

Soccer

Sport Manual

2019-20 Edition

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FHSAA Sport Administrator

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How to find information:

- Open document with Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat
- Type in the "Find" box (see below) a word or phrase *(if you do not see the find box then press "Ctrl+F" for Windows or "⌘+F" for Mac)*
- Press "Enter"
- The word or phrase, if found, will be highlighted
- Each successive pressing of the "Enter" key will find subsequent findings of the word or phrase

4.10 Soccer

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4.10.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.10.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.10.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Soccer Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all soccer games.

(a) The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- **4-1-1(d).** Compression/bicycle shorts may be worn under the uniform bottom in accordance with the National Federation rule. Such shorts, however, may not be worn in lieu of the uniform bottom.
- **5-1-1.** The minimum crew size that may be used during a regular season game is two officials (head referee and assistant referee). The use of three officials for regular season games is optional. When three officials are utilized during competition, the Double Dual System of Control shall be utilized.
- **6-2-1.** The official time will be kept by a contest official on the field, and if the stadium clock is available, it is unofficial.
- **7-1-1.** Sub-varsity may play two 30-minute halves upon mutual agreement of opposing schools.
- **7-1-2.** Varsity shall play 40-minute halves and periods may not be shorten.
- **7-1-3.** A soccer game that has completed one-half or more of play is an official game. A game that has been called because of weather or darkness prior to the first half being completed is a suspended game and, if played, shall restart from the point of suspension. (See also the FHSAA "Policy on Inclement Weather.")
- **7-1-5.** Eight (8) goal differential attained at end of the first half or secured at any point during the second half terminates the game. If an eight (8) differential is reached at any time during the first half, the game clock shall continue to run after goals are scored. Once the game clock starts running due to an eight goal differential, the game clock must continue to run for the duration of the game.
- **7-3-1.** Regular season games that are tied at the end of regulation play will end as a tie. Games in invitational tournaments that are tied at the end of regulation play may be resolved using the overtime procedure. The overtime procedure shall be used in the FHSAA State Soccer Series.
- **7-3-2.** There will be a five-minute interval between the second half and the first of the two sudden victory overtime periods and a two-minute interval between the sudden victory overtime periods.

4.10.1.1.2 Timeouts. There shall be a one-minute timeout in each half for re-hydration of players and for coaches to deal with player situations. Players shall remain on the field and there shall be no delay in substitution. Substitutes may enter per NFHS Rule 3-3-1. The timeout shall occur when there is stoppage immediately prior to or after the 20-minute mark at the discretion of the referee when there is no immediate offensive scoring opportunity.

4.10.1.1.3 Card System for Misconduct. Administration of the Card System for Misconduct in all contests must be administered as follows:

(a) A player, coach, or bench personnel who commits any of the violations listed in NFHS Rule 12-8-1 (a-f(1-11, 13-14)) shall be shall be cautioned (issued a yellow card). A player may be substituted for immediately, and shall be required to leave the field until the next legal substitution opportunity. An official may issue a red card and disqualify (eject) a player, coach, or bench personnel on a first offense if the situation warrants.

(b) A player who commits a second violation of any of the violations listed in NFHS Rule 12-8-1 (a-f(1-11, 13-14)) shall be issued a second caution (blue card), shall be disqualified (ejected) from further participation in the game and shall not be replaced on the field with a substitute. The official shall first show the yellow card by raising the card above the head, followed by raising the blue card above the head. (Note: the yellow and blue cards shall not be shown simultaneously).

(c) A coach or bench personnel who commits a second violation of any of the violations listed in NFHS Rule 12-8-1 (a-f(1-11, 13-14)), or a first offense of NFHS Rules 12-8-1 (g), 12-8-1 (f) (12), or 12-8-2 (a-c, d(1), e-f) shall be issued a red card, shall be disqualified (ejected) and must exit the premises, and shall be subject to the provisions of the FHSAA Policy of Unsporting Conduct.

(d) A player who commits any of the violations listed in NFHS Rules 12-8-1 (g) or 12-8-2 (a-b, d(1), e-g) shall be guilty of unsporting conduct, shall be issued a red card, shall be disqualified (ejected) from further participation in the game and shall not be replaced on the field with a substitute. This player shall be subject to the provisions of the FHSAA Policy on Unsporting Conduct.

(e) A player who violates NFHS Rule 12-8-2 (d) (2) shall be guilty of a hand ball foul (non-contact with opponent) and disqualified (ejected). The player shall be issued a blue card and shall not be replaced on the field with a substitute.

(f) A player who violates NFHS Rule 12-8-2 (d) (3) shall be guilty of committing a foul (non-violent) attempting to deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity outside the penalty area, and shall be disqualified (ejected) from the contest. The player shall be issued a blue card and shall not be replaced on the field with a substitute.

(g) A player who violates NFHS Rule 12-8-2 (d) (4) shall be guilty of committing a foul inside the penalty area, while not attempting to play the ball and a goal is not scored and shall be disqualified (ejected) from the contest. The player shall be issued a blue card and shall not be replaced on the field with a substitute.

(h) A player who violates NFHS Rule 12-8-1 (f) (12) shall be guilty of delayed, excessive or prolonged act(s) by which the player attempts to focus attention upon his or herself and/or prohibits a timely restart to the game and shall be disqualified (ejected) from the contest. The player shall be issued a blue card and shall not be replaced on the field with a substitute.

4.10.1.1.4 Overtime Procedure. The overtime procedure to be used in the Florida High School State Championship Series, as well as invitational tournament games, is as follows (Note: schools hosting invitational tournaments during the regular season may use this overtime procedure or go directly to penalty kicks:

(a) Following a five-minute interval, there shall be **two (2)** 10-minute overtime periods. A coin toss as specified in NFHS Rule 5-2-2(d)(3) shall be held in advance of this overtime period. After the end of the first 10-minute overtime period the teams shall change ends of the field and a second 10-minute overtime period shall be played after a two-minute interval. The team with more goals at the conclusion of the second overtime shall be declared the winner of the contest.

(b) If a tie still exists following the second overtime period, the head coaches and team captains for both teams will meet with the officials at the halfway line to review the procedure for penalty kicks as follows:

(1) The referee will choose the goal at which all of the kicks from the penalty line will be taken.

(2) Each coach will select any five players, including the goalkeeper, on or off the field (except those who may have been disqualified) to take the penalty kicks.

(3) A coin toss will be held as in NFHS Rule 5-2-2(d)(3). The team winning the toss will have the choice of kicking first or second.

(4) Teams will alternate kickers. There is no follow-up on the kick.

(5) The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each penalty kick.

(6) The team scoring the greatest number of these kicks will be declared the winner.

(7) Add one goal to the winning team score and credit the team with a victory. An asterisk [*] may be placed by the team advancing to indicate the advancement was the result of a tie-breaker system.

(c) If the score remains tied after each team has had five penalty kicks:

(1) Each coach will select five different players than the first five who already have kicked to take the kicks in a sudden victory situation, wherein if one team scores and the other team does not score, the game is ended without more kicks being taken. If a team has fewer than 10 available players at the end of the first set of kicks from the penalty mark due to either injuries or disqualification, the coach must use all players who have not participated in the first five kicks. The coach may choose additional players from the first five kickers to ensure that five different players participate in the second set of kicks.

(2) If the score remains tied, continue the sudden victory kicks with the coach selecting any five players to take the next set of alternating kicks. If a tie remains, repeat 4.10.1.1.4 (c)(1)

(d) The Misconduct Procedure as listed in 12-8 in the NFHS Rules Book shall be in effect during the penalty kick phase of overtime.

4.10.1.1.5 Suspended Contest. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption under the provision of NFHS Rule 7-1-3.

4.10.2 Florida High School State Championship Series Procedures

4.10.2.1 District Meeting

4.10.2.1.1 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.10.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.10.2.2.1 District Tournament

(a) Time Schedule. Each district will determine the time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting.

(b) Site. Each district will determine a site for its tournament at the district meeting.

4.10.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments

(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification as follows:

(1) All Classes. Districts 1-4 will comprise the Region 1 complex, Districts 5-8 the Region 2 complex, Districts 9-12 the Region 3 complex, and Districts 13-16 the Region 4 complex. The champion of each of the 4 district tournaments in each region complex and the next 4 highest-ranked teams in each of the 4 region complexes shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Time Schedule. Times for all regional tournament games must be 7 p.m. local time unless approved by the FHSAA Office.

4.10.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championship Finals

(a) Schedule. The Finals schedule will be posted on the FHSAA Website.

(b) Bracketing. See Administrative Procedure 3.3.3

(c) Coaches Packet. A coach's packet will be available on the FHSAA Website. The head coach of each participating team is required to view the information prior to their scheduled semifinal game.

4.10.2.2.4 Advancement of Winners

(a) District to Regional. The champion of the 16 district tournaments and the next 4 highest-ranked teams in each of the 4 regions shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned. See Administrative Procedure 3 for additional details.

(b) Regional to State Semifinals. The champion from each of the four regional tournaments in each classification shall advance to the State Semifinals with the champion of Region 1 playing the champion of Region 2 and the champion of Region 3 playing the champion of Region 4.

(c) State Semifinals to Florida High School State Championship Series. The two champions of the State Semifinals will advance to the Florida High School State Championship Series.

4.10.2.3 Tournament Regulations

4.10.2.3.1 Squads.

(a) Player Limit. Each participating school shall be allowed a maximum of 25 players in uniform for each tournament game. Uniformed players, coaches and team managers, which shall not exceed eight (8) total, will be admitted to tournament games free of charge. Any school member functioning in a media capacity (i.e. yearbook, school newspaper, etc.) must complete a media credential request form. Team photographers, videographers and reporters must also apply for media credentials. Media credential request forms are available at FHSAA.org.

(b) Florida High School State Championship Series. The number of field passes for participating teams shall not exceed the number of uniformed players plus eight (8) to be used by coaches, managers, statisticians, trainers, medical personnel, administrators, etc.

4.10.2.3.2 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures. The following pregame time schedule shall be followed in all Florida High School State Championship Series games:

First Game of Session and Championship Games

Time to Start	Protocol	Game Clock
35:00	Set game clock to 20 minutes and start; both teams permitted on the game field for warm-up.	20:00
20:00	Captains and officials meet.	5:00
15:00	Teams report to sidelines.	0:00
12:00	Teams (Players and coaches) and officials proceed together in line to midfield.	_ _ _
11:00	Introduction of players, coaches and officials. As player's name is called he/she steps forward then back into line. Visiting team non-starters, then starters, then assistant coaches, then head coach. Home team non-starters, then starters, then assistant coaches, then head coach. Introduction of officials.	_ _ _
5:00	National Anthem	_ _ _
2:00	Introductions end; final preparations.	_ _ _
0:00	Reset clock to 40:00; to begin game.	_ _ _

Subsequent Games of Session

Time to Start	Protocol	Game Clock
32:00	Set game clock to 20 minutes and start; both teams permitted on the game field for warm-up.	20:00
17:00	Captains and officials meet.	5:00
12:00	Teams report to sidelines.	0:00

9:00	Teams (Players and coaches) and officials proceed together in line to midfield.	_ _ _
8:00	Introduction of players, coaches and officials. As player's name is called he/she steps forward then back into line. Visiting team non-starters, then starters, then assistant coaches, then head coach. Home team non-starters, then starters, then assistant coaches, then head coach. Introduction of officials.	_ _ _
2:00	Introductions end; final preparations.	_ _ _
0:00	Reset clock to 40:00; to begin game.	_ _ _

No participating team, other than the host school's team, shall be permitted onto a tournament field for practice during the week of the district or regional tournaments or Florida High School State Championship Series except for the 20-minute pregame warm-up period.

4.10.2.3.3 Tie Games. All Florida High School State Championship Series games must be played to completion. Tie games will be resolved in accordance with the procedure outlined in 4.10.1.1.4.

4.10.2.3.4 Bands. Bands will not be permitted to play at games in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

REGULAR SEASON PROCEDURES

2.1 Coaches

2.1.1 Sports Safety Course. As per state statute § 1012.55 (2)(b), F.S., completion of the National Center for Sport Safety PREPARE online course (http://www.sportsafety.org/prepare) shall count for 6 hours of required school district in-service instruction for athletic coaching certification. This course has been approved and recommended by the FHSAA Board of Directors. All coaches at public or private schools are encouraged to utilize this program.

2.2 Regular Season Public Address Protocol

2.2.1 Regular Season Public Address Protocol. The public address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all events. He/she shall maintain complete neutrality at all times and, as such, shall not be a "cheerleader" for any team. Schools are highly encouraged to follow the protocol listed in Administrative Procedure 3.1.6 when a public address announcer is used at a regular season event.

2.3 Officials

2.3.1 Officials. See FHSAA Officials Guidebook (which can be downloaded from the "Rules & Publications" page on FHSAA.org).

2.4 Preseason Jamborees and Classics

2.4.1 Preseason Jamborees and Classics. Preseason Jamborees and Classics may not be played outside the state of Florida.

2.4.1.1 Limitation. Preseason Jamborees and Classics are limited to only varsity squads/teams.

2.4.2 Preseason Jamborees

2.4.2.1 Team Sports. Preseason Jamborees for team sports must include four or more varsity teams; each varsity team may play a maximum of two quarters/periods. The opponent may or may not be different each quarter/period. All playing rules used during the regular season apply for preseason classics.

2.4.2.2 Football. Preseason Jamborees for football must include four or more varsity teams; each varsity team may play a maximum of two 12-minute quarters. Opponents may be the same or different in each quarter. All NFHS football playing rules must be followed. Each team may request a maximum of two (2) timeouts per quarter. Jamborees may only be played the Thursday through Saturday of the week prior to the first regular season contest week.

2.4.3 Preseason Classics

2.4.3.1 Team Sports. Preseason Classics for the team sports are limited to a field of four varsity teams; each team may play a maximum of two games. Preseason classics exceeding four (4) teams are subject to conditional approval by the Executive Director. All playing rules used during the regular season apply for preseason classics.

2.4.3.2 Individual Sports. All playing rules used during the regular season apply for preseason classics.

2.4.3.3 Football. Preseason Classics for football are limited to two varsity teams; may be modified to allow non-varsity squads from both schools to participate against each other in the first two quarters, followed by participation by the varsity squads from both schools in the final two quarters or some similar format subject to approval by the FHSAA Office. If any format other than a complete game between varsity squads is used, it must be stipulated in the contract. All NFHS football playing rules must be followed. Regardless of the format used, a running score for each school must be kept for the entire game. One school must be declared the winner. Classics may only be played the Thursday through Saturday of the week prior to the first regular season contest week.

2.5 FHSAA Identification Card

2.5.1 FHSAA Identification Card. FHSAA Identification Cards are provided to the principal of each member school each year in bulk quantity to distribute to members of his/her administrative staff and faculty who are directly or indirectly affiliated with the school's athletic programs. This card is intended to serve only as a means of identifying the bearer as an employee of a member school and, in and of itself, is not considered to be a pass of any kind. Member schools, however, may at their discretion honor these cards for complimentary admission to regular season athletic events. The FHSAA Identification Card only allows admittance into the contest. It does not grant access to the field, court, or pool deck. Under no circumstances are these cards to be honored for complimentary admission to any Florida High School State Championship Series contest on the district, regional or state level.

2.6 Identification of Athletic Personnel

2.6.1 Identification of Athletic Personnel. The school principal or designee must identify each member of the school's athletic personnel, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director.

