job or must be made at the beginning of the following school year;
- j. The student who transfers from school A to school B and then returns to school A without having participated in any sanctioned sport at any level or without practicing three or more days in any sport at any level at school B. This must be verified in writing by the administration of school B.

Section 13. Ineligible Transfer Students.

The following transfer students are ineligible for a period of twelve months from the student's last participation date:

- a. A student who transfers without a bona fide change of residence;
- b. A student who transfers as a result of a change of residence is ineligible unless (1) the old residence is outside the territory of the new school, (2) the new residence is outside the territory of the old school, *and* (3) the new residence is inside the territory of the new school;
- c. If a student has been ruled eligible as a result of a change of residence, and the parents or guardian return to the former residence before the student has been enrolled in the new school for one complete school year (or twelve months if the transfer occurred during the school year), the student will be ineligible for twelve months from his/her last participation date;
- d. If a student has satisfied all other requirements for eligibility but was under discipline at his/her former school, the student shall be ineligible at the new school in all sports for twelve months or until the disciplinary charges have been removed, whichever is less. A student is considered to be "under discipline" if he or she has been suspended from school and/or placed in an alternative setting. The discipline has been removed if the school that has imposed the disciplinary action would allow the student to re-enroll.
- e. If a student with an athletic record transfers to a new school past the first date of enrollment, where an "athletic coaching link" existed in the past 12 months, that student is ineligible for 12 months at all levels in the specific sports where a linkage was present. Links may include (1) attendance at an individual camp (and then transferring); (2) playing on non-school (independent) teams (and then transferring to that coach's school); (3) transferring into a school where a former coach has been hired; and (4) transferring to a as school where a former or current personal trainer or strength and conditioning coach is employed.

This rule does not apply if the student moves to his/her new schools after completion of the highest ending grade at his/her previous school.

If the ineligible transfer student has an athletic record for the previous or current school year in any TSSAA sanctioned sport, the student will be ineligible to participate in the sport(s) in which an athletic record has been established.

Section 14. Practice Rules.

Only students who are enrolled and in regular attendance at a school may participate in practice.

A student who engages in three or more days of practice, after the first official TSSAA date of practice, with a school in which the student is enrolled shall be ineligible in that sport for that season if the student enrolls in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of the student's parents.

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Section 15. Foreign-Exchange Programs.

A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the U.S., such student must be under the auspices of and be placed with a U.S. host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the U.S. Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities.

A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.

Neither the school the student attends nor any person associated with the school shall have input into the selection of the student.

No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.

The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department.

The foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements, with the exception of Article II, Section 11 (Residence).

The foreign exchange student may participate a maximum of one school year. If the student decides to stay beyond the year in which they participated then Article II, Section II (Residence) will be applied at the beginning of the next school year.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Section 16. Does not apply for the TMSAA.

Recruiting Rule

Section 17. Athletic recruiting is prohibited. Athletic recruiting is the use of influence on a student or the parents or guardians of a student, by any person(s) directly or indirectly associated with the school, to secure or retain a student for athletic purposes. In the event that there is a violation of this rule, there shall be a penalty against the school, and the student(s) who was the subject of the violation shall be ineligible for a minimum of one year.

The penalty and any additional period of ineligibility beyond the one-year minimum will be determined by the Executive Director based on a consideration of the number of violations involved, the number of student-athletes involved, the nature of the violation(s), the individual(s) responsible for the violation(s), and the extent to which the violation may have been knowing, deliberate, or in reckless disregard of the provisions of this rule and the commentary that accompanies this rule.

Guidelines for Understanding the Recruiting Rule

1. Athletes or prospective athletes should be treated no differently than students who are not athletes. Students should be seen as students and not singled out based on their potential athletic ability.
2. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, a coach who is contacted by any student or family or individual about attending a school where he or she is the coach should inform that person that he or she needs to contact the administrative official or officials of the school who normally deal with the admission process.
3. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, any meeting with coaches regarding athletes or prospective athletes should be a part of the admissions process at the school and should take place at the school.

Q. How is influence for athletic purposes interpreted in the recruiting rule?

A. Examples of influence for athletic purposes may include, but are not limited to:

1. Offers of or acceptance of any special privileges not afforded to other students, whether athletes or not.
2. Offers of financial aid based on need to any prospective student-athlete by any member of the coaching staff. All financial aid questions should be referred to the principal or person in charge of financial aid.
3. Inducing or attempting to induce or encourage any prospective student-athlete to attend any member school for the purpose of participating in athletics even when the special remuneration or inducement is not given.

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4. Any initial contact or prearranged contact by a member of a coaching staff or representative of the school and a prospective student-athlete in the seventh grade and above.
5. Offering or acceptance of any item with school advertisement (shirt, caps, jackets, etc.) to a prospective student; provided that this example does not apply to items of only nominal value (pencils, etc.) that a school gives to all families that participate in the school's admission process.
6. Admitting students to athletic contests free of charge based on their participation in athletics with non-school teams.
7. Recognizing students at athletic contests based on their participation in athletics with non-school teams.
8. Coaches or their representatives calling, sending questionnaires, cards or letters, or visiting prospective student-athletes and/or their families at their homes. For purposes of the example, the terms "coach" assumes that the individual initiating the contact is acting in his or her capacity as a coach. If that person serves another role at the school and is not acting in his or her capacity as coach, then there may be no violation, unless the contact is really a method for what is in fact the use of influence for athletic purposes.
9. Coaches or their representatives providing refreshments, gifts, and/or asking prospective student-athletes or family members for contact information.
10. Any social media post that encourages prospective student-athlete to consider attending the school.

Q. What is allowed or permitted by member schools in contacting prospective students?

A. The Recruiting Rule is not intended to prevent a member school from marketing its total school program or conducting programs designed to attract students based on the school's overall educational and extracurricular programs. However, such programs must not be used as a method for securing students for athletic purposes. Examples of programs or things that would be permissible include, but are not limited to:

1. With the permission of the administration of both schools, a school may present programs or give information to elementary, junior high, or middle schools, which explain their total educational program. There should be a diversity of presenters, speaking on a variety of topics to students of all interests.
2. Once a student has pre-enrolled at a school in the spring or summer, taken necessary steps, been accepted or approved, paid a deposit (if required), and signed a contract indicating they will attend, the school may contact the student or family concerning summer programs, camps, physicals, etc., provided the student has:
 - a. Completed his/her classes and exams at his/her previous school;
 - b. Signed the independent school's enrollment contract; and
 - c. Paid the deposit required by the independent school.
3. Mass marketing of a school directed to a general population of students.
4. Mass media advertising.
5. Responding to inquiries from parents of prospective students about various aspects of the school's program.

Q. Are there activities that might appear inconsistent with the Recruiting Rule and the Guidelines but have been historically engaged in by many member schools and are permitted under the current Recruiting Rule and Guidelines?

A. Yes. Over the course of many years, there are a number of activities that many schools have customarily engaged in and that have not been regarded as violations of the Recruiting Rule. So long as the activity does not single out particular student-athletes, and so long as the activity is not being used to circumvent the Recruiting Rule, the following such activities are permissible regardless of any apparent inconsistency with the Recruiting Rule or the Guidelines:

1. With the permission of the administration of both schools, a coach may present programs or give information to elementary, junior high, or middle schools, which explain their total program. All information concerning a particular sport program must be given out at one or both of the schools. Any program must be presented at one or both schools. Those students in attendance or who receive information must be determined by the administration of both schools.

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2. Students on school teams and/or all students in a school or particular grade may be admitted to athletic contests free of charge provided it has been approved by the administration of both schools.
3. Students on school teams and/or all students in a school or particular grade may be recognized for their accomplishments at athletic contests provided it has been approved by the administration of those schools.

Amateur Rule

Section 18. A student who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or his/her athletic skill for pay in the sports which this Association governs and who has always contested under his/her own name is an amateur. (Accepting money for officiating athletic contests or for working as an employee in a city or county recreation program is not a violation of this regulation.) A student who violates the amateur rule shall be ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs.

Such a student may be reinstated as an amateur after a period of one calendar year from the time he/she was declared ineligible has elapsed, provided he/she has not violated the amateur rule during this period.

Award Rule

Section 19. A student may accept a medal, trophy, state championship ring, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket but nothing else of commercial value. (A sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket must carry the high school letter or other appropriate award emblem.) Acceptance of forbidden awards will cause a student to become ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. Bowling, golf and tennis students will abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in accepting awards.

Section 20. A member school that has any connection with the presentation of a forbidden award — such as assisting in the selection of the person to receive the award, permitting the award to be given at a school function, or holding the award for a student until he/she has graduated — shall be subject to suspension from tournament play in the involved sport(s) for one season.

Independent-Game Participation

Section 21. Once a student's name is listed on the school's eligibility report, **and/or a student participates in a school contest at any level, a student cannot participate in an independent contest prior to the conclusion of the season.** If a student participates in an independent game in that sport after the first contest date allowed and before the season has closed or his/her name has been removed from the eligibility report at the request of the school principal, the student shall be ineligible at the varsity level as explained below

Any organized game in which players not registered with TMSAA participate – regardless of whether admission is charged - is considered as an independent game. Once a violation of this rule has been confirmed, the student will be ineligible for the remainder of the season in that sport.

A student's name may be removed from the school's eligibility list upon written request of the principal prior to the first official contest date allowed in that sport without penalty. After the first official contest allowed, a student's name may be removed from the school's eligibility list upon written request of the principal, and he/she may then participate as an independent without penalty. If a principal requests the state office to remove a student's name after the first official contest date allowed in that sport, such student may not again be certified during the season of that sport.

This rule only applies to basketball and football.

Specialized Camps

Section 22. All expenses of an athlete who attends any athletic camp where specialized instruction is offered in any sport sponsored by TMSAA must be paid by the athlete or his/her parents.

All-Star Games

Section 23 Does not apply for the TMSAA.

Special Cases Involving Hardship

Section 24. Except for the eligibility rules in regard to age and to the number of semesters in school, TMSAA shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when:

- (a) the circumstances causing the student to fail to satisfy the eligibility rule were unforeseen and unavoidable;

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- (b) application of the rule to the student works an undue hardship in light of the unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances;
- (c) application of the rule would not accomplish the purpose for which the rule was intended; and
- (d) in the case of a change of schools, the change is for reasons unrelated to participation in athletics.

The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Executive Director's satisfaction is upon the school at which eligibility is sought.

Any decision of the Executive Director on any request for a waiver of eligibility rules under this Section may be appealed *de novo* to the Board of Control at its August, November, January or March meetings. If the appeal to the Board of Control or any materials in connection with that appeal are received by TMSAA less than one full week prior to the scheduled Board of Control meeting, the member school at which eligibility is sought shall be responsible for all additional expenses associated with providing copies of that material to the Board of Control. A school appealing a decision of the Executive Director under this Section must have an administrator (principal, assistant principal, or athletic director) present at the Board of Control meeting.

Home School Rule

Section 25. This bylaw establishes the minimum eligibility requirements for a home school student desiring to participate in extracurricular athletics at a member school:

A. Definitions

1. A "home school" is a school conducted by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for their own child. Parents desiring to home school their own children may do so by choosing one of the following three options.
 - a. **Independent Home School** - Parents may home school their own children pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3050 by registering with their local school district. The home school must be operating in compliance with state law.
 - b. **Church-related Umbrella School** - By authority of the same statute, parents may also home school their own children by registering with a church-related "umbrella" school defined by Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-50-801. Parents who choose this option will be required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in a church-related school. An Intent to Home School form is not required for students who are enrolled in a church-related school. The church-related school will determine record keeping and test requirements for students enrolled in an umbrella program.
 - c. **Accredited Online School** - Parents may also enroll their child in an accredited online school. Parents choosing this educational option must be sure to determine that the school has legitimate accreditation status and will be required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in an accredited online school.

Note: Eligibility of virtual public school students does not fall under the home school rule. Eligibility of virtual public school students shall be determined by Article II, Section 27 (Virtual School Rule).

2. "Director of Schools" shall mean the chief administrative official of a public school system. In the case of a private school, the responsibilities of the Director of Schools are to be carried out by the Head of School or chief administrative official in that school.

B. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1.
 - a. The student shall be enrolled in a home school conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - b. The student must be taking a minimum of five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which would count toward graduation at the school where the student wishes to participate.
2. The participating student must have a legal residence within the school district of the school where he/she will be participating, if participating with a public school. If participating with a private school, the student must have a legal residence within a 20 miles radius of the private school and meet all tuition and financial aid requirements.

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3. **The parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate before the first official practice date for that sport.**
4.
 - a. The home school athlete shall meet the same academic and conduct standards required of a member school student-athlete to participate in the athletic program.
 - b. The Director of Schools (Head of School for private schools) or their designee shall confer with the parent(s) or guardian(s) conducting the home school to determine that the home school student is academically eligible.
 - c. If a home school student's course of study does not include five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent, which are being administered by the parent/guardian, then the Director of Schools (Head of School, for a private school) or their designee and the parent/guardian shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit it to the TMSAA for approval.
 - d. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who is not receiving the minimum four (4) hours per day of instruction administered by their parent/guardian.
 - e. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who has fallen three (3) or more months behind the student's appropriate grade level.
5. The home school student must provide proof of liability insurance coverage which names the TSSAA as an insured party or the administration of the school must submit to TSSAA a copy of the TSSAA Indemnity Form signed by the guardian(s).
6.
 - a. The LEA may impose a participation fee for each sport in which a home school athlete participates. Such participation fee shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school and shall be paid in full prior to the first regular season contest.
 - b. A home school student participating at a private school must pay full tuition and abide by all financial aid rules. For the purpose of this rule, "full tuition" is defined as the same amount paid by all other students enrolled and in regular attendance at the school.
7. The home school student must meet all other TMSAA eligibility requirements.
8. Eligibility issues may be appealed in accordance with the Bylaws of the TMSAA.
9. The home school athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team.
10. Ultimate decisions on team rosters are left to the member schools.

Transfer:

1. After participation at the first member school, any changes within member schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.
2. Once a student establishes an athletic record either as an enrolled student at a member school or as a home school student, any subsequent transfers to or from home school to a member school must meet the TSSAA transfer rule, even if the student will be participating for the same team.
3. Any student who withdraws from a regular school program, which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a member school, to enroll in a home school education program 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 home education athlete until such time as he/she has satisfied this home school bylaw as well as all other eligibility bylaws of TMSAA.

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Athletes- Participating in Unified Sports

Section 26. Does not apply for TMSAA.

Virtual School Rule

Section 27. A public virtual school under the jurisdiction of the local Board of Education must make application and be approved for TSSAA membership in order for students enrolled in the school to participate in TSSAA athletics.

TSSAA virtual school members may choose either (a) to have their own sports' teams or (b) to allow their students to participate in all sports at their zoned public schools as assigned by the local Board of Education.

If the member virtual school administration chooses to allow their students to participate at their zoned public schools, the principal shall provide the host school(s) a list of students who will be participating in each sport and verify that the students are academically eligible prior to the date of first practice in each sport. The principal is responsible to provide the host school(s) with any additional information needed to complete student eligibility. The host school is responsible to submit eligibility to TSSAA for the virtual students participating in their program(s).

Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

This bylaw establishes the minimum eligibility requirements for a student attending a public virtual school in TN operated by the local Board of Education.

1. In order for a student to practice or participate at any level, the student must reside in the geographic area of the LEA of the member virtual school. The virtual school must be a member of TSSAA in good standing. The administration of the virtual school must choose to allow their students to participate for their zoned public schools.
2. In order for a student to practice or participate at any level, the student must participate for their zoned public school as assigned by the local board of education. The zoned school where the student will participate must be a member of TSSAA in good standing.
3. Any student that transfers to or from a virtual school, which is under the jurisdiction of the LEA, with an athletic record in the past twelve months and no change of residence that justifies the change in schools will be ineligible to participate on the varsity level twelve months past their last date of participation in the sport where the participation record exists.
4. The student must meet all other TSSAA eligibility requirements.
5. If the virtual school decides to start their own athletic programs, the students enrolled in the public virtual school must participate in those programs at the school where they are enrolled.
6. After participation at the first member school, any changes within member schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.

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Article III Compliance

Effect of Agreeing to Join TMSAA - Sections 1 and 2

Enforcement - Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6

Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11

Playing of Ineligible Student-Athletes – Sections 12, 13, 14, and 15

Effect of Agreeing to Join TMSAA

Section 1. Membership in the association is voluntary. By joining the association, a member school agrees to abide by all rules of the association. If a member school, or that school's governing body, files suit against the association and does not prevail on the merits, the member school shall reimburse the association for all legal fees and expenses incurred by the association in connection with said suit.

Section 2. Each member school has a responsibility to monitor its athletic program and to self-report any violations of TMSAA Bylaws to the Executive Director as soon as the school is aware of possible violations. The responsibility extends to all administrators and coaches at the school. Each member school is responsible for the conduct of its administrators and coaches and for any knowledge possessed by its administrators or coaches.

Enforcement

Section 3. The Executive Director and/or the Board of Control shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws of the association or for other just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the Board of Control where the penalty is not fixed.

Section 4. The Executive Director shall, in his discretion, determine whether information about any possible violation of the TMSAA Constitution or Bylaws is sufficiently reliable to justify further investigation. The Executive Director shall also, in his discretion, determine whether to conduct any investigation of possible violations of the Constitution or Bylaws as well as the nature and extent of any investigation that may be conducted and the procedures to be used in any such investigation. Factors to be considered by the Executive Director in making these determinations may include, but are not limited to, the workload of the TMSAA office, the seriousness of the alleged violation, the availability of staff members to assist in any investigation, the cost of investigation, the time needed to conduct an investigation, and any other factor the Executive Director may deem relevant in making these decisions.

Section 5. (a) A violation of the TMSAA Constitution or Bylaws will not result in any investigation or penalty if it is inadvertent and the school first learns of and reports the violation after the conclusion of the following year's playoffs in the sport in which the violation occurred, (b) If it is determined that a school (or any of its administrators or coaches) had knowledge of a violation or possible violation of the TMSAA Constitution or Bylaws and failed to promptly self-report it as required in Section 2, or that a delay in self-reporting occurred as a result of a failure by the school to properly monitor its athletic program as required in Section 15, the provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply. In any such case, a violation may be investigated and penalties may be implemented regardless of when the violation occurred.

Section 6. Any school under suspension, if it has restricted its athletic program to intramural athletics for the period of suspension, may be reinstated by the Board of Control upon application made in writing, 20 days in advance of the time it desires to be reinstated, to the Executive Director by the principal of the school and by the governing board under which the school operates. The Executive Director shall present the application of the suspended school to the Board of Control for its consideration. The principal and the governing board shall agree in writing that the school will abide by all rules of the association in the future. The principal and each member of the governing board shall sign the statement.

If a school with one or more two-year contracts has its athletic program in any sport suspended for violation of TMSAA regulations -- and the first game of the two-year contract has been played at the offending school -- such school shall be required to complete the contract, or contracts, when it resumes its athletic program if the school, or schools, affected desire.

Suspension of a member school shall free all existing contracts between that school and other member schools.

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Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The TMSAA and its member schools believe strongly that the major purpose of athletics at the secondary level is to be a part of the total educational program. A major part of this purpose is to stress to coaches, players, officials, and fans the vital importance of sportsmanship. It is critical that all people in each of these categories understand the major role that they play and the role model that they can be for others.

Recognizing this principle, unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any of these groups cannot be accepted. As a result, the following actions will be taken when unsportsmanlike conduct occurs:

Section 7. Student Athletes Ejected For Unsportsmanlike Conduct In Any Sport

- A. In contests in which registered TMSAA officials are involved, the officials will immediately notify the state office with a written report if players are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. In soccer, this does not apply if the ejection occurs as the result of a player receiving a red card for his/her second caution. In sports where registered TMSAA officials are not used, it will be the responsibility of the principal and/or coach of the player involved to report this incident to the state office.
- B. On the ejection of the student-athlete, the school will be required to submit a report on the action of the player and any disciplinary action taken by the school. The minimum penalty will be as follows:
 1. Football – 1 Game Suspension
 2. Soccer – There is no mandatory minimum penalty when a player is ejected for receiving a second yellow card followed by a red card. There is a 2 Game Suspension except for serious foul play, the following offenses which shall result in a 1 Game Suspension:
 - a. A player anywhere on the field (other than a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area) who deliberately handles a ball to prevent it from going into the goal.
 - b. A foul by a player against an opponent who is moving toward his/her offensive goal with an obvious opportunity to score.
 3. All other sports – 2 Game Suspension

The student-athlete is also suspended from all levels of participation (varsity, junior varsity) the same number of contest(s) in the sport involved.

If the student-athlete is finishing the highest ending grade in his/her school and cannot fulfill all of the disciplinary action due to the completion of the season, he/she will fulfill the action in the next sport in which they participate.

- C. In addition to what is presently required when a player is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, a meeting shall be held with the player, coach, principal, and parent(s) or guardian(s) prior to the player's next competition. A Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form must be sent to the state office by the principal. Schools that have not submitted the required Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form by the end of the sports season in which the violation occurred shall be subject to a \$100 fine.
- D. If a player is ejected for second time for unsportsmanlike conduct, a more severe punishment shall be imposed.
- E. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on the facts.
- F. In all situations where ejections occur for unsportsmanlike conduct, the individual will be removed from the next contest(s) following the one in which the ejection occurred.

Section 8. Substitutes Leaving Bench Area In An Incident or Fans Coming Onto The Field or Floor

- A. The school will be required to submit a report and video tape if available. All schools are instructed to inform individuals taping to continue taping all incidents.
- B. For substitutes leaving the bench area during an incident, the school will be fined a minimum of \$250.00. In addition, other non-monetary disciplinary action may occur, including but not limited to probation and/or restrictive probation for the sport in which the incident occurred.

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- C. For fans coming onto the field or floor, the school will be fined a minimum of \$250.00. In addition, other non-monetary disciplinary action may occur, including but not limited to probation and/or restrictive probation for the entire athletic program.

Section 9. Coaches Ejected For Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- A. The school and coach will be required to submit a written report of the incident.
- B. The school will be given a choice of removing the coach for a specified number of contest(s) and pay a fine of \$250.00 or face further disciplinary action. The school shall not allow the suspended coach to attend games while under suspension.
- C. In addition to what is presently required when a coach is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, a meeting shall be held with the coach, principal, and superintendent, or his/her appointed representative prior to the coach returning to his coaching position. A Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form must be sent to the state office by the principal. Schools that have not submitted the required Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form by the end of the sports season in which the violation occurred shall be subject to a \$100 Fine.
- D. On any subsequent ejection by the same coach, the school will be given a choice of removing the coach for a specified number of contest(s) and pay a fine of \$500.00 or face further disciplinary action. The school shall not allow the suspended coach to attend games while under suspension.
- E. If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach or an employee of the school involved is not available to continue as coach, the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.
- F. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on the facts.
- G. In soccer, coaches who are ejected for receiving a red card, or a second (yellow card) followed by a red card, are subject to the penalties above.

Section 10. If a team is removed from competition by a coach or school administrator, the school shall be fined \$500.00, and the school shall face disciplinary action by TMSAA. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on the facts.

Section 11. Appeals

Any appeal request regarding the ejection of players or coaches shall be submitted in writing from the administrator of the school, stating which playing rule was misapplied. It should be accompanied by \$50.00. If the appeal is granted, the \$50.00 will be returned to the school.

Playing of Ineligible Student-Athletes

Section 12. All rulings on eligibility must be in writing, and the accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players by a member school shall require that team victories in which the ineligible player participated be forfeited to opponents; and any one or more of these additional actions may be taken:

- (a) That individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligibles be vacated or stricken;
- (b) That team or individual awards earned by such ineligibles be returned to the TMSAA; and
- (c) That a fine for the playing of an ineligible player be assessed against the school, if deemed necessary.

Section 13. If a student is ineligible according to TMSAA rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such TMSAA rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or the TMSAA, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those actions stipulated in Section 12 and 14 shall be taken.

Section 14. If an ineligible contestant competes in a meet, match or tournament and any violation of TMSAA rules occurs, all points earned by that student, or by a relay team of which he/she may have been a member, in that meet or tournament are to be declared forfeited; and in team sports (baseball, basketball, football, girls soccer, soccer, girls softball and girls volleyball) the entire contest is forfeited.

When a team plays an ineligible athlete in TMSAA tournaments or playoffs, the entire contest is forfeited, the team is removed from the tournament or playoff, and no team replaces that team in the tournament series.

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The penalty for playing an ineligible contestant shall be \$50.00 per contest at the varsity level and \$25.00 per contest below the varsity level, with a maximum fine of \$250.00, provided it is voluntarily reported by the school, which is in violation, to the Executive Director. If it is not voluntarily reported by the school to the Executive Director, the penalty shall be \$100.00 per contest at the varsity level and \$50.00 per contest below the varsity level. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on all the facts.

Section 15. If an otherwise ineligible student-athlete provides false information to a member school and is erroneously determined to be eligible and is allowed to participate on the basis of that false information, the student shall be ineligible at all levels in all sports at any member school for twelve (12) months from his or her last participation date.

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Article IV Miscellaneous

Schools Which Member Schools May Play or Scrimmage – Section 1
Contests With Out-Of-State Teams – Section 2
Tournaments and Meets – Section 3
Varsity Team – Section 4
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Filing Schedule Reports – Section 6
Rules of the Game – Section 7
TMSAA Sports Calendar – Sections 8 and 9
Jamborees – Section 10
TMSAA Post Season Tournament Financial Guidelines – Section 11
Filing of Tournament and Playoff Financial Reports – Section 12
Awards – Section 13
Use of Tobacco – Section 14
Officials – Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20
Bond – Section 21
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Schools Which Member Schools May Play or Scrimmage

Section 1. A member of the Tennessee Middle School Athletic Association is permitted to play or scrimmage any secondary school team with grades 6-8 in regular season play.

For the purposes of this rule, a school team may be one school or a cooperative program of one or more schools. Alumni games are not allowed.

Contests with Out-Of-State Teams

Section 2. All out-of-state trips must be approved by the administration of the school.

Tournaments and Meets

Section 3. All end of the year tournaments, bowl games, and meets must be approved by the TMSAA State Office.

Varsity Team

Section 4. There can be only one varsity team in any sport.

Eligibility Lists

Section 5. An eligibility list (TMSAA Portal Roster) containing the name of each student who is to participate during the season in each sport shall be filed online prior to the first contest. If a student whose name does not appear on the original eligibility list (TMSAA Portal Roster) wishes to become a member of the squad, the student's name shall be filed online before the student is allowed to participate.

Filing Schedule Reports

Section 6. Member schools shall file with the state office a copy of the schedule in each sport. Schedules shall be filed online prior to the date of the first contest.

Rules of the Game

Section 7. The official rules books as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations shall be used in football, basketball, baseball, girls softball, wrestling, girls soccer, soccer, track and field, cross country, and girls volleyball. The official rules of the USGA shall be used in golf. The official rules of the USTA shall be used in tennis. The official rules of the USBC shall be used in bowling.

For all unsporting acts, TMSAA Bylaws as it relates to unsportsmanlike behavior and officials' jurisdiction supersedes any other rules book.

Cheerleading squads must abide by the USA Cheer while practicing or participating in a TMSAA sanctioned event.

Religious headwear is permitted, provided it is not abrasive, hard, or dangerous to the participant and any other player, and must be attached in such a way it is highly unlikely to come off during play. Religious headwear does not need to comply with any of the color restrictions defined in applicable sport uniform codes.

Hijabs, turbans, and yarmulkes are acceptable types of religious headwear.

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TMSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

Section 8. For each sport there shall be a limit for the number of regular season contests, rules in regard to tournaments where applicable, rules in regard to off-season practice, and rules in regard to summer practice.

DEFINITIONS & DISTINCTIONS

Team Sports – Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Girls' Softball, Girls' Volleyball

Individual Sports – Cross Country, Golf, Wrestling, Tennis, Track & Field

Pre-Season Practice Rule – Begins the first day of school until the first official day of practice in that particular sport. In basketball, individual instructions may be given to no more than three students per day. In soccer, individual instructions may be given to no more than six students per day. In baseball and girls' softball, individual instructions may be given to no more than five students per day.

Practice – Coach and player(s) together with instruction, teaching, coaching, etc. Try-outs are considered practice.

Practice During the School Day – All athletic practice during the regular hours of any school day shall conform to the same rules, regulations, and season as corresponding athletic practice outside the school day.

Scrimmage Rule – After the TMSAA first official day of practice, a school cannot practice with or scrimmage another school until both schools have practiced a minimum of three days. No tournament format of any type may be used. Scrimmages should look more like practice than games. Once a school participates in their first regular season contest, they cannot participate in a scrimmage.

Off-season – Begins with the school's elimination from postseason tournament play in a particular sport and concludes with the end of the school year. In football and soccer, individual instruction may be given to no more than six students per day. In basketball and girls' volleyball, individual instruction may be given to no more than three students per day. In baseball and girls' softball, individual instruction may be given to no more than five students per day.

Summer – The period of time from the end of the school year until the Monday of NFHS Week 4 (opening day of practice).

Dead Period Rule – No coaching, observing, or contact between coach and players in sport involved. There is no practice, no open facilities, and no weight training/conditioning. The Dead Period, which is to be observed by all schools, is the week of the 4th of July and the preceding week – 14 days.

Open Facilities – Permitted year round (Monday through Friday) except during the **Dead Period**. Schools may use their facilities for students in their building prior to or after the school day. Coaches may serve in a supervisory capacity only. There is no instruction, no teaching, no coaching, etc. Coaches may not participate or play in any manner. It is a free play type atmosphere. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.

Weight Training/Conditioning – Permitted at all times except during the **Dead Period**. Must be generic type program that would be beneficial to all students and not sport specific. Exception: In baseball and girls' softball, players may throw to condition arms. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. Only students who are enrolled and in regular attendance at the school may participate during the school year. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.

50% Rule – Does not apply for the TMSAA.

Tournament – All tournaments shall be held on consecutive days with no other regular season games being played during the tournament unless permission is granted by the Executive Director. A tournament is defined as a competition of three or more teams and three or more games, matches, etc., which progress to determine a winner. Regular season tournaments shall count as two games/dates, notwithstanding the number of games/dates in which each team participates in a tournament. Postseason tournaments or bowl games may be played, provided the plan is approved by the state office annually. In a sport that does not have a state championship, any postseason tournament or play-off format that exceeds the number of regular season contests must be approved by the state office.

Multiple Contests – In all individual sports, individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same time and date, and this will count as two days on the school's schedule.