2.7 Broadcast of Events

2.7.1 Regular Season

2.7.1.1 Rights Held by Host/Home School. Radio broadcast, telecast, cablecast and internet broadcast rights for regular season contests in all sports are held by the home/host school. The FHSAA cannot grant radio broadcast, telecast, cablecast or internet broadcast rights to regular season contests. Outlets wishing to broadcast, telecast, cablecast or webcast a regular season contest should contact the principal of the home/host school to secure rights and make arrangements.

2.7.1.1.1 Member schools can decline an outlet's request to radio broadcast, telecast, cablecast or internet broadcast a regular season contest.

2.7.1.2 Liability Waiver. An outlet that broadcasts a regular season contest shall agree to hold the FHSAA and its member schools harmless because of any injury to person or property on the premises. The outlet shall further agree to assume all responsibility for any damages which are a direct result of the activities of the broadcast. The outlet shall also agree to defend all claims made against the FHSAA or its member schools for damages occasioned by the outlet of any nature.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 3

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES PROCEDURES

3.1 Florida High School State Championship Series

3.1.1 Administration and Management. As specified in Bylaw 4.3.2, all Florida High School State Championship Series shall be conducted in accordance with the policies established by the Board of Directors and shall be under the direction and supervision of the FHSAA Office.

3.1.2 Enforcement of Rules & Policies. Participating schools shall adhere to all regulations and policies governing the Florida High School State Championship Series. The determination of the host school for each event shall be conditioned in part on the school's willingness to comply with and enforce regulations and policies governing the event. This includes financial terms, as well as licensing and merchandising policies. A school that does not comply with and enforce such regulations and policies shall forfeit its opportunity to serve as host.

3.1.3 Signs and/or Banners. The display of signs, banners, placards or similar items at matches in the Florida High School State Championship Series is permitted, provided:

(a) They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use;

(b) They reflect identification and encouragement to participants and their school or community, and make no reference to the opposing team, its school, players or community;

(c) They are not displayed on the court, or in a manner which interferes with play;

(d) They do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators;

(e) They are not safety hazards; and

(f) They are not prohibited by facility management.

3.1.4 Noisemakers. Whistles, or artificial noisemaking devises that mimic or simulate a game whistle, air horns, and all other artificial or mechanical noisemaking devises, are prohibited in all Florida High School State Championship Series events.

3.1.5 Bands.

3.1.5.1 Outdoor Sports. With the exception of football and flag football, bands will not be allowed to play at Florida High School State Championship Series tournaments/meets in outdoor sports.

3.1.5.2 Indoor Sports. With the exception of basketball, bands will not be allowed to play at Florida High School State Championship Series tournaments/meets in indoor sports. Please see 4.2.3.3.4 for basketball specific information.

3.1.6 Merchandising. The FHSAA retains the exclusive right to produce and sell souvenir products (apparel and otherwise) at all games, tournaments and meets held as part of the Florida High School State Championship Series; host schools/organizations are required to sell items provided by the official FHSAA event souvenir merchandiser.

The host school/organization of a Florida High School State Championship Series event may be permitted to sell generic merchandise unrelated to the event (i.e., apparel and other merchandise bearing the host school/organization's mark), provided such merchandise has been made available for sale on a consistent basis throughout the year and has not been produced specifically for sale at the Florida High School State Championship Series event.

3.1.7 Souvenir Programs. All host schools of district tournaments/meets and regional tournaments/meets that produce a program must display on the program cover both the appropriate FHSAA sport logo and sportsmanship logo. The logos must also be displayed prominently inside or on the team roster inserts. Schools that create programs must have them proofed by FHSAA staff before publishing.

3.1.8 Public-Address Protocol. The public-address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all Florida High School State Championship Series events. He/she shall maintain complete neutrality at all times and, as such, shall not be a "cheerleader" for any team. The announcer will follow the FHSAA script for promotional announcements, which are available from this association, player introductions and awards ceremonies. Other announcements are limited to:

- Those of an emergency nature (e.g., paging a doctor, lost child or parent, etc.);
- Those of a "practical" nature (e.g., announcing that a driver has left his/her vehicle lights on);
- Starting lineups or entire lineups of both participating teams (what is announced for the home team must be announced for the visiting team); and
- Messages provided by host school management; and
- Announcements that FHSAA souvenir merchandise, souvenir programs and concessions are on sale in the facility. During the contest, the announcer:
- Should recognize players about to attempt a play (e.g., coming up to in baseball, punting, kicking or receiving a punt or kick in football, serving in volleyball, etc.);
- Should recognize player(s) making a play (e.g., "Basket by Jones" in basketball, "Smith on the kill" in volleyball, etc.);
- Should report a penalty as signaled by the referee;
- Should report substitutions and timeouts;
- Must not call the "play-by-play" or provide "color commentary" as if he/she were announcing for a radio or television broadcast;
- Must not make any comment that would offer either competing team an unfair advantage in the contest; and
- Must not make any comment critical of any school, team, player, coach or official; or any other comment that has the potential to incite unsporting conduct on the part of any individual.

The announcer should be certain of the accuracy of his/her statements before making them. When in doubt, the announcer should remain silent.

3.1.9 All-Tournament/Meet Teams. No employee of the FHSAA or the local manager may influence in any way the selection of any all-tournament/ meet team, including the selection of a most valuable player or other "player of the game."

3.1.10 Uniformed Security. The local manager for a Florida High School State Championship Series event is responsible for providing appropriate uniformed security at the event that his/her school is hosting.

3.1.11 Contest Officials. The host school for Florida High School State Championship Series contests beyond the district level shall provide contest officials with a secure and adequate dressing room (one each for mixed gender crews) with properly operating bathroom facilities including showers with warm water at the site of the contest. If the site does not have such facilities, the host school shall obtain and provide at its expense an appropriate hotel/motel room(s) reasonably close to the site. The host school is required to complete dressing room arrangements and have the information available to the head referee at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. It is the responsibility of the head referee or umpire-in-chief to contact the school administration at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest to verify the arrangements for the contest. The referee or umpire-in-chief shall report to the FHSAA Office the failure of any host school to provide dressing facilities as required.

3.1.12 Media Restrictions.

3.1.12.1 Access to Locker/Dressing Rooms. The FHSAA operates under a closed locker room policy at all Florida High School State Championship Series events. At no time will news media representatives be granted access to locker rooms or dressing rooms at any state championship event. Team boxes, team benches, team huddles and dugouts are considered extensions of locker/dressing rooms.

3.1.12.2 Access to Competition Area. Media representatives are not permitted in the competition area (i.e., within the field of play, on the playing court, etc.) at any time during a Florida High School State Championship Series contest until the competition has concluded and a winner has been determined. Photographers shall honor photographer lines and designated areas when marked. Host schools are responsible for establishing designated photography areas.

3.2 Tournament/Meet Structure

3.2.1 Sanctioned Sports.

3.2.1.1 Series Structure. The successive tournament series shall be designated respectively as district, regional and Florida High School State Championship Series for all sanctioned sports.

3.2.1.1.1 Team Sports. The successive rounds following the district tournament (completion of district season for football) in team sports will be Regional Quarterfinals (except 1A), Regional Semifinals, Regional Finals, State Semifinals and State Championship.

3.2.1.2 District Complex

3.2.1.2.1 Team Sports. Participating schools are geographically assigned to district complexes in their respective classifications except for the 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A football classifications. Except for football, a tournament shall be conducted in each district complex at the conclusion of the regular season.

3.2.1.2.2 Individual Sports. Participating schools are geographically assigned to the number of complexes as listed below.

- Bowling - Sixteen (16) boys district complexes and Seventeen (17) girls district complexes
- Cross Country – Eight (8) district complexes, boys and girls
- Flag Football - Sixteen (16) district complexes
- Golf – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Lacrosse - Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Swimming & Diving – Twelve (12) district complexes, boys and girls
- Tennis – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Track & Field – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Boys Volleyball - Sixteen (16) district complexes
- Water Polo - Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Weightlifting – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Wrestling – Sixteen (16) district complexes

3.3 Bracketing and Sites

3.3.1 Team Sports

3.3.1.1 Regional Tournament. One of the competing schools shall serve as the host school for regional tournament quarterfinal, semifinal and championship games. The host school shall be designated by the FHSAA as follows:

3.3.1.1.1 Class 7A-2A for Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Softball and Girls Volleyball:

(a) Schools will be seeded for the regional tournament using the Florida MaxPreps ranking.

(b) District tournament champions will be seeded 1-4. The highest ranked district tournament champion will be named the one (1) seed. The 2nd highest ranked district champion will be seeded as the two (2) seed. This process will continue until all district tournament champions are seeded.

(c) The remaining four (4) teams will be selected as an at-large qualifier. The at-large qualifiers will be determined by the Florida MaxPreps rankings once the district tournament has completed. The highest ranked team in each region that is not a district tournament champion will be seeded as the five (5) seed for the regional tournament. The next highest team that is not a district tournament champion will be seeded as the six (6) seed for the regional tournament and this will continue for the remaining seven (7) and eight (8) seeds.

(d) In all regional rounds, the higher seed will be designated the host. Determination of a host school using these criteria is not absolute. In all cases, the FHSAA Office reserves the right to select an alternate site.

3.3.1.1.2 Class 1A for Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Softball and Girls Volleyball:

(a) In the regional semifinals, the champion of each district will host the runner-up from their neighboring district.

(b) In the regional championships, the school on the top line of the bracket in each game shall be designated the host school. If, however, the school on the bottom line of the bracket served as a host school in the regional semifinals and the school on the top line of the bracket was a visitor in the regional semifinals, the school on the top line of the bracket will be designated the host school for the regional final. In any case, when a district champion plays a district runner-up, the district champion always shall be designated the host school. **NOTE: the host school line position (top line or bottom line) alternates each year.**

(c) Determination of a host school using these criteria is not absolute. In all cases, the FHSAA Office reserves the right to select an alternate site.

3.3.1.1.3 Flag Football, Lacrosse, Boys Volleyball and Water Polo:

(a) **Regional Quarterfinals (Lacrosse), Regional Semifinals (Flag Football and Water Polo) and Regional Final (Boys Volleyball).** The home team for each game shall be the team on the top line of the bracket and the visiting team shall be the team on the bottom line of the bracket. Consequently, the host school of the tournament may not necessarily be the "home team" during competition in that event.

(b) **Regional Semifinal (Lacrosse), Regional Final (Flag Football and Water Polo).** The champion on the top line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the bottom line of the bracket. If, however, the school on the top line of the bracket served as a host school during the previous round and the school on the bottom line of the bracket was a visitor during the previous round, the school on the bottom line of the bracket will be designated the host school.

(c) **Regional Final (Lacrosse).** The champion on the top line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the bottom line of the bracket. If, however, the school on the top line of the bracket served as a host school during the previous round and the school on the bottom line of the bracket was a visitor during the previous round, the school on the bottom line of the bracket will be designated the host school.

(d) **Determination of Host.** Determination if a host school using these criteria is not absolute. In all cases, the FHSAA Office reserves the right to select an alternate site.

3.3.1.2 Florida High School State Semifinal and State Championship.

3.3.1.2.1 Baseball, Boys and Girls Basketball and Softball (Classes 7A-2A):

(a) Teams will be reseeded 1-4 based on the latest Florida MaxPreps rankings.

(b) Seed 1 will play seed 4; seed 2 will play seed 3 in the semifinal round with the winners advancing to play each other.

(c) The team with the higher Florida MaxPreps ranking, based on the latest publication, will be the home team.

(d) In the state championship, the team with the higher Florida MaxPreps ranking, based on the latest publication, will be the home team.

3.3.1.2.2 Boys and Girls Soccer and Girls Volleyball (Classes 7A-2A):

(a) In the state semifinal, the champion of Region 1 will play the champion of Region 2 and the champion of Region 3 will play the champion of Region 4. The team with the higher Florida MaxPreps ranking, based on the latest publication, will be the home team/host site.

(b) In the state championship, the team with the higher Florida MaxPreps ranking, based on the latest publication, will be the home team.

3.3.1.2.3 Baseball (1A), Boys and Girls Basketball (1A), Softball (1A), Girls Volleyball (1A), Flag Football, Lacrosse, Boys Volleyball and Water Polo:

(a) The school on the top line of the bracket shall be the home team for the state semifinal and championship contests.

3.3.2 Competitive Bracketing for Team Sports.

3.3.2.1 In establishing the competitive rotation of the bracket, Regions 2, 3, and 4 rotate clockwise against the stationary Region 1 for all team sports, with the exception of football, boys and girls soccer and girls volleyball. The rotation for the next three years is as follows:

- 2019-20 – Region 1 vs. Region 4; Region 2 vs. Region 3
- 2020-21 – Region 1 vs. Region 2; Region 3 vs. Region 4
- 2021-22 -- Region 1 vs. Region 3; Region 4 vs. Region 2

3.3.2.2 For the sport of football, boys and girls soccer, and girls volleyball, the bracket matches will consist of Region 1 versus Region 2 and Region 3 versus Region 4.

3.3.3 Florida High School State Championship Series Finals Championship Brackets. Championship brackets for the Florida High School State Championship Series Finals will be posted on the FHSAA website.

3.4 District Meeting

3.4.1 Team Sport Meeting Agenda. The following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:

- Review FHSAA rules, policies, terms and conditions governing the Florida High School State Championship Series, including the FHSAA "Licensing and Royalties" Policy.
- Select host school, site and determine schedule or tournament games and number of sessions for the district tournament. (Note: An actual host school must be selected at this meeting and may be subsequently changed only with the permission of the FHSAA Office. Designating the No. 1 seed, etc., when determined, as the host school is not permitted). When determining the number of contests and the site of the district tournament, the FHSAA Office asks for each school to take travel expenses into account.
- Review the seeding and bracketing provisions.
- Determine team awards to be ordered.
- Select and make arrangements for purchase of appropriate equipment (i.e. balls, etc.).
- Determine number of passes to be allowed participating teams.
- Select officials and submit recommended list to FHSAA Office by deadline (see the FHSAA Officials Guidebook, which can be downloaded from FHSAA.org).

- Select official scorer and set their compensation.
- Determine financial arrangements and complete the Financial Terms Form included in the district meeting packet. See Policy 9. Determine how expenses/profits will be shared among participating schools.
- Determine allocation of tickets to participating schools on an equitable basis if seating is limited.
- Determine the amount of compensation, not to exceed $100 total for the event, to be paid to the tournament manager.
- Use of satellite sites for district tournaments is permitted. If satellite sites are used, there still must be a tournament host selected that is responsible for all the arrangements for the tournament.
- Other business (i.e., AED availability, medical presence, etc.).
- Any other business relevant to the management of the tournament.
- All pertinent information must be included in the minutes of the meeting that are sent to each school and the FHSAA Office.

Additional agenda items may be sent by the FHSAA Office of a sport specific nature.

3.4.2 Individual Sport Meeting Agenda. The following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:

- Review FHSAA rules, policies, terms and conditions governing the Florida High School State Championship Series, including the FHSAA "Licensing and Royalties" Policy.
- Select host school, site and determine schedule or tournament games and number of sessions for the district tournament. (Note: An actual host school must be selected at this meeting and may be subsequently changed only with the permission of the FHSAA Office.)
- Select officials or officials association (if applicable) to work the event.
- Determine team awards to be ordered.
- Determine number of passes to be allowed participating teams (if applicable).
- Determine financial arrangements and complete the Financial Terms Form included in the district meeting packet. See Policy 9. Determine how expenses/profits will be shared among participating schools.
- Determine the amount of compensation, not to exceed $100 total for the event, to be paid to the tournament manager.
- Other business (i.e., AED availability, medical presence, etc.).
- Any other business relevant to the management of the tournament.
- All pertinent information must be included in the minutes of the meeting that are sent to each school and the FHSAA Office.