Beginning Sport – Any school that is starting a sport for the first time may have five days of preseason practice prior to the first season the sport begins. This would apply to all team sports

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TMSAA SEASONS

	FALL SEASON	WINTER SEASON	SPRING SEASON
Pre-Season Practice Rule	Does not apply	Does apply for team sports; no restrictions for individual sports	Does apply for team sports; no restrictions for individual sports
First Practice Date	Monday, NFHS Week 4	Monday, NFHS Week 13	Monday, NFHS Week 31
Scrimmage Rule	Does apply	Does apply	Does apply
First Contest Date	Set by the school administration, but must follow 3 days of practice.	Set by the school administration, but must follow 3 days of practice.	Set by the school administration, but must follow 3 days of practice..
Off-Season	Practice not allowed for team sports (football and basketball have exceptions); no restrictions for individual sports	Practice not allowed for team sports (football and basketball have exceptions); no restrictions for individual sports	Practice not allowed for team sports (football and basketball have exceptions); no restrictions for individual sports
Summer	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions
Dead Period Rule	Does apply NFHS Week 52 & 1	Does apply NFHS Week 52 & 1	Does apply NFHS Week 52 & 1

SPORT SPECIFIC CALENDARS

Sport	Maximum Number of Regular Season Contests	Sectional Completion Date	State Championship Dates	Off-Season Practice
Baseball	20 Games	Saturday, NFHS Week 45	Friday & Saturday, NFHS Week 46	Not allowed
Basketball	20 Games	Saturday, NFHS Week 31	Friday & Saturday, NFHS Week 32	A maximum of 10 days is permitted within a 15 consecutive school day period.
Cross Country	12 Dates	Saturday, NFHS Week 12	Saturday, NFHS Week 13	No restrictions
Football *See below for pre-season acclimatization and practice regulations	8 Games	N/A	N/A	A maximum of 12 days within a 15 consecutive school day period and one interschool scrimmage are permitted. The first two days of practice must be in helmets only.
Golf	15 Dates	N/A	N/A	No restrictions
Soccer	12 Matches	N/A	N/A	Not allowed
Softball (Girls')	20 Games	Saturday, NFHS Week 45	Friday & Saturday, NFHS Week 46	Not allowed
Tennis	15 Matches	N/A	USTA scheduled event in fall	No restrictions
Track & Field	8 Dates	Saturday, NFHS Week 45	Saturday, NFHS Week 46	No restrictions
Volleyball (Girls')	20 Matches	N/A	N/A	Not allowed
Wrestling	12 Dates	N/A	N/A	No restrictions

Football Pre-Season Acclimatization: Helmets and shoulder pads may be worn the Monday of the week prior to the first practice date. Each individual athlete must practice in helmets and shoulder pads for three days prior to practicing in full pads, regardless of when they start practicing. Practice in pads is permitted on the first practice date provided pre-season acclimatization has been completed by each individual athlete.

Football Practice Regulations:

- Practice time in pads may not exceed 3 hours in a single practice.
- If there are multiple practices in pads on a single day, only one session per day should include full contact. The total practice time in pads may not exceed 5 hours, with practices separated by at least three hours of rest in a cool environment.
- No student shall participate in multiple practices in pads on consecutive days. Helmets may be worn at any time. A practice would be considered a practice in pads if shoulder pads and/or football pants with or without pads are worn. If weather postpones a practice in pads, the practice may resume after conditions are deemed safe and the remainder of the allotted practice time may be completed. In addition, all TSSAA Football Practice Regulations must be followed.

Football Summer Practice: Practice is allowed, but no pads are permitted. Helmets may be worn. Pads may not be worn during team-against-team competition.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TMSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

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Section 9. The sports season for a school shall end when the team has been eliminated from the TMSAA tournament series or has won the state championship. The sports season shall end for a school whose team does not enter the tournament series with the playing of the last regularly scheduled game.

Jamborees

Section 10. A member school may participate in one jamboree per sport provided (a) the jamboree is approved by the state office and is held before any of the participating schools play their first game; (b) the jamboree is sponsored by the participating schools and all proceeds go to the participating schools; (c) the jamboree is conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

- A. No team or participant shall play more than the equivalent of half of a game or contest.
- B. Registered TSSAA officials must be used.
- C. Schools participating in a jamboree must file the regular eligibility report (TMSAA Portal Roster) with the state office prior to participating.
- D. Schools must hold membership in TMSAA or membership in a Tennessee conference in order to be eligible to participate in a jamboree. (Out-of-state schools must obtain approval from their state association before participating.)

Participation in such a jamboree shall not count as a regular-season contest or preseason scrimmage provided the jamboree meets the above regulations.

TMSAA Post Season Tournament Financial Guidelines

Section 11.

- A. During the pre-tournament meeting, administrators shall vote on the amount each individual worker should receive (example: Amount to pay director, clock operator, announcer, gate keepers, custodian, etc.).
- B. Eighteen percent of the gross proceeds from sectional basketball, baseball, and girls' softball tournaments shall be paid to TMSAA.
- C. Every host school shall prepare a financial report immediately following the tournament.
- D. Every school participating in the tournament shall be provided a copy of the financial report from the host school.
- E. Items included on the Tournament Financial Report should be income by details, itemized expenses, and total number of shares and amount to be divided per school. The amount divided should be the income minus the expenses. Shares per school should be determined based on the number of games each school plays. A copy of the financial report shall be forwarded to the TMSAA office.
- F. TMSAA strongly recommends that each school receive tournament shares based on the number of games played after all expenses are paid.
- G. It is recommended that concessions and profits from T-shirt sales, etc. be kept by the host school. This would not be included in the Tournament Financial Report.

Filing of Tournament and Playoff Financial Reports

Section 12. All checks for district, regional, and sectional tournaments and playoffs must be distributed within 10 business days of the completion of the tournament or game. Failure, without good cause, will result in a \$100.00 late fee to be paid to TSSAA and used in the A.F. Bridges sportsmanship program to go to schools or individuals receiving awards. Failure, without good cause, to distribute funds within 20 business days will result in an additional \$200.00 late fee (total \$300.00). Failure, without good cause, to distribute funds within 40 days will result in an additional \$200.00 late fee (total \$500.00). The school may not host any tournament or playoff until the principal or athletic director appears before the Board of Control to explain the reasons. The Board would then determine whether the school could host tournaments or playoffs in the future.

Awards

Section 13. TMSAA member schools may purchase awards from Crown Awards (sshea@crownawards.com or (800) 542-6044).

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Use of Tobacco

Section 14. The use of tobacco in any form by coaches, officials, and athletes is prohibited at TMSAA sanctioned events.

Officials

Section 15. Officials used in contests in which TMSAA member schools participate are independent contractors and are not employees of TMSAA. Individuals desiring to serve as officials in contests in which TMSAA member schools participate must register with TSSAA. The Executive Director shall establish the minimum qualifications and standards for registration with TSSAA.

Section 16. For varsity contests, all officials must be registered and approved by TSSAA. If a registered official who has been engaged for an athletic contest fails to appear, the principal of the home school may, with the approval of the visiting school, select an official for the contest. If this is done, the principal of the home school must mail to the Executive Director within 48 hours evidence showing that a registered official was employed for the game and that the official did not appear. The principal of the home school shall give the name and address of the registered official who was employed to officiate the game, and the name and address of the non-approved official used as a substitute.

Section 17. In all sports sanctioned by TMSAA, the officials' jurisdiction begins upon the arrival of an official within the visual confines of the field or court and ends when the last official leaves the premises at the conclusion of the game. It shall be the duty of a game official to file immediately a report with the state office if there is any unusual incident involving unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the players, coaches, cheerleaders, or fans.

Section 18. The Executive Director shall have authority to suspend the registration of officials who are guilty of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct or who fail to file immediately required reports with the state office. Such decisions shall be subject to review by the Board of Control upon appeal by the official.

Section 19. An official shall be prohibited from working in an athletic contest in which a member of his/her immediate family — son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father, husband or wife — is playing or is serving as a coach for either team. If an official is a teacher, the official is prohibited from working in an athletic contest if one of the teams represents the school in which the official is employed as a teacher unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director.

Section 20. A school may drop an official from a game after the official has been engaged. If a school decides that it is wise to break its agreement with an official, it may be done by paying the official the regular fee for the game. Canceled and postponed games do not come under the above provision, provided that the official is duly notified. In the case of postponed games, the officials that were originally employed must be given the opportunity to work on the new date.

Bond

Section 21. The Executive Director of the TSSAA shall execute annually a Surety Bond on \$30,000 or more if the Board of Control directs, covering TSSAA funds held by him. The fee on this bond is to be paid from the Association funds.

Amendments

Section 22. The Bylaws of the TMSAA shall be amended by the same method as the Constitution.

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TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1.

Q. How are members of the Board of Control and Legislative Council selected?

A. Members of the Board of Control and of the Legislative Council are selected at the annual regional meetings in the fall. Each school represented has one vote. The sites, dates, and times of these meetings are determined by the Board of Control and posted on the TSSAA Calendar of Events.

2.

Q. May a decision made by the Executive Director be appealed to the Board of Control?

A. Yes.

3.

Q. What procedure is followed by a school that wishes to appeal to the Board of Control a decision of the Executive Director?

A. The school principal should notify the Executive Director in writing that the principal wants the Board of Control to review the case. If it is satisfactory to hold the review of the case at the next regular meeting of the Board of Control, it will be listed on the agenda. If the case is of such nature that the school wants immediate action, the principal should so indicate. The Executive Director will then communicate with the president of the Board who will call a special session to consider the case. When such a special session of the Board is called, the school requesting the special session shall pay all expenses of the meeting in the event the Board of Control sustains the decisions of the Executive Director.

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TENNESSEE MIDDLESCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BYLAWS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Membership

1.

Q. How much are a school's membership dues?

A. Membership dues are \$300.00 annually, which includes catastrophic insurance.

Responsibility of the Principal

1.

Q. Who is held responsible for a member school's observance of TMSAA regulations?

A. The principal or administrative head of the school.

2.

Q. Who is responsible for the conduct of the spectators at a game?

A. The principal and coach of the host school are primarily responsible. It is the duty of the host school to see that adequate security is present and assigned so that any disorder can be handled immediately. If the game is played on a neutral field and no host team is designated, the competing schools are jointly responsible for providing adequate security protection. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its students and fans, regardless of where an athletic contest is played.

Non-Faculty Coaches and Classified Employees

1.

Q. If a non-faculty coach or a classified employee has successfully completed the ASEP Coaches Education Course and the TMSAA Online Coaches Training Session prior to May 15, 2013, must they complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses?

A. No.

2.

Q. How long does a non-faculty coach or a classified employee have to successfully complete NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses after being submitted to the TMSAA?

A. All non-faculty coaches and classified employees must successfully complete the NFHS courses prior to coaching.

3.

Q. How often does a non-faculty coach or classified employee have to complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses?

A. Once a non-faculty coach or classified employee successfully completes the courses, he/she will not be required to take any additional courses.

4.

Q. Where can I obtain information about the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses? How do I access the courses?

A. Information regarding the NFHS courses can be found at nfhslearn.com. Persons required to take these courses will first have to register as a new user at nfhslearn.com. This can be done by selecting "Register" in the upper right hand corner of the homepage. Once you have registered, you will need to click on "Courses" on the tool bar at the top of the page and search for the appropriate courses. Each participant must pay online with a credit or debit card when they register for the courses.

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5.

Q. Are student-teachers considered non-faculty coaches?

A. If he/she is currently student teaching, he/she is allowed to do whatever his/her supervising teacher (college professor in charge) allows him/her to do as part of his/her total educational experience. He/She would not be considered non-faculty while he/she is student teaching and should be submitted as a full-time teacher in the portal.

6.

Q. Are retired educators considered non-faculty coaches?

A. No.

7.

Q. If one of my coaches is a Full-Time Teacher/Administrator at another school, are they considered non-faculty coaches?

A. No. When submitting their names in the portal, they should be marked as a full-time teacher.

8.

Q. Do non-faculty cheerleading coaches or a classified employee serving as a cheerleading coach have to be registered with TMSAA?

A. Yes. However, it is not necessary for you to pay for cheerleading coaches. We only need the names for insurance purposes. Cheerleading coaches do not have to complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses.

9.

Q. Can I register a non-faculty coach or classified employee online throughout the school year?

A. Yes. Once they have been approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or local board of education, they can be submitted online. Also, the registration fee of \$25.00 per non-faculty coach must be submitted to our office.

10.

Q. Can a non-faculty coach or a classified employee be a head coach?

A. Yes. Provided they have successfully completed the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses OR the ASEP Coaches Education Course in a TSSAA-approved course combined with the TSSAA Online Coaches Training Session prior to May 15, 2013 and have been properly submitted to the TSSAA office.

11.

Q. Are middle schools limited to the number of non-faculty coaches they can use?

A. No.

12.

Q. As a first year teacher who is coaching, do I have any requirements?

A. No.

Enrollment and Attendance

1.

Q. Is there any regulation about the time a student must enroll in order to be eligible during a given semester?

A. Yes. A student must enroll on or before the twentieth day of a semester.

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Academic Rules

1.

Q. What is the academic rule in middle school?

A. To be eligible to participate in athletic contests a student shall have been academically promoted to the next higher grade. Any student repeating a grade is ineligible to participate. A student who is ineligible at the beginning of the school year may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five (5) subjects or the equivalent the preceding semester provided the student is not repeating the same grade.

2.

Q. May a student compete in athletics if they are being held back?

A. Any student who repeats the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade shall not be eligible until they have reached the next higher grade.

3.

Q. A student is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year. At the end of the first semester the student passes only one subject. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics the second semester?

A. Students that are academically eligible at the beginning of the school year will be academically eligible the entire school year.

4.

Q. A student is ineligible at the beginning of the school year. Is it possible for the student to gain eligibility later?

A. Yes, the student may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five subjects, or the equivalent, the preceding semester, provided the student is not repeating the same grade.

5.

Q. Can a student attend summer school and earn credits toward academic eligibility?

A. Yes. Credits earned in a summer school accredited by the State Department of Education may be counted toward academic eligibility, provided the student was enrolled during the spring semester immediately preceding the summer session and attended at least 40 days of that spring semester. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year.

6.

Q. A special education student meets the academic requirements of his/her IEP by the beginning of the school year. What is his/her eligibility status?

A. The student will be academically eligible the entire school year.

7.

Q. The school passing mark is 70. At the close of the first semester an athlete has a grade of 80. At the close of the second semester the grade in the same subject is 65. At the end of the school year the two grades are averaged and the student is allowed one unit of credit. May this subject be used in meeting the academic requirements?

A. Yes.

8.

Q. A student passes both semesters of a course, but does not receive academic credit at the end of the school year because he/she does not meet the attendance policy. Is the student academically eligible to participate in athletics?

A. No. If the student does not receive credit toward graduation, the course may not be counted toward athletic eligibility.

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9.

Q. Are subjects such as physical education and ROTC counted in determining the eligibility of a player?

A. Yes. Provided these subjects carry one full credit for the year or one-half credit for the semester and meet one hour each day for five days a week or the equivalent.

10.

Q. Is a student who drops out of school for one or more semesters eligible to participate when that student returns, provided he/she completes the last semester he/she was in school and receives the required number of credits the preceding school year?

A. No. A student must attend school one semester before he/she becomes eligible to participate.

11.

Q. A student is forced to withdraw from school, or is prevented from enrolling in school, due to illness or accident to the student. After being out of school for a semester, or a part of a semester, the student recovers from and enters school at the beginning of the next semester. Is it possible for such a student to be eligible to participate in athletics?

A. Such a case may be considered as a special case by the Executive Director provided the principal submits details in regard to the absence of the student. If the student is ruled eligible, that student shall be charged with a semester of attendance for athletic purposes, even though he/she attended less than forty days of the semester, or did not even enroll.

12.

Q. A student has an incomplete or is conditioned at the end of the school year. Will the student be eligible for participation as soon as the conditions are removed?

A. A student who receives an incomplete in a subject which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the course is satisfactorily completed. His/Her eligibility is restored at that point.

13.

Q. A student was not in school during the spring semester. May that student attend summer school and become eligible for athletic participation the following fall by passing five subjects in summer school that would give him/her the required number of credits for eligibility?

A. No. A student must have been in school the preceding semester or the last semester school was in session in order to be eligible. A summer session is counted as a continuation of the spring semester.

14.

Q. A student repeats a course for which the student has already received a passing grade or is taking a course for which the student is not receiving credit toward graduation. Will this subject count as one of the credits earned the preceding school year for athletic eligibility?

A. No. A student may not repeat a course that he/she has already passed for athletic eligibility purposes nor may a student count a subject for which he/she is not receiving credit towards graduation for athletic eligibility purposes.

15.

Q. A student enrolls in a school and attends only two days. Is this considered enrollment?

A. No. In the definition of "enrolled", (c) states, "A student is considered "enrolled" at a school when the student has either attended classes for three days, has engaged in three or more days of football, girls volleyball, cross country, golf, or girls soccer practice during the period, on or after the Monday of the week of August 1, or has participated in an athletic contest in any sport."

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16.

Q. A student attends school for twenty-five days and then drops out. During the twenty-five days of attendance: (a) he/she participated in one or more athletic contests; (b) he/she did not participate in any athletic contest?

A. (a) Student will be charged with a semester since he/she participated in an athletic contest.

(b) Student will not be charged with a semester since that student did not attend forty or more days.
(See Article II, Section 1.)

17.

Q. A student who was ineligible the first semester becomes eligible the second semester by passing five subjects or three blocks or the equivalent. May he/she participate the weekend that marks the close of the first semester?

A. No. A student is not eligible until the opening day of the second semester.

Semester Rule

1.

Q. What is the maximum number of semesters a student can attend school and still be eligible for athletic participation in the Middle School Association?

A. A student has 6 semesters to complete 4 possible semesters of participation after entering the 7th grade. No student shall participate in any sport more than 3 seasons.

Grade Participation

1.

Q. When can a student begin participating as a member of a team in the Middle School Association?

A. No student in a grade below the 6th grade can practice or participate as a member of a team in the TMSAA.

Age Limit

1.

Q. Is a student whose fifteenth birthday falls on August 1 ineligible for participation in the Middle School Association?

A. Yes, any student who becomes fifteen years of age on or before August 1 of any school year is ineligible.

2.

Q. If a student becomes fifteen years of age on August 2, or any date thereafter, is that student eligible to participate for the remainder of the school year?

A. Yes.

STUDENTS CHANGING SCHOOLS

1.

Q. A student changes school because of the death of his/her parents or guardians. The change is necessary in order for the student to have a home. Is he/she eligible?

A. Such cases should be submitted to the Executive Director who will make a decision on the facts submitted.

2.

Q. It becomes desirable for a student to live with his/her grandparents. The change in residence causes a change of school. If the grandparents are designated as the guardians of this student will the student be eligible to participate in athletics?

A. Such a student may be ruled eligible by the Executive Director if he is convinced that the guidelines as set forth in Article II, Section 24 have been met.

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3.

Q. If an athlete with or without an athletic record lives with a guardian, instead of his/her parents, is the student eligible for athletic participation?

A. He/She may be approved by the Executive Director if the student has lived with the guardian for twelve months or longer. If the athlete has lived with his/her guardian, for a period of less than twelve months, he/she is ineligible unless approved by the Executive Director under the provisions of the hardship rule.

4.

Q. A student with or without an athletic record moves to live with a guardian other than a parent. Is the student eligible?

A. No. A student must live with the new guardian, if other than their parent, for 12 months or longer.

5.

Q. A student whose parents are divorced or separated (provided divorce papers have been signed and processed through the courts) participates in athletics at school A while residing with one parent. The student then transfers to school B where they are residing with the other parent. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics?

A. Yes, provided it is the first change from parent to parent since establishing an athletic record, there is a court-ordered custody change, and a letter from the principal of the student's former school indicating that the move was not for athletic reasons.

6.

Q. A student whose parents are divorced or separated (provided divorce papers have been signed and processed through the courts) participates in athletics at school A while residing with one parent. The student then transfers to school B where they are residing with a guardian other than a parent. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics?

A. No. The student will be ineligible until he/she has lived with his/her new guardian for twelve months.

7.

Q. A student who has a record of participation the previous year in baseball only transfers to a nearby school without any change of residence on the part of the student's parents. Is that student eligible to participate in football or basketball?

A. Yes.

8.

Q. A student transfers to a school because the student's parents have moved to the community in which the school is located. The student's scholastic and athletic records are satisfactory. May such a student be allowed to participate pending the approval of his/her transfer by the Executive Director?

A. No. All transfer students must be approved by the Executive Director before being allowed to participate.

9.

Q. If the parents of an athlete move from the territory in which the athlete has been attending school, may this student remain in the school to which he/she has been going and live with someone other than his/her parents without forfeiting his/her eligibility?

A. Yes, provided he/she has been enrolled in that school for a year or longer, provided no "undue influence" has been used to cause the student to continue in the same school, and provided the parents pay the expenses incurred as a result of the student not living at home.

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10.

Q. If an athlete's parents change residence after the beginning of the school year, must the athlete transfer immediately to the school serving the district into which his/her parents have moved?

A. No. The athlete may transfer to the new school without loss of eligibility at the time his/her parents move, at the end of the next grading period, at the end of the semester or at the beginning of the next school year. (If the athlete remains in his/her former school and participates in an athletic contest after his/her parents have moved, he/she cannot become eligible to participate in that sport in the second school until he/she has completed the report card period or the semester.)

11.

Q. How are the words "change of residence" to be interpreted?

A. As moving from one community to another so as to justify a change of schools. Moving across the street or a few blocks away from the former residence, or similar moves, cannot be accepted as justifying a transfer to another school. TMSAA does not recognize "dual" residences (maintaining two homes, apartments, etc.)

12.

Q. What are guidelines that are used in determining whether a bona fide change of residence has taken place?

A. Some guidelines are, but not limited to:

1. Changing of mailing address 2. Disconnecting phone in previous residence 3. Disconnecting of utilities in previous residence 4. All furniture moved from previous residence 5. The original residence should be closed, rented, or disposed of and not used by family.

13.

Q. Is it possible for an athlete who does not live at home with his/her parents or guardians to become eligible?

A. Yes. After such a student has attended school for a full school year, and has lived in the community in which the school is located for a period of at least twelve months, the student's case may be submitted to the Executive Director for a ruling.

14.

Q. A student transfers from School A to School B without a bona fide change in residence by the parents. The change is a result of school zone changes made by the local board of education. Is the student eligible?

A. Yes. Provided he/she meets all other eligibility requirements.

15.

Q. A student with an athletic record the previous year lives in Town A. His/Her father gets work in Town B and decides it will be more convenient for his son or daughter to enter school in Town B since he/she can ride with him as he goes to and from work. Will such a student be eligible to participate on the school team of Town B?

A. No. There has been no change of residence.

16.

Q. An eighth grade student participates as a member of a high school or junior high school team. The next year the student transfers to another school without any change of residence on the part of his parents. Is the student eligible for athletic participation?

A. No. The student is a transfer with an athletic record the previous year. His/Her parents have not changed residence. (This regulation is sometimes misinterpreted due to the statement that eighth grade participation does not count against a student. Such participation does not count as one of the four years he/she is allowed to participate while in high school, but the student is charged with an athletic record the previous year and cannot therefore transfer to another school unless there has been a corresponding change of residence on the part of his/her parents.)

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17.

Q. A student participates in basketball at school A. He changes to school B without a corresponding change of residence by the parents and wants to play basketball. Is he eligible?

A. No. A student will be eligible twelve months from his/her last participation date. Example: A student last played basketball on January 16, 2015 at school A. That student would be eligible at school B on January 17, 2016.

18.

Q. A student with an athletic record transfers from school A to school B without a corresponding change of residence of his/her parents. After attending school B, the student returns to school A. Is the student eligible to participate at school A?

A. Yes, provided the student did not participate in contests or practice in any sport at any level at school B. This must be verified in writing by the administration of school B.

19.

Q. A student who transfers from school A to school B due to a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents is ruled eligible at school B and participates in athletics at school B. One month later the family of the student returns to the original residence where the student was attending school A. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics?

A. No. The student is ineligible to participate in athletics for twelve months from his/her last participation date, since the parents have returned to the original residence serving school A before the student has been enrolled in school B for one year.

20.

Q. What is meant by the term "system-wide" public school in the definition of "territory" as defined in the Definitions?

A. A system-wide public school is a school without geographic zones or bus routes that draws students throughout the school system. Examples of system-wide public schools are, but not limited to: Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences, Martin Luther King, the magnet portion of Liberty Technology High School, etc.

21.

Q. An international student attends a TMSAA school and lives with someone other than his/her parents. Is the student eligible?

A. Yes, provided the student possess a J-1 visa and is in a Foreign Exchange program which has been approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). Students possessing an F-1 visa are ineligible at the varsity level until they have lived with the guardian for 12 months.

22.

Q. An international student comes to live with a new guardian and enrolls in a school where the guardians reside. The student is not in a Foreign Exchange program approved by the CSIET. Is the student eligible?

A. No. A student must be in a Foreign Exchange program approved by CSIET. The student is ineligible at the varsity level but may be eligible at the junior varsity level provided he/she meets the requirements of Article II, Section 15.

23.

Q. An international student attends a TSSAA school and is in a foreign exchange program that is not approved by CSIET. Is the student eligible?

A. No. A student must be in a Foreign Exchange program approved by CSIET.

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24.

Q. An international student is in a Foreign Exchange program approved by the CSIET. The student participates in athletics with a TSSAA school while living with one host parent then transfers to another school as a result of a change of host parents. Is the student eligible at the new school?

A. No. As a result of the change of guardians the student must now comply with Article II, Section 11 and Article II, Section 12 in the same manner as all other students.

25.

Q. A student attending School A with an athletic record in basketball at School A is receiving individual instruction from a basketball coach at School B in the spring of the current school year. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence in August. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is ineligible at School B in the sport of basketball. A coaching link exists in the previous 12 months, therefore the student is ineligible for twelve months in the sport where a link is present at all levels of competition.

26.

Q. A student attending School A with an athletic record in basketball at School A attends a summer team camp at School B. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence in August. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is eligible at School B, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements. Attendance at a team camp where a coach from another school is present does not constitute a coaching link. Attendance at an individual camp where a coach from another school is present would constitute a coaching link and would render the student ineligible at all levels of competition.

27.

Q. A student attending School A with an athletic record plays on a softball team during the summer where an assistant coach at School B is serving as the summer softball team's head coach. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence prior to or during the following school year. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is ineligible at School B in the sport of softball. A coaching link was established with the student played for the coach's summer softball team. If a coaching link exists in the previous 12 months, the student is ineligible in the sport where a link is present at all levels of competition.

28.

Q. A student attending School A has an athletic record in football, wrestling and soccer at School A. He is receiving strength and conditioning training during the summer from a personal trainer who happens to be the strength and conditioning coach at School B. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence the following school year. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is ineligible at School B in all sports. A coaching link has been established in all sports since the strength and conditioning coach at School B works with all sports programs at School B.

29.

Q. A student attending School A was injured on September 10 in a varsity football game and was not able to participate in sports the rest of the school year. The student transfers to School B with no change of residence at the beginning of the following school year. The student wants to play football, basketball, and baseball at school B. When is the student eligible at the varsity level in each sport, assuming that the student meets all other eligibility requirements?

A. The student will become eligible in football on September 11. The student will be eligible immediately in basketball and baseball. The student's participation in football does not impact their eligibility in baseball or basketball. Athletic records from each sport are treated independently of each other.

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30.

Q. A student plays volleyball and establishes an athletic record at School A. At the end of the first semester, the family has a bona fide change of residence into another school zone where they reside for two months. She enrolls and attends School B. They then return to a residence in School A's zone and the student enrolls in School C. Is she eligible?

A. No. Since the student participated at School A within the past twelve months, she will be ineligible in volleyball twelve months past her last date of participation. Athletic eligibility is always based on what the student has done the past twelve months. In this case, the student participated for a member school in the same zone within the last twelve months. Therefore, the last move does not justify a change in schools.

Award Rule

1.

Q. If a student accepts cash, merchandise or other compensation in a sport sponsored by TMSAA will he/she lose his/her eligibility in that sport?

A. Yes, competing for anything of commercial value during the school year or during the summer vacation is a violation of the award rule. (An exception to this would be in bowling, golf, and tennis as regulated by USBC, USGA, and USTA Award Rules.)

Independent-Game Participation

1.

Q. Team A is eliminated in the district basketball tournament. May players on Team A participate in an independent game or tournament without endangering their eligibility?

A. The basketball season ends for any member school when the school is eliminated from tournament play. Students may participate as members of independent teams in any sport after the season for that sport has closed without affecting their eligibility, provided the amateur rule is not violated.

2.

Q. May a player participate in a scrimmage, practice game or game with an independent team after being registered with TMSAA in basketball or football?

A. No. The student shall be ineligible immediately in the sport in which the violation occurs.

3.

Q. A basketball player participates in an independent game and the school notifies the state office of the violation. What is the penalty for the student athlete?

A. The student will be ineligible for the remainder of the season.

Home School Rule

1.

Q. Who is eligible to tryout, as a home school athlete, for a TMSAA member school team?

A. Only those who meet all ten criteria outlined within TMSAA's Home School Bylaw are eligible.

2.

Q. Are there any requirements that the parent conducting the home school must meet for purposes of the TMSAA Bylaws?

A. Yes. First, the home school athlete must meet all ten criteria outlined within TMSAA's Home School Bylaw. Additionally, the parent-teacher must satisfy all state law requirements for the home school student to be eligible to try out for a TMSAA member school team.

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3.

Q. What are the academic requirements for a home school athlete?

A. The academic courses must be approved by the local board of education (or private school) in compliance with state law. TMSAA does not regulate where or how any student athlete receives credit toward graduation. TMSAA is concerned with the following: (1) Are the participants enrolled in a minimum of five academic courses which have been approved by the school and/or school system? And (2) If taken at a member school would the course count towards graduation? If the answer to both questions is “yes”, the home school athlete would meet the requirements set forth in the “Academic Rule” and “Home School” Bylaw.

4.

Q. What if a student takes four of the five academic courses at an independent home school, but registers and attends a non-public school for the fifth credit (i.e. science lab,) would this potential home school athlete be eligible under the Home School Bylaw?

A. Yes, provided the student meets the definition of the home school student by state law.

5.

Q. What is the last date that a home school student can make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the athlete wishes to tryout and possibly participate?

A. The parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate before the first official practice date for that sport.

6.

Q. Can a home school student tryout for a team prior to meeting all requirements of the rule in the TMSAA Bylaws?

A. No. All requirements of the rule must be met prior to the home school student trying out for a team, with the exception of the participation fee. If a participation fee is imposed by the LEA, the home school student would only be required to pay that fee only if they become a member of the team.

7.

Q. What type of insurance, if any, does a home school athlete participating on a TMSAA member school team need to maintain?

A. The home school student must provide proof of liability insurance coverage which names the TMSAA as an insured party or the administration of the school must submit to TMSAA a copy of the TMSAA Indemnity form signed by the guardian(s). TMSAA Catastrophic Insurance will extend to the home school athlete as it does with all other student-athletes participating at a member school.

8.

Q. If the LEA imposes a participation fee, could the home school athlete be responsible for any additional monetary payments after he/she makes a particular team?

A. Yes, but this will be left to the LEA, and not TMSAA. Many LEAs charge an additional fee to all the athletes participating in a particular sport, such as golf. Some LEAs charge an equipment fee or uniforms fee, while other LEAs require athletes to raise a certain amount of money with fundraising. If the non-home school student athlete is being held responsible for monetary contributions, the home school athlete can be held responsible for those same monetary contributions, which will vary within LEAs.

9.

Q. If a home school athlete makes the roster of a TMSAA member school team in football, basketball, and baseball, what is the participation fee?

A. The answer will vary by LEA. The maximum amount that the home school athlete could pay shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school.

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10.

Q. If a home school athlete wants to participate on a TSSAA member private school team, what must the home school athlete do?

A. (1) The parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal **prior to the first official practice date for that sport.** (2) Additionally, the home school athlete must pay full tuition and abide by all financial aid rules.

11.

Q. If a student has dropped out, withdrawn, or been expelled from a TMSAA member school, will that student be eligible to participate at another TMSAA member school as a home school athlete?

A. No. If the student was expelled then he/she would be carrying a discipline record which makes them ineligible for one year or until the disciplinary charges have been removed. If the student dropped out or withdraws from school he/she would be subject to the TMSAA's transfer rules.

12.

Q. If a home school athlete tries out for a TMSAA member school team, is the home school athlete automatically on the roster?

A. No, like all sports rosters, the ultimate decisions are left to the member schools regarding the athletes that make the team as well as the amount of playing time that each athlete receives.

Virtual School Rule

1.

Q. A student lives outside the geographic area of the LEA of any TSSAA member virtual schools. Is there a scenario where this student could participate in athletics for a TSSAA member school?

A. No. Students must live in the geographic area of the LEA of the member virtual school. Their residence must also be in the zone (territory) of the public school where they wish to participate as assigned by the local board of education.

2.

Q. A student lives inside the geographic area of the LEA of a TSSAA member virtual school. School A and School B are both in the geographic area of the same LEA. The student's residence is in the zone (territory) of School A, but they wish to play for School B. The student lives outside the zone (territory) of School B. Can the student play for School B?

A. No. Students must live in the zone (territory) established by the LEA of the school they are participating for.

Schools Which Member Schools May Play or Scrimmage

1.

Q. What schools may a member school of TMSAA scrimmage during pre-season or play during regular season?

A. TMSAA member schools may play or scrimmage the following:

1. Any middle school team with grades 6, 7, and 8.
2. An individual home schooled student who might be invited to participate in a track meet, wrestling competition, golf competition, etc. This would primarily apply to individual sports.
3. A home school team in a team sport, such as basketball, baseball, softball, etc., where home schooled students go together to form a cooperative team.

2.

Q. Who can a member school of TMSAA not play during regular season?

A. Any non-school team. Examples would be a club team, recreational park league team, or any type of independent team.

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Contests with Out-Of-State Teams and Interstate Tournaments

1.

Q. May a TMSAA school participate in interstate tournaments or meets that have not been sanctioned?

A. No. All tournaments or meets involving out of state teams must be sanctioned by TMSAA, the other state associations concerned, and the National Federation.

Varsity Teams

Q. Can a school's junior varsity team participate against another school's varsity team?

A. No. A game is either a varsity game for both teams, a junior varsity game for both teams, or a scrimmage for both teams. An exception may be made by the Executive Director when a school is beginning an athletic program.

TMSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

1.

Q. A coach has a weight lifting program at school during off-season and in the time permitted by the sports calendar. The program is open to both players and non-players. Is this a violation?

A. No, provided activities are limited to weight lifting, and provided no player is required to attend.

2.

Q. Can a coach have a conditioning program in the off season, provided it is not during the Dead Period?

A. Yes, provided it is a program that would benefit all students and is open to all players and non-players.

3.

Q. Is it permissible for a school to have try-outs before the first practice date?

A. Try-outs are considered practice. During the school-year, no school may hold try-outs prior to the first practice date as set forth by the TMSAA Sports Calendar. Try-outs in football and basketball may be held during spring practice but students enrolled and in regular attendance at that school may participate. Try-outs may be held in the summer during the time outlined for practice in that sport.

4.

Q. Does the 50% rule apply to middle schools?

A. No. The 50% rule applies only to high school teams.

5.

Q. How many students may receive individual instructions during the pre-season and/or off-season?

A. During the pre-season and off-season, individual instruction may be given to no more than three students per day in basketball and girls' volleyball. In football, girls' soccer, and soccer, individual instructions may be given to no more than six students per day. In baseball and girls' softball, individual instruction may be given to no more than five students per day. IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW MANY COACHES YOU HAVE IN A PARTICULAR SPORT. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT ARE ALLOWED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN ABOVE.

6.

Q. Are school personnel/coaches permitted to coach non-school teams with players from their school in the preseason or offseason?

A. If the TSSAA sports calendar does not permit practice during the time of year that the non-school team is practicing or playing, then school personnel are not permitted to coach these teams regardless of how many or how few players from their school are participating for the non-school team.

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Awards

1.

Q. From where/whom do tournament directors get the awards for their tournament?

A. Tournament Directors may contact Crown Awards to order awards. Their contact information is as follows: Crown Awards; sshea@crownavards.com; Phone – (800) 542-6044

Officials and Contracts with Officials

1.

Q. May a school use one or more non-registered officials in a contest provided the other officials are registered?

A. All football officials, including the clock operator, must be registered with TMSAA. All basketball officials, except the timer and scorer, must also be registered with TMSAA. All baseball and girls softball umpires must be registered with TMSAA; also wrestling, girls soccer, soccer and girls volleyball officials.

2.

Q. If a registered official has been employed but for some reason fails to appear, may a school use a non-registered official without being subject to any penalty?

A. Yes, provided the state office is notified in writing within 48 hours after the game is played. This report should give the name and address of the registered official who was employed to work the game and the reason for his/her failure to do so if known; also the name and address of the official who was used in place of the registered official.

3.

Q. What is the policy of TMSAA toward the decisions of officials?

A. The decisions of officials are accepted as final and binding.

4.

Q. May a school drop an official from the game after the official has been engaged?

A. Yes, if a school decides that it is wise to break its agreement with an official, it may be done by paying the official the regular fee for the game.

COACHING REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Classified Employees and Non-Faculty Coaches serving as Head Coaches

- _____ Must be approved by the principal, director of schools, and/or school board each year.
- _____ Must be submitted by the principal to TMSAA each year.
- _____ Must successfully complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses prior to his/her employment.*

Classified Employees and Non-Faculty Coaches serving as Assistant Coaches

- _____ Must be approved by the principal, director of schools, and/or school board each year.
- _____ Must be submitted by the principal to TMSAA each year.
- _____ Must successfully complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses prior to his/her employment.*

Retired Educators (five or more years of teaching experience) & **Full-Time Certified Teachers** (those who are currently teaching a minimum of 100 school days) are not considered non-faculty. These individuals have no other requirements. These individuals must be submitted by the principal to TSSAA each year.

Middle School Non-Faculty Coaches

- _____ Must be approved by the principal, director of schools, and/or school board each year.
- _____ Must be submitted by the principal to TMSAA each year.
- _____ Must successfully complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses prior to his/her employment.*

**Coaches who have successfully completed the ASEP Coaches Education Course AND the TSSAA Online Coaches Training Session prior to May 15, 2013, will not be required to take the NFHS courses.*

Catastrophic Insurance 2022-23 School Year

When Athletes, Coaches, and Athletic Directors are Covered

1. Participating in a TSSAA sanctioned sport during the time outlined in the TSSAA Sports Calendar.
2. Practicing in a TSSAA sport during the time that conforms with the rules, regulations, and season outlined in the TSSAA Sports Calendar.
3. Summer Practice – Must be a school team practicing as a unit during the time specified in the TSSAA Sports Calendar with a school coach in charge.
4. Weight lifting and conditioning is only covered during the season when teams are allowed to practice.
5. Preseason Scrimmages
6. Team travel to and from an athletic practice and/or contest with a school coach in charge. Independent travel is not covered, i.e. athletes driving their own vehicles.
7. Coaches and athletic directors are covered working all TSSAA sanctioned activities including travel to and from (Medical Limit - \$50,000; Deductible (Integrated) - \$5,000).

When Athletes, Coaches, and Athletic Directors are Not Covered

1. Open Facilities
2. Weight Training and Conditioning – At no time during the off-season is anyone covered.
3. Summer Camps – TSSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover team camps. The camp may be able to provide the coverage for the participants attending team camps or schools have the option to purchase the individual school coverage that would cover camps.
4. Student-athletes are not covered under the supervision of non-approved coaches or a coach that has not met the TSSAA coaching requirements.
5. Coaches and Athletic Directors are not covered during open facilities, during off-season coaching (i.e. weight training and conditioning), or while coaching/working summer camps

How to Report a Claim

1. The following information should be emailed to sports@loomislapann.com on school letterhead or a school incident report form.
 - a. Name of injured party.
 - b. Name, address, email, and phone number of injured party's parents or guardian.
 - c. Date of accident or injury
 - d. Brief overview of what took place
2. Keep a copy to verify you have reported the incident.
3. Loomis & LaPann will send out a claim form and claim filing instructions to injured party's parent or guardian. The claim form **MUST** be signed by Coach/AD at the school verifying the incident. Once the claim form has been signed it would be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to file the claim.
4. It is not necessary to report all injuries. The general procedure is to report any injury that may require surgery. Injuries that require surgery will probably penetrate the \$15,000.00 deductible.

Contact Information

For any questions regarding Catastrophic Insurance Coverages, How to Report a Claim, or the Optional Catastrophic Insurance Plan, please contact Greg Joly or Karen Boller at Loomis & LaPann, Inc. at (800) 566-6479 or e-mail:

gjoly@loomislapann.com
kboller@loomislapann.com

2022-23 TSSAA Regional Rules Meetings

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEETINGS

Sept. 19	9:00 AM	Cookeville High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 20	9:00 AM	Daniel Boone High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 21	9:00 AM	Hardin Valley Academy
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 22	9:00 AM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 26	9:00 AM	Ensworth High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 27	9:00 AM	White Station High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 28	9:00 AM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 29	9:00 AM	Spring Hill High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Nov. 7	11:00 AM	Hardin Valley Academy
Nov. 9	10:00 AM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School
Nov. 10	10:00 AM	Ensworth High School

BASEBALL RULES MEETINGS

Jan. 8	3:00 PM	Cookeville High School
Jan. 9	6:30 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Jan. 11	6:30 PM	Fulton High School
Jan. 12	6:30 PM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
Jan. 15	3:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School
Jan. 16	6:30 PM	Marshall Co. High School
Jan. 18	6:30 PM	Memphis University School
Jan. 19	6:30 PM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School

BASKETBALL RULES MEETINGS

Sept. 11	3:00 PM	Morristown East High School
Sept. 12	6:00 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Sept. 13	6:00 PM	Hardin Valley Academy
Sept. 14	6:00 PM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
Sept. 15	6:00 PM	Shelbyville Central High School
Sept. 18	2:00 PM	MUS (Coaches)
Sept. 18	4:00 PM	MUS (Officials)
Sept. 19	6:00 PM	Dresden High School
Sept. 20	6:00 PM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School
Sept. 21	6:00 PM	DeKalb Co. High School
Sept. 22	6:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School

FOOTBALL RULES MEETINGS

July 18	6:00 PM	Notre Dame High School
July 19	6:00 PM	Rossvie High School
July 25	6:00 PM	Peabody High School
July 26	6:00 PM	Memphis University School
July 27	6:00 PM	Henderson City Hall
July 28	6:00 PM	Shelbyville Central High School
July 31	6:00 PM	Watertown High School
Aug. 1	6:00 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Aug. 2	6:00 PM	Hardin Valley Academy
Aug. 3	6:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School
Aug. 4	6:00 PM	McMinn Co. High School

GIRLS' SOFTBALL RULES MEETINGS

Jan. 8	2:00 PM	Cookeville High School
Jan. 9	5:30 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Jan. 11	5:30 PM	Fulton High School
Jan. 12	5:30 PM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
Jan. 15	2:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School
Jan. 16	5:30 PM	Marshall Co. High School
Jan. 18	5:30 PM	Memphis University School
Jan. 19	5:30 PM	Liberty Tech. Magnet School

TRACK RULES MEETINGS

TBA

**THE FOLLOWING RULES MEETINGS
WILL BE OFFERED ONLINE:
GOLF, GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' SOCCER,
BOWLING, TENNIS, SOCCER**

NOTE: In order to complete the online coaches meetings, coaches must log into their personal TSSAA Portal Account and be assigned as a coach for the sport in which they are taking the online rules meetings.

Cumberland County
Schools

Elementary/Middle
School Athletics

Procedure Manual

Effective 7/1/21

Elementary/Middle School
Athletic
Procedure Manual
Board Approved 6/21

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FOREWORD

These procedures provide a reference for regulations, existing rules, and information in effect concerning the Cumberland County Elementary and Middle School Athletic programs. It is intended that this guide will contribute to a better understanding of athletic procedures and policies and help to provide guidelines toward a consistent, harmonious, and efficient athletic program.

This guide will be used to assist the members of the athletic staff and the administration in developing a mutual framework of operation. Adhering to these policies and procedures will provide continuity and consistency in all elementary programs.

These administrative procedures shall be required reading of all Elementary and Middle School coaches employed by Cumberland County Schools.

Goals and Objectives

- I. To provide a positive image of school athletics at Cumberland County Elementary Schools.
- II. To strive for playing excellence that will produce winning teams within the bounds of good sportsmanship and mental health of the student athlete.
- III. To ensure growth and development that will raise the number of individual participants: that will give impetus to increasing attendance at each contest: that will enable a program of continuing upkeep and improvement of facilities.
- IV. To provide opportunities that will allow the program to serve as a laboratory where students may cope with problems and handle situations similar to those encountered under conditions prevailing in the contemporary world. The laboratory should provide adequate and natural opportunities for the following:
 - A. Physical, mental, and emotional growth and development.
 - B. Acquisition and development of special skills in activities of each student's choice.
 - C. Team play with the development of such commitments as loyalty, cooperation, fair play and other desirable social traits.
 - D. Directed leadership and supervision that stresses self-discipline, self-motivation, excellence, and the ideals of good sportsmanship that make for winning and losing graciously.
 - E. A focus of interest on activity programs for student body, faculty, and community that will generate a feeling of unity.
 - F. Achievement of initial goals as set by the school in general and the student as an individual.
 - G. Provisions for worth use of leisure time in later life, either as a participant or spectator.
- V. To provide a superior program of student activities that include appropriate activities for every boy and girl.
- VI. To provide opportunity for a student to experience success in an activity he or she selects.
- VII. To provide sufficient activities to have an outlet for a wide variety of students interest and abilities.
- VIII. To provide those student activities which offer the greatest benefits for the greatest number of students.
- IX. To create a desire to succeed and excel.
- X. To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity in learning to make decisions under pressure.
- XI. To be socially competent and operate within a set of rules, thus gaining a respect for authority and the rights of others.
- XII. To develop an understanding of the value of activities in a balanced educational process.

Elementary/Countywide Head Coach Job Description

Title: Elementary / Middle / County-wide Athletic Head Coach

Qualifications:

1. Is employed in the Cumberland County School System
Note: Non-faculty coaches who have completed the required TSSAA courses and are recommended by the school principal may qualify to be the head coach. Please note, a faculty representative must be present at all practices and games.
2. Has the ability to organize and supervise a total sports program.
3. Has substantial knowledge of the technical aspects of the sport and at the same time must continue to examine new theories and procedures pertinent to the field.
4. Support any additional coaching staff.

Reports to: Principal

Job Goals: To instruct athletes in the fundamental skill, strategy and physical training necessary for them to realize a degree of individual and team success. At the same time, the student shall receive instruction that will lead to the formulation of moral values, pride of accomplishment, acceptable social behavior, self-discipline and self-confidence.

General:

1. The success of the athletic programs has a strong influence on the community's image of the entire system. The public exposure is a considerable responsibility and community/parent pressure for winning performance is taxing, but must not over-ride the objectives of good sportsmanship and good mental health.
2. The position includes other unusual aspects such as extended time, risk injury factor and due process predicaments.
3. It is the express intent of this job description to give sufficient guidance to function. In cases not specifically covered, it shall be left to the coach to exercise common sense and good judgment.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Has a thorough knowledge of all the Athletic Policy approved by the Cumberland County Board of Education and is responsible for its implementation by the entire staff of the sports program.
2. Has knowledge of existing system, state and league regulations: implements same consistently and interprets them for staff.
3. Understands the proper administrative line of command and refers all requests or grievances through proper channels and is aware of all public/staff/department meetings that require attendance.

Responsibilities to Staff:

1. Establishes the fundamental philosophy, skills and techniques to be taught by staff and designs conferences, clinics and staff meetings to insure staff awareness of overall program.
2. Trains and informs staff, encourages professional growth by encouraging clinic attendance.
3. Delegates specific duties, supervises implementation, and at season's end, analyzes staff effectiveness and evaluates all assistants.
4. Maintains discipline, adjusts grievances and works to increase morale and cooperation.
5. Perform such other duties, which may be assigned by the principal.

Administrative Duties:

1. Assists the principal in scheduling, providing transportation and requirements for tournaments and special sport events.
2. Assists the principal in preparing the facility schedule, adheres to facility schedule, and coordinates program with maintenance and school employees.
3. Provides documentation to fulfill state and system requirements concerning physical examinations, parental consent, and eligibility.
4. Provides proper safeguards for maintenance and protection of assigned equipment sites.
5. Advises the principal and recommends policy, method or procedural changes.
6. Complete end-of-season obligations in order to consider their coaching assignments finalized.

Responsibilities to Students:

1. Provides training rules and any other unique regulations of the sport to each athlete who is considered a participant.
2. Gives regular attention to a student athlete's grades, conduct, and health concerns.
3. By his/her presence at all practices, games and while traveling, provides assistance, guidance and safeguards for each participant.
4. Initiates programs and policies concerning injuries, medical attention, and emergencies.
5. Completes paperwork on all disabling athletic injuries on proper forms and submits to the principal's office within 24 hours.
6. Directs student managers, assistants, and statisticians.
7. Determines discipline, delineates procedures concerning due process when the enforcement of discipline is necessary and contacts parents when a student is dropped or becomes ineligible.
8. Encourages participation in other sports without pressure to specialize in one sport.

Finance and Equipment:

1. Participates in the budgeting function with the principal by establishing requirements for the next season, recommends equipment guidelines as to type, style, color or technical specifications, and operates within budget appropriations.
2. Is accountable for all equipment and collects the cost of any equipment lost or not returned; arranges for issuing, storing, reconditioning, and cleaning of equipment and submits annual inventory and current records; discards equipment with the approval of the principal.
3. Properly marks and identifies all equipment before issuing or storing.

4. Permits the athletes to only be in authorized areas of the building at the appropriate times.
5. Examines locker rooms before and after practices and games; checks on general cleanliness of the facility; responsible for cleanliness and maintenance of specific sport equipment.
6. Secures all doors, lights, windows, and locks before leaving the building if custodians are not on duty and instills in each player a respect for equipment and school property, its care and proper use.
7. Permits athletic department-issued equipment to be worn only during practice sessions and interscholastic contest, or by permission of coaches. At no time are athletes to wear school-issued equipment or uniforms for gym classes, work or job, socially, or school wear.

Public Relations:

1. Organizes parents, coaches, players and guests for pre-season meetings.
2. Promotes the sport within the school through recruiting athletes that are not in another sports program and promotes the sport outside the school through news media, Little League programs, or in any other feasible manner.
3. Responsible for the quality, effectiveness and validity of any oral or written release to local media.
4. Responsible for maintaining good public relations with news media, parent organizations, parents, officials, volunteers and fans.
5. Presents information to news media concerning schedules, tournaments and results.

Other:

1. Head coach and principal prepare assistant athletic coach job descriptions for floor coaches, instructional coaches, and volunteer coaches.
2. The Director of Schools will appoint a Central Office certified or non-certified person who will be responsible for supervising the countywide program in all elementary sports and will be referred to as the “System Wide Athletic Director”.

Annual Reviews:

1. All coaches are required to annually watch the videos at www.nfhslearn.com regarding concussion policy and sudden cardiac death policy. Corresponding paperwork must be signed annually.
2. Coaches are also responsible for signatures in parent packet that include: Player Physicals, Concussion Awareness Form, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form, Player Conduct Form and Parent Conduct Form. All coaches are required to meet with their Coach’s Council annually.

Code Of Ethics For Coaches

The function of a coach is properly educating students through participation in interscholastic competition.

The interscholastic program is designed to enhance academic achievement and should never interfere with opportunities for academic success.

The coach must be aware that he or she has a tremendous influence, either good or bad, in the education of the student athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest desirable ideals of character.

The coach must constantly uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with student athlete, officials, athletic directors, school administrators, parents, the media, and the public, the coach shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct.

The language used by the coach should be clean and appropriate at all times. Profanity in the presence of students is unacceptable. The coach should strive to keep an even temper and refrain from using tactics that are mean spirited towards players or parents.

The coach shall take an active role in the prevention of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and under no circumstances should authorize their use. Coaches shall not use tobacco products in front of students at anytime.

The coach shall promote the entire interscholastic program of the school and direct his or her program in harmony with the total school program.

The coach shall be thoroughly acquainted with the contest rules and is responsible for their interpretation to team members. The spirit and letter of rules should be regarded as mutual agreements; the coach shall not try to seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

Coaches shall actively use their influence to enhance sportsmanship by their spectators, working closely with cheerleaders, pep club sponsors, booster clubs, and administrators.

Contest officials shall have the respect and support of the coach. The coach shall not indulge in conduct, which will incite players or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

Before and after contest, rival coaches should meet and exchange friendly greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

A coach shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give student athletes special consideration.

The coach should treat prospective players, team players, and their parents with fairness and dignity.

The winning coach should be considerate of the score with local teams. In football when the score reaches a 28-point spread, the coach should consider all manner of options as to not run up the score on the opponent. In basketball when the score reaches a 30-point spread the use of “full court press” should be avoided. “Running up the score” past a 30-point spread should be avoided.

While “in-person” scouting of other teams has always been a part of game preparation, coaches will refrain from filming / videoing opponents for the purposes of scouting, and will refrain from making arrangements for others to do so for the same purpose. However, this does not disallow a mutually agreed upon film / video exchange.

The coach should avoid using negative motivational techniques.

Coaches Area Of Responsibility

I. Teachers first

- A. Teach athletes to protect themselves
- B. Teach proper fundamentals
- C. Do not engage in negligent entrustment (entrusting authority/activity to someone who is not qualified to carry out that particular authority/activity).
 1. Team Captain
 2. Volunteer Assistant
 3. Manager
 4. Etc

II. Failure to Properly Supervise

- A. If you are not there, you will be liable.
- B. The more hazardous or the more contact, all the more closely the activity must be supervised. No student should supervise a drill.
- C. You must be at least immediately accessible.
 1. Accessible to all aspects of practice or activity
 2. Systematic overseeing of practice or activity

- a. Systematic Supervision
- b. Written itinerary
- c. Emergency policies
- d. Locker room rules/regulations posted

III.School policy

- A. Coaches must know and fulfill school policy in every situation.

IV. Reasons for Coach and Administrative Liability

- A. Failure to supervise an activity.
- B. Negligently entrusting a duty to an under qualified or unqualified individual.
- C. Failing to teach proper skills.
- D. Failing to teach protective skills.
- E. Failing to inspect, repair, and recondition equipment properly.
- F. Failing to provide proper and effective equipment.
- G. Failing to teach athletes to inspect their own equipment.
- H. Failing to properly play an activity.
- I. Failing to create and set policies and procedures for an activity.
- J. Failing to follow and enforce such policies and procedures.
- K. Failing to adopt safety standards.
- L. Failing to match or equate athletes.
- M. Failing to properly administer first aid.
- N. Failure to warn of inherent dangers of the activity.
- O. Failing to assess an injury or incapacity in an athlete.
- P. Failing to keep adequate and accurate records.

V.Duties of a Coach

- A. Provide safe environments.
- B. Properly plan an activity.
- C. Evaluate their athletes or students for injury.
- D. Match or equate athletes.
- E. Provide and maintain proper effective equipment.
- F. Warn of inherent risks of a sport.
- G. Supervises closely.
- H. Know and use emergency procedures and first aid.
- I. Keep adequate records.
- J. Know documents, post and operationalize school policies.
- K. Keep a schedule.

VI. Coaching Techniques

- A. Use sound and acceptable teaching practices.
- B. Run well-organized practice sessions that is open to athletes' parents.
- C. Complete pre-season planning well in advance of starting date.
- D. Adhere to a highly efficient and technically sound program of injury prevention. When injuries do occur, follow a prescribed routine and maintain good communications with parent, trainer, doctor and parents.
- E. Construct a well-organized game plan.
- F. Do not deny athlete rest or water at any time.

- G. Develop a sound system for equipment accountability, including seasonal inventory, repair, reconditioning and replacement. All purchasing should be accomplished through the allocated budget.
- H. Keep assistant coaches, student managers and statisticians well inform as to what is expected.
- I. Cooperate fully with maintenance staff, transportation people and others similarly involved in the overall program.

VII. Publicity and Promotion

- A. The reporting of news items and games results will rest with the coaches and their staff and approval of the principal. They are responsible for the promotion of their program by:
 - a. Faxing or emailing results immediately following contest to the local news outlets and system wide athletic director.
 - b. Following up with additional materials and stats in writing.
 - c. Make arrangements for player interviews/photographer sessions.
 - d. Providing daily announcements for the PA system.
 - e. Holding meetings with parents to discuss the season, the process and reasons for a few closed practice sessions.
 - f. Sponsoring clinics for youth leagues and coaches.
 - g. Signing all written correspondence and getting principal's approval prior to distribution to players and their parents.

VIII. Points to Remember – Coaches can keep problems to a minimum if they do the following;

Follow system and state rules and regulations.

Make sure every athlete and his/her parent understands all policies and issues unique to the season.

Insist that athletes obey system and state policies.

Complete forms on time and turning them into the office.

Keep the administration and the parents informed at all times.

Co-operate with the administration, other coaches, faculty members, and maintenance staff.

Keep accurate records on all athletes. Keep athletes under control.

Check the progress of athletes and helping out whenever possible. Work with, not against, the administration.

Additional Coaching Requirements by Sport

Middle School and Countywide: All middle school and countywide coaches report to the feeder high school coach for their program.

Elementary Basketball: Elementary head basketball coaches will attend a coach's clinic (four hour minimum) with the high school basketball program in which his/her school feeds in to.

Students' Eligibility Rules

I. Definitions:

1. The "first official day of school": Registration day, traditionally the first abbreviated day of school for students in our county.

2. “Enrolled”: When the student’s parent(s) or guardian has completed and returned the registration form required for attendance at the school on or after the first official day of school; and one of the following applies to the student:
 - The student attends classes for three days; or
 - The student engages in three or more days of practice after the first official day of school; or
 - The student participates in an athletic contest after the first official day of school. A student cannot be enrolled in more than one school at any time.
3. “Bona Fide Change of Physical Residence”: A move from one community to another that justifies a change of schools; or Court action which changes the custody rights pertaining to a student and where the person who is given custody of the child lives in a different school zone than that where the student lived previously. Where a family continues to maintain a previous residence for the residential purposes of that family or any of its members, the move is not one that justifies a change of schools. Therefore, the student would not be eligible for the remainder of that school year in the newly enrolled school. Athletes who have participated in athletics at a particular elementary school and wish to transfer to another elementary school must have a Bona Fide Change of Physical Address to the zoned school that they wish to attend. This shall include transfers between school years. If there is no Bona Fide Change of Address (move is performed by approved out of zone request), the athlete will not be eligible for 12 months from the date of the last contest the student participated. Eligibility only applies to the sports the student participated in the previous year.
4. “Dual Residence”: When the student’s parents or guardians live separately in different school zones or the student’s parents or guardians own and/or live in multiple households in different school zones. The student’s enrollment at one or the other schools at the beginning of the school year determines the “Bona Fide Physical Residence” for the student at that particular school during that one school year for the purposes of participating in sports. The student may be eligible to participate in sports at another school only if there is a “Bona Fide Physical Residence” of the parent or guardian, as defines in Paragraph 3 directly above.
5. Home school students must meet the requirements defined in TCA 49-6-3050 (b).
6. Private schools may apply for athletic CO-OP agreements with Cumberland County Schools. Granting of such CO-OP agreements will be at the discretion of the Board of Education and must be approved annually.
7. Athletes from approved home schools, private school co-ops, and/or other non-traditional schools must participate at the school for which they would normally be zoned. . **Exceptions will be considered for cases that would result in a loss of TSSAA eligibility.**
8. Students may participate in multi-sports. However, the in-season sport must take precedence. If the student quits the in-season sport during the season, then he/she must wait until the season is over to resume full participation in the off-season sport.

II. Age:

No student shall be eligible to compete in elementary athletics during any school year if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 1, and no student shall be eligible to compete at junior varsity level (sixth grade and below) in elementary athletics during any school year if the student becomes 13 years of age on or before August 1.

All countywide and middle school sports participants must be in 7th or 8th grade

Varsity Basketball Cheer squads will be comprised of sixth through eighth grade students. Fifth graders may cheer on varsity at the coaches' discretion with proper documentation of above average skill.

JV Cheer squads will be comprised of third through fifth grade students.

Schools with total enrollment (K-8) of less than 350 do not have grade restrictions.

III. Enrollment:

To be eligible to participate in athletics, a student must be enrolled at the school where they intend to participate in sports.

IV. Student Transfer

1. A student will be eligible to participate in sports after transferring to a different school if:
 - a) The student was originally enrolled in a school within his or her school zone and experiences a Bona Fide Change of Residence into the school zone where the new school is located; or
 - b) The student was attending a school where his or her parent is an employee and the experiences a Bon Fide Change of Residence into the school zone where the new school is located; or
 - c) The student was attending a school where his or her parent is an employee and that student's parent is transferred to a different school. In that case, the student may transfer to either the school for which his physical residence is zoned or the school to which his or her parent has been transferred.
 - d) The student transfer is a result of a zoning decision that is *unrelated* to employee zoning privileges. Employees may not transfer their student multiple times.

V. Eligibility Reports

To be eligible students must have their names, birth dates, school of attendance, date of physical exam, and proof of insurance submitted by each coach to the principal of the school and the Coordinator of Elementary Athletics within 5 days of initial participation. At the end of each grading period a copy of each student's academic grades must be submitted by the coach, to the principal of the school and the System Wide Athletic Director.

VI. Enrollment, Physical Exam, and Health Insurance

To be eligible for sports participation:

1. It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file with the principal a preparticipation medical evaluation form signed by a doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, physicians assistant, or certified nurse practitioner stating that the student has passed a physical examination, not prior to April 15, and that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. In lieu of the form, the principal may accept a signed statement from the health care provider certifying that the student has passed a physical examination that encompasses all elements on the preparticipation medical evaluation form and attesting that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics.
2. No student shall be required to submit to a physical exam if his/her parent(s) or legal guardian shall file with the principal a signed, written statement (affirmed under the penalties of perjury) declining such physical examination on grounds of sincerely held beliefs or practices.
3. It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate.
4. The student's parent must provide proof of health insurance to the school's principal prior to the first practice. If a student uses the health insurance offered by the school system, they must carry the 24-hour per day policy.

5. The student's parents must complete the Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Death informational forms and the Player and Parent Conduct Forms prior to initiation of practice.

VII. School Attendance:

To be eligible a student must be in regular attendance with no unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence will mandate a two-quarter suspension from the next local elementary game played. On game days during the school week (Monday through Friday), a student must be in attendance as required in Board Policy 4.300 (at least one minute over half a day or 3 hours and 31 minutes) that day in order to be eligible to play in any sports contest held that day. (Friday absences do not affect weekend game eligibility)

VIII. Academic Eligibility:

To be eligible a student cannot have more than one (1) failing grade for each nine-week period. Students who fail to maintain adequate academic standards shall be ineligible for the following nine-week period; effective the day grade cards go out. (Academic eligibility for students participating in sports during the first nine-week period will be determined by the last nine weeks of the previous year until first mid-nine weeks progress reports are reported. To be eligible a student cannot have more than one (1) failing grade on this progress report. Students who fail to maintain adequate academic standards shall be ineligible for the remainder of this grading period; effective the day progress reports go out.)