Additional agenda items may be sent by the FHSAA office of a sport specific nature.

3.4.3 Report Form. The FHSAA Office will e-mail each district coordinator a form on which to record the decisions made during the district meeting. The report form should be completed and returned to the FHSAA Office within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the meeting. A copy of the report form as well as the minutes of the meeting shall be sent to each school in the district.

3.5 Local Management

3.5.1 Team and Non-timed Individual Sports. The FHSAA representative of the host school will be the local manager for the Florida High School State Championship Series event that his/her school is hosting. He/she will be responsible for making the necessary preparations to host the event and for the filing of all necessary reports to the FHSAA Office upon conclusion of the event. The local manager of a Florida High School State Championship Series event is required to report to the FHSAA the arrangements for the event(s) his/her school will host not later than 12 a.m. (midnight) EST on the date of the event; as well as the score(s) of the contest(s) in the event that his/her school hosted upon its conclusion and the updated win-loss records of participating teams. Reports must be submitted online via the selected FHSAA platform, (refer to individual sport pages on the FHSAA website for additional details). Failure to report the results of any Florida High School State Championship Series event will subject the host school to a minimum $50 administrative fee. Failure to report arrangements for the next level Florida High School State Championship Series event will subject the school to a minimum $50 administrative fee.

3.5.2 Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field. The FHSAA representative or his/her designee of the host school will be the local manager for the district or regional meet that his/her school is hosting. He/she will be responsible for making the necessary preparations to host the meet and for the filing of necessary reports to the FHSAA Office upon conclusion of the meet. These results must be submitted immediately following the conclusion of the meet.

3.6 Post-Competition Procedures

3.6.1 Florida High School State Championship Series Preliminary Rounds. For district, regional and all applicable state semifinal rounds of the Florida High School State Championship Series, the host school should cooperate with news media representatives in providing them access to a work area following a Florida High School State Championship Series contest so that they can file their reports on the contest. The head coach of each competing team is required to cooperate with the news media by participating in interviews as quickly as possible following the conclusion of the contest and providing contest statistics/results if available. Participation by athletes in interviews is voluntary and at the discretion of the head coach.

3.6.2 Florida High School State Championship Series. The host site must designate a room or area secluded from the general public for a post-contest press conference involving the head coach and up to five (5) players from each team participating in the just-concluded contest. Participation by the head coach in the press conference is mandatory. Participation by athletes is voluntary and at the discretion of the head coach. Both the head coach and athletes may agree to supplemental one-on-one interviews, at their discretion, following their press conference. News media representatives must remain off the field/court and no interviews may take place during the awards ceremony following the championship contest. Where applicable, these media accommodations shall be established in the agreement between the FHSAA and the host organization.

3.7 Awards

3.7.1 Team Awards.

3.7.1.1 District Tournaments. Trophies are available for awarding to the champion and runner-up teams, and may be purchased from the FHSAA's authorized vendor. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals. See Policy 9.10.7 for further clarification.

3.7.1.2 Regional Tournaments. Trophies are available for awarding to the champion and runner-up teams, and may be purchased from the FHSAA's authorized vendor. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals. See Policy 9.10.7 for further clarification.

3.7.1.3 Florida High School State Championship Series. Trophies will be awarded to the champion and runner-up in each class in the Florida High School State Championship Series. In case of a tie for the championship (if the sport rules allow for a tie), co-champions will be declared and no runner-up trophy will be awarded. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals.

3.7.1.4 FHSAA Authorized Vendor. Trophies must be ordered from the authorized vendor of the FHSAA. The vendor should also be contacted if problems are experienced in receiving trophies on time and in good condition.

3.7.2 Individual Awards.

3.7.2.1 Regional Individual Awards Eligibility. To be eligible for individual honors on the regional level a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on the district level.

3.7.2.2 Florida High School State Championship Series. Medallions will be presented to members of the champion and runner-up teams at the Florida High School State Championship Series. Medallions will be awarded to the individuals and relays for the appropriate sports as follows:

3.7.2.2.1 Bowling – 6 individual placing medallions

3.7.2.2.2 Cross Country – 15 individual placing medallions

3.7.2.2.3 Golf – 6 individual placing medallions

3.7.2.2.4 Swimming & Diving – 8 individual & relay placing medallions

3.7.2.2.5 Tennis – 2 individual placing medallions for the individual singles & doubles divisions;

3.7.2.2.6 Track & Field (including Adapted Track & Field) – 8 individual & relay placing medallions

3.7.2.2.7 Weightlifting – 6 individual placing medallions for each weight class

3.7.2.2.8 Wrestling – 6 individual placing medallions for each weight class

All individual medallions must be picked up by the head or assistant coach prior to leaving the Florida High School State Championship Series. No medallions will be shipped to schools. Schools may purchase additional medallions by contacting the FHSAA Office. There shall be no other awards presented to any individual by any organization or individual at the Florida High School State Championship Series.

3.7.2.3 Florida High School State Championship Series Individual Awards Eligibility. To be eligible for individual honors on the state level a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on both the district and regional level.

3.8 Official Ball. The FHSAA has selected Wilson Sporting Goods Co., as its official supplier of game balls for Florida High School State Championship Series Events in Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Golf and Tennis. Information concerning Wilson as the official Florida High School State Championship Series game/contest ball will be posted on the FHSAA website and in the online Sport Manual for each sport using an official Wilson game/contest ball. Kap7 has been selected as the official supplier of game balls for the Florida High School Water Polo State Championship Series. The use of an official game/contest ball shall be mandatory in each district tournament, regional tournament and the Florida High School State Championship Series. The host school for each district tournament and regional tournament shall ensure the use of the official ball. The purchase of official game/contest balls, if necessary, will be considered an expense of the tournament and reported as such on the financial report form. The FHSAA will provide official balls to be used at the Florida High School State Championship Series. Failure to comply shall subject the host school to penalties including, but not limited to, financial penalties and revocation of Florida High School State Championship Series event hosting privileges in the respective sport.

3.9 Team Data Form, Team Photo and Up-to-Date Statistics

3.9.1 Team Data Form and Photo. The FHSAA Office may produce the official souvenir program for select Florida High School State Championship Series events and will retain all proceeds from its sale. Schools that advance beyond certain points in the Florida High School State Championship Series (please see the specific sport section) must send to the FHSAA Office a completed "Florida High School State Championship Series Team Data Form for Official Souvenir Program & Press Booklet", along with a photograph of the team (when required). The team data form must be downloaded from FHSAA.org, completed using a computer and uploaded electronically via the listed webpage. The digital team photo also must be uploaded to the same webpage. The team photo should be saved in a TIFF format. Photos sent in a JPEG format, however, will be accepted provided they have a resolution of at least 150 dpi (300 dpi preferred). The deadline for the receipt of these materials in the FHSAA office is 5 p.m. EDT on the date specified by the sport administrator for each sport. Each school that does not meet this deadline shall be assessed a $50 monetary penalty and/or other sanctions. If the school advances to the Florida High School State Championship Series and the materials are not received by the FHSAA Office's publication deadline, the school shall be assessed monetary penalties of up to $300 and/or other sanctions.

3.9.2 Up-to-Date Statistics. The schools whose teams qualify to advance to the Florida High School State Championship Series state championship tournament must report to the FHSAA Office up-to-date cumulative statistics through the end of the regional tournament by completing the "Florida High School State Championship Series Up-to-Date Team Statistics" form for select Florida High School State Championship Series. The up-to-date statistics form must be downloaded from FHSAA.org, completed using a computer and uploaded electronically via the listed webpage. Each qualifying school that does not meet the noon EDT deadline shall be assessed a $100 monetary penalty and/or other sanctions.

3.10 Admittance to Florida High School State Championship Series Contests

3.10.1 District, Regional and Applicable State Semifinal Levels. Only the following individuals may be admitted to the facility without charge:

3.10.1.1 Student-athletes who are members of the team, coaches, managers, team bus drivers, etc.;

3.10.1.2 Cheerleaders in uniform, their sponsor(s) and their bus driver(s);

3.10.1.3 In football only, band members and drill-team members, their chaperones and their bus driver(s);

3.10.1.4 Vetted working news media with appropriate credentials as issued by the host school according to their media credential policy;

3.10.1.5 Broadcast crews from radio and television outlets whose broadcasts have been approved by the FHSAA Office upon payment of the appropriate broadcast rights fees;

3.10.1.6 Visiting school administrators (i.e., principal, FHSAA representative, assistant principals and athletic director) who are required by their principal to attend the event for supervisory purposes upon presentation of a photo I.D., provided the visiting school submits their names to the event manager by fax in writing on school stationery not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the event;

3.10.1.7 Uniformed police or security;

3.10.1.8 Individuals holding FHSAA Lifetime Florida High School State Championship Series Passes or Florida High School State Championship Series Passes issued by the Executive Director; and

3.10.1.9 Authorized individuals with Florida High School State Championship Series Passes upon presentation of a photo I.D.

3.10.1.10 Individuals who have purchased online tickets from the FHSAA's exclusive online ticket provider, Huddle prior to the event, and can show proof of purchase through the designated application.

3.10.2 State Championship Events. Only the following individuals may be admitted to the facility without charge:

3.10.2.1 Student-athletes who are members of the team, coaches, managers, etc. with appropriate passes as issued by the FHSAA Office according to the athletic regulations governing the particular sport and the team bus driver(s);

3.10.2.2 Cheerleaders in uniform, their sponsor(s) and their bus driver(s);

3.10.2.3 Pep bands who are to perform, their sponsor(s) and their bus driver(s);

3.10.2.4 In football only, band members and drill-team members, their chaperones (1 chaperon per 10 students) and their bus driver(s);

3.10.2.5 Working news media with appropriate credentials as issued by the FHSAA Office according to the Media Credentials Policy;

3.10.2.6 Broadcast crews from radio and television outlets whose broadcasts have been approved by the FHSAA Office upon payment of the appropriate broadcast rights fees;

3.10.2.7 Uniformed police or security;

3.10.2.8 Individuals holding FHSAA Lifetime Florida High School State Championship Series Passes or Florida High School State Championship Series Passes issued by the Executive Director; and

3.10.2.9 Authorized individuals with Florida High School State Championship Series Passes upon presentation of a photo I.D.

3.10.2.10 Individuals who have purchased online tickets from the FHSAA's exclusive online ticket provider, Huddle prior to the event, and can show proof of purchase through the designated application.

3.11 Broadcast of Events

3.11.1 Florida High School State Championship Series

3.11.1.1 Rights Held by FHSAA. An outlet wishing to broadcast a contest in the Florida High School State Championship Series must request and be granted rights by the FHSAA prior to originating or accepting feed of such a broadcast and make payment to the FHSAA Office of the appropriate rights fee. Such rights are not exclusive.

3.11.1.2 Delaying a Contest is Prohibited. There can be no delay in the start of a contest to accommodate a live or tape-delay radio broadcast or a tape-delay telecast of a Florida High School State Championship Series contest; neither can there be any radio or television timeouts, or any extension of halftime. Provisions for live telecasts, when permitted, are found in 3.11.2.1 below.

3.11.1.2.1 Exception for Live Telecasts. Live telecasts of football and basketball games, when permitted, may operate under the following guidelines upon approval of the Executive Director:

(a) The intermission between the first and second quarters, the third and fourth quarters, and overtime periods will be extended from 60 seconds to 90 seconds;

(b) The outlet will be granted one 90-second television timeout during each quarter. This timeout will be granted at the dead ball following the change of possession which occurs nearest to the midpoint of the quarter. This television timeout will be granted regardless of whether one of the two participating teams has called a charged timeout close to the midpoint of the quarter. Additionally, this television timeout will not preclude either one of the two participating teams from calling a charged timeout near the midpoint of the quarter; and

(c) All charged timeouts called by either team will be a full 60 seconds in duration.

(d) It will be the responsibility of the referee to see that these guidelines for television timeouts are strictly adhered to.

3.11.1.3 FHSAA Approval of Broadcast. FHSAA approval of broadcasts of Florida High School State Championship Series contests is final. Host schools or contest managers will be required to permit all broadcasts approved by the FHSAA, and admit to the facility without charge personnel originating these broadcasts upon presentation of the proper documentation.

3.11.1.4 Seating and Equipment Setup. The outlet must make all arrangements for seating and equipment setup with the host school principal or contest manager. The outlet must assume all expenses in connection with the broadcast, and must provide all equipment necessary for the broadcast. This includes arranging for broadcast lines with the appropriate telephone company.

3.11.1.5 Seating Policies. Personnel originating approved broadcasts who are to be admitted to the facility without charge must not exceed four (4) persons. The host school principal or contest manager must make every effort to provide these personnel with seating which provides them with an unobstructed view of the playing area.

3.11.1.6 Limited Seating Areas. In facilities where seating is limited in the press box or broadcast booth, the host school principal or contest manager should provide seating to the one (1) primary outlet covering each participating school. Thereafter, seating in the press box or broadcast booth should be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. An outlet must understand that it may be necessary for it to set up operations in the spectator seating area at facilities with limited space in the press box or broadcast booth. The primary outlet for a participating school is considered to be the outlet which has broadcast the greatest number of regular season contests and/or Florida High School State Championship Series contests in which the school has participated.

3.11.1.7 Camera Positioning. The host school principal, contest manager and/or the officials assigned to work the contest will have the authority to require the repositioning of television cameras and videographers if they believe their placement may threaten the safety of the participants or interfere with the conduct of the competition.

3.11.1.8 Failure to Comply. The outlet must abide by each and all terms and conditions of this policy. The host school principal or event manager will have the authority to act on the behalf of the Florida High School Athletic Association in enforcing this policy during all Florida High School State Championship Series contests at his/her facility.

3.11.1.9 Unauthorized Broadcast. A host school principal or contest manager who permits the broadcast of a Florida High School State Championship Series contest that has not been approved by the FHSAA will subject his/her school, organization or facility to a monetary penalty, and/or other sanctions, to include payment of the appropriate rights fees and, for member schools, a financial assessment in the amount of $50 per game broadcast.

3.11.1.10 Liability Waiver. An outlet which broadcasts a Florida High School State Championship Series contest must agree to hold the FHSAA and its member schools harmless because of any injury to person or property on the premises. The outlet must further agree to assume all responsibility for any damages which are a direct result of the activities of the broadcast. The outlet must also agree to defend all claims made against the FHSAA or its member schools for damages occasioned by the outlet of whatever nature.

3.11.2 Obtaining Broadcast Rights

3.11.2.1 Notification of Approval. An outlet wishing to broadcast a contest in the FHSAA State Series must complete an AT11 form located at FHSAA.org and be granted rights by the FHSAA prior to originating or accepting feed of such a broadcast. The outlet must make payment to the FHSAA Office of the appropriate rights fee. Such rights are not exclusive. Upon approval of an outlet's broadcast application, the FHSAA will fax and/or e-mail to the outlet the approved application form signed by the Executive Director or his/her designee which grants the outlet permission to broadcast the contest. The approved application form must be faxed and/or e-mailed to the host school principal or contest manager by the outlet. An outlet's broadcast crew should have a copy of the broadcast approval in its possession to ensure admission to the facility. State series hosts must notify the FHSAA seven days before the start of postseason play if they have banned any broadcasting outlets from their campus.