IX. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Student athletes ejected from any game (in county or out of county) for unsportsmanlike conduct in any sport will be suspended for one game in football and two games in all other sports. They will not be eligible for participation in the next contest of the same sport and at the same level of competition, varsity or junior varsity. If it is thought by the principal, the System Wide Athletic Director, or the Director of Schools that a longer-term suspension is in order, the suspension may be longer than one game with the Director of School having the final say in the matter. A written report must be provided to the System Wide Athletic Director within 48 hours of any player ejection. If a player is ejected for a second time for unsportsmanlike conduct, the player will face penalties up to suspension from all sports up to a 12-month period.

X. Academic Ineligible Players:

Academic ineligible players may practice with the team but must not participate in any game until they become eligible at the end of the next nine week grading period; effective the day grade cards go out.

XI. Playing An Ineligible Player:

If any ineligible player participates in a game, the offending school must forfeit that game, regardless of any agreement between coaches.

XII. Co-op Teams:

Schools unable to fill a complete team, may co-op with another designated school and are subject to all other eligibility requirements enumerated above. The District Athletic Director will evaluate and approve co-op assignments. Middle school team/countywide teams are considered co-op teams. The teams are established by the System Wide Athletic Director with the support of each individual high school. The team and coaches will report to the high school coach for the sport they are playing. All players will be required to play for the team that feeds the high school that their elementary school presently feeds. Feeder schools are defined by the official bus transportation pattern. All financial accounts will be held at the high school level.

XIII. Recruiting

Athletic recruiting is prohibited. Athletic recruiting is the use of influence on a student or the parents or guardians of a student by any person(s) directly or indirectly associated with the school to secure or retain a student for athletic purposes. In the event that there is a violation of this rule, there shall be a penalty against the school.

The penalty enforced for this violation will be determined by the Director of Schools or his/her designee based on consideration of the number of violations involved, the number of student athletes involved, the nature of the violation(s), the individual(s) responsible for the violation(s) and the extent to which the violation may have been knowing, deliberate, or in reckless disregard for the provisions of this rule and the commentary that accompanies this rule.

Guidelines for Understanding the Recruiting Rule

1. Athletes or perspective athletes should be treated no differently than students who are not athletes. Students should be seen as students and not singled out for the athletic ability.
2. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, a coach who is contacted by any student or family or individual about attending a school where he or she is the coach should inform that person that he or she needs to contact the administrative official of the school who normally deals with the admission process.
3. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, any meeting with coaches regarding athletes or prospective athletes should be part of the admission process at the school and should take place at the school.

XVI. Special Cases Involving Hardship

The Director of Schools or his/her designee shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when: the circumstances were unforeseen and unavoidable, the application of the rule proves an undue hardship for the student, or the application of the rule would not accomplish the purpose for which the rule was established.

Coaches' Eligibility Rules

- I. To be eligible, each head coach, assistant coach and/or volunteer coach must be approved by the principal and the Director of Schools. New coaches must view the required TSSAA coaching videos "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, and Safety for Coaches" at www.nfhslearn.com
All coaches are required to annually watch the videos at www.nfhslearn.com regarding concussion policy and sudden cardiac death policy. Corresponding paperwork must be signed annually. Coaches are also responsible for signatures in parent packet that include: Player Physicals, Concussion Awareness Form, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form, Player Conduct Form and Parent Conduct Form. All coaches are required to meet with their Coach's Council annually.
- II. Unsportsmanlike Conduct –The following will be required if a coach is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct in any sport during any game that our school is represented whether in county or out of county.

- A. The coach and school will be required to submit a written report of the incident to the System Wide Athletic Director within 48 hours of the incident.
 - B. The coach will be suspended and will not be eligible to coach for a minimum of one football game or two games in all other sports in the next contest of the same sport and at the same level of competition, varsity or junior varsity. The suspension may be extended for a longer period of time if deemed necessary by the principal or Director of Schools.
 - C. The school shall not allow the suspended coach to attend games while under suspension. In addition to what is presently required when a coach is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, a meeting shall be held with the coach, principal, and the System Wide Athletic Director, with a report on the meeting and plans to directly address the matter to be filed with the Director of School by the System Wide Athletic Director.
 - D. Upon the second ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct within the same season, the coach will face additional penalties up to removal of privileges to coach.
- III. Duties – To be eligible each coach must complete all tasks assigned to him/her in the Cumberland County Schools Elementary Athletic Procedures Manual, and any other responsibilities that their building level administrators may assign.

Purchasing

I. Procedures for Purchasing

All purchasing of athletic equipment must be done through the principal and must be within the approved budget. Listed below are the guidelines for the purchasing of athletic equipment and supplies:

- A. The requesting coach must submit to the principal two bids or quote sheets listing the desired purchases of \$500 or more, three bids for \$1,000 or more. Should use local vendors or vendors closest to our area when possible. Must give detailed specifications or brand, color, size, stripes, number, etc.
- B. The principal will determine which supplier will receive the order based on budget, price, quality and delivery time. If prices are in the same range, consideration will be given to local dealers and those who best stand behind the product.
- C. The principal's office will initiate a purchase order to be signed by the principal to start the purchasing process. The coach and the principal should sign the purchase order.
- D. The coach will notify the principal if the order is short or defective.
- E. Coaches or persons who purchase equipment without a purchase order will be held responsible to personally pay for this equipment. No one can authorize a purchase without the principal's approval.
- F. Coaches are not to bill personal items to the school account with athletic suppliers.
- G. Coaches should submit a budget to the principal by the end of the season for the next season. Any amendments to the budget are discouraged.

Inventory/Care Of Equipment

I. Procedures for Inventory/Care of Equipment

Coaches will be responsible for the care, issuing and storage of athletic equipment and uniforms for their programs.

- A. The coach shall provide to the principal an Equipment-Uniform Checkout Sheet showing the items issued to each team member at the start of each season. All uniforms shall be marked for permanent identification.
- B. Coaches shall submit their athletic inventories to the principal within two weeks of the end of the season.
- C. Once equipment and uniforms have been used to the point where they are no longer serviceable, the following procedure will be used for disposal with principal approval:
 - 1. Uniforms may be sold through the athletic office at a reduced price or thrown away.
 - 2. Equipment maybe sold or given away with written liability release.
- D. During the season all equipment shall be secured in the proper storage areas after each contest or practice. Within the two-week inventory period at the season's end, all equipment and uniforms shall be cleaned and stored in the designated areas until the following year.
- E. All football helmets must be reconditioned every 2 years.

Practices and Games

The coaches, in conjunction with the System Wide Athletic Director, are responsible for scheduling all interscholastic athletic contests for each team within the athletic program. Elementary games shall not conflict with high school games unless such conflict is made absolutely avoidable by circumstances beyond the control of elementary school officials.

- I. During each sport season, coaches shall submit to the System Wide Athletic Director the following information:
 - A. The dates for the beginning and ending of the season and the game schedule during the season.
 - B. The complete schedule, including all practice dates and times should be submitted to building level principals, including summer schedules.
 - C. Required and voluntary practice must have a Cumberland County BOE employee present at all times.
 - D. This information shall be submitted to the D.O.S. through the principal or the System wide Athletic Director, and shall be approved by the System Wide Athletic Director.
- II. There is a parental expectation for open practice sessions. Closed practice sessions may occur after a parent meeting is held to explain the purpose, the need, and the number of closed practice sessions scheduled. This must have principal approval.
- III. Each elementary school participating in basketball must schedule and play every other participating elementary school in the county at least one time. The game scheduled by the System Wide Athletic Director determines tournament seed.
- IV. No participating school shall play more than ten (10) football games in a season.
- V. Dead Period Rule – No coaching, observing, or contact between coach and players in sport involved. There is no practice, no open facilities, no weight training/conditioning, no loaning or renting of facilities for athletic purposes. The dead period, which is to be observed by all schools (High School, Middle School, and Elementary School will coincide with the dead period scheduled by the tssaa yearly calendar. Other than dead period, coaches may practice as much as they want in the summer with building level principal approval.
- VI. Students may participate in multi-sports. However, the in-season sport must take precedence. If the student quits the in-season sport during the season, then he/she must wait until the season is over to resume full participation in the off-season sport. 17

- VII. Rules on bad weather and holidays: No school means no required practice can be held. Voluntary practice may occur with no penalty imposed on students who cannot attend. Games will not be played when there is no school.
- VIII. Weekend practices (one day only).
- IX. No participating school shall play more than twenty-two (22) regular season basketball games. Any out of county game or tournament must not take precedence over county games.
 - A. A game is when admission is charges and four quarters are played.
 - B. Each tournament counts as two call games. (0520-1-2.08) TCA
 - C. A sports calendar for the next school year will be prepared and approved each year by the principal by May 30th.
- X. Ample warm up time must be provided for all sports.
 - Football requires 15 minutes warm up before the game can begin.
 - Basketball requires 10 minutes warm up before each girls and boys game.
- XI. All coaches must adhere to requirements of the tssaa heat index policy for practice and games.
- XII. At no time during the varsity season will an elementary basketball team be permitted to hold practice at the host high school for the Elementary Basketball Tournament unless approved by the System Wide Athletic Director due to unforeseen facility issues at their own elementary facility. Practicing elementary teams in the high school facility provides an unfair competitive advantage that if given to one school should be provided to all schools.

Costs

- I. Profits from the varsity elementary basketball tournament shall be divided equally among participating schools.
- II. Admission charges for elementary sports shall be set by the Principal's Association and adjusted periodically. Middle & county-wide teams may adjust according to regional requirements.

Current admission charges are for regular season.

A. <i>Preschool children....</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>Employee /Retired Employee</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>Students (K - 12).....</i>	<i>\$2.00</i>
<i>Adults.....</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>

B. Admission charges for Tournament.

<i>Preschool children.....</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>Employee /Retired Employee (w/pass card)</i>	<i>Free</i>
<i>Students (K-12).....</i>	<i>\$3.00</i>
<i>Adults.....</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>

(Schools may offer Season Passes at a 20% discount)

(Season passes are good for home games of the issuing school only and do

NOT include post-season or tournament contests)

Supervision, Disputes, and Penalties

The head coach is responsible for squad members during practices and athletic contest.

The building principal is responsible for the general supervision of his/her teams.

The system-wide athletic program shall be under the general supervision of the System wide Athletic Director.

General disputes about the athletic program should be resolved by the Director of Schools. If the dispute involves a referee (an official) in anyway, then the head of the officials shall be invited to attend the meeting and submit information.

If the individual would like to file a grievance of the Director's decision, they must do so in writing within 7 calendar days. The grievance will be added to the next Board of Education agenda.

Penalties may be imposed. Any coach and/or principal who violates the rules herein or the Code of Ethics is subject to penalties that may include but not limited to reprimand, suspension from practices and/or games, revocation of coaching credentials and/or a personal fine not to exceed \$100.00 per infraction.

Summary Of Responsibilities For Supplemental Pay For Certified And Non-Certified Employees

The duties of the school employee include but are not limited to:

- *1. Tryouts
2. Collect athletic physical exam forms
3. Uniform assignments, care, and inventory
- *4. Eligibility lists and updates
- *5. Schedule and attend practice
- *6. Travel on the bus to away games
- *7. Supervise students before, after and during practice and games
8. Coach
- *9. Follow all purchasing procedures
- *10. Handle parent meetings, concerns and complaints
- *11. Fulfill pre-season and post-season obligations
- *12. Attend coaches meetings and implement rules
- *13. Work with principal on team publicity and promotion
- *14. Maintain emergency kit and monitor student medical issues and injuries
- *15. Maintain CPR and Blood-borne pathogen training
- *16. Listed as coach of record and sits on the bench
- *17. Monitors team volunteers
- *18. Set up for games and be responsible for locker rooms, keys, facility maintenance, squad, and locker assignment.
- *19. Report directly to the Principal
- *20. Inventory, order and recondition equipment

*These responsibilities cannot be delegated to a volunteer.

Procedures For Hiring Officials

I. All contests between member schools shall use officials who are approved by the Principal's Association

Additional county regulations:

- A. The decisions and interpretations of the rules by officials are final.
- B. Any team leaving the contest area before the conclusion of the contest because of dissatisfaction with the officiating will render the school liable to disciplinary action by the association.

II. Contracting of Officials

The sole responsibility of assigning and contracting officials belongs to the assigned officer of the local official's association used.

III. Ethical Behavior Toward Officials

Officials contracted to officiate at Cumberland County Elementary Schools are guests of the schools and should be treated accordingly. Upon arrival, officials shall be greeted by a designated school employee.

Official's checklist:

- A. Officials parking available.
- B. Dressing room cleaned and supplied with necessities.
- C. Notification as to special events, e.g. Homecoming, Parents Night, etc.
- D. Clarification on any local playing conditions or ground rules.
- E. Half-time refreshments are available.
- F. Pay vouchers in order.

Coaches should introduce themselves to the officials prior to the contest and extend a cordial welcome. During and after the contest, the coach's relationship with the official shall be on a professional level. Should an occasion arise for the coach to question the official concerning a contest situation, it shall be done in a respectful manner within the contest rules. Judgment calls of the official should not be challenged. At no time is the coach or a member of the bench to berate the official in such a manner as to incite the spectators. Coaches who promote a positive contest relationship with the officials can expect likewise treatment from the official.

Transportation Policies

I. General Transportation Policy

If transportation is provided, all players, personnel and coaches of athletic teams will be transported in authorized school vehicles when the contest has been scheduled away from the school site.

II. Approved Modes of Transportation

All athletic teams will be transported by the following modes in priority order:

- 1. School bus – driven county bus – employed bus driver
- 2. Licensed private carriers – specially chartered trips
- 3. Private auto – see Board Policy 3.404

III. Procedures for Transportation Procurement

- A. The coach shall be responsible for making transportation arrangements for all athletic teams.

1. The head coach shall submit to the principal three weeks prior to the start of the season, a schedule listing the departure and estimated return time for all away contests.
2. Ten days prior to the first away contest, the coach shall submit all “Bus Request Forms” for the entire sports season to the transportation supervisor.
3. Any changes in the departure time or circumstances of the trip are to be made through the principal.
4. All subsequent trip requests are to be made to the transportation office 10 days prior to the date of the trip or the morning following a contest cancellation/postponement or tournament advancement.
5. All team members should be informed of the estimated time of return one day prior to the trip. The convenience will help parents to schedule a school pick-up.

B. Breakdowns, delays and accidents

1. In the event of a breakdown or accident, the driver has been instructed in the proper procedures to follow. Remember, while in transit, the driver is in charge.
2. When an accident or breakdown occurs, it is the coach’s responsibility to provide for the supervision and protection of the students.
 - a) Students should remain together and on the bus unless instructed otherwise by the driver or other authority, e.g. police.
 - b) Students should be supervised at all times.
 - c) Coaches should call the school at the first available opportunity.
3. In the event of unusual or unanticipated delays in returning to school, please call the principal. If possible, instruct students to call home and inform their parents of the delay.

C. Travel release

Under certain circumstances or exceptional situations where it creates an inconvenience to the family, athletes may be excused from riding either to or from an athletic event on school authorized transportation. This privilege is to be kept to a minimum since our philosophy continues to be that an athlete is part of a team in all phases of team activity.

1. Travel release forms will be made available to all athletes.
2. Parents must make prior arrangements with the coach in advance of the trip by having the approval travel release on file in the coach’s office or in the coach’s possession on the day of the trip.
3. Should a parent approach a coach and request their son/daughter ride home with them or someone else, the coach shall agree upon receiving written release of responsibility for the athlete.

IV. Procedure Relative to the Use of School buses

A. Bus guidelines

1. The coach shall give to the driver a trip itinerary and a team travel roster listing the names, addresses and phone numbers of all passengers. This list is required in the event of an accident and should be made available to law authorities.
2. A coach must accompany the bus when a sport is on the road.
3. A first aid kit must accompany all athletic trips and contain the “Emergency Medical Forms” for each athlete.
4. The coach will assume all responsibility for conduct and discipline on the bus in conjunction with the driver who is ultimately in charge.

5. All athletes should be instructed to be at the point of departure 15 minutes prior to the designated time.
6. Athletes who miss the bus and arrive at the contest later shall not be permitted to participate unless there are extreme circumstances.
7. No food or drink is permitted on the bus unless the driver has given prior approval due to the length of the trip.
8. In the event approval has been granted, the coach is responsible to see that the bus is left in clean condition.
9. All participants are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times on activity trips. Foul language or obscene actions will not be tolerated. Gambling in any form will not be allowed.
10. All students are expected to dress appropriately and neatly for out of town trips.
11. Only players, coaches, cheerleaders, chaperones or other invited school officials may ride buses provided for athletic teams. No exceptions may be made to this rule.
12. When a bus is chaperoned by only one coach, he/she should position him/herself near the center of the bus for supervision. Whenever two or more coaches are on the bus, one coach should sit in the rear to eliminate horseplay.
13. Only assigned personnel may ride on school transportation. No spectators or coaches' family members are permitted.
14. Coaches are to instruct their athletes not to wear spikes or cleats inside school transportation without the driver's permission.
15. Bus radios, if permitted will not be played at an excessive noise level.
16. The emergency door shall only be used in case of emergency or unless authorized by the driver.
17. The coach will check with the driver to be sure that students have everything off the bus upon return to school.
18. The coach shall see to it that the locker room of the host school is left in a clean and orderly condition with no damage. Report any incidents involving team members to the principal as soon as possible.
19. All students shall return home on the same bus or vehicles in which they traveled to the contest. The only exceptions would be if they have secured a travel release.

B. Trip cancellation

1. When it is necessary to cancel a trip due to weather or road conditions, the decision will be made by the transportation supervisor, coach, and the building principal. All parties concerned should be notified.
2. Bus drivers will have the final authority on the decision as to staying or coming home due to weather conditions.

V. The coach and principal will organize overnight trips.

Locker Room and Related Facilities

I. Locker Room responsibilities

A. Security

1. Each coach is responsible for the action of members of his/her squad for the time they report for practice until they leave the building after practice.
2. It is the coach's responsibility to be present at the time that the athletes are to report for practices, games, meets, home or away, and stays until the last athlete has left.

3. The coach shall see that lights and showers are turned off, the doors are locked, equipment is locked up and the room left as neat as possible.
4. Since many coaches will be using the locker room office area (coaches office), each coach must make effort to keep this area as neat and clean as reasonably possible. The custodian will clean this area as scheduled.
5. Each coach shall keep a numerical and alphabetical record of the locks and lockers used by his/her squad. This record should include lock combinations. A copy of this record shall be made available to the principal.

B. Control of keys

1. All keys to the building, locker rooms, equipment rooms, etc., will be issued to coaches by the principal or designee. All coaches will return their keys to the principal on the final day of the school year, unless permission has been granted for summer use of the athletic area.
2. Coaches are not to give athletes their keys at any time. Managers may use coaches' keys during practice sessions, but managers are not to have their own keys.
3. If keys to the athletic area are lost, the coach should report this to the principal immediately.

II. Locker Room Procedures

A. Athlete rules

1. Rough housing and throwing towels or other objects is not allowed in the locker room. Hazing of other players is not allowed.
2. All showers must be turned off after showering. The last person to leave the shower room is expected to check all showers.
3. No one except coaches and assigned players is allowed in the locker room.
4. No glass containers are permitted in locker room.
5. All spiked or cleated shoes must be put on and taken off outside of the locker room. No metal or hard plastic spikes or cleats are ever allowed in any other part of the school building.
6. Equipment must be removed from all lockers by the end of the first school day following the conclusion of each sport session.
7. Athletes may use the phone in the locker offices to call home upon permission of the coach. Normally, all athletes should make prior arrangements for transportation home at the end of their scheduled practice time. Pay phones are to be utilized for other calls.
8. Other needed rules may be added with the approval of the principal and coach.

Athletic Injuries

I. Medical Aspects and Safety

A. Responsibilities

1. The coach in charge of the activity is to assume the responsibility. He/she must be prepared to recognize and properly administer first aid or refer injuries to the appropriate medical personnel.
2. No member of the coaching staff should overstep his/her bounds and attempt to diagnose or treat an injury. Since athletes are bound to have injuries, the coach must

understand first aid and be ready to administer it. In addition to knowing what to do, he/she should know what not to do.

3. It is the responsibility of the coach in charge of a team to have a complete list of emergency telephone numbers and pertinent student health information and a first aid kit at every practice and contest.
4. Encourage heavy fluid intake before, during, and after practice sessions.

B. Emergency procedures

1. Check for consciousness and vital signs (breathing and pulse); look for abnormally displaced body parts. If unconscious, assume injured athlete may have a spinal injury.
2. Take appropriate steps to control excessive bleeding.
3. Movement of the injured should be kept at a minimum.
4. Keep the injured as warm and comfortable as possible, except with heat related illnesses.
5. When there is any question as to the extent, seriousness or nature of the injury by the coach seek professional medical help immediately.
6. Notify the parents of the injured athlete immediately.
 - a) Parents should assume the responsibility of contacting the family physician for any injury.
 - b) Less serious injuries, have parents provide transportation for the necessary medical attention.
7. Call 911 as needed.
8. The athlete's parents' home and work phone numbers, other contact person, preferred physician and preferred hospital are listed on the "Emergency Medical Authorization" card that is carried at all times in the team's medical kit.
9. If the parents are not available, a member of the coaching staff will accompany the athlete to seek the necessary medical attention, taking the Emergency Medical Authorization card. He/she should continue to try to contact the parents.
10. Notify parents of all noticeable injuries, illnesses, infections, etc. The parents should always make contact with the family physician.

II. Accident/Injury Report Procedures

A. Reporting Procedures

1. The coach will complete the "Athletic Injury Report" form immediately following any athletic injury that requires medical professional or health care personnel. This includes athletic injuries or accidents that involve any students under their control during a practice, contest or while traveling to or from a contest.
2. The form shall be turned into the principal's office the following morning with the coach retaining a copy.
3. Copies of the report shall be immediately sent to the Central Office and to the parents.
4. The coach shall list the injury on the log that is kept in the athletic training room.
5. Coaches should follow up on all injuries by attempting to personally contact the parents.

B. Return to Participation

Athletes that have been out of action for a time because of illness of injury, and were under the treatment of the family physicians, must have a written statement allowing return to competition.

III. Suggested Items for a Coaches' First Aid Kit

Adhesive	Ammonia ampules
Antiseptic soap (phisoderm, etc.)	Band-Aids (1 by 3)
Blood pressure cuff and stethoscope	Butterfly bandages
Chalk	Cotton (sterile)
Cotton tipped applicators	Elastic bandages
Elastic tape role (elasticon, etc.)	Tweezers
Mirror (hand)	Moleskin
Non-adhering sterile pad (3 by 3)	Oral thermometer
Pen light	Plastic bags
Rubber gloves	Sponge rubber
Surgical scissors	Tape adherent
Tape scissors	Tongue depressors
Triangular bandages	Towels

NOTE: The amounts will depend on the number of players and amounts used in previous years.

In addition to the items listed above for the training kit, the following items may be needed at the sideline:

Ice-crushed Water-individual cups or containers Stretcher Air splints-both arm and leg
Spine board – Particularly important in football games

Awards Banquets

The coach of each sport shall be responsible for coordinating the awards format for his/her program at the end of the session. The coach may choose to work with a support club, or a group of selected parents in planning the type of awards ceremony under the supervision of the principal.

2022-23 TSSAA Handbook

TSSAA CONSTITUTION CHANGES APPROVED FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Article IV, Section 6 (Legislative Council Meetings)

This change states the Legislative Council shall meet in December and April of each school year.

TSSAA BYLAWS CHANGES APPROVED FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

1. Article I, Section 9 (Coaches)

This change outlines the specific fine for schools that fail to submit non-faculty and classified employees on the Portal prior to coaching each year.

2. Article II, Section 25(B) (Home School Rule)

This change removes the August 15th deadline that homeschool students must notify the member school administration of their intent to try out for a school team. It now states that they must notify the Principal of the member school of their intent to tryout before the first official practice date for that sport.

3. Article II, Section 27 (Virtual School Rule)

The Legislative Council adopted rules allowing member virtual school students who reside in the geographic area of the LEA of the member virtual school to participate at their zoned public school provided they meet all other eligibility requirements and the virtual school decides not to have its own athletic program.

4. Article IV, Section 8 (Sports Calendar)

This change increased the number of matches in Tennis teams are allowed to participate in during the regular season from sixteen (16) to twenty-two (22).

2022-23 TSSAA Handbook

TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

Article I Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of the corporation shall be the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association, and hereafter shall be referred to as TSSAA.

Section 2. The purposes of the corporation shall be as stated in the Charter of Incorporation and, in addition, to stimulate and regulate interscholastic athletic competition among the member schools in accordance with the standards established by those schools in the TSSAA Bylaws.

Section 3. The mission of the TSSAA is to serve its members by providing leadership and coordination for the administration of interscholastic athletics, which will enhance the educational experiences of students. The TSSAA will promote participation and sportsmanship to develop good citizens through interscholastic athletics, which provide equitable opportunities, positive recognition and learning experiences to students while maximizing the achievement of educational goals.

Article II Athletic Districts

Section 1. For the purpose of administration only, the state shall be divided by counties into the following athletic districts:

First Athletic District: Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington.

Second Athletic District: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Union.

Third Athletic District: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie.

Fourth Athletic District: Bedford, Cannon, Clay, Coffee, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Moore, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Rutherford, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, White, Wilson.

Fifth Athletic District: Davidson, Macon, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale.

Sixth Athletic District: Cheatham, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, Perry, Wayne, Williamson.

Seventh Athletic District: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Madison, McNairy.

Eighth Athletic District: Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Haywood, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, Tipton, Weakley.

Ninth Athletic District: Shelby.

Athletic Districts 1, 2 and 3 shall comprise the Grand Division of East Tennessee; Athletic Districts 4, 5 and 6 shall comprise the Grand Division of Middle Tennessee, and Athletic Districts 7, 8 and 9 shall comprise the Grand Division of West Tennessee.

2022-23 TSSAA Handbook

Article III Board of Control

Section 1. Administration: The administrative authority of the TSSAA shall be vested in a Board of Control composed of twelve members. This Board of Control shall be composed of four representatives from each of the three Grand Divisions of the State who shall be elected to serve for a period of three years. The terms of office shall be staggered such that the terms of four members of the Board of Control, one from two Grand Divisions and two from one Grand Division of the State, shall expire each year. The election shall take place in an annual meeting of the schools in each Grand Division.

Section 2. Election: In each Grand Division, there shall be a minimum of one Independent School representative. Only administrators of member Independent Schools in that Grand Division shall be eligible for election to the Independent School seat. Each member school of the Grand Division that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each Independent School seat to be filled at the meeting.

Administrators from all member schools shall be eligible for election to the other three seats. Nominations shall come from the schools within the Athletic District, and only the members of that Athletic District may vote for their representative on the Board of Control. Each member school of the Athletic District that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each seat to be filled at the meeting. In the event of a tie vote, all member schools in that Grand Division represented at the meeting shall continue to vote until the tie is broken.

The term of office for members of the Board of Control shall begin December 1 following their election.

All members of the Board of Control must be full-time employees (minimum of 100 school days) who are principals, assistant principals (who devote full-time duties to administration), heads of schools, school-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), district-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), or director of schools. District-level athletic directors, County and City superintendents of no more than one four-year high school or senior high school shall be eligible to serve. No individual can serve as a member of the Legislative Council and Board of Control at the same time.

Section 3. Officers: The officers of the Board of Control shall be a president and a vice president. These officers shall be elected annually by the members of the Board of Control and each shall perform the duties usually required of the office. The President and Vice-President of the Board of Control shall serve as President and Vice-President of the TSSAA. The President of the Board of Control shall also attend all meetings of the Legislative Council. The Executive Director shall act as Secretary of the Board of Control.

Section 4. Vacancies: Withdrawal from the teaching profession, suspension or lapse of membership of the school represented, or removal from the Athletic District represented shall immediately terminate membership on the Board of Control, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided below.

Vacancies on the Board of Control shall be filled by the members of the Board of Control representing the Grand Division wherein the vacancy occurs. Such members shall serve until the next annual meeting of the member schools of the Grand Division, at which time vacancies shall be filled by regular election.

Section 5. Power and Duties of Board of Control: The Board of Control shall:

- (a) Have general control over all athletic contests in which member schools participate.
- (b) Elect an Executive Director and delegate the authority to interpret and to enforce the Constitution and Bylaws of the TSSAA to the Executive Director.
- (c) Provide office facilities and employees for properly conducting the business of the Association. (The Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association is an Equal Opportunity Employer.)
- (d) Determine and authorize all necessary expenditures of money in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.
- (e) Determine methods of, and qualifications for, registration of officials; revoke registration of any official for just cause.
- (f) Hear appeals from decisions of the Executive Director and render final decisions in those appeals.

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- (g) Have authority to rule on any cause not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws, until the Legislative Council adopts a rule covering the situation.

Section 6. Meetings: The Board of Control shall meet in August, November, January, March and June. Other meetings may be called by the President of the Board of Control. The various ex-officio representatives shall be permitted to attend meetings and may provide input on behalf of their constituents but shall have no vote and shall not be or remain present during any meetings held in executive session.

Section 7. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Board of Control shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article IV Legislative Council

Section 1. Administration: The legislative body of the TSSAA shall be a Legislative Council composed of twelve members. This Legislative Council shall be composed of four representatives from each of the three Grand Divisions of the State who shall be elected to serve for a period of three years. The terms of office shall be staggered such that the terms of four members of the Legislative Council, one from two Grand Divisions and two from one Grand Division of the State, shall expire each year. The election shall take place in an annual meeting of the schools in each Grand Division.

Section 2. Election: In each Grand Division, there shall be a minimum of one Independent School representative. Only administrators of member Independent Schools in that Grand Division shall be eligible for election to the Independent School seat. Each member school of the Grand Division that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each Independent School seat to be filled at the meeting.

Administrators from all member schools shall be eligible for election to the other three seats. Nominations shall come from the schools within the Athletic District, and only the members of that Athletic District may vote for their representative on the Legislative Council. Each member school of the Athletic District that is represented at the meeting by the Principal, or other administrator, shall be entitled to one vote for each seat to be filled at the meeting. In the event of a tie vote, all member schools in that Grand Division represented at the meeting shall continue to vote until the tie is broken.

The term of office for members of the Legislative Council shall begin December 1 following their election.

All members of the Legislative Council must be full-time employees (minimum of 100 school days) who are principals, assistant principals (who devote full-time duties to administration), heads of schools, school-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), district-level athletic directors (who have achieved a minimum CAA recognition through the NIAAA), or director of schools. District-level athletic directors, County and City superintendents of no more than one four-year high school or senior high school shall be eligible to serve. No individual can serve as a member of the Legislative Council and Board of Control at the same time.

Section 3. Officers: The officers of the Legislative Council shall be a president and a vice president. These officers shall be elected annually by the members of the Legislative Council and each shall perform the duties usually required of the office. The President of the Legislative Council shall also attend all meetings of the Board of Control. The Executive Director shall act as Secretary of the Legislative Council.

Section 4. Vacancies: Withdrawal from the teaching profession, suspension or lapse of membership of the school represented, or removal from the Athletic District represented shall immediately terminate membership on the Legislative Council, and the vacancy shall be filled as provided below.

Vacancies on the Legislative Council shall be filled by the members of the Legislative Council representing the Grand Division wherein the vacancy occurs. Such members shall serve until the next annual meeting of the member schools of the Grand Division, at which time vacancies shall be filled by regular election.

Section 5. Duties: The Legislative Council shall make necessary amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and act upon suggestions submitted by 25 members of the Association.