Important Applicable Bylaws

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 7

Sportsmanship

7.1 SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

7.2 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interscholastic Contests

8.1 INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST

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

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

8.2 RULES OF COMPETITION

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

8.3 SCHOOLS WITH WHICH CONTESTS MAY BE HELD

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

(a) Schools which are members of this Association;

(b) Florida schools which are not members of the FHSAA (Non-FHSAA member school), provided:

1. The Non-FHSAA member school must verify that athletic medical, catastrophic accident and catastrophic disability insurance coverage is provided for each of its student athletes (Policy 8). The Non-FHSAA member school must provide general liability insurance for itself (Policy 8). The minimum limits for each type of insurance coverage must be the same as those established for FHSAA member schools (Policy 8). The Non-FHSAA member school principal, or head of school, must provide the member school with copies of certificates of coverage for each of these various insurance types, verifying that the Non-FHSAA member school has purchased the insurance coverage required (Bylaw 3.5.3 and 3.6.1.1.2); and
2. An FHSAA game/contest contract (see Bylaw 8.4.1) has been fully executed by all participating schools; and
3. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, meet the eligibility criteria listed in Florida Statutes for student athletes of FHSAA member schools(§ 1006.15, F.S.); and
4. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, have appropriate insurance as specified in § 1006.16, F.S.; and
5. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation as specified in § 1006.20(2)(c), F.S., and
6. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must have on file a signed consent and release form (waiver of liability and parent permission to participate) as specified in § 1006.20(2)(k), F.S., and
7. Non-FHSAA member schools must agree to abide by the NFHS and FHSAA rules for the contest or event being conducted (Bylaw 8.2.1).

(c) Out-of-state schools which are members in good standing of associations that are members of the NFHS or affiliate members of the NFHS and regulate interscholastic athletics for schools within their state. They must follow comparable eligibility guidelines and the season for the sport involved must run concurrently with that of the Florida High School Athletic Association.

(d) Out-of-State schools which are not members of the NFHS or affiliate members of the NFHS may be contracted by participating FHSAA member schools, provided:

1. An FHSAA game/contest contract (see Bylaw 8.4.1) has been fully executed by all participating schools; and
2. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, meet the eligibility criteria listed in Florida Statutes for student athletes of FHSAA member schools (§ 1006.15, F.S.) and FHSAA Bylaws; and
3. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, have appropriate insurance as specified in § 1006.16, F.S.; and
4. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation as specified in § 1006.20(2)(c), F.S., and
5. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must have on file a signed consent and release form (waiver of liability and parent permission to participate) as specified in § 1006.20(2)(k), F.S., and

6. Non-FHSAA member schools must agree to abide by the NFHS and FHSAA rules for the contest or event being conducted (Bylaw 8.2.1), and
7. Multi-Team events and tournaments must meet the provision of Policy 7.

(e) Member schools shall not participate in athletic contests or contractually obligate themselves to participate in any tournament, meet or contest in which any schools which do not meet these criteria are scheduled to participate, or with non-school teams, groups or club teams.

(f) Competition involving middle schools (grades 6-8), combination middle school programs (grades 6-8) and junior high schools (grades 7-9) must be between middle schools, combination middle school programs and junior high schools, respectively, as well as between middle schools and combination middle school programs.

8.6 PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

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

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

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

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

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 9

Student Eligibility

9.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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

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

9.1.2 School Responsible to Ensure Student Eligibility. A school must not permit a student to represent it in interscholastic athletic competition unless the student meets all eligibility requirements and the school has certified the student's eligibility to the FHSAA Office utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director.

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

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

9.1.2.3 Eligibility of Recruited Students. A student may be declared ineligible based on violation of recruiting rules if (§ 1006.20(2)(b)4, F.S.):

(a) The student or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has falsified any enrollment or eligibility document; or

(b) The student or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction accepted any benefit or any promise of benefit if such benefit is not generally available to the school's students or family members; or

(c) The student accepted any benefit if such benefit is not generally available to all of the school's students or family members or is based in any way on athletic interest, potential, or performance.

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

(a) They protect the opportunities of qualified students to participate; and

(b) They promote competitive equity among schools; and

(c) They encourage academic achievement by student-athletes.

9.2 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

9.2.1 Student May Participate at School he/she First Attends Each School Year. A student must attend school and is immediately eligible to participate in the interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by the school he/she attends each school year, which is either: (§ 1006.20(2)(a), F.S.)

(a) The school where the student first attends classes (i.e. establishes school residency); or

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

(c) The school the student transfers to after previously attending another school (reference Bylaw 9.3.2).

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

9.2.1.2 Definition of "Interscholastic Athletic Programs." Interscholastic athletic programs encompass all activities relating to competitive sport contests involving individual students or teams of students from one school against individual students or teams of students from another school. Eligible to participate includes, but are not limited to, tryouts, off-season conditioning, summer workouts, preseason conditioning, in-season practice and contests. This does not mean that a student must be placed on any specific team (§ 1006.15(3)(a), F.S.).

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

9.2.2 Attendance Exceptions

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

(a) The student's home zoned public school; or

(b) The public school the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S.; or

(c) A charter/lab or private school that will accept the student for participation; or

(d) A home education cooperative to which the student belongs.

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

(a) register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides; and

(b) register with the school of his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before participation; and

(c) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students; and

(d) certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation; and

(e) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and

(f) must be registered with the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

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

(a) The student's home zoned public school; or

(b) The public school the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions pursuant to § 1002.33, F.S.

(c) Another charter/lab school that will accept the student for participation.

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

(a) meet the requirements of the charter school education program as determined by the charter school governing board; and

(b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and

(c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and

(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and

(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before participation; and

(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and

(g) must be registered with the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

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

(a) The student's home zoned public school; or

(b) The public school the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S.

(c) A charter/lab school that will accept the student for participation.

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

(a) Must be reported by the district superintendent or district athletic director as a school qualified to allow students to participate under this bylaw; and

(b) The student must register his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before participation; and

(c) The student must meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements.

9.2.2.4 Non-member Private School Students. A student who attends a private school shall be eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a public high school, a public middle school, or a combination public school that the student is zoned to attend or the public school the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S., provided: (*HB 1109 &* § 1006.15(8), F.S.)

(a) The private school in which the student is enrolled is not a member of the FHSAA; and

(b) The private school does not offer the sport in which the student wishes to participate: and

(c) The private school enrollment consists of 125 students or fewer.

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

(a) make all student records, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of the FHSAA; and

(b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and

(c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and

(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and

(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school on or before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and

(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and

(g) must be registered with the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

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

(a) The student's home zoned public school; or

(b) The public school the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S.

(c) A charter/lab school that will accept the student for participation.

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

(a) meet any additional requirements as determined by the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School; and

(b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and

(c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and

(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and

(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before participation; and

(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and

(g) must be registered with the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

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

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

(a) The school awards credit toward graduation for the work the student completes at the community college or university; and

(b) The community college or university officially issues grades on the same schedule as the school's semester; and

(c) The student has not met the graduation requirements as specified by the school's or school district's student progression plan for high school graduation; and

(d) The student does not participate in the intercollegiate athletic programs of the community college or university; and

(e) The student meets all other FHSAA eligibility requirements (no form or letter is required).

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

(a) The student has made up all class work missed during his/her absence; and

(b) The student has attended one school day for each school day missed.

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

9.3 TRANSFER REGULATIONS

9.3.1 "Transfer" Defined. A transfer occurs when a student makes any change in schools after he/she establishes residency, as defined in Bylaw 9.2.1, at a school each year.

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

9.3.2.1 Transfer before Starting a Sport. A student who has not started a sport may seek to immediately join an existing team if the roster for the specific interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity has not reached that activity's identified maximum size, provided the coach for the activity determines that the student has the requisite skill and ability to participate (§ 1006.15(9)(a), F.S.). The student may not be declared ineligible because the student did not have the opportunity to comply with qualifying requirements.

9.3.2.2 Transfer after Starting a Sport. A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets one of the following criteria (§ 1006.15(9)(b), F.S.):

(a) Dependent children of active duty military personnel whose move resulted from military orders.

(b) Children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone.

(c) Children who move due to a court-ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or the serious illness or death of a custodial parent.

(d) Authorized for good cause in district, private or charter school board policy.

9.3.3 Qualifying Transfer Student Becomes Eligible on Sixth Day of Attendance. A transfer student who qualifies under Bylaw 9.3.2 will be eligible for competition on the sixth school day of attendance at the new school if:

(a) The school has received and evaluated the student's official transcript provided by his/her former school; and

(b) The school has determined that the student meets all eligibility requirements.

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

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

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

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

9.3.4.1 Students Under Disciplinary Action. A student who has been expelled or is under disciplinary action by a school district or school (which would render the student ineligible) shall not be considered eligible at any member school during the length of the disciplinary action. If the student who is under disciplinary action chooses not to attend an alternative school, if offered by the school district or school, shall be ineligible to represent a member school for the next two consecutive "full" semesters. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

9.3.5 Transfer Students Who Are Not Eligible. The following transfer students are not eligible in their new school even if they otherwise qualify under Bylaw 9.3.2.1.

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

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

9.4 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

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

9.5 LIMIT OF ELIGIBILITY

9.5.1 High School Student Has Eight Semesters of Eligibility. A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with semester he/she begins ninth grade for the first time. This does not imply that the student has eight semesters of participation. After eight consecutive semesters, the student is permanently ineligible.

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

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

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

9.6 AGE

9.6.1 High School Age Limit. A student who reaches the age of 19 prior to September 1st shall become permanently ineligible.

9.6.2 Junior High School Age Limit. A student who reaches the age of 16 prior to September 1st shall become ineligible to participate at the junior high level.

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

(a) Teams representing junior high schools compete against each other; or

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

9.6.3 Middle School Age Limit. A student who reaches the age of 15 prior to September 1st shall become ineligible to participate at the middle school level.

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

(a) Teams representing middle schools compete against each other; or

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

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

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

(a) An original birth certificate issued by the office of vital records in the country, province, state, county or city where the student was born;

(b) A passport, visa, "green card" or EAD that lists the student's date of birth; or

(c) An official record of birth from the hospital in which the student was born.

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

9.7.1 Student Must Have a Physical Evaluation Each Year. A student must have a physical evaluation each year and be certified as being physically fit to participate in interscholastic athletic programs prior to participating in interscholastic athletic competition or engaging in any practice, tryout, workout, or other physical activity associated with the student's candidacy for an interscholastic team. A physical evaluation shall be valid for a period not to exceed one calendar year from the date of practitioner's signature. The student cannot be allowed to participate in any activity related to interscholastic athletic programs until the fully executed physical evaluation form is on file in the school (§ 1002.20(17)(b), F.S.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) A statement acknowledging that participation in interscholastic athletics may require the student to miss classes;

(b) A statement authorizing the school to provide to the FHSAA for inspection the student's academic, attendance and financial assistance records when requested;

(c) A statement warning of the health risks, including permanent disability and loss of life, involved in participating in interscholastic athletics (including, but not limited to, concussions, heat related illness, sudden cardiac arrest, etc.);

(d) A statement authorizing the use or disclosure of the student's individually identifiable health information should treatment for illness or injury become necessary; and

(e) A statement granting to the released parties the right to photograph and videotape the student and to use his/her name, face, likeness, voice and appearance in connection with exhibitions, publicity, advertising, promotional and commercial materials without reservation or limitation.

9.9 AMATEURISM

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

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

(a) Competing for money or other monetary compensations;

(b) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the FHSAA;

(c) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of a monetary nature;

(d) Signing a professional playing contract in any sport or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career;

(e) Competing under an assumed name.

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

(a) Symbolic awards such as school letters, medals, trophies, plaques, pins, keys, or ribbons of small monetary value purchased from an established awards company;

(b) Rings, sweaters, jackets, or award blankets provided that they are presented by the school which they represent and do not exceed the value of the purchase price from an established awards company;

(c) Remuneration of "essential expenses" for any game in which he/she participates as a player; limited to meals, lodging, and transportation;

(d) A college scholarship offer.

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

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

9.10 ATHLETIC CONTEST PARTICIPATION

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

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 10

Compliance and Enforcement

10.1 PRINCIPLES AND PENALTIES

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

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

(a) REPRIMAND—An official letter of censure to the concerned party in regard to the offense committed which warns against further violations. This letter will be kept on file for future reference.

(b) FINE—A monetary payment.

(c) FORFEIT—The forfeiture of an interscholastic athletic contest.

(d) PROBATION—Types of probation that may be imposed are as follows:

1) Administrative Probation—The school or person is reprimanded, fined and served notice that it is in a period of warning for a minimum of one calendar year. Additional violations during this time will result in increased penalties which may include expulsion.

2) Restrictive Probation—The school or person faces the same penalties as administrative probation, with the additional consequence of restriction from participation in championship competition in one or more sports, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the Executive Director, for one or more calendar years.

3) Suspension Probation—The school or person faces the same penalties as administrative probation, with the additional consequence of suspension from one or more sports for one or more calendar years.

(e) EXPULSION—Involuntary termination of a school's membership in the Association for one or more calendar years. Any member school that competes with a currently expelled school may subject itself to expulsion from the Association for one calendar year.

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

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

10.1.2.1 If a member school is assessed a financial penalty as a result of a coach committing a major violation, the coach shall reimburse the member school before being allowed to coach, participate in, or attend any athletic activity sponsored, recognized, or sanctioned by the FHSAA and a member school (§ 1006.20(2)(f)3, F.S.).

10.1.3 Sanctions on Coaches. Sanctions placed upon an individual coach may include, but are not limited to, prohibiting or suspending the coach from coaching, participating in, or attending any athletic activity sponsored, recognized, or sanctioned by the FHSAA and the member school for which the coach committed the violation. If a coach is sanctioned by the FHSAA and the coach transfers to another member school, those sanctions remain in full force and effect during the term of the sanction (§ 1006.20(2)(f)2, F.S.).

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

10.2 FORFEITURE OF CONTEST

10.2.1 General Principle. If an ineligible student is intentionally permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest, forfeiture of the game and honors shall be automatic and mandatory. If an ineligible student is inadvertently permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest, forfeiture of the game and honors shall be automatic and mandatory if the coach or school administrator knew or should have known that such use would be a violation of the association's rules and regulations (§ 1006.20(2)(i), F.S.).

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

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

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

10.2.1.4 Prospective Contests. The association will not limit the competition of student athletes prospectively for rule violations of the school by its coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests. The association will not unfairly punish student athletes for eligibility or recruiting violations perpetrated by a teammate, coach, administrator or other representatives of the school's athletic interests. Contests will not be forfeited for other eligibility or recruiting violations in excess of the number of contests that the coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests responsible for the violations are prospectively suspended (§ 1006.20(2)(i), F.S.).

10.3 PROTEST PROCEDURE

10.3.1 Protesting Actions of Another School. Any member school filing a protest over the eligibility of a student or the actions of a member school shall submit to the Executive Director in writing a full statement of the facts signed by the principal. The Executive Director shall provide the accused party or parties with a copy of the accusation and determine if the allegations warrant an investigation. If allegations concerning the eligibility of a student warrant an investigation, The procedures outlined in Policy 39 (Policy on Investigative Procedures), which shall be in full compliance with § 1006.20(2)(g), F.S. will be followed for such investigations.

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

10.4 DUE PROCESS

10.4.1 Eligibility Appeals. When a student is determined to be ineligible by a member school and/or is ruled ineligible by the Executive Director or his/her designee, the member school principal may appeal the ruling of the Executive Director if he/she or the student takes issue with it, and must do so at the student's request. If possible, such disposition of the appeal is to be made before the end of the applicable sport season, the next scheduled Section Appeal Committee meeting or the next scheduled Board of Director s meeting, whichever is the earliest (§ 1006.20(2)(g), F.S.).