Section 6. Meetings: The Legislative Council shall meet in December and in **April**. Other meetings may be called by the President of the Legislative Council. The various ex-officio representatives shall be permitted to

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attend meetings and may provide input on behalf of their constituents but shall have no vote and shall not be or remain present during any meetings held in executive session. The Executive Director shall prepare an agenda for each meeting of the Legislative Council, which shall include:

- (a) Proposals from the regional meetings.
- (b) Proposals from any committee established by the Board of Control or Legislative Council.
- (c) Proposals from the TSSAA staff.
- (d) Any proposal submitted by the chief administrator of a member school to the Executive Director no later than four weeks prior to the Legislative Council meeting.

The Legislative Council shall not consider any item not on the agenda prepared by the Executive Director.

The agenda shall be published no later than seven (7) days in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Legislative Council.

Section 7. Quorum: A majority of the members of the Legislative Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article V Executive Director

Section 1. The Executive Director shall be elected for a term of three years by the Board of Control.

Section 2. Under the direction of the Board of Control, the Executive Director shall receive, hold, expand and account for all funds of the Association.

Section 3. The Executive Director shall maintain the records and property of the Association.

Section 4. The Executive Director shall initiate investigations, conduct hearings, collect information, render decisions and fix penalties based on the information provided to the staff, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the TSSAA. Such decisions shall be subject to review by the Board of Control on appeal by the principal of the member school involved.

Some examples of disciplinary action are, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Probation to an individual sport in an athletic program shall result in a fine of \$500.00 annually.
- (2) Probation to a total athletic program shall result in a fine of \$1,000.00 annually.
- (3) Restrictive probation to an individual sport in an athletic program shall result in removal from the tournament series and a fine of \$1,000.00 annually.
- (4) Restrictive probation to a total athletic program shall result in removal from the tournament series in all sports and a fine of \$2,000.00 annually.
- (5) Suspension of an individual sport from participation or the total athletic program from participation.
- (6) No awards shall be given to a member school recognizing their finish in the regular season in any TSSAA sponsored sport if that school has been placed on restrictive probation for that sport.

Section 5. The Executive Director shall attend all meetings and serve as Secretary of the Board of Control and of the Legislative Council.

Section 6. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Board of Control and of the Legislative Council.

Section 7. The Executive Director shall administer the rules and regulations governing the certification of officials as directed by the Board of Control.

Article VI Hearings

Section 1. Any school charged with violating TSSAA regulations shall be notified of such charges by the Executive Director. If a hearing is desired by the school involved, the Executive Director must be notified immediately in writing. Provisions will then be made for such hearing, and the school so notified.

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Section 2. Hearings shall be conducted by the Executive Director in the presence of two or more members of the Board of Control who represent the Grand Division of the state in which the school is located, and who shall act in an advisory capacity. After testimony has been heard, the Executive Director shall meet in executive session with the members of the Board of Control who are present at the hearing. After discussing with the Board members the evidence and possible penalties, the Executive Director shall decide what penalty, if any, is to be placed against the school.

Section 3. Regardless of whether a member school has sought a hearing under Section 2, the school may appeal any decision of the Executive Director to the Board of Control. If the decision of the Executive Director is sustained, the school making the appeal shall defray the expenses for the meeting of the Board of Control in case a special meeting of the Board is called to consider the appeal.

Section 4. No member of the Board of Control shall serve on the Board while a case involving the school which he/she represents is being heard.

Article VII Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended by a majority of the membership of the Legislative Council. The action of the Legislative Council shall be final except that any amendment it makes may be appealed to the entire membership upon request of 25 members of the Association submitted to the Executive Director in writing. An appeal to the membership must be participated in by at least 51 percent of the total membership or the appeal will be void. A two-thirds majority of those voting will be necessary to reject a regulation adopted by the Legislative Council. Any item, not on the regional agenda, that is submitted by a member school to the Legislative Council must be in writing and submitted to the Executive Director no later than four weeks prior to the meeting of the Legislative Council at which the item is to be submitted. Any item to be placed on the agenda of the Legislative Council must be submitted by the chief administrator of a member school, a committee established by the Board of Control, Legislative Council or members of the TSSAA staff.

Section 2. The Legislative Council shall not act on any proposed rule changes affecting any sport sponsored by TSSAA unless the proposed change has been called to the attention of the membership by letter or by being printed in the TSSAA bulletin.

Article VIII Regional Meeting

Section 1. Regional meetings shall be held in November and/or December of each year at Jackson, Nashville and Knoxville for the purpose of electing members to Board of Control and Legislative Council and of considering proposals to amend the Constitution and Bylaws or other legislative proposals. Proposals for consideration at regional meetings may be submitted by member schools, the Board of Control, or the Legislative Council. All such proposals must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing not later than October 15 of the year they are to be presented at the regional meetings. The Executive Director shall furnish all member schools with a list of all legislative proposals prior to the regional meetings, and the school or group responsible for each proposal shall be indicated. A committee composed of the President and Vice-President of the Legislative Council, the President of the Board of Control, and the Executive Director shall determine the order in which these proposals shall be considered at the regional meetings.

Each member school, provided it is represented by the principal, or by a faculty member designated by the principal, shall be entitled to one vote on all matters considered at the regional meeting held in its area, unless the Board of Control rules in advance of the regional meeting that certain items on the agenda shall not be voted on by the entire membership but that the vote shall be limited to schools concerned with a particular question. Non-voting faculty representatives of member schools have the privilege of speaking for or against any proposal considered.

The action of the member schools at the three regional meetings shall be used as a guide by the Legislative Council in adopting or rejecting legislative proposals.

The principal, assistant principal, or athletic director shall attend the regional meeting annually. Failure to attend shall result in a warning. If an administrator does not attend the following year, the fine shall be \$100.00.

FAQ's concerning the Constitution can be found on Page 41.

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DEFINITIONS

Affiliate Member – A school that has all the privileges and responsibilities of membership but does not participate in the tournament series in any sport.

Athletic Program – All aspects of the member school's program of interscholastic athletic competition in the sports listed in Article I, Section 5, of the TSSAA Bylaws.

Athletic Record – A student has an "athletic record" if the student has played in an interscholastic contest at the varsity, junior varsity, ninth grade, or any other level, on behalf a TSSAA member school or a school that is a member of a state athletic association holding membership in the National Federation.

Bona Fide Change of Residence – A move from one community to another that justifies a change of schools. Where a family continues to maintain a previous residence for the residential purposes of that family or any of its members, the move is not one that justifies a change of schools for purposes of the TSSAA Bylaws.

Coach – Anyone who instructs or supervises student-athletes in practices or contests.

Cooperative Program – Two member schools forming a single team in a sport in which at least one of the schools does not have a team and has not had a team for the previous two (2) years.

De Novo – Heard anew. Where a decision by the Executive Director is appealed "*de novo*" to the Board of Control, the Board of Control is not in any way bound, restricted, or limited by the findings or conclusions of the Executive Director and may render whatever decision it deems appropriate based on its own review of the facts and circumstances.

Enrolled – A student is considered "enrolled" at a school, for purposes of these Bylaws, when the student has (a) completed all paperwork required for attendance at the school; (b) paid all deposits and tuition due where applicable; and (c) either (i) attended classes for three days; (ii) engaged in three or more days of football, girls volleyball, cross country, golf, or girls soccer practice during the period on or after the TSSAA first official day of practice; or (iii) participated in an athletic contest in any Fall sport. A student may not be considered to be enrolled in more than one school at any time.

Guardian – An adult with whom the student has lived for twelve (12) or more consecutive months. For purposes of TSSAA Bylaws, official appointment by a court is not required to establish guardianship; however, no person may be considered a guardian for purposes of these Bylaws unless the student has lived with that person for twelve (12) or more consecutive months, regardless of whether that person has been appointed as a guardian by a court.

Junior Varsity – Any level of play below the varsity level, whether denominated as junior varsity, b-team, or otherwise. The membership of a junior varsity team shall be composed of varsity substitutes and any other non-varsity players identified on the school's eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster).

Last Participation Date – the date of the last interscholastic athletic contest in which the student participated.

Parent – The birth mother and biological father of a student; the person(s) to whom a proper jurisdiction grants adoption of the student; or a step-parent with whom the student regularly resides.

Practice – Any interaction between a coach and student-athlete(s) where instruction, teaching, coaching, etc., is occurring. Happenstance communications between coach and student-athlete(s), in circumstances where attendance by the student-athlete is neither expected nor required, are not considered to be practice. Such communications may not, however, be used to circumvent the requirement in open facilities that a coach act in a supervisory capacity only. In addition, try-outs are considered practice.

Principal – The chief on-site administrative official of the member school, whether known as "principal," "head of school," "executive principal," or by some other title.

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Regular Attendance – A student is considered to be in “regular attendance” at a school when the student is enrolled at the school; is taking at, or under arrangements approved by the member school, a minimum of five (5) full courses or the equivalent for which credit toward high school graduation will be granted by the member school upon the student’s completing and passing the courses; and is satisfying the requirements of the school or school system for class attendance applicable to students generally.

School Team – An entity comprised of one or more students in a school, under the control and conduct of the school, which represents the school in interscholastic athletic competition.

Special Olympics Athlete – A student participating in Unified Sports who has been identified by an agency or professional as having one or more of the following conditions: intellectual disability, cognitive delay as measured by a formal assessment, or significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay that require or have required specially designed instruction.

Territory – For a public school, the “territory” of the school is the geographic boundaries and bus routes of the area served by that school as established by the local board of education. For a system-wide public school, charter school, or a home school student participating at a public school, the “territory” of the school is the geographic boundaries of the school system. For a non-public school or a home school student participating at a non-public school, the “territory” of the school is the area within a twenty (20) mile radius from the school.

Tournament Competition – The TSSAA-sponsored championship tournament series.

Transfer Student – A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest, or terminal, grade at another school. A student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.

Unified Partner – A student participating in Unified Sports who has no intellectual disability or cognitive delay. Unified Partners are paired with Unified Athletes to participate on Unified Sports teams. Unified Partners are not eligible to participate **in the TSSAA postseason at the state level** on the school team for the sanctioned sport in which they are participating in the Unified competition.

Unified Sports – Special Olympics Unified Sports® is an inclusive sports program that combines an approximately equal number of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on a team for training and competition.

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TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

There are three primary objectives that the member schools of the TSSAA attempt to achieve through their Bylaws: (1) maintaining athletics in its proper perspective as subordinate to the primary academic mission of the schools; (2) preventing the exploitation of students for athletic purposes; and (3) fostering fair competition, or a "level playing field," among the TSSAA member schools. While some particular Bylaws may serve additional purposes, all of the Bylaws should be read with these three overriding objectives in mind.

Article I

Membership and Athletic Program Administration

Membership - Sections 1, 2, and 3
Financial Statement - Section 4
Sponsored Sports - Section 5
Cooperative Programs - Section 6
Responsibility of the Principal - Sections 7 and 8
Coaches - Section 9
Rules Meetings for Coaches - Section 10
Contracts - Section 11

Membership

Section 1. Any secondary school in Tennessee which includes grade 9 and/or higher, which is approved by the State Department of Education, State Department of Education approved agencies (Schools must be in category 1, 2, or 3.), AdvanceEd, and/or Southern Association of Independent Schools, both non-public and public, desiring membership in TSSAA may make application to the Board of Control. Prior member schools that continue to serve students within the state of Tennessee may also make application to the Board of Control. Contracts for membership shall be approved or rejected annually by the Board of Control.

Member schools that withdraw from the TSSAA membership must be an affiliate member for one year upon application to renew membership.

Section 2. The annual dues for a senior high school in Division I Class 1A shall be \$150.00, in Division I Class 2A \$200.00, in Division I Class 3A \$250.00, in Division I Class 4A \$250.00 and for a junior high school shall be \$100.00. The annual dues for a senior high school in Division II Class A shall be \$150, in Division II Class AA \$200. The Legislative Council may not increase membership dues unless the increase is approved by a vote of TSSAA member schools.

Membership contracts shall be submitted by August 1 for the subsequent school year. Membership dues shall be paid no later than September 1 and shall be for the school year (August 1 – July 31). There shall be a five dollar (\$5.00) per business day late fee charged to any school that fails to remit its membership dues by September 1.

Section 3. For tournament competition there shall be two categories. Division I shall consist of all member public schools. Division II shall consist of all member independent schools.

Any school which includes grade 9 and/or higher may compete as a member school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Financial Statement

Section 4. The fiscal year of the Association shall be from July 1 to June 30. At the close of the fiscal year, the Executive Director shall publish a financial statement. All surplus funds shall be used as directed by the Board of Control.

Sponsored Sports

Section 5. TSSAA shall sponsor the following sports: baseball, girls' softball, basketball, bowling, cross country, football, golf, tennis, track and field, unified track and field, girls' volleyball, soccer, and wrestling.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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Cooperative Programs

Section 6. Only two member schools in the same Division may petition TSSAA annually for permission to have a cooperative program in any sport if one of the schools does not have that program and has not had that program for the last two years. The Executive Director of TSSAA may approve such cooperative programs subject to approval by the principals of the schools involved, the governing board of the schools involved, and the Board of Control.

Responsibility of the Principal

Section 7. The principal of each school, in all matters pertaining to the athletic relations of his/her school, is responsible to this Association. Administrators must realize that they have more responsibilities than the general public to understand the purpose of high school athletics and the principles behind the TSSAA rules, and they must maintain that level of understanding and purpose when dealing with the general public and students. The principal shall exercise control over all finances, the scheduling of contests, and all other matters involved in the management of the school's athletic program. Any school whose athletic program is managed by a non-school group shall not be eligible to hold membership in TSSAA.

The principal shall furnish to the Executive Director such information as may be desired concerning eligibility of contestants, participation and reports on officials. Failure to comply within a reasonable time shall subject the school to suspension, fine or other penalty. Any eligibility list shall remain on file in the principal's office for a period of not less than five years.

The principal, assistant principal, or athletic director shall attend the meeting for all administrators annually. Failure to attend shall result in a warning. If an administrator does not attend the following year, the fine shall be \$50.00.

Section 8. All games shall be properly supervised to ensure sportsmanlike contests. The host school shall be responsible for providing sufficient security to ensure orderly conduct on the part of all spectators. Visiting teams shall be accompanied by the principal or someone designated by the principal. If the game is played on a neutral field and neither team is designated as the host team, the competing schools shall share the responsibility of providing sufficient security.

The host school is responsible for the safe passage of the game officials upon arrival and exiting the facility.

Public criticism of game officials by administrators or coaches may result in a fine of \$500.00 assessed to the school.

Member schools are responsible for the conduct of their own fans and students at every athletic contest, regardless of where it may be held.

The coach and principal of each of the schools participating in an athletic contest shall file a report immediately with the state office if there is any unusual incident involving poor sportsmanship, during or following the game, on the part of players, coaches, school administrators, game officials or spectators.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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Coaches

Section 9. All coaches must be registered with TSSAA annually and will fall under one of the following categories:

1. Full-time certified teacher (a minimum of 100 school days) of a board of education with a Tennessee teaching license or the equivalent.
2. Retired educator (five or more years' experience) with a valid Tennessee state teaching license or the equivalent.
3. Non-faculty coach – Anyone approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or local board of education in the normal course of employment procedures in accordance with applicable state law.
4. Classified Employee – Any individual employed by a member school or school system in a position that does not require a teaching license or the equivalent. A Classified Employee must be employed 30 hours or more per week in a non-coaching position and may not be an independent contractor or an employee of an independent contractor.

A. Coaching Requirements:

1. All coaches must be approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or local board of education prior to coaching.
2. **All coaches must be submitted online and assigned to the appropriate sport(s) in the school's portal account to the state office annually. This should be done prior to coaching.**
3. Non-faculty Coaches and Classified Employee Coaches must complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses prior to assuming the position. Coaches who have successfully completed the ASEP Coaches Education Course prior to May 15, 2013, will not be required to take the NFHS courses. A school must pay an annual registration fee of \$50.00 per Non-faculty Coach. There is no registration fee for a Classified Employee.
4. In addition to the requirements listed above, all coaches of Unified Sports must meet the requirements set forth by Special Olympics of Tennessee.

B. Use of a coach who does not meet all the requirements listed above shall result in a fine of \$500.00. Use of a Non-faculty Coach or Classified Employee Coach who has met the requirements listed above but has not been submitted to the state office prior to the date of first contest allowed by the Sports Calendar shall result in a fine of \$50.00. Use of a full-time certified teacher or retired educator who has not been submitted to the state office prior to the date of first contest allowed by the Sports Calendar shall result in a fine of \$50.00.

C. All coaches are subject to the TSSAA rules and regulation and must conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a coach and representative of the school. All coaches are responsible to the principal of his/her school. Coaches must realize that they have more responsibilities than the general public to understand the purpose of high school athletics and the principles behind the TSSAA rules, and they must maintain that level of understanding and purpose when dealing with the general public and students. Coaches must be paid entirely from funds approved by either the board of education, governing board of the school, Director of Schools, or the Principal of the school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Rules Meetings for Coaches

Section 10. A member of the coaching staff in each sport and cheerleading or the Athletic Director shall attend a state rules meeting, if held, or complete the online rules meeting (if available), in the sport involved every year by a set deadline, or the school will be fined \$50.00. The coach must complete a make-up online rules meeting if they missed the face-to-face meeting or did not complete the online meeting by the original deadline. If not, the head coach will not be eligible to coach in the post-season tournament series. The school is still fined if the coach takes the make-up meeting after the original deadline.

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Contracts

Section 11. Contracts made and entered into by member schools may be cancelled by mutual agreement or by authority of the Board of Control. All contracts between two schools shall be signed by the principals contracting. In the event a dispute arises under a written contract between two member schools, and the contracting schools are unable to resolve that dispute, either school may request a resolution by the Executive Director. The Executive Director's determination may be appealed to the Board of Control, whose decision shall be final and binding. TSSAA shall not resolve any disputes under contracts that are not in writing.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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Article II Eligibility

Preamble

Enrollment - Section 1

Academic Rules - Sections 2, 3, and 4

High School Graduate - Section 5

Eight Semester Rule - Section 6

Repeating Rule – Section 7

Eighth Grade Participation - Section 8

Age Limit - Section 9

Phys. Exam and Parental Consent - Section 10

Students Changing Schools - Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15

Tuition and Financial Aid - Section 16

Recruiting Rule - Section 17

Amateur Rule - Section 18

Award Rule - Sections 19 and 20

Independent-Game Participation - Section 21

Specialized Camps - Section 22

All-Star Games - Section 23

Special Cases Involving Hardship - Section 24

Home School Rule – Section 25

Athletes Participating in Unified Sports – Section 26

Virtual School Rule – Section 27

Preamble

The member high schools of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association have adopted, through their elected representatives, an essential inter-related group of minimum eligibility requirements which establish the threshold for participation for all students within the interscholastic program and which work together to define and preserve the fundamental nature of the program.

At the junior varsity or B-Team level, the only eligibility rules that apply are those in Sections 1 (Enrollment), 2 through 4 (Academic Rules), 5 (High School Graduate), 6 (Eight-Semester Rule), 7 (Repeating Rule), 8 (Eighth Grade Participation), 9 (Age Limit), 10 (Physical Examination and Parental Consent), 13d (Under Disciplinary Action), 13e (Coaching Link), 25 (Home School Rule), and **27 (Virtual School Rule)**. At the varsity level, all eligibility rules apply.

Enrollment and Attendance

Section 1. To be eligible, students shall be regularly enrolled, in regular attendance, and carrying at least five full courses or the equivalent. A student is eligible to participate in football, volleyball, cross country, golf, and girls' soccer prior to the beginning of school if the student is enrolled at the school and meets all other eligibility requirements.

A student shall not participate in athletics during any semester unless he/she is duly enrolled on or before the 20th day of the semester. This rule shall not apply to transfer students who have met the attendance requirements in the school last attended.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Academic Rules

Section 2. To be eligible to participate in athletic contests during any school year, the student must earn five credits the preceding school year if less than 24 credits are required for graduation or six credits the preceding school year if 24 or more credits are required for graduation. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year.

Students who are ineligible the first semester may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five subjects (1/2 credit) or three blocks (one credit per block) or the equivalent.

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Students on trimesters who are ineligible at the beginning of the school year may gain eligibility by passing five subjects (1/2 credit) or three blocks (one credit per block) or the equivalent the first trimester. Those students will be eligible to participate in athletics when school resumes on or after January 1 of that school year.

If a student is forced to withdraw from school, or is prevented from enrolling in school, due to the student's illness, his/her accident, or his/her disability, the principal may request a ruling in regard to the student's eligibility, provided the student was eligible at the time the illness or accident forced the student to withdraw or prevented the student from enrolling in school. If ruled eligible, such a student shall be charged with a semester of attendance for athletic purposes for the semester of non-attendance or withdrawal.

A student who returns to a member school after attendance at a school of correction or alternative school may be eligible for athletic participation provided the school of correction or alternative school is accredited by the Tennessee State Department of Education and provided the student returns to the school attended before entering the school of correction or alternative school.

Section 3. For athletic purposes the scholastic record filed in the office of the principal or superintendent at the end of a semester shall be final. Credits earned in a summer school accredited by the State Department of Education shall be recognized for eligibility purposes provided the student was enrolled during the spring semester immediately preceding the summer session and attended at least 40 days of that spring semester.

Section 4. A student who drops out of school before the end of the semester shall be ineligible to participate in secondary school athletics until the student has been in school a semester and has passed in at least five full unit subjects or the equivalent. (To become eligible under this regulation, a student must attend school for at least 40 days of the semester, but in no case shall the eligibility become effective until the beginning of the succeeding semester.)

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

High School Graduate

Section 5. No student shall be eligible to participate in athletics after he/she has graduated from a secondary school. (A student who takes an accelerated course shall not lose his/her eligibility even though that student earns enough units to graduate provided he/she does not participate in a graduating exercise or accept a high school diploma, and provided the student has not attended a secondary school for eight semesters after enrolling in the ninth grade.)

Eight-Semester Rule

Section 6. A student, once enrolled in the 9th grade, has eight (8) semesters of athletic eligibility. Attendance of 40 school days of any semester shall be regarded as a "semester" under this rule regardless of athletic participation. If a student participates in athletics during a period of attendance of any number of days less than 40, he/she shall be charged with a semester of attendance.

A student who registers for two or more ninth grade subjects after having completed one school year in the eighth grade shall be classified as a high school student for athletic purposes.

The seventh and eighth semesters of athletic eligibility shall be consecutive.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Repeating Rule

Section 7. A student who repeats the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade and plays in an interscholastic contest (Varsity, JV, or any other level) while repeating shall be ineligible in all sports at all levels in the ninth grade.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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Eighth Grade Participation

Section 8. An eighth grade student is eligible to participate for a member school if he/she is enrolled at the school. Students below the eighth grade are not eligible to practice or participate for a member school. Any student repeating the eighth grade shall not be eligible for high school participation during the year that the student is repeating the eighth grade.

Participation as an eighth grader shall not reduce the number of semesters a student is allowed to participate after enrolling in the ninth grade.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Age Limit

Section 9. No student shall be eligible to participate in any athletic contest during any school year if he/she becomes 19 years of age on or before August 1. The age rule may be waived for the Tennessee School for the Blind when this school is competing with other schools for the blind provided such schools are permitted by their state associations to waive the age rule in competing with other schools for the blind.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Physical Examination and Parental Consent

Section 10. It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file with the principal a preparticipation medical evaluation form signed by a doctor of medicine, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner stating that the student has passed a physical examination, not prior to April 15, and that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics. In lieu of the form, the principal may accept a signed statement from the health care provider certifying that the student has passed a physical examination that encompasses all elements on the preparticipation medical evaluation form and attesting that in their opinion the student is physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletics.

No student shall be required to submit to a physical exam if his/her parent(s) or legal guardian shall file with the principal a signed, written statement (affirmed under the penalties of perjury) declining such physical examination on grounds of sincerely held beliefs or practices.

It is required that no student be permitted to participate in practice sessions or in athletic contests until there is on file a parental consent certificate signed by a parent or legal guardian stating that the student has the consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian to participate

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Students Changing Schools

Section 11. General Provisions.

Residence. A student changing schools for any reason, to be eligible, must live at home with his/her parent(s) or guardian(s), unless:

- (a) the student is moving to a boarding school and has no athletic record the previous twelve months in any sport;
- (b) the student is moving as a direct result of the dissolution of the student's home due to death;
- (c) the student is moving as a direct result of the divorce of the student's parents; or
- (d) the student is moving as a direct result of the separation of the student's parents, provided a complaint or petition for absolute divorce has been filed with a court having jurisdiction to grant the divorce.

"Transfer Student" Defined. A transfer student is any student changing schools for any reason other than having completed the highest, or terminal, grade at another school. A student who must change schools because he/she has completed the highest grade at his/her previous school is not considered a transfer student and is eligible to participate in athletics at any school he/she attends, without further approval, provided he/she satisfies the residence requirement above.

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Executive Director Approval Required. A school may not allow a transfer student to participate in athletics until his/her eligibility has been verified and approved by the Executive Director. The school is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information supplied to the Executive Director for this purpose.

Participation While Ineligible. If a student who is ineligible, under these provisions regarding students changing schools, competes in a contest while ineligible, then the student upon becoming eligible under these provisions will nonetheless be ineligible to participate in twice the number of contests in which he/she participated as an ineligible student or will be ineligible for the remainder of the season, whichever is less.

Section 12. Eligible Transfer Students.

Except as otherwise provided in Section 13 below, the following transfer students are eligible:

- a. The student has no athletic record in the previous twelve months in any sport sponsored by TSSAA;
- b. There has been a bona fide change of residence by the student's entire family unit in which (1) the old residence is outside the territory of the new school, (2) the new residence is outside the territory of the old school, *and* (3) the new residence is inside the territory of the new school. If such a change of residence occurs between school years, the student must transfer at the beginning of the school year to be eligible. If the change of residence occurs during the school year, the student may transfer without loss of eligibility (1) at the time his/her parents change residence; (2) at the end of the next report card period; (3) at the close of the semester or term; or (4) at the close of the school year;
- c. The student changes schools as a direct result of re-zoning or re-assignment of students by the local school system provided the student transfers at the time they are re-zoned or re-assigned;
- d. The student is moving from a boarding school where they are a boarder to the school serving the territory where his/her parents live, or vice versa, provided the student has attended the school he/she is leaving for a minimum of twelve months and provided the principal at the school he/she is leaving indicates in writing that the move is not for athletic or disciplinary reasons. The move must be at the beginning of the school year. (Note: The school must be outside the day school territory of the boarding school.);
- e. The student is transferring to a senior high school in the same system into the earliest grade offered at that senior high school, i.e. at the student's first opportunity to move to that school;
- f. The student who has been determined by a Court to be dependent and neglected and consequently changes residences and schools as a result of a Court order;
- g. The first time the student changes residence from one parent to the other as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons; or
- h. The first time the student changes residence from a guardian to either or both parents as a result of a court ordered custody change, so long as the principal of the former school attests in writing that the move was not for athletic or disciplinary reasons;
- i. The student is attending school where the student's parent works as a full-time certified teacher, that parent takes a full-time job as a certified teacher at a different school, and the student transfers to the school where the parent takes the new job. The transfer must take place when the parent takes the job or, if the job change occurs during the school year, the transfer must take place when the parent takes the new job or must be made at the beginning of the following school year;
- j. The student who transfers from school A to school B and then returns to school A without having participated in any sanctioned sport at any level or without practicing three or more days after the first official TSSAA day of practice in any sport at any level at school B. This must be verified in writing by the administration of school B.

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Section 13. Ineligible Transfer Students.

The following transfer students are ineligible for a period of twelve months from the student's last participation date:

- a. A student who transfers without a bona fide change of residence;
- b. A student who transfers as a result of a change of residence is ineligible unless (1) the old residence is outside the territory of the new school, (2) the new residence is outside the territory of the old school, *and* (3) the new residence is inside the territory of the new school;
- c. If a student has been ruled eligible as a result of a change of residence, and the parents or guardian return to the former residence before the student has been enrolled in the new school for one complete school year (or twelve months if the transfer occurred during the school year), the student will be ineligible for twelve months from his/her last participation date;
- d. If a student has satisfied all other requirements for eligibility but was under discipline at his/her former school, the student shall be ineligible at the new school in all sports for twelve months or until the disciplinary charges have been removed, whichever is less. A student is considered to be "under discipline" if he or she has been suspended from school and/or placed in an alternative setting. The discipline has been removed if the school that has imposed the disciplinary action would allow the student to re-enroll.
- e. If a student with an athletic record transfers to a new school where an "athletic coaching link" existed in the past 12 months, that student is ineligible for 12 months past their first date of enrollment at the new school at all levels in the specific sports where a linkage was present. Links may include (1) attendance at an individual camp (and then transferring); (2) playing on non-school (independent) teams (and then transferring to that coach's school); (3) transferring into a school where a former coach has been hired; and (4) transferring to a school where a former or current personal trainer or strength and conditioning coach is employed.

This rule does not apply if the student moves to his/her new schools after completion of the highest ending grade at his/her previous school.

If the ineligible transfer student has an athletic record for the previous or current school year in any TSSAA sanctioned sport, the student will be ineligible to participate in the sport(s) in which an athletic record has been established.

Section 14. Practice Rules.

Only students who are enrolled and in regular attendance at a school may participate in practice.

A student who engages in three or more days of practice after the TSSAA first official date of practice with a school in which the student is enrolled shall be ineligible in that sport for that season if the student enrolls in another school without a corresponding change in the residence of the student's parents.

Section 15. Foreign-Exchange Programs.

A foreign exchange student is an international student who attends high school in the U.S. To be eligible for interscholastic athletics in the U.S., such student must be under the auspices of and be placed with a U.S. host family by an international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by the Council on Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) and be recognized by the U.S. Department of State. The foreign exchange program must assign students to host families by a method that ensures that no student, or his/her parents, school or other interested party may influence the assignment for athletic or other purposes. The foreign exchange student may not be selected or placed on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities.

A foreign exchange student is considered to be placed with a host family when written notice of placement is provided by the exchange organization to the student and his/her parents, and to the host family.

Neither the school the student attends nor any person associated with the school shall have input into the selection of the student.

No member of the school's coaching staff, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family.

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The foreign exchange student must possess a current J-1 visa, issued by the U.S. State Department.

The foreign exchange student must comply with all eligibility requirements, with the exception of Article II, Section 11 (Residence).

The foreign exchange student may participate a maximum of one school year. If the student decides to stay beyond the year in which they participate, then Article II, Section 11 (Residence) will be applied at the beginning of the next school year.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Section 16. If tuition is charged, it must be paid by parent, bona fide guardian or other family member. If a parent, guardian or other family member secures a loan for payment of tuition, it must remain an obligation of the parents, guardian or other family member to repay the principle and interest in full with no exceptions. Any loan program, grant program, educational foundation or similar program that is established and/or administered, in whole or in part, by a school or official of a school is considered financial aid. Financial aid will be allowed under the following conditions:

1. Children of full-time faculty members may be given financial aid, but such students, if transfers, shall be ineligible for 12 months in any sport in which they have an athletic record for the previous or current year.
2. Financial aid may be awarded on the basis of need, but proof of such need must be filed in the TSSAA office on forms approved by the Executive Director. In order to determine the basis for need, all schools awarding financial aid shall use one of the following services: FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment (FACTS), Financial Aid for School Tuition (FAST), School and Student Scholastic Service for Financial Aid (SSS), Family Financial Needs Assessment (FFNA), Private School Aid Services, Smart Tuition Aid, or Tuition Aid Data Services (TADS). Schools must choose one of the companies for all student-athletes. A committee consisting of School Heads from Division II schools and one ex-officio, non-voting member from the Board of Control and Legislative Council will meet and make recommendations to the Board of Control on each student submitted. In addition, this committee will collect information from schools regarding financial aid statistics, grant procedures, and the overall financial aid program within the school. The Board of Control will then rule on all cases at the August meeting. The Board of Control shall have authority to reject the basis of need for students when in its opinion, or in the opinion of the school committee, the amount of need stated by the financial service cannot be justified.