10.4.1.1 Ineligibility must be established by a preponderance of the evidence (§ 1006.20(2)(g)1, F.S.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.6 APPEAL AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER PROCEDURES

10.6.1 Filing an Initial Appeal or Request for Waiver. An appeal or request for waiver must be filed with the Executive Director on the form(s) provided by this Association and must be accompanied by all necessary documentation. The appeal or request, including all required documentation, must be signed by the principal and received in the office of this Association not later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on the filing dates established by the Board of Directors and printed in the FHSAA Planning Calendar.

Appeals and requests received after the deadline date will not be considered at that Sectional Appeals Committee meeting, but will be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting. Incomplete appeals or requests for waiver will be returned to the person or entity making the appeal for an opportunity to resubmit with all the necessary information prior to the deadline, if time allows. The Sectional Appeals Committee cannot provide rulings on eligibility matters that may or will occur in a future school year. Rulings will only be made on eligibility matters for the current school year.

10.6.2 Filing an Appeal or Request for Waiver to the Board of Directors. The request for an appeal hearing before the Board of Directors must be made in writing to the Executive Director, must be signed by the member school principal or his/her designee and must be received in the office of this Association within five (5) business days following the date of the Sectional Appeals Committee meeting or the Infraction Appeals Committee meeting. Failure to file a request for an appeal hearing before the Board of Directors within the five (5) business days following the date of the Sectional Appeals Committee meeting or the Infraction Appeals Committee meeting shall be deemed a waiver of the right of an appeal as granted herein. The Board of Directors cannot provide rulings on eligibility matters that may or will occur in a future school year. Rulings will only be made on eligibility matters for the current school year.

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

10.6.3.1 Appeal Hearing Option. The person or entity requesting an appeal has the opportunity to appear before the Sectional, Infractions or Emergency Appeals Committee at the site of the hearing or via Teleconference. The choice of the method of appearance must be indicated on the form provided by the association.

10.6.3.2 Appeal Hearings via Teleconference

10.6.3.2.1 Teleconference Hearings. By requesting an Appeal Hearing via Teleconference, the member school and the student consents to such a hearing being conducted via appropriate teleconference methods (i.e. tele/video conferencing, webinar, Skype, etc.). It is the responsibility of the school requesting a hearing before an Appeal Committee via Teleconference to provide the appropriate teleconference equipment to participate in the hearing and to have a notary public present at the time and location where the appealing school and student will be located. Filing an appeal through the Teleconference option must meet the same standards as indicated in Bylaw 10.6.1.

10.6.3.2.2 Teleconference Requirements. The teleconference shall be stenographically recorded and shall be conducted in such a manner that any member of the public shall have access to the telephone conference by telephone. The notice shall provide the information necessary to allow public access by telephone to the telephone conference meeting.

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

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

10.6.3.5 Additional Information. Additional information may be submitted and heard at the time of the appeal, for student eligibility cases (§ 1006.20(7)(g), F.S.).

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

10.6.5 Mediation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.6.6 Appeals Procedure

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

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

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

10.6.6.2 Basis for Granting an Appeal

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

(a) The finding of the FHSAA staff is clearly not supported by evidence that is credible, persuasive and of a kind on which reasonably prudent persons rely in the conduct of serious affairs;

(b) The school's actions do not constitute a violation of FHSAA rules; or

(c) A procedural error affected the reliability of the information that was used to support the FHSAA staff's finding. In this case, the school must demonstrate how it contends the staff was in error.

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

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

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

(a) The new information was not available, and through the exercise of reasonable due diligence could not have been available, at the time the FHSAA staff issued its finding; and

(b) The new information is demonstrably relevant to the findings of the staff.

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

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

10.6.7 Emergency Appeals Committee Appeals Procedures

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

10.6.7.2 Teleconference. By requesting a hearing by the Emergency Appeals Committee, the member school consents to such a hearing being conducted by teleconference and shall be governed by Bylaw 4.1.3.1.

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

10.6.8 Recording of Appellate Hearings. All appellate hearings shall be under oath and stenographically recorded by a bona fide court reporter.

10.9 COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS

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

POLICY 4

INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS

4.1 Interscholastic Contests

4.1.1 Interscholastic Contests Defined. FHSAA Bylaw 8.1.1 defines an interscholastic contest as "any competition between organized teams of different schools in a sport recognized or sanctioned by this Association". All such contests are subject to Association bylaws, policies, administrative procedures, rules and contest regulations for that sport and in general.

4.1.2 Contests Against Non-Member and Out of State Schools. Member schools competing against a non-member Florida school or a non-NFHS state association member out of state school must complete the AT1B, "Contract for Interscholastic Athletic Contest Against Non-Member Schools". Member schools must assure that all non-member schools meet Bylaw

4.1.3 Submission of Schedule

4.1.3.1 Sports Other Than Football. Member schools must submit their schedules for all home contests, at all levels (i.e. varsity, sub-varsity, etc.), including preseason/spring classics and jamborees, to the FHSAA, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, prior to the first week of regular season competition of the sport.

4.1.3.2 Football. Each member school must submit to the FHSAA, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, not later than March 31 of each year their football schedule for all home contests, at all levels (i.e. varsity, sub-varsity, etc.), including preseason/spring classics and jamborees, the following school year.

4.1.3.2.1 Out of State Football Games. Schools that have scheduled games with out of state opponents must enter each out of state opponent's football schedule, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director.

4.1.4 Officials

4.1.4.1 Member schools must contract with Association approved officials associations for all interscholastic home contests.

4.1.4.1.1 Failure to contract with sanctioned local officials associations for registered officials for all interscholastic home contests may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per contest and/or other sanctions.

4.1.5 Reporting Scores

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

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

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

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

4.1.5.2.1 The HOME team shall report the score of the previous week's games to the FHSAA, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, no later than 9 a.m. ET of the day following the game.

4.1.5.2.2 In the event a member school plays in a game hosted by a school outside of the state of Florida or a non-member Florida school per state statute, the member school shall be required to report the score following the same procedure in 4.1.5.2.1.

4.1.6 Prohibited Contests

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

4.1.7 Absence from School

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

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

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

4.1.9 Student Participants. Only students in grades 6 through 12 are allowed to practice or participate in interscholastic athletics for a member school. Students can only participate for schools that carry the same grade level as the student.

4.1.10 Contracts. Contracts are required for all interscholastic athletic contests involving member schools and/or non-FHSAA member Florida schools, excluding the Florida High School State Championship Series. The designated FHSAA Representative must execute such contracts utilizing the official Association process, as approved by the Executive Director.

4.1.10.1 Exception. Member schools that belong to a school district conference whose conference games are scheduled by the school district may request a waiver of this policy from the Executive Director.

4.1.10.2 Forfeitures. A school that does not meet the valid terms of a fully executed contract is considered to have forfeited the contest.

4.1.10.2.1 Football. The school shall be removed from the state series for the remainder of the classification cycle and may be subject to financial penalty as stated in Bylaw 8.4.3.

4.1.10.2.2 Sports Other Than Football. The school shall be removed from the state series for that season and may be subject to financial penalty as stated in Bylaw 8.4.3.

4.2 Outcome of Interscholastic Contests

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

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

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

POLICY 6

SPORT SEASON LIMITATIONS

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

6.1 General Principles.

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

6.1.1.1 Spring Practice. Competitive Cheerleading and football may engage in spring practice for a maximum of twenty (20) sessions commencing with the Monday of Week 44 or the last twenty (20) days of the school year, whichever comes first. The varsity team and each individual student may compete in one (1) jamboree or one (1) spring classic game during the final week, which must be counted as one (1) of the twenty (20) sessions.

6.1.1.2 Restrictions for Football and Wrestling

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

(a) the first two (2) days of practice are restricted to helmets only,

(b) days 3-5 can introduce shoulder-pads with shorts,

(c) beginning day six (6) of practice, full gear can be utilized and body-to-body contact is permitted.

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

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

6.1.1.3 Penalties to School. Failure to comply with this policy may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 and/or other sanctions.

6.1.2 School Contest Limitations. Each sport will have the following game/meet/match limitations for each level (i.e. varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.) regardless of how many teams participate at each level, which will be inclusive of all games/meets/matches played in tournaments (for the sports of bowling, tennis and wrestling, each tournament counts as 2 matches). Only varsity level teams are permitted to participate in preseason games/meets/matches with the following limits:

(a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo – 2 preseason and 25 regular season games/matches

(b) Bowling, Lacrosse and Tennis – 2 preseason and 18 regular season games/matches

(c) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field and Weightlifting – 1 preseason and 13 regular season meets

(d) Flag Football – 2 preseason and 12 regular season games

(e) Football and Competitive Cheerleading – 1 preseason and 10 regular season games/competitions, high school varsity level; 8 games, all other levels and 1 postseason bowl game per Administrative Procedure 4.7.1.2 (Football only)

(f) Golf – 1 preseason and 16 matches

(g) Wrestling – 1 preseason and 20 regular season matches, 2 of which may only be single dual matches

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

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

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

6.1.3 Individual Limitations. An individual student shall not exceed the established contest limitations, as listed in Policy 6.1.2 (except for football), during any school year, regardless of whether the student transfers attendance to a different school, moves back and/or forth between varsity and sub-varsity levels or competes at the high school or middle/junior high school level. If a combination school has a high school and a middle/junior high school team in a certain sport which compete during different seasons, an individual student is permitted to participate during only one of the seasons for that particular sport. An individual student cannot participate at different competition levels (i.e. varsity, junior varsity, freshman, etc.) on the same day.

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

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

POLICY 7

SPECIAL AND SANCTIONED ATHLETIC EVENTS

Preseason and post season classics, jamborees and bowl games in the sports of baseball, basketball, cross country, football, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, track & field, girls volleyball, boys weight lifting and wrestling require prior approval by the FHSAA. Athletic events and tournaments during the regular season do not require approval by the FHSAA Office unless the event meets the definition of a Third Party Special Event in Policy 7.6. See Policy 9 for fees and Policy 7 for deadlines for filing and late filing financial penalties.

7.1 Definitions.

7.1.1 Sanctioned Events. A sanctioned event is a preseason jamboree game, preseason classic game or preseason tournament, in the sports of baseball, basketball, cross country, football, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, track & field, girls volleyball, boys weightlifting and wrestling, or spring football jamboree or spring football classic, football bowl game, third party hosted games or tournaments (i.e. KSA Events, ESPN, Paragon Sports, etc.) and nationally televised events during pre or post season in any sport.

7.1.2 Host

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

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

7.2 Sanction Process.

7.2.1 Application. Any athletic event hosted by an FHSAA member senior high school requiring sanction approval, as defined above in Policy 7.1, must be registered with FHSAA. The member school hosting the event is responsible for making application for approval. Information reported on Form AT2 shall be submitted utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director. The application for approval must be submitted not later than one day prior to the first day of the event to avoid a late application fee of $50. Administrative fees and payment deadlines for sanctioned events are listed in Policy 7.7.1, 9.5 and 9.9.

7.3 Interstate Sanctions. A member school which hosts an athletic event in which an out-of-state school is invited to participate may be required to submit to the NFHS an online application for "Sanction of Interstate Athletic Event". NFHS procedures regarding application for sanction of interstate athletic events are available at NFHS.org. A member school is not required to submit an application for sanction (AT2) for this event to the FHSAA Office.

7.4 International Sanctions. A member school which hosts an athletic event or single athletic contest involving a team from another country or affiliate member of the NFHS must submit online NFHS application for "Sanction of International Event". NFHS procedures regarding application for sanction of international athletic events are available at NFHS.org. A member school is not required to submit an application for sanction (AT2) for this event to the FHSAA Office.

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

7.5 Penalty for Violation of Sanction Policy. Unless otherwise stated in policy, a minimum financial penalty of $100 and/or other sanctions and probation, administrative and/or restrictive, may be assessed against any member school which violates any provision of this Sanction Policy.

7.6 Third Party Special Events

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

7.6.1 Sanctioning and any FHSAA fees for the event are the responsibility of the third party hosting the event, not the participating member school. It is the responsibility of the member school to insure the event in which they are participating has been approved and sanctioned by the FHSAA. The FHSAA shall publish all approved events.

7.6.2 Third party events held in private or corporate facilities, or on school facilities where the member school is not fulfilling "Host" duties as defined in Policy 7.1.2, require a direct contract between the FHSAA and third party for sanction approval.

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

7.6.4 Any school who participates in a third-party event that is not sanctioned by the FHSAA may lose the privilege to participate in a future preseason jamboree or preseason classic. Additional penalties as per Policy 7.5 may also be assessed.

7.7 Nationally Televised Events

7.7.1 Member schools serving as Host (as defined in Policy 7.1.2) for pre-season athletic or post-season athletic events where the event is broadcast live or delayed by a national television network (i.e. ESPN, ESPNU, Fox, TBS, etc.) must be approved by the FHSAA in advance of the event. Information reported on Form AT2 shall be submitted utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director. A $2,000.00 administrative fee is due to the FHSAA within 30 days following the event, unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. This policy applies only to national networks and does not apply to locally televised events.

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

10.1 Participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series

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

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

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

- Any such effort by a group of member schools to declare independence in a sport and organize a conference or league with the intent of conducting any form of playoff to determine a champion(s) after the conclusion of FHSAA-approved regular season competition is prohibited unless approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors.
- All competitions to determine a champion(s) that are conducted by conferences or leagues whose members also are members of the FHSAA must be conducted in accordance with school contest limitations per Policy 6.1.2.

10.2 Sport Participation

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

(a) For all sports, the school shall successfully sponsor a varsity program in the previous school year (i.e. completes a comparable district schedule to the other schools in the district which they would be placed).

(b) The school commits to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series with FHSAA prior to the reclassification process, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director. A school that does not commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series by the release of the reclassification process in that sport shall be assigned "Independent Status" in that sport for the duration of the classification cycle.

(c) A varsity team shall engage in a minimum number of interscholastic contests (games, matches or meets) as listed below or the required number of district contests as determined in the district meeting (if applicable), whichever is greater, in the sport. To count as a contest, the school's team actually shall participate in and complete the contest. Scheduled contests that are canceled or not completed (in accordance with the playing rules of the sport in question) may not be counted.

(1) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo – 10 contests

(2) Bowling, Lacrosse, Tennis and Wrestling – 7 contests

(3) Golf - 6 contests

(4) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving and Track & Field – 5 contests

(5) Flag Football, Football, Competitive Cheerleading and Weightlifting – 4 contests

(d) A varsity team must play not less than 60 percent of its regular season contests in the sport against FHSAA member schools.

(e) A varsity team must not take more than one trip per school year in the sport beyond the neighboring states of Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi.

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

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

10.3 Individual Participation

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

10.3.1.1 Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo – 10 contests

10.3.1.2 Bowling, Lacrosse, Tennis and Wrestling – 7 contests

10.3.1.3 Golf - 6 contests

10.3.1.4 Cross Country, Swimming & Diving and Track & Field – 5 contests

10.3.1.5 Flag Football, Football, Competitive Cheerleading and Weightlifting – 4 contests

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

10.4 Binding Agreement.

A school that elects to withdraw its commitment to a sport after the district planning meeting shall notify the FHSAA Office utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director.

10.4.1 The school may be subject to a $250 administrative fee.

10.4.2 The school withdrawing its commitment shall be required to request to be released from its scheduled contests and may be subject to financial restitution to those schools.

10.5 Failure to Appear

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

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

10.6 Neutrality

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

10.7 Allegations and Protests

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

10.7.2 Withholding Information. Member schools (or persons defined in Bylaw 1.4.18) who intentionally withhold information impacting Florida High School State Championship Series participation shall be considered unethical and unsportsmanlike and addressed in accordance with Policy 46.

POLICY 11

ROSTERS

11.1 Sport Rosters

11.1.1 Initial Sport Roster. Member schools must submit to the FHSAA, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, their initial varsity and sub-varsity sports rosters for each sport by the first regular season playing date permitted in that sport. Rosters can continue to be added to and deleted from during the regular season and the state series prior to a contest. A member school may not add to or delete from a sport roster during the contest.

11.1.1.1 Permitting a student-athlete to compete in an interscholastic contest prior to his/her name being submitted to the FHSAA on a sport roster, may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $50 per student and/or other sanctions.

11.2 Number of Participants. The number of student-athletes permitted to participate in a given sport by a member school during the state series shall be limited to the following:

Sport	Participants
Baseball	Twenty (20)
Basketball	Fifteen (15)
Bowling	Eight (8)
Competitive Cheerleading	Forty (40)
Cross Country	Fifteen (15)
Flag Football	Twenty-five (25)
Football	Sixty (60)
Golf	Ten (10)
Lacrosse	Twenty-five (25)
Soccer	Twenty-five (25)
Softball	Twenty (20)
Swimming & Diving	Sixty (60)
Tennis	Twelve (12)
Track & Field	Eighty (80)
Volleyball	Fifteen (15)
Water Polo	Eighteen (18)
Weightlifting	Three (3) per weight class
Wrestling	Forty (40)

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

POLICY 13

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

13.1 District Assignments. Schools that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in a sport shall be assigned as evenly as practical on a geographical basis to a district in the appropriate classification. For 1A (Rural) classifications, a tournament/meet shall be conducted in each district following the conclusion of the regular season on the dates set by the Board of Directors to determine the two schools that shall represent that district in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championship Series. For the remaining 2A-7A classifications, the winner of the tournament shall represent that district in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championship Series. The remaining four (4) state series places in each region shall be determined by a power ranking system.

13.1.1 District Coordinator. One school in each district will designated as the district coordinator. The FHSAA representative or his/her designee at the district coordinator school shall be responsible for hosting, conducting and reporting to the FHSAA Office results of the district scheduling/planning meeting upon the conclusion of the meeting but no later than seven (7) days following the meeting. The tournament/meet manager is responsible for all aspects of the district tournament/meet, including the seeding of teams, upon conclusion of the district planning meeting and receipt of the meeting's minutes.

13.2 District Scheduling/Tournament Planning

13.2.1 District Schedule. For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, each school assigned to a district in a team sport shall be required to schedule one or two regular season contests with every other school in that district to be eligible to participate in the district tournament. The results of the district contests shall be used to determine seeding for the district tournament. If a majority cannot agree to play a one contest schedule, then a two-contest schedule shall be played. If a district votes to play a one-contest district schedule and two district opponents elect to play each other more than once, then the results of the contest listed on the master schedule, as scheduled at the scheduling an planning meeting, will count toward district seeding. A school, however, shall not schedule a district contest to be played later than Saturday two weeks prior to the week in which the district tournament is scheduled to be played. If a scheduled district contest is postponed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations and can only be played after the deadline, the FHSAA Office may grant permission for the contest to be played after the deadline and counted. This exception, however, will be granted only if the contest was originally scheduled to be played prior to the deadline. Any school that does not comply with this requirement shall not be permitted to participate in the district tournament. For the 2A-7A classifications in girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, baseball and softball, a regular season district game is not required. Districts cannot vote to require the district to mandate district games during the regular season.

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

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

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

13.2.2.3 For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, no regular season contest for the following season may be scheduled in advance of the district scheduling meeting. Agreements or contracts to play a contest that is entered into in advance of the meeting are null and void.

13.2.2.4 For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classifications for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, the decision to play a one-contest district schedule, rather than two, shall be by majority vote of representatives present at the meeting. In the event of a tie vote, a two- contest district schedule shall be mandatory. If a district votes to play a one- contest schedule, but two or more district members opt to schedule and play each other more than once during the regular season, then only the results of the contest listed on the master schedule, as scheduled at the scheduling and planning meeting, between district opponents shall be counted for seeding purposes.

13.2.2.5 The district may vote to divide into two sub-districts within the district to assist with travel issues. For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classifications for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, schools would only be required to compete against sub-district opponents during the season. Both sub districts must be represented in the district tournament. The format determining who advances must be predetermined at the district planning meeting and must be recorded in the planning meeting minutes.

13.2.3 Postponed Contests. If a scheduled district contest is postponed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations and can only be played after the deadline, the Executive Director may grant permission for the contest to be played after the deadline and counted. This exception, however, will be granted only if the contest was originally scheduled to be played prior to the deadline. For the 2A-7A classifications in girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, baseball and softball, for seeding purposes, contests played after the deadlines set on the FHSAA Calendar will not be calculated into a team's ranking.

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

13.3 Seeding and Bracketing

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

13.3.1.1 For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, each school shall be seeded based on its win-loss record in the contests played against all district opponents during the regular season. The school with the best district record shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-best district record shall be seeded No. 2; etc. For the 2A-7A classifications in girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, baseball and softball, each school will be seeded based on their power ranking utilizing the Association's approved ranking system. The seeding will use regular season contests played on or prior to the Saturday one week prior to the first allowable date for the district tournament.

13.3.1.2 For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, in the event two or more schools within the district are unable to play the required district contests due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations which are deemed acceptable by the Executive Director, all schools within that district shall be seeded according to the percentage of district contests won (average of points accumulated in soccer). The school with the highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 2, etc.

13.3.2 Two Schools Tied. For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, when two schools are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

(a) Won-loss results of head-to-head district competition between the two schools;

(b) Won-loss record (points in soccer) in district competition of the two schools versus the highest-seeded school (and proceeding through the lowest-seeded school, if necessary);

(c) Number of district victories (points in soccer) on the road in district games/ matches;

(d) Number of district victories (points in soccer) at home in district games/ matches; and

(e) Coin toss or blind draw by the district tournament/meet manager.

13.3.3 Three (or more) Schools Tied. For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, when three or more schools are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used in the following order until the tie has been reduced to two schools, then the two-school tiebreaker formula shall be used:

(a) Total won-loss record (points in soccer) of district contests played among the tied schools;

(b) Won-loss record (points in soccer) in district competition of the tied schools versus the highest-seeded school (and proceeding through the lowest seeded school, if necessary);

(c) Number of district victories (points in soccer) on the road in district games/ matches;

(d) Number of district victories (points in soccer) at home in district games/ matches; and

(e) Blind draw by the district tournament/meet manager.

13.3.4 Bracketing. For the sports of baseball, basketball, girls and boys soccer, softball and girls volleyball, every district member shall be placed on the tournament bracket according to seed. In the sports of flag football, boys volleyball, lacrosse and water polo, the top four seeds only shall be placed on the tournament bracket. A single-elimination, standard progression bracket shall be used. The No. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 seeds shall be placed in the upper half of the bracket and the No. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 seeds shall be placed in the lower half of the bracket. Byes, if any, shall be awarded to the higher-seeded schools. The higher-seeded team of the bracket in each tournament contest shall be designated the home school for that contest.

13.3.5 Seeding Report. For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, each school in the district shall report to the tournament/meet manager its final district win-loss record (points in soccer) not later than 10 a.m. Monday of the week immediately preceding the week in which the district tournament is to be played. The tournament/meet manager then shall seed the schools, place the schools on the bracket according to their seed, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, and assign contest dates and times in accordance with the provisions herein and the arrangements agreed upon during the district scheduling/tournament planning meeting.

POLICY 18

PRACTICES AND SCRIMMAGES

18.1 General Practices

18.1.1 Only those student-athletes who are attending a member school, or who are non-traditional students, as defined in Policy 12.2.1.2, registered with a member school, may participate in the practice of an athletic team which represents that member school.

18.1.2 Practice sessions, practice games or exhibitions/exhibition games in which students from two or more schools participate are prohibited.

18.1.3 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 per occurrence and/or other sanctions.

18.2 Spring Football Practice

18.2.1 Spring Football practice is a continuation of the regular fall football season. Consequently, a student who transfers schools must meet the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

18.2.2 Spring practice is confined to a maximum of 20 sessions commencing with the Monday of Week 44 or the last 20 days of the school year, whichever comes first, inclusive of the spring jamboree or classic.

18.2.3 Students who are seniors may not participate in spring football practice.

18.2.4 Only those students who are enrolled and in attendance in a school may participate in spring football practice at that school.

18.2.5 Eighth grade students may participate in spring football practice at the public high school for which the students are zoned to attend or could choose to attend pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S. or § 1002.33, F.S. or at the private school at which the student has been accepted and will attend in the ninth grade the following school year under the following conditions:

18.2.5.1 The students may practice on or in the high school facility only if such practice is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.2.5.2 The students may be instructed in practice by high school coaches only if such instruction is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.2.5.3 The principal/head of school of both schools must give their permission in writing to the FHSAA Office for the students to participate in such practice.

18.2.5.4 The students must have catastrophic insurance coverage for such practice.

18.2.5.5 The students must have the written permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in such practice on file in the school office.

18.2.5.6 The students must have undergone a physical examination within the last calendar year.

18.2.5.7 The students must not suffer any loss of time from school.

18.2.5.8 The students may not participate in a spring football jamboree or spring classic game.

18.2.5.9 The students may not participate in practice or have physical contact in any manner with student-athletes in the 9th, 10th or 11th grades who are members of the high school team.

18.2.6 Participation or non-participation in spring football shall not be used as a prerequisite for participation in football the following school year.

18.3 Spring Competitive Cheerleading Practice

18.3.1 Spring Competitive Cheerleading practice is a continuation of the regular winter competitive cheerleading season. Consequently, a student who transfers schools must meet the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

18.3.2 Spring practice is confined to a maximum of 20 sessions commencing with the Monday of Week 44 or the last 20 days of the school year, whichever comes first.

18.3.3 Students who are seniors may not participate in spring practice.

18.3.4 Only those students who are enrolled and in attendance in a school may participate in spring competitive cheerleading practice at that school.

18.3.5 Eighth grade students may participate in spring competitive cheerleading practice at the public high school for which the students are zoned to attend or could choose to attend pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S. or § 1002.33, F.S. or at the private school at which the student has been accepted and will attend in the ninth-grade the following school year under the following conditions:

18.3.5.1 The students may practice on or in the high school facility only if such practice is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.3.5.2 The students may be instructed in practice by high school coaches only if such instruction is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.

18.3.5.3 The principal/head of school of both schools must give their permission in writing to the FHSAA Office for the students to participate in such practice.

18.3.5.4 The students must have catastrophic insurance coverage for such practice.

18.3.5.5 The students must have the written permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in such practice on file in the school office.

18.3.5.6 The students must have undergone a physical examination within the last calendar year.

18.3.5.7 The students must not suffer any loss of time from school.

18.3.6 Participation or non-participation in spring competitive cheerleading shall not be used as a prerequisite for participation in competitive cheerleading the following school year.

18.4 Scrimmages

18.4.1 Bona Fide Students Only. Only those student-athletes who are attending a member school or who are non-traditional students, as per Bylaw 9.2.2 and Policy 16.6, registered with a member school, may participate in the scrimmage of an athletic team which represents that member school.

18.4.2 Non-School Groups Prohibited. Scrimmages and scrimmage games involving groups, alumni teams, league teams, etc., comprised in whole or in part of individuals who are not bona fide students of the member school are prohibited. Such scrimmages and scrimmage games may be on an intra-squad basis only.

18.4.3 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 per occurrence and/or other sanctions.

POLICY 19

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

19.1 Advisory Committees. The Board of Directors has established a number of advisory committees comprised of individuals – experts in their field – who work with the various programs of the Association. These advisory committees shall operate according to the following guidelines:

19.2 Purpose, Authority and Compensation

19.2.1 An advisory committee exists solely for the purpose of evaluating the FHSAA program(s) with which it is charged. In achieving its purpose, the committee shall review FHSAA regulations which govern the program(s); offer to the Board of Directors recommendations for change to such regulations as it deems appropriate; and offer advice and guidance to the Board of Directors and staff.

19.2.2 An advisory committee shall have no direct authority to establish guidelines, regulations, policies or procedures; and its decisions and recommendations shall not be final unless adopted by the Board of Directors in general session.

19.2.3 An item must pass an advisory committee by simple majority vote to be referred to the Board of Directors. A tie vote among voting members on any item shall defeat the item.

19.2.4 An item first passed by an advisory committee shall be publicized for one year until the next regularly scheduled meeting of that advisory committee in the following school year. At this meeting, the advisory committee will reconsider the item for second passage. Upon second passage, the item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director, however, may authorize that a recommendation be fast-tracked through the process if he/she determines the recommendation to be essential to the betterment of the program. Any item not passed may not be re-introduced for a minimum of two calendar years.

19.2.5 Vacancies. If, for any reason, a vacancy should occur in any seat with an unexpired term on an advisory committee the Executive Director shall appoint a qualified individual from the represented group to fill the vacant seat for the duration of the unexpired term. In such cases, the individual appointed to complete a term for someone else may succeed themselves one time.

19.2.6 An advisory committee may introduce a proposed amendment to the FHSAA Bylaws for consideration.

19.2.7 No member of the Board of Directors can serve on an advisory committee.

19.2.8 An individual can serve on only one advisory committee.

19.2.9 All advisory committee members, and chaperone for student-athlete members, will be reimbursed for travel following the State of Florida Employee travel regulations and rates.

19.2.10 Committee Chairperson. Each committee shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson from among its members. The chairperson will serve as chair of the committee for one year. The vice chairperson will act in the absence of the chairperson and will immediately succeed the chairperson upon the completion of his/her term as chairperson. The vice chairperson must have no fewer than two years remaining in his/her current term in order to serve as the vice chairperson. After the initial election of a chairperson and vice chairperson of a committee, the last order of business of the committee for that year shall be the election of the vice chairperson for the subsequent year.

19.4 Sports Advisory Committees

19.4.1 Committees. There shall be an advisory committee in each sport in which the FHSAA sanctions a Florida High School State Championship Series competition. Currently, these sports are baseball, basketball, bowling, competitive cheerleading, cross country, football, flag football, golf, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, water polo, weightlifting and wrestling.

19.4.2 Composition. Each sport advisory committee shall be comprised of 10 individuals – two member school head coaches from each of the Association's four administrative sections, the Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) state chairperson in that sport if he/she is not elected to represent a section, and a member of the Officials Advisory Committee in an ex-officio capacity. In sports in which there are both girls and boys teams, representation on the committee shall be one-half girls team coaches and one-half boys team coaches. If the sport does not have a school that participates in a particular section, that particular section's seat shall remain vacant except in sports that have both genders participating, then an opposite gender sport coach may fill that vacancy. The FHSAA staff shall establish a rotation to ensure such equitable gender representation.

19.4.3 Elections. Each sport advisory committee member will be elected by their peers from each of the Association's four administrative sections.

19.4.4 Term. Each elected member and the FACA representative of the committee shall serve a term of three years and shall not be eligible to immediately succeed himself/herself. A rotation of terms shall be established to ensure that not more than one-half of the elected members' terms expire in any given year.