Schools shall remove any student from athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue.

All records pertaining to financial aid or tuition assistance shall be open to TSSAA upon its request. Each school shall be responsible for securing necessary authorization to allow TSSAA to review or audit such records.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Recruiting Rule

Section 17. Athletic recruiting is prohibited. Athletic recruiting is the use of influence on a student or the parents or guardians of a student, by any person(s) directly or indirectly associated with the school, to secure or retain a student for athletic purposes. In the event that there is a violation of this rule, there shall be a penalty against the school, and the student(s) who was the subject of the violation shall be ineligible for a minimum of one year.

The penalty and any additional period of ineligibility beyond the one-year minimum will be determined by the Executive Director based on a consideration of the number of violations involved, the number of student-athletes involved, the nature of the violation(s), the individual(s) responsible for the violation(s), and the extent to which the violation may have been knowing, deliberate, or in reckless disregard of the provisions of this rule and the commentary that accompanies this rule.

Guidelines for Understanding the Recruiting Rule

1. Athletes or prospective athletes should be treated no differently than students who are not athletes. Students should be seen as students and not singled out based on their potential athletic ability.

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2. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, a coach who is contacted by any student or family or individual about attending a school where he or she is the coach should inform that person that he or she needs to contact the administrative official or officials of the school who normally deal with the admission process.
3. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, any meeting with coaches regarding athletes or prospective athletes should be a part of the admissions process at the school and should take place at the school.

Q. How is influence for athletic purposes interpreted in the recruiting rule?

A. Examples of influence for athletic purposes may include, but are not limited to:

1. Offers of or acceptance of any special privileges not afforded to other students, whether athletes or not.
2. Offers of financial aid based on need to any prospective student-athlete by any member of the coaching staff. All financial aid questions should be referred to the principal or person in charge of financial aid.
3. Inducing or attempting to induce or encourage any prospective student-athlete to attend any member school for the purpose of participating in athletics even when the special remuneration or inducement is not given.
4. Any initial contact or prearranged contact by a member of a coaching staff or representative of the school and a prospective student-athlete in the seventh grade and above.
5. Offering or acceptance of any item with school advertisement (shirt, caps, jackets, etc.) to a prospective student; provided that this example does not apply to items of only nominal value (pencils, etc.) that a school gives to all families that participate in the school's admission process.
6. Admitting students to athletic contests free of charge based on their participation in athletics with non-school teams.
7. Recognizing students at athletic contests based on their participation in athletics with non-school teams.
8. Coaches or their representatives sending questionnaires, cards or letters, contacting, or visiting prospective student-athletes and/or their families at their homes. For purposes of the example, the terms "coach" assumes that the individual initiating the contact is acting in his or her capacity as a coach. If that person serves another role at the school and is not acting in his or her capacity as coach, then there may be no violation, unless the contact is really a method for what is in fact the use of influence for athletic purposes.
9. Coaches or their representatives providing refreshments, gifts, and/or asking prospective student-athletes or family members for contact information.
10. Any social media post that encourages prospective student-athletes to consider attending the school.

Q. What is allowed or permitted by member schools in contacting prospective students?

A. The Recruiting Rule is not intended to prevent a member school from marketing its total school program or conducting programs designed to attract students based on the school's overall educational and extracurricular programs. However, such programs must not be used as a method for securing students for athletic purposes. Examples of programs or things that would be permissible include, but are not limited to:

1. With the permission of the administration of both schools, a school may present programs or give information to elementary, junior high, or middle schools, which explain their total educational program. There should be a diversity of presenters, speaking on a variety of topics to students of all interests.
2. Once a student has pre-enrolled at a school in the spring or summer, taken necessary steps, been accepted or approved, paid a deposit (if required), and signed a contract indicating they will attend, the school may contact the student or family concerning summer programs, camps, physicals, etc., provided the student has:
 - a. Completed his/her classes and exams at his/her previous school;
 - b. Signed the independent school's enrollment contract; and
 - c. Paid the deposit required by the independent school.

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3. Mass marketing of a school directed to a general population of students.
4. Mass media advertising.
5. Responding to inquiries from parents of prospective students about various aspects of the school's program.

Q. Are there activities that might appear inconsistent with the Recruiting Rule and the Guidelines but have been historically engaged in by many member schools and are permitted under the current Recruiting Rule and Guidelines?

A. Yes. Over the course of many years, there are a number of activities that many schools have customarily engaged in and that have not been regarded as violations of the Recruiting Rule. So long as the activity does not single out particular student-athletes, and so long as the activity is not being used to circumvent the Recruiting Rule, the following such activities are permissible regardless of any apparent inconsistency with the Recruiting Rule or the Guidelines:

1. With the permission of the administration of both schools, a coach may present programs or give information to elementary, junior high, or middle schools, which explain their total program. All information concerning a particular sport program must be given out at one or both of the schools. Any program must be presented at one or both schools. Those students in attendance or who receive information must be determined by the administration of both schools.
2. Students on school teams and/or all students in a school or particular grade may be admitted to athletic contests free of charge provided it has been approved by the administration of both schools.
3. Students on school teams and/or all students in a school or particular grade may be recognized for their accomplishments at athletic contests provided it has been approved by the administration of those schools.

Amateur Rule

Section 18. A student who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or his/her athletic skill for pay in the sports which this Association governs and who has always contested under his/her own name is an amateur. (Accepting money for officiating athletic contests or for working as an employee in a city or county recreation program is not a violation of this regulation.) A student who violates the amateur rule shall be ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. Bowling, golf and tennis students will abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in accepting pay.

Such a student may be reinstated as an amateur after a period of one calendar year from the time he/she was declared ineligible has elapsed, provided he/she has not violated the amateur rule during this period.

Award Rule

Section 19. A student may accept a medal, trophy, state championship ring, high school letter, sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket but nothing else of commercial value from his/her school. (A sweater, jacket, shirt, blazer or blanket must carry the high school letter or other appropriate award emblem.) Acceptance of forbidden awards will cause a student to become ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. Bowling, golf and tennis students will abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in accepting awards.

Section 20. A member school that has any connection with the presentation of a forbidden award — such as assisting in the selection of the person to receive the award, permitting the award to be given at a school function, or holding the award for a student until he/she has graduated — shall be subject to suspension from tournament play in the involved sport(s) for one season.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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Independent-Game Participation

Section 21. Once a student's name is listed on the school's eligibility report, **and/or a student participates in a school contest at any level, a student cannot participate in an independent contest prior to the conclusion of the season.** If a student participates in an independent game in that sport after the first contest date allowed and before the season has closed or his/her name has been removed from the eligibility report at the request of the school principal, the student shall be ineligible at the varsity level as explained below.

Any organized game in which players not registered with TSSAA participate – regardless of whether admission is charged - is considered as an independent game. Once a violation of this rule has been confirmed, the student will be ineligible for the remainder of the season in that sport.

A student's name may be removed from the school's eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster) upon written request of the principal prior to the first official contest date allowed in that sport without penalty. After the first official contest allowed, a student's name may be removed from the school's eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster) upon written request of the principal, and he/she may then participate as an independent without penalty. If the principal requests the state office to remove a student's name after the first official contest date allowed in that sport, such student may not again be certified during the season of that sport.

Students may practice with an independent team regardless of whether or not scrimmage situations occur at the practice for the independent team as long as the scrimmage situation only involves the independent team that is conducting the practice. A group of students who are assembled to try-out for an independent team is considered a single team regardless of the number of students involved.

This rule does not apply to bowling, golf, tennis, wrestling, cross country, and track and field.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Specialized Camps

Section 22. All expenses of an athlete who attends any athletic camp where specialized instruction is offered in any sport sponsored by TSSAA must be paid by the athlete or his/her parents.

All-Star Games

Section 23. No student shall be permitted to participate in an all-star game during that sports season.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Special Cases Involving Hardship

Section 24. Except for the eligibility rules in regard to age and to the number of semesters in school, TSSAA shall have the authority to set aside the effect of any eligibility rule upon an individual student when:

- (a) the circumstances causing the student to fail to satisfy the eligibility rule were unforeseen and unavoidable;
- (b) application of the rule to the student works an undue hardship in light of the unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances;
- (c) application of the rule would not accomplish the purpose for which the rule was intended; and
- (d) in the case of a change of schools, the change is for reasons unrelated to participation in athletics.

The burden of establishing each of these elements to the Executive Director's satisfaction is upon the school at which eligibility is sought.

Any decision of the Executive Director on any request for a waiver of eligibility rules under this Section may be appealed *de novo* to the Board of Control at its August, November, January or March meetings. If the appeal to the Board of Control or any materials in connection with that appeal are received by TSSAA less than one full week prior to the scheduled Board of Control meeting, the member school at which eligibility is sought shall be responsible for all additional expenses associated with providing copies of that material to the Board of Control. A school appealing a decision of the Executive Director under this Section must have an administrator (principal, assistant principal, or athletic director) present at the Board of Control meeting.

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Home School Rule

Section 25. This bylaw establishes the minimum eligibility requirements for a home school student desiring to practice, tryout, and participate at any level in extracurricular athletics at a member school:

A. Definitions

1. A “home school” is a school conducted by a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for their own child. Parents desiring to home school their own children may do so by choosing one of the following three options:
 - a. **Independent Home School** - Parents may home school their own children pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-3050 by registering with their local school district. The home school must be operating in compliance with state law.
 - b. **Church-related Umbrella School** - By authority of the same statute, parents may also home school their own children by registering with a church-related “umbrella” school defined by Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-50-801. Parents who choose this option will be required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in a church-related school. An Intent to Home School form is not required for students who are enrolled in a church-related school. The church-related school will determine record keeping and test requirements for students enrolled in an umbrella program.
 - c. **Accredited Online School** - Parents may also enroll their child in an accredited online school. Parents choosing this educational option must be sure to determine that the school has legitimate accreditation status and will be required to provide evidence to the local school district that their child is enrolled in an accredited online school.

Note: Eligibility of virtual public school students does not fall under the home school rule. Eligibility of virtual public school students shall be determined by Article II, Section 27 (Virtual School Rule).

2. “Director of Schools” shall mean the chief administrative official of a public school system. In the case of a private school, the responsibilities of the Director of Schools are to be carried out by the Head of School or chief administrative official in that school.

B. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1.
 - a. The student shall be enrolled in a home school conducted by his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
 - b. The student must be taking a minimum of five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent administered by the parent(s) or guardian(s) which would count toward graduation at the school where the student wishes to participate.
2. The participating student must have a legal residence within the school district of the school where he/she will be participating, if participating with a public school. If participating with a private school, the student must have a legal residence within a 20 mile radius of the private school and meet all tuition and financial aid requirements.
3. **The parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate before the first official practice date for that sport.**
4.
 - a. The home school athlete shall meet the same academic and conduct standards required of a member school student-athlete to participate in the athletic program.
 - b. The Director of Schools (Head of School for private schools) or their designee shall confer with the parent(s) or guardian(s) conducting the home school to determine that the home school student is academically eligible.
 - c. If a home school student’s course of study does not include five (5) academic subjects or the equivalent, which are being administered by the parent/guardian, then the Director of Schools (Head of School, for a private school) or their designee and the parent/guardian shall develop an alternative measure of academic progress and submit it to the TSSAA for approval.

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- d. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who is not receiving the minimum four (4) hours per day of instruction administered by their parent/guardian.
- e. In no event shall a home school student be eligible who has fallen three (3) or more months behind the student's appropriate grade level.
5. The home school student must provide proof of liability insurance coverage which names the TSSAA as an insured party or the administration of the school must submit to TSSAA a copy of the TSSAA Indemnity Form signed by the guardian(s).
6.
 - a. The LEA may impose a participation fee for each sport in which a home school athlete participates. Such participation fee shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school and shall be paid in full prior to the first regular season contest.
 - b. A home school student participating at a private school must pay full tuition and abide by all financial aid rules. For the purpose of this rule, "full tuition" is defined as the same amount paid by all other students enrolled and in regular attendance at the school.
7. The home school student must meet all other TSSAA eligibility requirements.
8. Eligibility issues may be appealed in accordance with the Bylaws of the TSSAA.
9. The home school athlete must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibility, performance, and code of conduct as other participants of the team.
10. Ultimate decisions on team rosters are left to the member schools.

Transfer:

1. After participation at the first member school, any changes within member schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.
2. Once a student establishes an athletic record either as an enrolled student at a member school or as a home school student, any subsequent transfers to or from home school to a member school must meet the TSSAA transfer rule, even if the student will be participating for the same team.
3. Any student who withdraws from a regular school program, which for the purpose of this policy is defined as a member school, to enroll in a home school education program 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 home education athlete until such time as he/she has satisfied this home school bylaw as well as all other eligibility bylaws of TSSAA.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Athletes Participating in Unified Sports

Section 26. To be eligible to participate as a Special Olympics Athlete in Unified Sports the student must be enrolled and in regular attendance at the member school unless participating as a part of an approved cooperative program. All other eligibility rules do not apply to a Special Olympics Athlete in Unified Sports. Special Olympics Athletes must complete the Special Olympics of Tennessee pre-participation medical and parental release form prior to practicing or competing. The student must be identified by an agency or professional as having one of the following conditions: intellectual disabilities, cognitive delays as measured by formal assessment, or significant learning or vocational problems due to cognitive delay that require or have required specially designed instruction.

Unified Partners must meet all TSSAA eligibility requirements. They are not eligible to participate **in the TSSAA postseason at the state level** for the sanctioned sport in which they are participating in the Unified competition.

All Special Olympics Athletes and Unified Partners must be registered through the TSSAA Eligibility Portal.

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Virtual School Rule

Section 27. A public virtual school under the jurisdiction of the local Board of Education must make application and be approved for TSSAA membership in order for students enrolled in the school to participate in TSSAA athletics.

TSSAA virtual school members may choose either (a) to have their own sports' teams or (b) to allow their students to participate in all sports at their zoned public schools as assigned by the local Board of Education.

If the member virtual school administration chooses to allow their students to participate at their zoned public schools, the principal shall provide the host school(s) a list of students who will be participating in each sport and verify that the students are academically eligible prior to the date of first practice in each sport. The principal is responsible to provide the host school(s) with any additional information needed to complete student eligibility. The host school is responsible to submit eligibility to TSSAA for the virtual students participating in their program(s).

Minimum Eligibility Requirements:

This bylaw establishes the minimum eligibility requirements for a student attending a public virtual school in TN operated by the local Board of Education.

- 1. In order for a student to practice or participate at any level, the student must reside in the geographic area of the LEA of the member virtual school. The virtual school must be a member of TSSAA in good standing. The administration of the virtual school must choose to allow their students to participate for their zoned public schools.**
- 2. In order for a student to practice or participate at any level, the student must participate for their zoned public school as assigned by the local board of education. The zoned school where the student will participate must be a member of TSSAA in good standing.**
- 3. Any student that transfers to or from a virtual school, which is under the jurisdiction of the LEA, with an athletic record in the past twelve months and no change of residence that justifies the change in schools will be ineligible to participate on the varsity level twelve months past their last date of participation in the sport where the participation record exists.**
- 4. The student must meet all other TSSAA eligibility requirements.**
- 5. If the virtual school decides to start their own athletic programs, the students enrolled in the public virtual school must participate in those programs at the school where they are enrolled.**
- 6. After participation at the first member school, any changes within member schools shall be governed by the transfer rule.**

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Article III Compliance

Effect of Agreeing to Join TSSAA - Sections 1 and 2

Enforcement - Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6

Unsportsmanlike Conduct - Sections 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11

Playing of Ineligible Student-Athletes – Sections 12, 13, 14, and 15

Effect of Agreeing to Join TSSAA

Section 1. Membership in the association is voluntary. By joining the association, a member school agrees to abide by all rules of the association. If a member school, or that school's governing body, files suit against the association and does not prevail on the merits, the member school shall reimburse the association for all legal fees and expenses incurred by the association in connection with said suit.

Section 2. Each member school has a responsibility to monitor its athletic program and to self-report any violations of TSSAA Bylaws to the Executive Director as soon as the school is aware of possible violations. The responsibility extends to all administrators and coaches at the school. Each member school is responsible for the conduct of its administrators and coaches and for any knowledge possessed by its administrators or coaches.

Enforcement

Section 3. The Executive Director and/or the Board of Control shall have power to suspend, to fine, or otherwise penalize any member school for the violation of any provisions of the Constitution or Bylaws of the association or for other just cause. The period of suspension or other penalty shall be left to the discretion of the Board of Control where the penalty is not fixed.

Section 4. The Executive Director shall, in his discretion, determine whether information about any possible violation of the TSSAA Constitution or Bylaws is sufficiently reliable to justify further investigation. The Executive Director shall also, in his discretion, determine whether to conduct any investigation of possible violations of the Constitution or Bylaws as well as the nature and extent of any investigation that may be conducted and the procedures to be used in any such investigation. Factors to be considered by the Executive Director in making these determinations may include, but are not limited to, the workload of the TSSAA office, the seriousness of the alleged violation, the availability of staff members to assist in any investigation, the cost of investigation, the time needed to conduct an investigation, and any other factor the Executive Director may deem relevant in making these decisions.

Section 5. (a) A violation of the TSSAA Constitution or Bylaws will not result in any investigation or penalty if it is inadvertent and the school first learns of and reports the violation after the conclusion of the following year's playoffs in the sport in which the violation occurred, (b) If it is determined that a school (or any of its administrators or coaches) had knowledge of a violation or possible violation of the TSSAA Constitution or Bylaws and failed to promptly self-report it as required in Section 2, or that a delay in self-reporting occurred as a result of a failure by the school to properly monitor its athletic program as required in Section 15, the provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply. In any such case, a violation may be investigated and penalties may be implemented regardless of when the violation occurred.

Section 6. Any school under suspension, if it has restricted its athletic program to intramural athletics for the period of suspension, may be reinstated by the Board of Control upon application made in writing, 20 days in advance of the time it desires to be reinstated, to the Executive Director by the principal of the school and by the governing board under which the school operates. The Executive Director shall present the application of the suspended school to the Board of Control for its consideration. The principal and the governing board shall agree in writing that the school will abide by all rules of the association in the future. The principal and each member of the governing board shall sign the statement.

If a school with one or more two-year contracts has its athletic program in any sport suspended for violation of TSSAA regulations -- and the first game of the two-year contract has been played at the offending school -- such school shall be required to complete the contract, or contracts, when it resumes its athletic program if the school, or schools, affected desire.

Suspension of a member school shall free all existing contracts between that school and other member schools.

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Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The TSSAA and its member schools believe strongly that the major purpose of athletics at the secondary level is to be a part of the total educational program. A major part of this purpose is to stress to coaches, players, officials, and fans the vital importance of sportsmanship. It is critical that all people in each of these categories understand the major role that they play and the role model that they can be for others.

Recognizing this principle, unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of any of these groups cannot be accepted. As a result, the following actions will be taken when unsportsmanlike conduct occurs:

Section 7. Student Athletes Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct in Any Sport

- A. In contests in which registered TSSAA officials are involved, the officials will immediately notify the state office with a written report if players are ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct. In soccer, this does not apply if the ejection occurs as the result of a player receiving a red card for his/her second caution. In sports where registered TSSAA officials are not used, it will be the responsibility of the principal and/or coach of the player involved to report this incident to the state office.
- B. On the ejection of the student-athlete, the school will be required to submit a report on the action of the player and any disciplinary action taken by the school. The minimum penalty will be as follows:
 1. Football – 1 Game Suspension
 2. Soccer – There is no mandatory minimum penalty when a player is ejected for receiving a second yellow card followed by a red card. There is a 2 Game Suspension for serious foul play except for the following offenses which shall result in a 1 Game Suspension:
 - a. A player anywhere on the field (other than a goalkeeper within his/her own penalty area) who deliberately handles a ball to prevent it from going into the goal.
 - b. A foul by a player against an opponent who is moving toward his/her offensive goal with an obvious opportunity to score.
 3. All other sports – 2 Game Suspension

The student-athlete is also suspended from all levels of participation (varsity, junior varsity, freshman) the same number of contest(s) in the sport involved.

If the student-athlete is a senior and cannot fulfill all of the disciplinary action due to the completion of the season, he/she will fulfill the action in the next sport in which they participate.

- C. In addition to what is presently required when a player is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, a meeting shall be held with the player, coach, principal, and parent(s) or guardian(s) prior to the player's next competition. A Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form must be sent to the state office by the principal. Schools that have not submitted the required Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form by the end of the sports season in which the violation occurred shall be subject to a \$100 fine.
- D. If a player is ejected for a second time for unsportsmanlike conduct, a more severe punishment shall be imposed.
- E. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on all the facts.
- F. In all situations where ejections occur for unsportsmanlike conduct, the individual will be removed from the next contest(s) following the one in which the ejection occurred. If the individual plays in a subsequent contest after being ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct the minimum penalty shall be increased by an amount determined by the state office.

Section 8. Substitutes Leaving Bench Area during an Incident or Fans Coming Onto the Field or Floor

- A. The school will be required to submit a report and video tape if available. All schools are instructed to inform individuals taping to continue taping all incidents.
- B. For substitutes leaving the bench area during an incident, the school will be fined a minimum of \$250.00. In addition, other non-monetary disciplinary action may occur, including but not limited to probation and/or restrictive probation for the sport in which the incident occurred.

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- C. For fans coming onto the field or floor during an incident, the school will be fined a minimum of \$250.00. In addition, other non-monetary disciplinary action may occur, including but not limited to probation and/or restrictive probation for the entire athletic program.

Section 9. Coaches Ejected for Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- A. The school and coach will be required to submit a written report of the incident.
- B. The school will be given a choice of removing the coach for a specified number of contest(s) and pay a fine of \$250.00 or face further disciplinary action. The school shall not allow the suspended coach to attend games while under suspension.
- C. In addition to what is presently required when a coach is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct, a meeting shall be held with the coach, principal, and superintendent, or his/her appointed representative prior to the coach returning to their coaching position. A Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form must be sent to the state office by the principal. Schools that have not submitted the required Confirmation of Sportsmanship Meeting Form by the end of the sports season in which the violation occurred shall be subject to a \$100 fine.
- D. On any subsequent ejection by the same coach, the school will be given a choice of removing the coach for a specified number of contest(s) and pay a fine of \$500.00 or face further disciplinary action. The school shall not allow the suspended coach to attend games while under suspension.
- E. If the coach is ejected from the contest and an assistant coach or an employee of the school involved is not available to continue as coach, the event is terminated and forfeited to the opponent.
- F. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on all the facts.
- G. In soccer, coaches who are ejected for receiving a red card, or a second (yellow card) followed by a red card, are subject to the penalties above.

Section 10. If a team is removed from competition, the school shall be fined \$500.00, and the school shall face disciplinary action by TSSAA. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on the facts.

Section 11. Appeals

Any appeal request regarding the ejection of players or coaches shall be submitted in writing from the administrator of the school, stating which playing rule was misapplied. It should be accompanied by \$50.00. If the appeal is granted, the \$50.00 will be returned to the school.

Playing of Ineligible Student-Athletes

Section 12. All rulings on eligibility must be in writing, and the accidental, intentional or other use of ineligible players by a member school shall require that team victories in which the ineligible player participated be forfeited to opponents; and any one or more of these additional actions may be taken:

- (a) That individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligibles be vacated or stricken;
- (b) That team or individual awards earned by such ineligibles be returned to the TSSAA; and
- (c) That a fine for the playing of an ineligible player be assessed against the school, if deemed necessary.

Section 13. If a student is ineligible according to TSSAA rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such TSSAA rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or the TSSAA, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those actions stipulated in Section 12 and 14 shall be taken.

Section 14. If an ineligible contestant competes in a meet, match or tournament and any violation of TSSAA rules occurs, all points earned by that student, or by a relay team of which he/she may have been a member, in that meet or tournament are to be declared forfeited; and in team sports (baseball, basketball, football, girls soccer, soccer, girls softball and girls volleyball) the entire contest is forfeited.

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When a team plays an ineligible athlete in TSSAA tournaments or playoffs, the entire contest is forfeited, the team is removed from the tournament or playoff, and no team replaces that team in the tournament series. All awards and money earned from the post season tournament series must be returned to TSSAA.

The penalty for playing an ineligible contestant shall be \$50.00 per contest at the varsity level and \$25.00 per contest below the varsity level, with a maximum fine of \$250.00, provided it is voluntarily reported by the school, which is in violation, to the Executive Director. If it is not voluntarily reported by the school to the Executive Director, the penalty shall be \$100.00 per contest at the varsity level and \$50.00 per contest below the varsity level. Other non-monetary penalties may be assessed by the Executive Director based on all the facts.

Section 15. If an otherwise ineligible student-athlete provides false information to a member school and is erroneously determined to be eligible and is allowed to participate on the basis of that false information, the student shall be ineligible at all levels in all sports at any member school for twelve (12) months from his or her last participation date.

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Article IV Miscellaneous

Schools Which Member Schools May Play or Scrimmage – Section 1
Contests with Out-Of-State Teams – Section 2
Tournaments and Meets – Section 3
Varsity Team – Section 4
Eligibility Lists – Section 5
Filing Schedule Reports – Section 6
Rules of the Game – Section 7
TSSAA Sports Calendar – Sections 8 and 9
Jamborees – Section 10
TSSAA Share in Tournament Receipts – Section 11
Filing of Tournament and Playoff Financial Reports – Section 12
Awards – Section 13
Use of Tobacco – Section 14
Officials – Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20
Bond – Section 21
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Schools Which Member Schools May Play or Scrimmage

Section 1. A member of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association is permitted to play or scrimmage any secondary school team with grades 9 and above in regular season play.

For the purposes of this rule, a school team may be one school or a cooperative program of one or more schools.

A member school may play one alumni game or one preseason scrimmage with alumni in all sports except football. If the school has separate teams for boys and girls in a particular sport (e.g., girls' and boys' basketball), each team may play an alumni game or preseason scrimmage. A preseason scrimmage with alumni must count as one of the four permitted preseason scrimmages. A game with alumni must count as a regular season contest.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Contests with Out-Of-State Teams

Section 2. All out-of-state trips must be approved by the administration of the school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Tournaments and Meets

Section 3. All Invitational Tournaments or Meets must be approved by the Executive Director.

A member school that wishes to host a tournament or meet that involves out-of-state teams must make application to the Executive Director for sanctioning.

Member schools must obtain sanctioning from the National Federation of State High School Associations when hosting the following types of events:

1. Any interstate or international event involving two (2) or more schools which is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community (e.g., a college/university, a theme park, an athletic shoe/apparel company).
2. Events in non-bordering states if five (5) or more states are involved.
3. Events in non-bordering states if more than eight (8) schools are involved.
4. Any event involving two (2) or more schools that involves a team from a foreign country. The host school should complete the international sanction application. This would include any event(s) that involves international traveling teams that play in multiple games in multiple states. (The exceptions to this rule are Canada and Mexico which are considered "bordering states.")

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Varsity Team

Section 4. There can be only one varsity team in any sport.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Eligibility Lists

Section 5. An eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster) containing the name of each student who is to participate during the season in each sport shall be filed online prior to the first contest allowed by the Sports Calendar for each particular sport. If a student whose name does not appear on the original eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster) wishes to become a member of the squad, the student's name shall be filed online before the student is allowed to participate. Failure to file the eligibility online by the date required shall result in a fine of \$50.00. Any school failing to file such reports promptly along with checks for penalty, after being notified by the Executive Director, shall be subject to suspension.

Filing Schedule Reports

Section 6. Member schools shall file with the state office a copy of the schedule in each sport. Schedules shall be filed online prior to the date of the first contest allowed by the Sports Calendar for each particular sport. Failure to file the schedule online by the date required shall result in a fine of \$50.00.

Rules of the Game

Section 7. The official rules books as published by the National Federation of State High School Associations shall be used in football, basketball, baseball, girls' softball, wrestling, girls' soccer, soccer, track and field, cross country, and girls volleyball. The official rules of the USGA shall be used in golf. The official rules of the USTA shall be used in tennis. The official rules of the USBC shall be used in bowling.

For all unsporting acts, TSSAA Bylaws as it relates to unsportsmanlike behavior and officials' jurisdiction supersedes any other rules book.

Cheerleading squads must abide by the USA Cheer Safety Guidelines while practicing or participating in a TSSAA sanctioned event.

Religious headwear is permitted, provided it is not abrasive, hard, or dangerous to the participant and any other player, and must be attached in such a way it is highly unlikely to come off during play. Religious headwear does not need to comply with any of the color restrictions defined in applicable sport uniform codes.

Hijabs, turbans, and yarmulkes are acceptable types of religious headwear.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

Section 8. For each sport there shall be a beginning practice date, a date for the first contest, a limit for the number of regular season contests, rules in regard to tournaments where applicable, rules in regard to off-season practice, and rules in regard to summer practice.

DEFINITIONS

Dead Period Rule – No coaching, observing, or contact between coach and players in sport involved. There is no practice, no open facilities, and no weight training/conditioning. The Dead Period, which is to be observed by all schools, is the week of the 4th of July and the preceding week – 14 days.

50% Rule – Participation (includes practice or games) during the school year on a non-school team prior to the school season by students that will play the following season on the high school team is limited to 50% of the number of players required to play the game. Only the specified number of students participating on a non-school team prior to the school season may be placed on the high school eligibility list (TSSAA Portal Roster) the following season. Those students cannot be interchanged on the school's team roster.

Off-Season – Begins with the school's elimination from postseason tournament play in a particular sport and concludes with the end of the school year. In football, girls' soccer, and soccer, individual instructions may be given to no more than six students per day. In basketball and girls' volleyball, individual instruction may be given to no more than three students per day. In baseball and girls' softball, individual instructions may be given to no more than five students per day.

Open Facilities – Permitted year round (Monday through Friday) except during the **Dead Period**. Schools may use their facilities for students in their building prior to or after the school day. Coaches may serve in a supervisory capacity only. There is no instruction, no teaching, no coaching, etc. Coaches may not participate or play in any manner. It is a free play type atmosphere. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.

Practice - Coach and player(s) together with instruction, teaching, coaching, etc. Try-outs are considered practice.

Practice During the School Day – All athletic practice during the regular hours of any school day shall conform to the same rules, regulations, and season as corresponding athletic practice outside the school day.

Pre-Season Practice Rule – Begins the first day of school until the first official day of practice in that particular sport. In basketball, individual instructions may be given to no more than three students per day. In soccer, individual instructions may be given to no more than six students per day. In baseball and girls' softball, individual instructions may be given to no more than five students per day.

Scrimmage Rule – After the TSSAA first official day of practice in all sports other than football, a school cannot practice with or scrimmage another school until both schools have practiced a minimum of three days. After the TSSAA first official day of practice in football, a school cannot practice with or scrimmage another school until both schools have practiced in full pads a minimum of three days. A school may have a maximum of four scrimmages or two scrimmage dates or one scrimmage date and two scrimmages (A scrimmage date is defined as more than two schools scrimmaging on the same day). No tournament format of any type may be used. Scrimmages should look more like practice than games. Once a school has played their first game, there can be no more scrimmages.

Summer – The period of time from the end of the school year until the Monday of NFHS Week 4 (opening day of practice).

Tournament – All tournaments shall be held on consecutive days with no other regular season games being played during the tournament unless permission is granted by the Executive Director. A tournament is defined as competition of three or more teams and three or more games, matches, etc., which progress to determine a winner.

Weight Training/Conditioning – Permitted at all times except during the **Dead Period**. Must be generic type program that would be beneficial to all students and not sport specific. Exception: In baseball and girls' softball, players may throw to condition arms. Sport specific skills cannot be taught. Only students who are enrolled and in regular attendance at the school may participate during the school year. ATTENDANCE CANNOT BE MANDATORY.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

FOOTBALL

- **Pre-Season Practice Rule** does not apply.
- **Pre-Season Acclimatization:** All TSSAA Football Practice Regulations must be followed. TSSAA Football Practice Regulations can be found at <http://tnhs.us/fbpractice>.
- First Practice Date in pads is the Monday of NFHS Week 4.
- **Practice Regulations** All TSSAA Football Practice Regulations must be followed. TSSAA Football Practice Regulations can be found at <http://tnhs.us/fbpractice>.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Friday of NFHS Week 7, no earlier than Wednesday. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online prior to playing.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 10 games. Schools that do not qualify for the playoffs may schedule an additional game for a total of 11.
- Maximum of 12 days of Off-Season team practice within a 15 consecutive school day period and one interschool scrimmage is permitted. The first two days of practice must be in helmets only.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice. No pads are permitted. Helmets may be worn.
- There can only be 10 days of team-against-team competition which must occur after the conclusion of the Dead Period (Exception: Two of the 10 days may take place in June, provided the competition takes place in Tennessee.). Pads may not be worn during team-against-team competition.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

GOLF (BOYS' AND GIRLS')

- **Pre-Season Practice Rule** does not apply.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 2.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 4. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 14 dates (NOTE: Individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same date and time, and this will count as two dates on the school's schedule.).
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

- **Pre-Season Practice Rule** does not apply.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 4.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 7. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 35 matches. Maximum number of **Tournaments** is four with each tournament counting as three matches.
- **Off-Season** team practice is not allowed.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Any school starting girls' volleyball for the first time may have five days of **Pre-Season** practice prior to the first season the sport begins.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

CROSS COUNTRY (BOYS' AND GIRLS')

- **Pre-Season Practice Rule** does not apply.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 4.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 7. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 11 dates (NOTE: Individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same date and time, and this will count as two dates on the school's schedule.).
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

GIRLS' SOCCER

- **Pre-Season Practice Rule** does not apply.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 4.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 7. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 16 matches. Maximum number of **Tournaments** is two with each tournament counting as two matches.
- **Off-Season** team practice is not allowed.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Any school starting girls' soccer for the first time may have five days of **Pre-Season** practice prior to the first season the sport begins.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

BOWLING (BOYS' AND GIRLS')

- **Pre-Season Practice Rule** does not apply.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does not apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 13. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- There is no limit on the number of regular season contests or **Tournaments**.
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR BASKETBALL (BOYS' AND GIRLS')

- **Pre-Season Team Practice** is not allowed.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 18.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- **50% Rule** does apply, which is three players.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 21. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Schools may choose to play an unlimited number of **Hall of Champions Games** on any two dates during the week preceding the regular season. These games will not count against the number of regular season contests schools are allowed to schedule. Host schools shall send in 50% of the proceeds after paying referees to the TSSAA Hall of Champions fund.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 24 games. Maximum number of **Tournaments** is two with each tournament counting as two games.
- Maximum of five days of **Off-Season** team practice within a 10 consecutive school day period.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Coaches may participate in a maximum of 10 days of team-against-team competition which must occur after the conclusion of the school year until the **Dead Period**.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR WRESTLING

- As far as **Pre-Season Practice**, there are no restrictions.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 18.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 21. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 22 dates. No individual shall wrestle more than 55 matches, excluding forfeits, in the regular season (NOTE: Individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same date and time, and this will count as two dates on the school's schedule.).
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

GIRLS' WRESTLING

- As far as **Pre-Season Practice**, there are no restrictions.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 18.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 21. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 22 dates. No individual shall wrestle more than 55 matches, excluding forfeits, in the regular season (NOTE: Individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same date and time, and this will count as two days on the school's schedule.).
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

BASEBALL

- **Pre-Season Team Practice** is not allowed.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 33.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- **50% Rule** does apply, which is five.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 37. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 30 games. Maximum of four **Tournaments** with each tournament counting as three games.
- **Off-Season** team practice is not allowed. Exception: Coaches may be involved in a coaching capacity with students in their school on non-school teams.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Any school starting baseball for the first time may have five days of **Pre-Season** practice prior to the first season the sport begins.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

GIRLS' SOFTBALL

- **Pre-Season Team Practice** is not allowed.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 33.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- **50% Rule** does apply, which is five.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 37. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 34 games. Maximum of five **Tournaments** with each tournament counting as four games.
- **Off-Season** team practice is not allowed. Exception: Coaches may be involved in a coaching capacity with students in their school on non-school teams.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Any school starting girls' softball for the first time may have five days of **Pre-Season** practice prior to the first season the sport begins.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

TRACK AND FIELD (BOYS' AND GIRLS') / UNIFIED TRACK AND FIELD

- As far as **Pre-Season Practice**, there are no restrictions.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 33.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 37. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 11 dates. Each meet counts as one date (NOTE: Individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same date and time, and this will count as two dates on the school's schedule.).
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Any school starting track and field for the first time may have five days of **Pre-Season** practice prior to the first season the sport begins.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

TENNIS (BOYS' AND GIRLS')

- As far as **Pre-Season Practice**, there are no restrictions.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 33.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 37. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is **22** matches. Each **Tournament** counts as two matches (NOTE: Individuals accompanied by a coach may enter varsity competition at a different site on the same date and time, and this will count as two matches on the school's schedule.).
- In the **Off-Season** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

SOCCER

- **Pre-Season Team Practice** is not allowed.
- First Practice Date is the Monday of NFHS Week 33.
- **Scrimmage Rule** does apply.
- The Date of the First Contest allowed is the Monday of NFHS Week 37. Eligibility and schedules must be filed online.
- Maximum number of regular season contests is 16 matches. Maximum of two tournaments with each **Tournament** counting as two matches.
- **Off-Season** team practice is not allowed.
- In the **Summer** there are no restrictions in regard to practice.
- Any school starting soccer for the first time may have five days of **Pre-Season** practice prior to the first season the sport begins.
- **Dead Period Rule** does apply.

Coaches and employees of a school are subject to the guidelines of the TSSAA Sports Calendar when working with students from his/her school.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Section 9. The sports season for a school shall end when the team has been eliminated from the TSSAA tournament series or has won the state championship. The sports season shall end for a school whose team does not enter the tournament series with the playing of the last regularly scheduled game.

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Jamborees

Section 10. A member school may participate in one jamboree per sport provided (a) the jamboree is approved by the state office and is held before any of the participating schools play their first game; (b) the jamboree is sponsored by the participating schools and all proceeds go to the participating schools; (c) the jamboree is conducted in accordance with the following regulations:

- A. No team or participant shall play more than the equivalent of half of a game or contest.
- B. Registered TSSAA officials must be used.
- C. Schools participating in a jamboree must file the regular eligibility report (TSSAA Portal Roster) with the state office prior to participating.
- D. Schools must hold membership in TSSAA or membership in a Tennessee conference in order to be eligible to participate in a jamboree. (Out-of-state schools must obtain approval from their state association before participating.)
- E. Football schools may participate in a jamboree as early as Thursday of the week preceding the opening of football season.
- F. Basketball schools may participate in a jamboree one week preceding the opening of basketball season.

Participation in such a jamboree shall not count as a regular-season contest or pre-season scrimmage provided the jamboree meets the above regulations.

TSSAA Share In Tournament Receipts

Section 11. Eighteen percent of the gross proceeds from district and regional girls volleyball, district and regional girls soccer, district and regional soccer, district and regional bowling, district and regional girls bowling, district and regional baseball, district and regional girls softball, regional, sub-sectional, and sectional track and field meets, two-day invitational, regional and sectional wrestling tournaments, invitational, county, conference, district and regional basketball tournaments shall be paid to TSSAA.

After all expenses in connection with the holding of the state tournaments in football, basketball, bowling, track and field, cross country, baseball, tennis, golf, girls softball, girls volleyball, soccer and wrestling have been paid, the retention and/or disbursement of any remaining funds shall be determined by the Board of Control.

Filing of Tournament and Playoff Financial Reports

Section 12. All checks for district, regional, and sectional tournaments and playoffs must be distributed within 10 business days of the completion of the tournament or game. Failure, without good cause, will result in a \$100.00 late fee to be paid to TSSAA and used in the A.F. Bridges sportsmanship program to go to schools or individuals receiving awards. Failure, without good cause, to distribute funds within 20 business days will result in an additional \$200.00 late fee (total \$300.00). Failure, without good cause, to distribute funds within 40 days will result in an additional \$200.00 late fee (total \$500.00). The school may not host any tournament or playoff until the principal or athletic director appears before the Board of Control to explain the reasons. The Board would then determine whether the school could host tournaments or playoffs in the future.

Awards

Section 13. TSSAA shall furnish trophies, plaques, ribbons and medals in TSSAA-sponsored sports as determined by the Board of Control.

Please see FAQ's on Page 42-60.

Use of Tobacco

Section 14. The use of tobacco in any form by coaches, officials, and athletes is prohibited at TSSAA sanctioned events.

Officials

Section 15. Officials used in contests in which TSSAA member schools participate are independent contractors and are not employees of TSSAA. Individuals desiring to serve as officials in contests in which TSSAA member

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schools participate must register with TSSAA. The Executive Director shall establish the minimum qualifications and standards for registration with TSSAA.

Section 16. (a) For varsity contests, all officials must be assigned by the TSSAA approved local association. (b) These officials must be registered and approved by TSSAA. If a registered official who has been engaged for an athletic contest fails to appear, the principal of the home school may, with the approval of the visiting school, select an official for the contest. If this is done, the principal of the home school must mail to the Executive Director within 48 hours evidence showing that a registered official was employed for the game and that the official did not appear. The principal of the home school shall give the name and address of the registered official who was employed to officiate the game, and the name and address of the non-approved official used as a substitute.

Section 17. In all sports sanctioned by TSSAA, the officials' jurisdiction begins upon the arrival of one official within the visual confines of the field or court and ends when the last official leaves the premises at the conclusion of the game. It shall be the duty of a game official to file immediately a report with the state office if there is any unusual incident involving unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the players, coaches, cheerleaders, or fans.

Section 18. The Executive Director shall have authority to suspend the registration of officials who are guilty of unsportsmanlike or unethical conduct or who fail to file immediately required reports with the state office. Such decisions shall be subject to review by the Board of Control upon appeal by the official.

Section 19. An official shall be prohibited from working in an athletic contest in which a member of his/her immediate family — son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father, husband or wife — is playing or is serving as a coach for either team. If an official is a teacher, the official is prohibited from working in an athletic contest if one of the teams represents the school in which the official is employed as a teacher unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director.

Section 20. A school may drop an official from a game after the official has been engaged. If a school decides that it is wise to break its agreement with an official, it may be done by paying the official the regular fee for the game. Canceled and postponed games do not come under the above provision, provided that the official is duly notified. In the case of postponed games, the officials that were originally employed must be given the opportunity to work on the new date.

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Bond

Section 21. The Executive Director of the TSSAA shall execute annually a Surety Bond on \$30,000 or more if the Board of Control directs, covering TSSAA funds held by him. The fee on this bond is to be paid from the Association funds.

Amendments

Section 22. The Bylaws of the TSSAA shall be amended by the same method as the Constitution.

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TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1.

Q. How are members of the Board of Control and Legislative Council selected?

A. Members of the Board of Control and of the Legislative Council are selected at the annual regional meetings in the fall. Each school represented has one vote. The sites, dates, and times of these meetings are determined by the Board of Control and posted on the TSSAA Calendar of Events.

2.

Q. How may a school charged with violating TSSAA regulations present its case?

A. The principal of the school may request the Executive Director to call a hearing in regard to the charges. Such a hearing is held before the Executive Director and two or more Board of Control members representing the Grand Division of the state in which the school is located.

3.

Q. May a decision made by the Executive Director be appealed to the Board of Control?

A. Yes.

4.

Q. What procedure is followed by a school that wishes to appeal to the Board of Control a decision of the Executive Director?

A. The school principal should notify the Executive Director in writing that the principal wants the Board of Control to review the case. If it is satisfactory to hold the review of the case at the next regular meeting of the Board of Control, it will be listed on the agenda. If the case is of such nature that the school wants immediate action, the principal should so indicate. The Executive Director will then communicate with the president of the Board who will call a special session to consider the case. When such a special session of the Board is called, the school requesting the special session shall pay all expenses of the meeting in the event the Board of Control sustains the decisions of the Executive Director.

5.

Q. Does the Executive Director have a vote on matters that are presented to the Board of Control?

A. No. The Executive Director is not a member of the Board of Control and therefore can have no vote on matters being considered by it.

6.

Q. May a member of the Board vote on a matter involving the school which he represents?

A. No. A member of the Board of Control cannot sit in on a case involving his/her own school.

7.

Q. How may a member school submit a proposal to amend the Constitution or to change the Bylaws?

A. By putting the suggested change in writing and filing it with the Executive Director no later than October 15 preceding the December meeting of the Legislative Council.

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TENNESSEE SECONDARY SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BYLAWS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Membership

1.

Q. How much are a school's membership dues?

A. Membership dues are based on where the enrollment of a school would place them in their respective Division.

Class 4A – \$550.00 (\$250.00 Dues; \$300.00 Catastrophic Insurance Assessment).

Class 3A – \$550.00 (\$250.00 Dues; \$300.00 Catastrophic Insurance Assessment).

Class 2A – \$400.00 (\$200.00 Dues; \$200.00 Catastrophic Insurance Assessment) if your school plays football.
\$300.00 (\$200.00 Dues; \$100.00 Catastrophic Insurance Assessment) if your school does not play football.

Class 1A – \$300.00 (\$150.00 Dues; \$150.00 Catastrophic Insurance Assessment) if your school plays football.
\$250.00 (\$150.00 Dues; \$100.00 Catastrophic Insurance Assessment) if your school does not play football.

Junior High – \$200.00 (\$100.00 Dues; \$100.00 Catastrophic Insurance Assessment)

2.

Q. If a school is not currently a member of TSSAA, what must they do in order to join TSSAA?

A. If the school meets the requirements as set forth in Article I, Section 1 of the TSSAA Bylaws, the school should send a letter to the Executive Director asking to be put on the next Board of Control Agenda for consideration for membership. A copy of the certificate indicating whom the school is accredited/approved by should be included with the letter.

Responsibility of the Principal

1.

Q. Who is held responsible for a member school's observance of TSSAA regulations?

A. The principal or administrative head of the school.

2.

Q. Who is the proper person to sign eligibility reports, contracts, etc.?

A. The principal or administrative head of the school.

3.

Q. Who is responsible for the conduct of the spectators at a game?

A. The principal and coach of the host school are primarily responsible. It is the duty of the host school to see that adequate security is present and assigned so that any disorder can be handled immediately. If the game is played on a neutral field and no host team is designated, the competing schools are jointly responsible for providing adequate security protection. Each school is responsible for the conduct of its students and fans, regardless of where an athletic contest is played.

Non-Faculty Coaches and Classified Employees

1.

Q. If a non-faculty coach or a classified employee has successfully completed the ASEP Coaches Education Course and the TSSAA Online Coaches Training Session prior to May 15, 2013, must they complete the NFHS "Fundamentals of Coaching" and "First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches" courses?

A. No.

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2.

Q. How long does a non-faculty coach or a classified employee have to successfully complete NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses after being submitted to the TSSAA?

A. All non-faculty coaches and classified employees must successfully complete the NFHS courses prior to coaching.

3.

Q. How often does a non-faculty coach or a classified employee have to complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses?

A. Once a non-faculty high school coach or classified employee successfully completes the courses, he/she will not be required to take any additional courses.

4.

Q. Where can I obtain information about the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses? How do I access the courses?

A. Information regarding the NFHS courses can be found at nfhslearn.com. Persons required to take these courses will first have to register as a new user at nfhslearn.com. This can be done by selecting “Register” in the upper right hand corner of the homepage. Once you have registered, you will need to click on “Courses” on the tool bar at the top of the page and search for the appropriate courses. Each participant must pay online with a credit or debit card when they register for the courses.

5.

Q. Are student-teachers considered non-faculty coaches?

A. If he/she is currently student teaching, he/she is allowed to do whatever his/her supervising teacher (college professor in charge) allows him/her to do as part of his/her total educational experience. He/She would not be considered non-faculty while he/she is student teaching and should be submitted as a full-time teacher in the portal.

6.

Q. Are retired educators considered non-faculty coaches?

A. No.

7.

Q. If one of my coaches is a Full-Time Teacher/Administrator at another school, are they considered non-faculty coaches?

A. No. When submitting their names in the portal, they should be marked as a full-time teacher.

8.

Q. Do non-faculty cheerleading coaches or classified employees serving as a cheerleading coach have to be registered with TSSAA?

A. Yes. However, it is not necessary for you to pay for cheerleading coaches. We only need the names for insurance purposes. Cheerleading coaches do not have to complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses. Also, cheerleading coaches must attend or complete online the Cheerleading Rules Meeting every year.

9.

Q. Can I register a non-faculty coach or classified employee online throughout the school year?

A. Yes. Once they have been approved by the principal, superintendent, and/or local board of education, they can be submitted online. Also, the registration fee of \$50.00 per non-faculty coach must be submitted to the state office.

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10.

Q. Can a non-faculty coach or a classified employee be a head coach?

A. Yes. Provided they have successfully completed the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses OR the ASEP Coaches Education Course in a TSSAA-approved course combined with the TSSAA Online Coaches Training Session prior to May 15, 2013, and have been properly submitted to the TSSAA office.

11.

Q. Are high schools limited to the number of non-faculty coaches they can use?

A. No.

12.

Q. As a first year teacher who is coaching, do I have any requirements?

A. No.

Contracts

Q. Will the TSSAA enforce verbal contracts?

A. No. All contracts, to be binding, should be written on the regular contract forms.

Enrollment and Attendance

Q. Is there any regulation about the time a student must enroll in order to be eligible during a given semester?

A. Yes. A student must enroll on or before the twentieth day of a semester.

Academic Rules

1.

Q. A school requires 28 units of credit for graduation. How many credits must a student earn by the first day of the next school year in order to be eligible?

A. Students in a school that requires 24 or more credits for graduation must earn six credits the preceding school year.

2.

Q. A school requires 21 units of credit for graduation. How many credits must a student earn by the first day of the next school year in order to be eligible?

A. Students in a school that requires less than 24 units of credit for graduation must earn five credits the preceding school year.

3.

Q. A student is academically eligible at the beginning of the school year. At the end of the first semester the student passes only one subject. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics the second semester?

A. Students that are academically eligible at the beginning of the school year will be academically eligible the entire school year.

4.

Q. A student is currently attending a school that requires less than 24 credits for graduation. At the end of the school year the student earns five credits and transfers due to a change of residence to a school that requires 28 credits for graduation. What is the student's eligibility status?

A. Eligible. The student will be academically eligible since he/she would have been eligible to participate at his/her previous school. Academic eligibility for a student is based on the requirements of the school the student was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year.

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5.

Q. A student is currently attending a school that requires 28 credits for graduation. The student earns five credits at the end of the school year. The student has a bona fide change of residence to a school that requires only 21 credits for graduation. What is the student's eligibility status?

A. Ineligible. The student was ineligible academically at the school he/she was attending at the conclusion of the previous school year. Students cannot transfer in order to gain academic eligibility.

6.

Q. At the beginning of the school year, a student is academically ineligible to participate in athletics. May the student gain eligibility the second semester?

A. Yes. Students who are academically ineligible first semester may gain eligibility second semester by passing five subjects (1/2 credit), three blocks (one credit per block), or the equivalent. Students on trimesters may gain eligibility the second semester by passing five subjects (1/2 credit), three blocks (one credit per block), or the equivalent.

7.

Q. A school requires 21 credits for graduation. The student fails every course the first semester. He/she earns three credits the second semester. Can the student attend summer school and earn two credits toward academic eligibility?

A. Yes. Credits earned in summer school may be counted toward academic eligibility. All credits must be earned by the first day of the beginning of the school year.

8.

Q. At the end of the second semester, a student has earned four credits for the school year. The student is in a school that requires 24 or more credits for graduation. Can the student attend summer school and earn one credit and, also, take a correspondence course and receive one credit toward academic eligibility?

A. Correspondence courses approved by the local board of education may count toward athletic eligibility provided the student receives credit toward graduation.

9.

Q. An 8th grade student in middle school finishes the highest ending grade and is academically promoted to the next higher grade. What is his/her eligibility status?

A. The student will be academically eligible the entire school year.

10.

Q. A special education student meets the academic requirements of his/her IEP by the beginning of the school year. What is his/her eligibility status?

A. The student will be academically eligible the entire school year.

11.

Q. A student attends a school that requires 24 or more credits for graduation. The student does not attend school during the fall semester. He/she re-enters school the spring semester and earns four units of credit. What must the student do in order to be academically eligible for athletics the next school year?

A. The student must enroll in summer school or correspondence courses that are recognized by the local board of education and counts toward graduation and earn two full units of credit by the first day of the beginning of the school year. The student must earn six full units of credit. Academic eligibility is based on credits earned and not subjects passed.

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12.

Q. The school passing mark is 70. At the close of the first semester an athlete has a grade of 80. At the close of the second semester the grade in the same subject is 65. At the end of the school year the two grades are averaged and the student is allowed one unit of credit. May this subject be used in meeting the academic requirements?

A. Yes.

13.

Q. A student passes both semesters of a course, but does not receive credit toward graduation at the end of the school year because he/she does not meet the attendance policy. Is the student academically eligible to participate in athletics?

A. No. If the student does not receive credit toward graduation, the course may not be counted toward athletic eligibility.

14.

Q. Are subjects such as physical education and ROTC counted in determining the eligibility of a player?

A. Yes. Provided these subjects carry one full credit for the year or one-half credit for the semester and meet one hour each day for five days a week or the equivalent.

15.

Q. Is a student who drops out of school for one or more semesters eligible to participate when that student returns, provided he/she completes the last semester he/she was in school and receives the required number of credits the preceding school year?

A. No. A student must attend school one semester before he/she becomes eligible to participate.

16.

Q. A student is forced to withdraw from school, or is prevented from enrolling in school, due to illness or accident to the student. After being out of school for a semester, or a part of a semester, the student recovers from and enters school at the beginning of the next semester. Is it possible for such a student to be eligible to participate in athletics?

A. Such a case may be considered as a special case by the Executive Director provided the principal submits details in regard to the absence of the student. If the student is ruled eligible, that student shall be charged with a semester of attendance for athletic purposes, even though he/she attended less than forty days of the semester, or did not even enroll.

17.

Q. A student has an incomplete or is conditioned at the end of the school year. Will the student be eligible for participation as soon as the conditions are removed?

A. A student who receives an incomplete in a subject which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the course is satisfactorily completed. His/Her eligibility is restored at that point.

18.

Q. A student was not in school during the spring semester. May that student attend summer school and become eligible for athletic participation the following fall by passing five subjects in summer school that would give him/her the required number of credits for eligibility?

A. No. A student must have been in school the preceding semester or the last semester school was in session in order to be eligible. A summer session is counted as a continuation of the spring semester.

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19.

Q. A student repeats a course for which the student has already received a passing grade or is taking a course for which the student is not receiving credit toward graduation. Will this subject count as one of the credits earned the preceding school year for athletic eligibility?

A. No. A student may not repeat a course that he/she has already passed for athletic eligibility purposes nor may a student count a subject for which he/she is not receiving credit towards graduation for athletic eligibility purposes.

20.

Q. A student enrolls in a school and attends only two days. Is this considered enrollment?

A. No. In the definition of "enrolled", (c) states, "A student is considered "enrolled" at a school when the student has either attended classes for three days, has engaged in three or more days of football, girls volleyball, cross country, golf, or girls soccer practice during the period, on or after the Monday of the week of August 1, or has participated in an athletic contest in any sport."

21.

Q. A student attends school for twenty-five days and then drops out. During the twenty-five days of attendance: (a) he/she participated in one or more athletic contests; (b) he/she did not participate in any athletic contest?

A. (a) Student will be charged with a semester since he/she participated in an athletic contest.

(b) Student will not be charged with a semester since that student did not attend forty or more days.
(See Article II, Section 1 of the TSSAA Bylaws.)

22.

Q. A student who was ineligible the first semester becomes eligible the second semester by passing five subjects or three blocks or the equivalent. May he/she participate the weekend that marks the close of the first semester?

A. No. A student is not eligible until the opening day of the second semester.

Eight-Semester Rule

1.

Q. What is the maximum number of semesters a student can attend school and still be eligible for athletic participation in the Senior High Division?

A. After a student has attended school EIGHT SEMESTERS he/she is ineligible for further athletic participation.

2.

Q. When does the EIGHT SEMESTER count begin?

A. As soon as a student enrolls in the ninth grade. A student is considered as enrolled in the ninth grade when he/she schedules two or more ninth grade subjects after having completed one school year in the eighth grade.

3.

Q. How does the semester rule apply to teams playing in the Junior High Division?

A. A student is limited to four semesters of eligibility after entering the 8th grade. The semester count starts when the student enrolls in the 8th grade.

Repeating Rule

1.

Q. If a student repeats the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, what is the status of the student's eligibility?

A. If a student repeats the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and participates in an interscholastic contest (Varsity, JV, or any level) at the school during the year he/she repeats, they will be ineligible during their 9th grade year.

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Eighth Grade Participation

1.

Q. If an eighth grade student participates as a member of a senior high school team, is such participation charged against the student?

A. No. Such a student will still be entitled to four years of high school participation.

2.

Q. May a seventh grade student participate or practice as a member of a senior high team?

A. No, a student must be enrolled in the 8th grade or higher grade before he/she can participate or practice in the senior division.

Age Limit

1.

Q. Is a student whose nineteenth birthday falls on August 1 ineligible for participation in the Senior High Division?

A. Yes, any student who becomes nineteen years of age on or before August 1 of any school year is ineligible.

2.

Q. If a student becomes nineteen years of age on August 2, or any date thereafter, is that student eligible to participate for the remainder of the school year?

A. Yes.

Physical Examination and Parental Consent

1.

Q. A student receives a pre-participation physical on May 1 of the current school year. How long is that physical valid for the purposes of the TSSAA Bylaws?

A. The physical would be valid for the following school year, through the summer, and up until the first official day of practice for fall sports the next school year.

2.

Q. A student who has not participated in sports during the current school year receives a pre-participation physical on April 1 in preparation for their school's spring football practice which begins on April 2. How long is that physical valid for the purposes of eligibility and the TSSAA Bylaws?

A. The physical would be valid for the current school year and the summer up until the first official day of practice for fall sports the next school year. The physical would not be valid for the next school year for the purposes of eligibility. Physicals must be dated on or after April 15 to be valid for the upcoming school year.

STUDENTS CHANGING SCHOOLS

1.

Q. A student changes school because of the death of his/her parents or guardians. The change is necessary in order for the student to have a home. Is he/she eligible?

A. Such cases should be submitted to the Executive Director who will make a decision based on the facts submitted.

2.

Q. It becomes desirable for a student to live with his/her grandparents. The change in residence causes a change of school. If the grandparents are designated as the guardians of this student will the student be eligible to participate in athletics?

A. Such a student may be ruled eligible by the Executive Director if he/she is convinced that the guidelines as set forth in Article II, Section 24 of the TSSAA Bylaws have been met.

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3.

Q. If an athlete with or without an athletic record lives with a guardian, instead of his/her parents, is the student eligible for athletic participation?

A. He/She may be approved by the Executive Director if the student has lived with the guardian for twelve months or longer. If the athlete has lived with his/her guardian, for a period of less than twelve months, he/she is ineligible unless approved by the Executive Director under the provisions of the hardship rule.

4.

Q. A student with or without an athletic record moves to live with a guardian other than a parent. Is the student eligible?

A. No. A student must live with the new guardian, if other than their parent, for 12 months or longer.

5.

Q. A student whose parents are divorced or separated (provided divorce papers have been signed and processed through the courts) participates in athletics at school A while residing with one parent. The student then transfers to school B where they are residing with the other parent. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics?

A. Yes, provided it is the first change from parent to parent since establishing an athletic record, there is a court-ordered custody change, and a letter from the principal of the student's former school indicating that the move was not for athletic reasons.

6.

Q. A student whose parents are divorced or separated (provided divorce papers have been signed and processed through the courts) participates in athletics at school A while residing with one parent. The student then transfers to school B where they are residing with a guardian other than a parent. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics?

A. No. The student will be ineligible until he/she has lived with his/her new guardian for twelve months.

7.

Q. A student who has a record of participation the previous year in baseball only transfers to a nearby school without any change of residence on the part of the student's parents. Is that student eligible to participate in football or basketball?

A. Yes, provided they meet all other eligibility rules. However, the student is ineligible in baseball for a period of 12 months from the last participation date in baseball. (See Article II, Section 13 of the TSSAA Bylaws regarding eligibility in tennis, volleyball, wrestling, soccer, girls' soccer, bowling, cross country and golf.)

8.

Q. A student transfers to a school because the student's parents have moved to the community in which the school is located. The student's scholastic and athletic records are satisfactory. May such a student be allowed to participate pending the approval of his/her transfer by the Executive Director?

A. No. All transfer students must be approved by the Executive Director before being allowed to participate.

9.

Q. If the parents of an athlete move from the territory in which the athlete has been attending school, may this student remain in the school to which he/she has been going and live with someone other than his/her parents without forfeiting his/her eligibility?

A. Yes, provided he/she has been enrolled in that school for a year or longer, provided no "undue influence" has been used to cause the student to continue in the same school, and provided the parents pay the expenses incurred as a result of the student not living at home.

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10.

Q. If an athlete's parents change residence after the beginning of the school year, must the athlete transfer immediately to the school serving the district into which his/her parents have moved?

A. No. The athlete may transfer to the new school without loss of eligibility at the time his/her parents move, at the end of the next grading period, at the end of the semester or at the beginning of the next school year. (If the athlete remains in his/her former school and participates in an athletic contest after his/her parents have moved, he/she cannot become eligible to participate in that sport in the second school until he/she has completed the report card period or the semester.)

11.

Q. How are the words "change of residence" to be interpreted?

A. As moving from one community to another so as to justify a change of schools. Moving across the street or a few blocks away from the former residence, or similar moves, cannot be accepted as justifying a transfer to another school. TSSAA does not recognize "dual" residences (maintaining two homes, apartments, etc.)

12.

Q. What are guidelines that are used in determining whether a bona fide change of residence has taken place?

A. Some guidelines are, but not limited to:

1. Changing of mailing address 2. Disconnecting phone in previous residence 3. Disconnecting of utilities in previous residence 4. All furniture moved from previous residence 5. The original residence should be closed, rented, or disposed of and not used by family.