19.4.5 Meetings. Each sports advisory committee shall meet, at a minimum, once annually following the conclusion of its respective Florida High School State Championship Series to evaluate the FHSAA program for that sport.

19.4.6 Quorum. Five (5) of the voting members of an advisory committee shall constitute a quorum.

POLICY 20

SUMMER ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

20.1 Policy

20.1.1 Not Regulated in Summer. The FHSAA does not regulate the athletic activities of member schools held with their own students during the summer as defined herein with the exception of football. The individual member school principal, district school superintendent, district school board, charter or private school governing board are responsible for adopting regulations governing the activities of their respective schools during this period of time. When considering regulations, these governing bodies should review Policies 40, 41, 42 and 43.

20.1.2 Football. A member school shall not permit student-athletes in its football program to wear helmets or pads or engage in physical contact in any activity sponsored by or under the supervision of the school during the summer. This shall not preclude the school from issuing school-owned equipment to a student-athlete for his/her use at a summer football camp, provided the camp is organized, operated and conducted by a third-party entity, such as but not limited to, American Youth Football, AAU Football, USA Football, colleges and universities, etc., and is not affiliated with a member school, such as but not limited to, booster clubs, affiliated church organizations, etc. FHSAA member school coaches, paid or otherwise, may not be involved in the organization, supervision, or coordination of camps that involve students from FHSAA member schools. Camps hosted by a third party, which allow the use of helmets or pads or engage in physical contact, may not be held at a member school's facility.

20.2 Summer Defined. The summer season is defined as that period of time outside the FHSAA sports year. This period for each member school is defined as beginning the day following the school's last day of classes for the spring semester or the day following the school's last day of spring athletic activities (including spring football practice), whichever is later, or June 1 for schools whose last day of classes for the spring semester occurs on May 31 or thereafter, and concluding with the Saturday prior to fall sports beginning, as established in the FHSAA Planning Calendar.

OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING

21.1 Definitions.

21.1.1 Off-season. "Off-season" means the period of time during the regular school year but outside the defined sport season for a specific sport.

21.1.2 Sports Season. "Sports season" means the period of time for a specific school team in each respective sport that begins with the first permissible date of practice in that sport and ends either with

21.1.2.1 the last permissible date for a regular season contest (if not participating in Florida High School State Championship Series competition) in that sport; or

21.1.2.2 the date of the team's elimination from Florida High School State Championship Series competition in that sport; or

21.1.2.3 the state championship game in that sport, whichever first occurs for that team.

21.1.3 Conditioning. Weight training is the use of free weights and stationary apparatus. Cardiovascular conditioning is distance and interval training. Plyometrics is the use of pre-set conditioning programs. Conditioning IS NOT teaching sport specific skills and drills, and DOES NOT involve the use of sport specific equipment (i.e. starting blocks, hurdles, rebounders, ball machines, bats, balls, rackets, etc.).

21.2 Off-season conditioning programs conducted by a school shall only be open to participation by all students attending that school or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7.

21.3 Off-season conditioning program participants shall file with the school the "FHSAA Consent and Release of Liability Certificate" and the "FHSAA Pre-participation Physical Evaluation" form.

21.4 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.

21.5 Supervision by school personnel is required.

21.6 Schools shall provide information in the following areas:

21.6.1 Proper use of weight room equipment;

21.6.2 Proper weight training techniques;

21.6.3 Proper nutrition;

21.6.4 Proper cardiovascular conditioning techniques;

21.6.5 Ergogenics.

21.7 Hydration and Rest

21.7.1 Schools shall implement policies that follow the recommendations listed in Policy 41.5.

21.8 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness

21.8.1 Schools shall review Policy 42 with school based personnel operating off-season conditioning.

21.9 Failure to comply with this policy may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 46:

21.9.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.

21.9.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

21.9.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

21.9.4 Reduced number of regular season "home" contests.

21.9.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

NON-SCHOOL TEAM AND/OR OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION

22.1 Definitions.

22.1.1 Off-Season. "Off-season" means the period of time during the regular school year but outside the defined sport season for a specific sport.

22.1.2 Sports Season. "Sports season" means the period of time for a specific school team in each respective sport that begins with the first permissible date of practice in that sport and ends either with

22.1.2.1 the last permissible date for a regular season contest (if not participating in Florida High School State Championship Series competition) in that sport; or

22.1.2.2 the date of the team's elimination from Florida High School State Championship Series competition in that sport; or

22.1.2.3 the state championship game in that sport, whichever first occurs for that team.

22.1.3 Coach. "Coach" means any person, regardless of whether he/she is employed by the school or volunteer, who instructs, supervises, or otherwise manages student-athletes in conjunction with a practice, tryout, drill, workout, evaluation or competitive activity.

22.1.4 "Involved In Any Respect." "Involved in any respect" means engaged in anything to do with a non-school team, including but not limited to coaching, scheduling, transporting, officiating and the hiring of officials, training, taping, managing team expenses, purchasing of uniforms and equipment, etc.

22.2 During the off-season, a coach shall not have contact with students outside the normal teacher-student classroom environment except to:

22.2.1 make arrangements for and assist in the conduct of physical examinations; or

22.2.2 explain eligibility regulations; or

22.2.3 solve insurance problems; or

22.2.4 review films; or

22.2.5 conduct off-season conditioning as defined in "Off-Season Conditioning" as per Policy 21.

22.3 A coach, prospective coach of any member school or any individual involved in any respect may not be involved with a non-school team in a sport unless the non-school team meets the following requirements:

22.3.1 The team must be affiliated with an outside agency promoting athletic participation opportunities such as, but not limited to:

- Baseball – Babe Ruth, American Legion, city/county leagues
- Basketball – AAU, USA, USOC
- Football –USA Football
- Golf – USGA, AJGA
- Lacrosse – US Lacrosse
- Soccer – FIFA, Youth leagues
- Softball – ASA, USSSA
- Swimming & Diving – USS, NISCA, ASCA, CSCAA, AAU
- Tennis – FTA, USTA, USOC, ITF
- Track & Field – USA, AAU
- Volleyball – USVBA, USOC, USA, AVA
- Wrestling – USA, AAU

22.3.2 Participation must include competition in the published scheduled events of the outside agency.

22.3.3 Student athletes and coaches, where applicable, are not permitted to wear any portion of a school's athletic uniform.

22.3.4 All fees or assessments, collected or paid for participation must be made to or from the outside agency.

22.3.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.

22.3.6 Member schools may make their gymnasiums and other athletic facilities available to outside groups or organizations provided a fully executed usage agreement is provided and available upon request.

22.4 Failure to comply with this policy may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 46:

22.4.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.

22.4.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

22.4.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

22.4.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.

22.4.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 23

OPEN FACILITIES PROGRAM

23.1 During the school year, member schools may open their gymnasiums and other athletic facilities only to their students without being in violation of FHSAA Bylaws under the following guidelines:

23.1.1 The facility must be open to all students who are bona fide students in that school as defined in Bylaw 9.2.1 or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7. Opening facilities to a select group of students to practice individual skills for a specific sport is a violation of this policy.

23.1.2 A student may participate in open facility activities only in the school in which he/she is a bona fide student as defined in Bylaw 9.2.1 or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7.

23.1.3 A middle school student cannot participate in open facilities activities offered by a senior high school unless the middle school student is a bona fide student in that senior high school as defined in Bylaw 9.2.1 or as per Bylaws 9.2.2.1, 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.3, 9.2.2.4, 9.2.2.5 or 9.2.2.7 and as defined in 3.2.2.3.

23.1.4 Supervision by school personnel is required. School personnel, including faculty and non-faculty coaches in attendance, however, shall not provide coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques in any sport. Their presence may be in a supervisory capacity only.

23.1.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.

23.1.6 No sport-specific tasks or drills shall be taught or assigned to students to perform during open facility activities.

23.1.7 Open facility activities in a specific sport (with the exception of the fall sports) shall be concluded a minimum of two weeks prior to the first permissible date of interscholastic practice in that sport.

23.2 Failure to comply with this policy may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 46:

23.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.

23.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

23.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

23.2.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.

23.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

COACHING SCHOOLS, CAMPS, CLINICS, COMBINES OR WORKSHOPS BY MEMBER SCHOOLS

Member schools, coaches or other athletic department employees of member schools, and individuals, groups or organizations related to or affiliated with member schools may conduct coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops provided:

24.1 The event is conducted only during the summer as defined in the "Policy on Summer Athletic Participation" or as a fund raiser for the school or school programs during the school year provided:

(a) An appropriate properly executed facility usage agreement is provided and made available upon request; and

(b) All fees or assessments, collected or paid must be documented and be made to or from the school's internal accounts; and

(c) Member schools are subject to the provisions in Policy 37.2.

24.1.1 Exception. Coaches may participate in camps, clinics, workshops provided the following criteria are met:

24.1.1.1 The event is hosted by a third party (not-for-profit organization), of which the coach is not an organizer, supervisor, owner, etc.; and

24.1.1.2 The coach participates in an instructional capacity only; and

24.1.1.3 The coach does not wear any school paraphernalia which identifies the school with which the coach is affiliated; and

24.1.1.4 The coach and student are subject to the provisions of Policy 36; and

24.1.1.5 The event is not held on the coach's school campus.

24.1.2 Exception. Representatives of member schools athletic interests may provide personal instruction provided:

24.1.2.1 The individual providing instruction owns or is employed by a company which provides instruction of athletic skills; and

24.1.2.1.1 Instruction provided to students who attend the school with which the representative of the school's athletic interests is affiliated may not exceed more than two students during the time of instruction, if the instruction takes place on that school's campus.

24.1.2.2 The company which the individual owns or is employed by is a licensed business, containing a current tax identification number; and

24.1.2.3 Properly executed facility usage agreement, if instruction is provided on a member school's campus, is provided and made available upon request; and

24.1.2.4 All fees or assessment for participation must be documented; and

24.1.2.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team; and

24.1.2.6 The representative of the school's athletic interests is subject to the provisions of Policy 36.

24.2 Failure to comply with this policy may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 46:

24.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.

24.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

24.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

24.2.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.

24.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 25

PARTICIPATION BY STUDENT-ATHLETES AND TEAMS IN COACHING SCHOOLS, CAMPS, CLINICS, COMBINES OR WORKSHOPS

The following policy govern participation of students of FHSAA member schools in coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops for an interscholastic sport.

25.1 Individuals. Students from FHSAA member schools may participate as individuals in coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops at any time of the school year without jeopardizing their interscholastic athletic eligibility, provided:

25.1.1 Students participating in the event do not, in any way, represent their school.

25.1.2 Fees for the students who participate in the event are not paid by the school, coach or school district.

25.1.3 Students provide their own transportation or are provided transportation by their own school. No student may be transported to or from the event by an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of any school other than the school that the student currently attends.

25.2 Teams. FHSAA member schools may permit their athletic teams to participate in coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops without jeopardizing their interscholastic athletic eligibility, provided:

25.2.1 The coaching school, camp, clinic, combine or workshop takes place only during the summer as defined in the "Policy on Summer Athletic Participation." Participation by school teams in coaching schools, camps, clinics or workshops held during the school year is strictly prohibited.

25.2.2 Fees for the students or team who participate in the event are not paid by the school, coach or school district; however, internal account funds generated from fund-raising activities may be used.

25.2.3 Participation in the event by students is not an actual or implied prerequisite to their membership on the team.

25.3 Failure to comply with this policy may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 46:

25.3.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.

25.3.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

25.3.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.

25.3.4 Reduced number of regular season "home" contests.

25.3.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 26

PARTICIPATION BY STUDENT-ATHLETES IN ALL-STAR GAMES AND SHOWCASES

The FHSAA recognizes Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) sponsored All-Star Classics. The FACA meets the provisions of this policy which govern student participation in its All-Star classics. The following policy govern participation of students of FHSAA member schools in any all-star games or showcases for an interscholastic sport:

26.1 All-Star Teams. An all-star team is a team comprised of athletes who are selected as team members or invited to participate in a tryout for membership on the team as the result of the athletes' performance. No student at a member school shall participate on a high school all-star team in a sport as a result of his/her performance in interscholastic athletics until the student completes his/her interscholastic athletic eligibility in that sport.

26.1.1 All-Star Games. Students from FHSAA member schools may participate as individuals in all-star games without jeopardizing their interscholastic athletic eligibility, provided:

26.1.1.1 The all-star game, or tryouts or practices for the all-star game, may not be conducted during the regular season in the sport in which the all-star game is to be conducted; and

26.1.1.1.1 Exception. An all-star game shall not be played on any date on which an FHSAA State Championship Series contest in that sport is scheduled.

26.1.1.2 The student-athlete has exhausted his/her eligibility in the sport in which the all-star contest is to be conducted; and

26.1.1.2.1 Exception. This does not apply if the contest is held out-side of the state of Florida.

26.1.1.3 Fees for the student-athlete who participates in the all-star contest are not paid by the school, coach or school district; however, internal account funds generated from fund-raising activities may be used.

26.1.2 Failure to comply with this policy may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the loss of the student's eligibility to represent any FHSAA member school in that sport for a period of one calendar year from the date of participation in the contest.

26.2 Showcases. Showcases are events comprised of athletes who are selected or invited to participate as a result of the athletes' performance as an athlete and must be compliant with Policy 24 and Policy 25. Any student athlete who participates in, but not limited to, combines and showcases do so at his/her own peril as it relates to Policy 36.

POLICY 30

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

30.1 Sportsmanship and Ethics

Student-athletes, coaches, administrators, spectators and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with a member school, as well as contest officials, shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship and the ethics of competition before, during and after all contests in which they participate and/or attend.

30.1.1 Penalties Assessed the School.

30.1.1.1 Storming the playing field, court, or pool by spectators and students during or at the conclusion of an athletic contest may result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 for indoor events or $500 for outdoor events and may be increased depending on the severity of the incident and/or other sanctions.

30.1.1.2 Removal by a coach or school personnel of a team or individual from an athletic contest prior to its normal conclusion may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 and/or other sanctions.

30.1.1.3 Vandalism by a team, student -athlete, coach or school personnel may result in a minimum $250 monetary penalty and/or other sanctions, or any other penalties as outlined in Bylaw 10.1, in addition to the school being financially responsible for restitution of the item(s) vandalized.

30.2 Unsportsmanlike Act by a Student-Athlete

30.2.1 Penalties Assessed the Student-Athlete. Student-athletes who commit unsportsmanlike acts before, during or after a contest will be subject to the following suspension levels as determined by the designee of the Executive Director:

30.2.1.1 Level 1 Suspension. A student-athlete who commits an unsportsmanlike act or a flagrant foul for which he/she is ejected from the contest will be ineligible to compete for the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the student will be ineligible for a minimum of the next football game, at the same level of participation, and any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport during the period of suspension. If the unsportsmanlike act or flagrant foul occurs in the last contest of a season, the student will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the student participates; or

30.2.1.2 Level 2 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act, as defined in Bylaw 7.2.1, will be ineligible to compete, at a minimum, in the next interscholastic athletic contest, at any level, for a period of up to a maximum of the following:

(a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo - 12 contests

(b) Bowling, Lacrosse and Tennis - 9 contests

(c) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Flag Football and Weightlifting - 6 contests

(d) Football and Competitive Cheerleading - 5 contests

(e) Golf - 8 contests

(f) Wrestling - 10 contests; or

30.2.1.3 Level 3 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to compete in the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year; or

30.2.1.4 Level 4 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives three (3) or more Level 2 Suspensions or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for the duration of the student-athlete's high school career.