13.

Q. Is it possible for an athlete who does not live at home with his/her parents or guardians to become eligible?

A. Yes. After such a student has attended school for a full school year, and has lived in the community in which the school is located for a period of at least twelve months, the student's case may be submitted to the Executive Director for a ruling.

14.

Q. A student transfers from School A to School B without a bona fide change in residence by the parents. The change is a result of school zone changes made by the local board of education. Is the student eligible?

A. Yes. Provided he/she meets all other eligibility requirements.

15.

Q. A student with an athletic record the previous year lives in Town A. His/Her father gets work in Town B and decides it will be more convenient for his son or daughter to enter school in Town B since he/she can ride with him as he goes to and from work. Will such a student be eligible to participate on the school team of Town B?

A. No. There has been no change of residence.

16.

Q. An eighth grade student participates as a member of a high school or junior high school team. The next year the student transfers to another school without any change of residence on the part of his parents. Is the student eligible for athletic participation?

A. No. The student is a transfer with an athletic record the previous year. His/Her parents have not changed residence. (This regulation is sometimes misinterpreted due to the statement that eighth grade participation does not count against a student. Such participation does not count as one of the four years he/she is allowed to participate while in high school, but the student is charged with an athletic record the previous year and cannot therefore transfer to another school unless there has been a corresponding change of residence on the part of his/her parents.)

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17.

Q. A student participates in basketball at school A. He changes to school B without a corresponding change of residence by the parents and wants to play basketball. Is he eligible?

A. No. A student will be eligible twelve months from his/her last participation date. Example: A student last played basketball on January 16, 2016 at school A. That student would be eligible at school B on January 17, 2017.

18.

Q. A student with an athletic record transfers from school A to school B without a corresponding change of residence of his/her parents. After attending school B, the student returns to school A. Is the student eligible to participate at school A?

A. Yes, provided the student did not participate in contests or practice in any sport at any level at school B. This must be verified in writing by the administration of school B.

19.

Q. A student who transfers from school A to school B due to a bona fide change of residence by his/her parents is ruled eligible at school B and participates in athletics at school B. One month later the family of the student returns to the original residence where the student was attending school A. Is the student eligible to participate in athletics?

A. No. The student is ineligible to participate in athletics for twelve months from his/her last participation date, since the parents have returned to the original residence serving school A before the student has been enrolled in school B for one year.

20.

Q. What is meant by the term “system-wide” public school in the definition of “territory” as defined in the Definitions?

A. A system-wide public school is a school without geographic zones or bus routes that draws students throughout the school system. Examples of system-wide public schools are, but not limited to: Chattanooga School for the Arts & Sciences, Martin Luther King, the magnet portion of Liberty Technology High School, etc.

21.

Q. An international student attends a TSSAA school and lives with someone other than his/her parents. Is the student eligible?

A. Yes, provided the student possess a J-1 visa and is in a Foreign Exchange program which has been approved by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). Students possessing an F-1 visa are ineligible at the varsity level until they have lived with a guardian for 12 months.

22.

Q. An international student comes to live with a new guardian and enrolls in a school where the guardians reside. The student is not in a Foreign Exchange program approved by the CSIET. Is the student eligible?

A. No. A student must be in a Foreign Exchange program approved by CSIET. The student is ineligible at the varsity level but may be eligible at the junior varsity level provided he/she meets the requirements of Article II, Section 15 of the TSSAA Bylaws.

23.

Q. An international student attends a TSSAA school and is in a foreign exchange program that is not approved by CSIET. Is the student eligible?

A. No. A student must be in a Foreign Exchange program approved by CSIET.

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24.

Q. An international student is in a Foreign Exchange program approved by the CSIET. The student participates in athletics with a TSSAA school while living with one host parent then transfers to another school as a result of a change of host parents. Is the student eligible at the new school?

A. No. As a result of the change of guardians the student must now comply with Article II, Section 11 and Article II, Section 12 of the TSSAA Bylaws in the same manner as all other students.

25.

Q. A student attending School A with an athletic record in basketball at School A is receiving individual instruction from a basketball coach at School B in the spring of the current school year. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence in August. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is ineligible at School B in the sport of basketball. A coaching link exists in the previous 12 months, therefore the student is ineligible for twelve months in the sport where a link is present at all levels of competition.

26.

Q. A student attending School A with an athletic record in basketball at School A attends a summer team camp at School B. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence in August. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is eligible at School B, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements. Attendance at a team camp where a coach from another school is present does not constitute a coaching link. Attendance at an individual camp where a coach from another school is present would constitute a coaching link and would render the student ineligible at all levels of competition.

27.

Q. A student attending School A with an athletic record plays on a softball team during the summer where an assistant coach at School B is serving as the summer softball team's head coach. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence prior to or during the following school year. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is ineligible at School B in the sport of softball. A coaching link was established when the student played for the coach's summer softball team. If a coaching link exists in the previous 12 months, the student is ineligible in the sport where a link is present at all levels of competition.

28.

Q. A student attending School A has an athletic record in football, wrestling and soccer at School A. He is receiving strength and conditioning training during the summer from a personal trainer who happens to be the strength and conditioning coach at School B. The student transfers to School B with a bona fide change of residence the following school year. Is the student eligible at School B?

A. The student is ineligible at School B in all sports. A coaching link has been established in all sports since the strength and conditioning coach at School B works with all sports programs at School B.

29.

Q. A student attending School A was injured on September 10 in a varsity football game and was not able to participate in sports the rest of the school year. The student transfers to School B with no change of residence at the beginning of the following school year. The student wants to play football, basketball, and baseball at school B. When is the student eligible at the varsity level in each sport, assuming that the student meets all other eligibility requirements?

A. The student will become eligible in football on September 11. The student will be eligible immediately in basketball and baseball. The student's participation in football does not impact their eligibility in baseball or basketball. Athletic records from each sport are treated independently of each other.

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30.

Q. A student plays volleyball and establishes an athletic record at School A. At the end of the first semester, the family has a bona fide change of residence into another school zone where they reside for two months. She enrolls and attends School B. They then return to a residence in School A's zone and the student enrolls in School C. Is she eligible?

A. No. Since the student participated at School A within the past twelve months, she will be ineligible in volleyball twelve months past her last date of participation. Athletic eligibility is always based on what the student has done the past twelve months. In this case, the student participated for a member school in the same zone within the last twelve months. Therefore, the last move does not justify a change in schools.

Tuition and Financial Aid

1.

Q. Is it permissible for a school to employ a student for summer work who has not attended the school the previous year?

A. No. In order for a student, who will be participating in athletics, to be employed by a school during the summer the student must have attended the school the previous school year.

2.

Q. Can a Division II school employ student-athletes to "work off" tuition?

A. No. Article II, Section 16 of the TSSAA Bylaws sets forth the only means for reduction of tuition. A school may employ student-athletes as long as the remuneration or consideration for work is not in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service.

3.

Q. Must all financial aid to student-athletes be need-based?

A. Yes.

4.

Q. Who is allowed to pay a student-athlete's tuition?

A. If tuition is charged, it must be paid by a parent, bona fide guardian, or other family member.

5.

Q. Can TSSAA member schools participating in Division II offer particular groups of employees tuition discounts?

A. Yes, provided it is written into the school's policies. For example, schools may choose to offer a tuition discount to a specific group (all full-time faculty members, all non-faculty head coaches, all trainers, etc.). The discount MUST be given to ALL individuals in a particular category or else it will be considered financial aid.

Award Rule

1.

Q. If a student accepts a gift card or apparel from an outside entity during a camp, combine, showcase, etc., will he/she lose his/her eligibility?

A. No. Accepting these items from an outside source during a camp, combine, or showcase, etc., would not make a student ineligible. Bowling, golf and tennis students must abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in regards to accepting awards.

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Independent-Game Participation

1.

Q. Team A is eliminated in the district basketball tournament. May players on Team A participate in an independent game or tournament without endangering their eligibility?

A. The basketball season ends for any member school when the school is eliminated from tournament play. Students may participate in a game as members of independent teams in any sport after the season for that sport has closed without affecting their eligibility, provided the amateur rule is not violated.

2.

Q. A golfer wishes to participate in a club tournament during the golf season. Is this a violation of the independent rule?

A. No, provided the golfer participates as an individual and not as a member or representative of his/her school. The independent rule does not apply to sports with an individual championship (golf, tennis, bowling, wrestling, track and field, and cross country).

3.

Q. May a player participate in a scrimmage, practice game or game with an independent team after being registered with TSSAA past the first official day of competition in that sport?

A. No. The student shall be ineligible once TSSAA is made aware of the incident in the sport in which the violation occurs.

4.

Q. Is it a violation for a registered athlete in baseball or softball to practice with an independent team?

A. No, provided the independent team is not scrimmaging another independent team as a part of their practice.

5.

Q. Is it a violation for a registered athlete in track or cross country to participate in a road race?

A. No. The independent rule does not apply to track and field or cross country.

6.

Q. A basketball player participates in an independent game and the school notifies the state office of the violation. What is the penalty for the student athlete?

A. The student will be ineligible for the remainder of the season.

7.

Q. A student is registered on the girls' softball team with School A after the first official day of competition for girls' softball. The student then participates in an independent girls' softball game. She then returns to School A's softball team where she plays three games. The coach of School A determines that the student has played in an independent game and reports the violation to the state office. What is the penalty?

A. The player is deemed ineligible for the remainder of the season. School A is not penalized for games the player may have played in after participating on an independent team during the school season.

8.

Q. Is it a violation for a soccer player to participate in an indoor soccer tournament or a girls' softball player to participate in a slow pitch softball tournament or a basketball player to participate in a three-on-three tournament during the school season?

A. Yes. Participation in a similar sport during the season constitutes a violation of the independent game participation rule.

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9.

Q. What are some examples of scrimmage situations that would not be considered a violation of the Independent Game Participation Rule?

A. Following are two examples:

- 48 students are trying out for an AAU basketball, travel baseball or softball, club soccer or 7 on 7 football team. This group of students would be considered one team and could participate in scrimmage situations.
- 65 students are invited to a college university to practice with a college team. This group of students, along with the college students, would be considered one team and could participate in scrimmage situations.

All-Star Games

1.

Q. A civic club plans to hold an all-star basketball game. Only seniors who do not participate in spring sports will participate. Would it be a violation for a coach of a member school to coach one of the teams; for the coach and principal to permit the players to use school equipment; for a registered TSSAA official to officiate the game?

A. Yes, if a game is played during the school year officials and game officials shall have no connection whatsoever with such a contest.

2.

Q. What is the difference between an independent team and an all-star team?

A. An independent team is a team that is organized to play a schedule. An all-star team is a team composed of players from different schools who are usually assembled as a team for playing one particular game.

Home School Rule

1.

Q. Who is eligible to tryout, as a home school athlete, for a TSSAA member school team?

A. Only those who meet all ten criteria outlined within TSSAA's Home School Bylaw are eligible.

2.

Q. Are there any requirements that the parent conducting the home school must meet for purposes of the TSSAA Bylaws?

A. Yes. First, the home school athlete must meet all ten criteria outlined within TSSAA's Home School Bylaw. Additionally, the parent-teacher must satisfy all state law requirements in order for the home school student to be eligible to try out for a TSSAA member school team.

3.

Q. What are the academic requirements for a home school athlete?

A. The academic courses must be approved by the local board of education (or private school) in compliance with state law. TSSAA does not regulate where or how any student athlete receives credit toward graduation. TSSAA is concerned with the following: (1) Are the participants enrolled in a minimum of five academic courses which have been approved by the school and/or school system? And (2) If taken at a member school would the course count towards graduation? If the answer to both questions is "yes", the home school athlete would meet the requirements set forth in the "Academic Rule" and "Home School" Bylaw.

4.

Q. What if a student takes four of the five academic courses at an independent home school, but registers and attends a non-public school for the fifth credit (i.e. science lab,) would this potential home school athlete be eligible under the Home School Bylaw?

A. Yes, provided the student meets the definition of a home school student according to state law.

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5.

Q. What is the last date that a home school student can make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the athlete wishes to tryout and possibly participate?

A. The parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal of the member school in which the home school athlete wishes to try out and possibly participate before the first official practice date for that sport.

6.

Q. Can a home school student tryout for a team prior to meeting all requirements of the rule in the TSSAA Bylaws?

A. No. All requirements of the rule must be met prior to the home school student trying out for a team, with the exception of the participation fee. If a participation fee is imposed by the LEA, the home school student would only be required to pay that fee only if they become a member of the team.

7.

Q. What type of insurance, if any, does a home school athlete participating on a TSSAA member school team need to maintain?

A. The home school student must provide proof of liability insurance coverage which names the TSSAA as an insured party or the administration of the school must submit to TSSAA a copy of the TSSAA Indemnity Form signed by the guardian(s). TSSAA Catastrophic Insurance will extend to the home school athlete as it does with all other student-athletes participating at a member school.

8.

Q. If the LEA imposes a participation fee, could the home school athlete be responsible for any additional monetary payments after he/she makes a particular team?

A. Yes, but this will be left to the LEA, and not TSSAA. Many LEAs charge an additional fee to all the athletes participating in a particular sport, such as golf. Some LEAs charge an equipment fee or uniforms fee, while other LEAs require athletes to raise a certain amount of money with fundraising. If the non-home school student athlete is being held responsible for monetary contributions, the home school athlete can be held responsible for those same monetary contributions, which will vary within LEAs.

9.

Q. If a home school athlete makes the roster of a TSSAA member school team in football, basketball, and baseball, what is the participation fee?

A. The answer will vary by LEA. The maximum amount that the home school athlete could pay shall not exceed the fees or costs charged to or borne by students enrolled at the school.

10.

Q. If a home school athlete wants to participate on a TSSAA member private school team, what must the home school athlete do?

A. (1) The parent or guardian must make application for participation in athletics to the principal **prior to the first official practice date for that sport**. (2) Additionally, the home school athlete must pay full tuition and abide by all financial aid rules.

11.

Q. If a student has dropped out, withdrawn, or been expelled from a TSSAA member school, will that student be eligible to participate at another TSSAA member school as a home school athlete?

A. No. If the student was expelled then he/she would be carrying a discipline record which makes them ineligible for one year or until the disciplinary charges have been removed. If the student dropped out or withdraws from school he/she would be subject to the TSSAA's transfer rules.

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12.

Q. If a home school athlete tries out for a TSSAA member school team, is the home school athlete automatically on the roster?

A. No, like all sports rosters, the ultimate decisions are left to the member schools regarding the athletes that make the team as well as the amount of playing time that each athlete receives.

Virtual School Rule

1.

Q. A student lives outside the geographic area of the LEA of any TSSAA member virtual schools. Is there a scenario where this student could participate in athletics for a TSSAA member school?

A. No. Students must live in the geographic area of the LEA of the member virtual school. Their residence must also be in the zone (territory) of the public school where they wish to participate as assigned by the local board of education.

2.

Q. A student lives inside the geographic area of the LEA of a TSSAA member virtual school. School A and School B are both in the geographic area of the same LEA. The student's residence is in the zone (territory) of School A, but they wish to play for School B. The student lives outside the zone (territory) of School B. Can the student play for School B?

A. No. Students must live in the zone (territory) established by the LEA of the school they are participating for.

Schools Which Member Schools May Play or Scrimmage

1.

Q. What schools may a member school of TSSAA scrimmage during pre-season or play during regular season?

A. TSSAA member schools may play or scrimmage the following:

1. Any secondary school team with grades 9 and above.
2. An individual home schooled student who might be invited to participate in a track meet, wrestling competition, golf competition, etc. This would primarily apply to individual sports.
3. A home school team in a team sport, such as basketball, baseball, softball, etc., where home schooled students go together to form a cooperative team.

2.

Q. Who can a member school of TSSAA not play during regular season?

A. Any non-school team. Examples would be a club team, recreational park league team, or any type of independent team.

Contests and Tournaments with Out-Of-State Teams

1.

Q. May a TSSAA school participate in tournaments or meets involving out-of-state teams that have not been sanctioned?

A. No. All tournaments or meets involving out-of-state teams must be sanctioned by TSSAA, the other state associations concerned, and the National Federation.

Varsity Teams

Q. Can a school's junior varsity team participate against another school's varsity team?

A. No. A game is either a varsity game for both teams, a junior varsity game for both teams, or a scrimmage for both teams. An exception may be made by the Executive Director when a school is beginning an athletic program.

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TSSAA SPORTS CALENDAR

1.

Q. A coach has a weight lifting program at school during off-season and in the time permitted by the sports calendar. The program is open to both players and non-players. Is this a violation?

A. No, provided activities are limited to weight lifting, and provided no player is required to attend.

2.

Q. Can a coach have a conditioning program in the off season, provided it is not during the Dead Period?

A. Yes, provided it is a program that would benefit all students and is open to all players and non-players.

3.

Q. May a school with grades 7-12, 8-12 or 9-12 have 12 days of varsity spring football practice and 12 days of freshman spring football practice?

A. No. A school may have only 12 days of off-season practice in football.

4.

Q. Is it permissible for a school to have try-outs before the first practice date?

A. Try-outs are considered practice. During the school-year, no school may hold try-outs prior to the first practice date as set forth by the TSSAA Sports Calendar. Try-outs in football and basketball may be held during spring practice but only students enrolled and in regular attendance at that school may participate. Try-outs may be held in the summer during the time outlined for practice in that sport.

5.

Q. In football, five schools come together on a Saturday for a five-way scrimmage on two practice fields. Team A is working a half line scrimmage against Team B, Team C is working 7-on-7 with secondary against quarterbacks and receivers, etc. Later in the day, Team B is scrimmaging Team A, B vs. C, etc. How would this be counted?

A. This is one scrimmage date. All schools would have either two scrimmages or one scrimmage date remaining in preseason.

6.

Q. Three schools go together for a three-way scrimmage with A vs. B, B vs. C, and C vs. A set up during the day. How would this be counted?

A. This is either two scrimmages for each team or one scrimmage date for each team. It really does not make any difference. All three schools would have either two scrimmages or one scrimmage date remaining in preseason.

7.

Q. School A and School B get together and set up a scrimmage with their two schools. During the scrimmage the freshman teams are working against each other at 2:00; the junior varsity teams are working against each other at 3:30; and the varsity teams come back that night and work against each other at 7:00. How would this be counted in preseason scrimmages.

A. This is one preseason scrimmage for both schools, provided all of the scrimmaging is at one site.

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8.

Q. A school invites nine schools to participate in an all-day scrimmage on a Saturday. What can occur and how is this counted toward the scrimmage rule?

A. If any of the schools invited scrimmage more than one school, then it would count as a scrimmage date for that school and for all the schools that participate against more than one school in the all-day affair. The schools would then have either two scrimmages remaining or one scrimmage date.

There cannot be any tournament format set up or play that would reflect a regular season game. Preseason scrimmages are an extension of preseason practice and should be learning experiences for athletes and coaches as they prepare for regular season games.

9.

Q. How many students may receive individual instructions during the pre-season and/or off-season?

A. During the pre-season and off-season, individual instruction may be given to no more than three students per day in basketball and girls' volleyball. In football, girls' soccer, and soccer, individual instructions may be given to no more than six students per day. In baseball and girls' softball, individual instruction may be given to no more than five students per day. IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW MANY COACHES YOU HAVE IN A PARTICULAR SPORT. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT ARE ALLOWED TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN ABOVE.

10.

Q. Are school personnel/coaches permitted to coach non-school teams with players from their school in the preseason or offseason?

A. If the TSSAA sports calendar does not permit practice during the time of year that the non-school team is practicing or playing, then school personnel are not permitted to coach these teams regardless of how many or how few players from their school are participating for the non-school team.

11.

Q. Does the 50% rule apply to summer teams in any sport?

A. No. The 50% rule applies only to basketball, baseball, and softball and only from the beginning of the school year until the season begins in the sport involved.

12.

Q. School A has one gym and is scheduled to have volleyball practice until 6:00 PM. Can School A have Open Facilities for basketball beginning at 6:30 PM?

A. Yes. Open Facilities is permitted year round (Monday through Friday) except during the Dead Period. It does not have to occur immediately after the school day ends.

Awards

1.

Q. Does TSSAA name All-District, All-Region, or All-State Teams?

A. No. These teams are normally selected by the coaches, the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, or the Associated Press.

Officials and Contracts with Officials

1.

Q. May a school use one or more non-registered officials in a contest provided the other officials are registered?

A. All football officials, including the clock operator, must be registered with TSSAA. All basketball officials, except the timer and scorer, must also be registered with TSSAA. All baseball and girls softball umpires must be registered with TSSAA; also wrestling, girls soccer, soccer and girls volleyball officials.

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2.

Q. What is the penalty for using a non-registered football, basketball, wrestling, girls volleyball, girls soccer, soccer, girls softball or baseball official?

A. Schools using non-registered officials shall be fined \$15 for the first offense. Continued use of non-registered officials will subject school to suspension or other penalty as determined by the Board of Control.

3.

Q. If a registered official has been employed but for some reason fails to appear, may a school use a non-registered official without being subject to any penalty?

A. Yes, provided the state office is notified in writing within 48 hours after the game is played. This report should give the name and address of the registered official who was employed to work the game and the reason for his/her failure to do so if known; also the name and address of the official who was used in place of the registered official.

4.

Q. What is the policy of TSSAA toward the decisions of officials?

A. The decisions of officials are accepted as final and binding.

5.

Q. May a school drop an official from the game after the official has been engaged?

A. Yes, if a school decides that it is wise to break its agreement with an official, it may be done by paying the official the regular fee for the game.

COACHING REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Classified Employees and Non-Faculty Coaches serving as Head Coaches

- _____ Must be approved by the principal, director of schools, and/or school board each year.
- _____ Must be submitted by the principal to TSSAA each year.
- _____ Must successfully complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses prior to his/her employment.*

Classified Employees and Non-Faculty Coaches serving as Assistant Coaches

- _____ Must be approved by the principal, director of schools, and/or school board each year.
- _____ Must be submitted by the principal to TSSAA each year.
- _____ Must successfully complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses prior to his/her employment.*

Retired Educators (five or more years of teaching experience) & **Full-Time Certified Teachers** (those who are currently teaching a minimum of 100 school days) are not considered non-faculty. These individuals have no other requirements. These individuals must be submitted by the principal to TSSAA each year.

Middle School Non-Faculty Coaches

- _____ Must be approved by the principal, director of schools, and/or school board each year.
- _____ Must be submitted by the principal to TMSAA each year.
- _____ Must successfully complete the NFHS “Fundamentals of Coaching” and “First Aid, Health, & Safety for Coaches” courses prior to his/her employment.*

**Coaches who have successfully completed the ASEP Coaches Education Course AND the TSSAA Online Coaches Training Session prior to May 15, 2013, will not be required to take the NFHS courses.*

2022-23 GENERAL OFFICIAL'S INFORMATION

The following fees for regular season varsity contests have been set by the Board of Control. With the exception of basketball, these fees do not apply to invitational tournaments. J.V. or B-Team, freshman, and middle school fees are not set by TSSAA and are negotiable with the local officials' association.

2022-23 Mileage Fees

The Board of Control has set the following fees for mileage, which applies to all officials, and is to be based on mileage that is calculated in Arbiter:

1. If an official travels 30 to 60 miles one-way, they will receive an additional \$10.
2. If an official travels more than 60 miles one way, they will receive an additional \$20.
3. If an official travels less than 30 miles one way, no additional fee will be paid.

Sport	2022-23		2023-24	
Senior High Football	\$115.00 E.C.O. – \$85.00		\$115.00 E.C.O. – \$85.00	
Senior High Basketball	Two Officials	Three Officials	Two Officials	Three Officials
	Single Game \$90.00 Doubleheader \$120.00	Single Game \$80.00 Doubleheader \$110.00	Single Game \$90.00 Doubleheader \$120.00	Single Game \$80.00 Doubleheader \$110.00
<i>Doubleheader fees apply to all regular season contests, including Invitational Tournaments and Classics, where there is no more than 15 minutes between contests.</i>				
Senior High Girls' Volleyball	Two Officials		Two Officials	
	One Match \$70.00 Two Matches \$100.00 Three Matches \$130.00		One Match \$70.00 Two Matches \$100.00 Three Matches \$130.00	
<i>Two officials must be used for all matches, including Invitational Tournaments and Post-Season Tournaments.</i>				
Senior High Girls Soccer and Soccer	Two Officials	Three Officials	Two Officials	Three Officials
	One Game \$85.00 Each	One Game – \$85.00, \$75.00, \$75.00	One Game \$85.00 Each	One Game – \$85.00, \$75.00, \$75.00
Senior High Baseball	Two Officials	Three Officials	Two Officials	Three Officials
	Single Game \$90.00	Single Game \$85.00	Single Game \$90.00	Single Game \$85.00
	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$120.00	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$110.00	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$120.00	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$110.00
	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$120.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$180.00	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$110.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$170.00	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$120.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$180.00	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$110.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$170.00
<i>Doubleheader fees apply to regular season contests only when there is no more than 30 minutes between games. If one game of the doubleheader is a JV game, it is limited to 5 innings or a 1:15 time limit, whichever comes first. NO EXCEPTIONS.</i>				
Senior High Girls' Softball	Two Officials	Three Officials	Two Officials	Three Officials
	Single Game \$80.00	Single Game \$75.00	Single Game \$80.00	Single Game \$75.00
	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$110.00	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$100.00	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$110.00	Doubleheader (JV/JV) \$100.00
	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$110.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$160.00	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$100.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$150.00	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$110.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$160.00	Doubleheader (JV/V) \$100.00 Doubleheader (V/V) \$150.00
<i>Doubleheader fees apply to regular season contests only when there is no more than 30 minutes between games.</i>				
Senior High Wrestling	Dual Meet – \$85.00 Two Dual Meets @ Same Site – \$120.00 Three Dual Meets @ Same Site – \$165.00		Dual Meet – \$85.00 Two Dual Meets @ Same Site – \$120.00 Three Dual Meets @ Same Site – \$165.00	

Catastrophic Insurance 2022-23 School Year

When Athletes, Coaches, and Athletic Directors are Covered

1. Participating in a TSSAA sanctioned sport during the time outlined in the TSSAA Sports Calendar.
2. Practicing in a TSSAA sport during the time that conforms with the rules, regulations, and season outlined in the TSSAA Sports Calendar.
3. Summer Practice – Must be a school team practicing as a unit during the time specified in the TSSAA Sports Calendar with a school coach in charge.
4. Weight lifting and conditioning is only covered during the season when teams are allowed to practice.
5. Preseason Scrimmages
6. Team travel to and from an athletic practice and/or contest with a school coach in charge. Independent travel is not covered, i.e. athletes driving their own vehicles.
7. Coaches and athletic directors are covered working all TSSAA sanctioned activities including travel to and from (Medical Limit - \$50,000; Deductible (Integrated) - \$5,000).

When Athletes, Coaches, and Athletic Directors are Not Covered

1. Open Facilities
2. Weight Training and Conditioning – At no time during the off-season is anyone covered.
3. Summer Camps – TSSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover team camps. The camp may be able to provide the coverage for the participants attending team camps or schools have the option to purchase the individual school coverage that would cover camps.
4. Student-athletes are not covered under the supervision of non-approved coaches or a coach that has not met the TSSAA coaching requirements.
5. Coaches and Athletic Directors are not covered during open facilities, during off-season coaching (i.e. weight training and conditioning), or while coaching/working summer camps

How to Report a Claim

1. The following information should be emailed to sports@loomislapann.com on school letterhead or a school incident report form.
 - a. Name of injured party.
 - b. Name, address, email, and phone number of injured party's parents or guardian.
 - c. Date of accident or injury
 - d. Brief overview of what took place
2. Keep a copy to verify you have reported the incident.
3. Loomis & LaPann will send out a claim form and claim filing instructions to injured party's parent or guardian. The claim form **MUST** be signed by Coach/AD at the school verifying the incident. Once the claim form has been signed it would be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to file the claim.
4. It is not necessary to report all injuries. The general procedure is to report any injury that may require surgery. Injuries that require surgery will probably penetrate the \$15,000.00 deductible.

Contact Information

For any questions regarding Catastrophic Insurance Coverages, How to Report a Claim, or the Optional Catastrophic Insurance Plan, please contact Greg Joly or Karen Boller at Loomis & LaPann, Inc. at (800) 566-6479 or e-mail:

gjoly@loomislapann.com
kboller@loomislapann.com

2022-23 TSSAA Regional Rules Meetings

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEETINGS

Sept. 19	9:00 AM	Cookeville High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 20	9:00 AM	Daniel Boone High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 21	9:00 AM	Hardin Valley Academy
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 22	9:00 AM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 26	9:00 AM	Ensworth High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 27	9:00 AM	White Station High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 28	9:00 AM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting
Sept. 29	9:00 AM	Spring Hill High School
	10:00 AM	Middle School Meeting

REGIONAL MEETINGS

Nov. 7	11:00 AM	Hardin Valley Academy
Nov. 9	10:00 AM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School
Nov. 10	10:00 AM	Ensworth High School

BASEBALL RULES MEETINGS

Jan. 8	3:00 PM	Cookeville High School
Jan. 9	6:30 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Jan. 11	6:30 PM	Fulton High School
Jan. 12	6:30 PM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
Jan. 15	3:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School
Jan. 16	6:30 PM	Marshall Co. High School
Jan. 18	6:30 PM	Memphis University School
Jan. 19	6:30 PM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School

BASKETBALL RULES MEETINGS

Sept. 11	3:00 PM	Morristown East High School
Sept. 12	6:00 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Sept. 13	6:00 PM	Hardin Valley Academy
Sept. 14	6:00 PM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
Sept. 15	6:00 PM	Shelbyville Central High School
Sept. 18	2:00 PM	MUS (Coaches)
Sept. 18	4:00 PM	MUS (Officials)
Sept. 19	6:00 PM	Dresden High School
Sept. 20	6:00 PM	Liberty Tech. Magnet High School
Sept. 21	6:00 PM	DeKalb Co. High School
Sept. 22	6:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School

FOOTBALL RULES MEETINGS

July 18	6:00 PM	Notre Dame High School
July 19	6:00 PM	Rossvie High School
July 25	6:00 PM	Peabody High School
July 26	6:00 PM	Memphis University School
July 27	6:00 PM	Henderson City Hall
July 28	6:00 PM	Shelbyville Central High School
July 31	6:00 PM	Watertown High School
Aug. 1	6:00 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Aug. 2	6:00 PM	Hardin Valley Academy
Aug. 3	6:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School
Aug. 4	6:00 PM	McMinn Co. High School

GIRLS' SOFTBALL RULES MEETINGS

Jan. 8	2:00 PM	Cookeville High School
Jan. 9	5:30 PM	Daniel Boone High School
Jan. 11	5:30 PM	Fulton High School
Jan. 12	5:30 PM	Silverdale Baptist Academy
Jan. 15	2:00 PM	Goodpasture Christian School
Jan. 16	5:30 PM	Marshall Co. High School
Jan. 18	5:30 PM	Memphis University School
Jan. 19	5:30 PM	Liberty Tech. Magnet School

TRACK RULES MEETINGS

TBA

THE FOLLOWING RULES MEETINGS

WILL BE OFFERED ONLINE:

GOLF, GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL, GIRLS' SOCCER, BOWLING, TENNIS, SOCCER

NOTE: In order to complete the online coaches meetings, coaches must log into their personal TSSAA Portal Account and be assigned as a coach for the sport in which they are taking the online rules meetings.