30.2.1.5 It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This policy applies to all regular season and Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

30.2.2 Penalties Assessed the School.

30.2.2.1 In the event that more than three (3) students from the same school have been assessed with any suspension level, as defined in 30.2.1, in any one sport, beginning with the fourth suspension, the school will be immediately placed on administrative probation in that sport for one or more years, and may be assessed a minimum monetary penalty of $100 per suspension and/or other sanctions in that sport for the remainder of that sport's season.

30.2.2.2 On the first Level 2 suspension or higher, as defined in 30.2.1, of a student in any sport, a written warning shall be issued to the school that each subsequent suspension, at Level 2 or higher, in any sport may subject the school to a minimum monetary penalty of $250 per occurrence and/or other sanctions. Beginning with the next suspension of a student, at Level 2 or higher, the minimum monetary penalty of $250 and/or other sanctions will be assessed.

30.2.2.3 Participation by one or more student-athletes in an altercation in the bench area, or by leaving the bench and entering the court or playing field (i.e., bench-emptying) or by leaving their designated position on the court or playing field to engage in an altercation may subject the school to a minimum monetary penalty of $100 per student and/or other sanctions.

30.3 Unsportsmanlike Act by a Coach or Other Representative of the School's Athletic Interests

30.3.1 Penalties Assessed the Coach or Other Representative of the School's Athletic Interests. Coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who commit unsportsmanlike acts before, during or after a contest will be subject to the following suspension levels as determined by the designee of the Executive Director:

30.3.1.1 Level 1 Suspension. A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who commits an unsportsmanlike act for which he/she is ejected from the contest, will be ineligible to coach or attend the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests will be ineligible for a minimum of the next football game, at the same level of participation, and any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport during the period of suspension. If the unsportsmanlike act occurs in the last contest of a season, the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests will be ineligible for the same period of time as stated above in the next sport in which the coach participates; or

30.3.1.2 Level 2 Suspension. A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act, as defined in Bylaw 7.2.1, will be ineligible to coach or attend, at a minimum, the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to a maximum of the following:

(a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo - 12 contests

(b) Bowling, Lacrosse and Tennis - 9 contests

(c) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Flag Football and Weightlifting - 6 contests

(d) Football and Competitive Cheerleading - 5 contests

(e) Golf - 8 contests

(f) Wrestling - 10 contests; or

30.3.1.3 Level 3 Suspension. A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend the next interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

30.3.1.4 When a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests is disqualified (ejected) from a contest, the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests shall immediately leave the premises or facility (i.e. gymnasium in basketball, volleyball and wrestling; stadium/field in baseball, football, soccer and softball, etc.) to a place where the coach or other

representative of the school's athletic interests is not visible to either student-athletes, officials, spectators or other coaches; and to where the contest itself is not visible to the coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests. A disqualified (ejected) coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests shall not have any further contact with or give instruction to athletes or other members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the contest, including halftime intermission, breaks between quarters, periods or innings and post-contest activities.

30.3.1.5 A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests who is suspended from the next contest or number of contests after having been disqualified (ejected) from a previous contest shall not attend the contest(s) from which he/she has been suspended in any capacity and shall not be present at the site(s) of such contest(s). A suspended coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests also shall be prohibited from accompanying his/her team to the site(s) of such contest(s).

30.3.1.6 All coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests who have been disqualified (ejected) from a contest must complete the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course prior to the completion of the suspension or within thirty (30) calendar days, whichever comes first. A copy of the certificate of completion must be sent to the FHSAA at time of completion. This course is accessible from the NFHS Learning Center online.

30.3.2 Penalties Assessed the School.

30.3.2.1 A school whose coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests commits an unsportsmanlike act before, during or after a contest shall be assessed a minimum monetary penalty of $100 and/or other sanctions. Additional minimum monetary penalties up to $250 (per occurrence) and/or other sanctions may be imposed for unsportsmanlike conduct such as, but not limited to, use of profanity or other such gutter language or gestures, continuing to give instruction to his/her student-athletes or other members of the coaching staff after having been ejected, pursuit of officials with intent following a contest by a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests, refusal of a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests to leave the court, playing field or team area after being ejected, physical contact by a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests with an official and premature termination of contest by an official due to unsportsmanlike conduct.

30.3.2.2 It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. When a coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests is allowed to coach in or attend a contest from which he/she has been suspended, the school shall face additional penalties. This policy applies to all regular season and Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

30.4 Public Criticism of Officials. No coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests may publicly criticize or berate an official prior to, during or following a contest. Professional ethics require that coaches or other representatives of the school's athletic interests use proper channels, as per Bylaw 10.3.2, to report their complaints about officials rather than airing them publicly. A minimum monetary penalty of $50 and/or other sanctions may be assessed a school whose coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests are in violation of this provision.

30.5 Appeals

The decision to disqualify (eject) a student-athlete, coach or other representative of the school's athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) from a contest is a decision of the contest official or FHSAA Administrator. Any penalties imposed may be appealed to the Executive Director, using the AT15 Form, and, from there, through the normal appeals procedures. All periods of ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect during any such appeal unless and until they are modified or reversed.

POLICY 31

USE OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, HUMAN GROWTH HORMONES, STEROIDS, PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS AND SCHEDULE 3 NARCOTICS

31.1 Use of Alcohol and Tobacco. The use of alcohol, tobacco, tobacco-like products, e-cigarettes, vapor-generating electronic devices and other electronic nicotine delivery systems by student-athletes, coaches and officials is prohibited during the contest and in the vicinity of the playing field or court. A coach or student-athlete in violation of this policy is guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, will be ejected from the contest and will be suspended from subsequent contests in accordance with the FHSAA Policy on Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Additionally, the official must report any violation of this policy by either a student-athlete or coach to the FHSAA Office. Violation of this policy by a student-athlete or coach will subject the school to a minimum monetary penalty of $100. Violation of this policy by an official will subject the official to a minimum monetary penalty of $100 and/or other sanctions or suspension or both.

31.2 Use of Human Growth Hormones, Steroids, Performance-Enhancing Drugs, or Schedule 3 Narcotics. The use of human growth hormones, steroids, performance-enhancing drugs, or schedule 3 narcotics by a student-athlete is not permissible and shall be reported to the FHSAA and the principal. The use of such substances is considered to be an act of unsportsmanlike conduct. A student-athlete discovered to be using such substances will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic contest until such time as medical evidence can be presented to the FHSAA and the principal that the student's system is free of those substances.

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

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

31.2.3 A coach or other representative of the school's athletic interest who facilitates, provides, or condones the acquisition or use of these prohibited substances will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic contest for a minimum of one (1) year.

POLICY 32

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUSPENDED CONTESTS

32.1 Storms. If a thunderstorm or electrical storm occurs in the area prior to the start of or during any outdoor contest, the officials must immediately contact the principal or his/her designee of each school involved in the contest to determine if the contest should be played as scheduled, delayed, suspended or postponed. If the principal or his/her designee of either of the schools involved requests that the contest be interrupted or postponed, with the exception of FHSAA State Championship Series events, the officials must immediately honor such request. If the principal or his/her designee of only one of the competing schools is available, with the exception of FHSAA State Championship Series events, his/her request must be honored. The FHSAA administrative staff, State Finals host and officials shall manage any inclement weather situations at FHSAA State Finals events.

32.1.1 For the benefit of member schools, the NFHS offers a Lightning Guideline to assist in inclement weather situations.

32.2 Safety is Paramount. The safety and welfare of all concerned is of paramount importance. In no case may an official deny a request by a principal or his/her designee to delay, suspend or postpone an outdoor contest due to inclement weather or imply that the contest will be forfeited as a result of such a request.

32.3 Suspended Contests. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption, unless National Federation Rules, FHSAA Bylaws and/or Policies determine that the contest is a completed contest based on where the contest is at the point of interruption.

POLICY 33

SIDELINE CHEERLEADING

As per s.1006.18, Florida Statutes, the "Spirit Rules," published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, shall be the statewide uniform safety standards for sideline cheerleading.

33.1 General Regulations

33.1.1 Cheerleaders are prohibited from building pyramids higher than two tiers during any routine in practice or during a performance in conjunction with an interscholastic contest. Host school principals are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation during regular season contests. Tournament/Meet managers and directors will be responsible for the enforcement of the regulation during Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

33.1.2 Prior to a student's participation in cheerleading tryouts, practice or performance, the student must secure a physician's certificate to the effect that the student is physically fit for participation.

33.2 Indoor Contests

33.2.1 Cheerleaders must remain in their seats along the sidelines at all times when the ball is alive or a match is in progress.

33.2.2 Officials are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation. First offense – warning; Second and subsequent offense – technical foul in basketball; awarding of point against violating school in volleyball and wrestling.

33.3 Florida High School State Championship Series. Sideline cheerleading squads will be permitted to cheer at Florida High School State Championship Series contests provided the cheerleading squads cheered at regular season contests for that sport.

POLICY 34

PHOTOGRAPHING, FILMING AND VIDEOTAPING ATHLETIC CONTESTS

34.1 Regular Season Contests

34.1.1 Representatives of a school's athletic interest, as defined in Bylaw 1.4.18, of a visiting school may not photograph, film or videotape their team's or contestants' performance in a contest without first obtaining permission from the host school principal or his/her designee. Photographers, videographers and their equipment must be positioned so that they do not block the view of any spectator.

34.1.2 No representative of a school's athletic interest of a school that is not participating in a contest may photograph, film or videotape all or any part of the contest unless permission to do so is granted by the principal or his/her designee of each school that is participating in the contest.

34.1.3 It is recommended that schools videotape injury situations, postgame handshakes and any unsportsmanlike incidents that may occur during any athletic contest.

34.2 Florida High School State Championship Series Contests

34.2.1 Florida High School State Championship Series contests are the sole property of the FHSAA and may not be reproduced and marketed or otherwise distributed or publicly displayed in any manner without the express written permission of the FHSAA. The FHSAA retains all rights to the television broadcast or cablecast, radio broadcast, internet broadcast (audio and/or video), videotaping, filming and photographing of all Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

34.2.2 The FHSAA, subject to the policies of the host facility, allows still cameras and video cameras to be used at Florida High School State Championship Series contests so that participants and spectators may record the event for their own personal use – not for the purposes of commercial resale or public redistribution in any form. Only those duly authorized organizations or individuals who have been granted appropriate rights by contract or by issued credential shall be permitted to sell or publicly display or otherwise redistribute images and sounds of Florida High School State Championship Series contests and then only in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the FHSAA.

34.2.3 Each participating school shall be permitted to photograph, film or videotape, for archival, coaching or instructional purposes, only those Florida High School State Championship Series contests in which its team or contestants perform when arrangements are made with the contest management. Photographers, videographers and their equipment must be positioned so that they do not block the view of any spectator.

34.2.4 There may be additional guidelines or restrictions for Florida High School State Championship Series events. Consult the appropriate section(s) in Administrative Procedures or the state finals information packet, when available, for additional guidelines or restrictions concerning photographing, filming and videotaping at a Florida High School State Championship Series event in that sport.

34.3 Use of Drones. The use of drones is prohibited on the premises of any FHSAA State Championship Series event.

34.4 Penalty

34.4.1 A school that violates this policy shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and will be subject to reprimand and the assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $100 and/or other sanctions by the FHSAA.

34.4.2 An organization or individual who violates this policy, and in so doing infringes upon the rights of the FHSAA, as stated hereinabove, shall be subject to one (1) or more of the following actions: remedies under breach of contract; revocation of credentials; expulsion from the site of competition; and legal action under applicable state and federal laws.

ATHLETIC RECRUITING

36.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

36.1.1 Athletic Recruiting Forbidden. Athletic recruiting is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics. Athletic recruiting is unethical and unsporting conduct, and is forbidden by FHSAA Bylaws (FHSAA Bylaw 6.3).

36.1.2 Scope of School's Responsibility. A school's responsibility for the conduct of its interscholastic athletic program includes responsibility for:

36.1.2.1 The acts of any employee or athletic department staff member;

36.1.2.2 The acts of third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, that is a representative of the school's athletic interests when a member of the school's administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business or organization is promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program; and

36.1.2.3 The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting at the request, direction, or otherwise on behalf of any employee or representative of the school's athletic interests.

36.1.2.4 The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting on behalf of any student athlete.

36.1.3 Compliance Programs. Schools are expected to educate all employees, athletic department staff members and representatives of the school's athletic interests about acts that are prohibited by this policy. Schools must immediately report to the FHSAA Office impermissible acts when they are discovered to have occurred.

36.1.4 Academic Recruitment Permissible. A school may conduct an academic recruitment program that is designed to attract students to the school based upon its total educational and extracurricular (athletic and activities) program. A school must not use an academic recruitment program as a disguise for athletic recruiting.

36.1.5 Financial Assistance Permissible. Private schools, as well as developmental research schools operated by state universities, may administer school-based financial assistance programs for students who attend those schools. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic interest, potential or performance. Financial assistance based even partially on a student's athletic interest, potential or performance is not permitted.

36.1.6 Impermissible Benefit. Student-athletes must not receive impermissible benefits, which are benefits that are not given or generally not given to all other students in the school.

36.2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

36.2.1 Athletic Recruiting. "Athletic recruiting" is any effort by a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school's athletic interests to pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

36.2.1.1 Representative of a School's Athletic Interests. "Representative of a school's athletic interests" refers to any independent person, business or organization that participates in, assists with and/or promotes that school's interscholastic athletic program. This includes:

(a) A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;

(b) The parents, guardians or other family members of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;

(c) Immediate relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school;

(d) A volunteer with that school's athletic program;

(e) A member of an athletic booster organization of that school;

(f) A person, business or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or that is otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program.

36.2.2 Improper Contact. "Improper contact" is contact, either directly or indirectly, whether in person or through written or electronic communication, by a school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, with a student or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. See Policy 37.

36.2.3 Impermissible Benefit. An "impermissible benefit" is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not offered or generally made available to all students and/or their families who apply to or attend a school, or that otherwise is prohibited by FHSAA rules. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete or his/her family is not a violation of FHSAA rules if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the school's students or family members and is not based in any way on athletic interest, potential or performance. See Policy 37.

36.2.4 Financial Assistance. "Financial assistance" is funds from various sources that are administered and provided by a school to students to pay or assist in paying costs directly related to their education at the school. See Policy 38.

36.4 COMPLIANCE

36.4.1 Certification of Compliance. Each member school each year must submit to the FHSAA Office, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, certifying that the principal, the athletic director and the president of each athletic booster organization of the school have reviewed the "FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting," and that he/she will comply with all provisions of the policy, and will review the provisions of the policy with school employees, athletic department staff members and representatives of the school's athletic interests. All coaches, paid or otherwise, shall, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, certify that he/she has reviewed the "FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting," will comply with all provisions of the policy and will review the provisions of the policy with his/her coaching staff and players electronically in a process facilitated by the FHSAA. Failure to comply will subject the school to minimum monetary penalty of $100 and/or other sanctions.

36.4.2 Affidavit of Compliance. A student who for any reason changes schools after previously attending a different school or who is a non-traditional student (reference Bylaw 1.4.31), as well as the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s), duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must sign in the presence of a notary public an "Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting and Non-Traditional Student Participation". The affidavit will be necessary regardless of whether the student changes schools during the school year or during the summer period between school years. The affidavit will be accompanied by an explanation of the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting, including the penalties for violating the policy, as well as the consequences of making a false statement on the affidavit. The student will not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at his/her new school until the school submits the affidavit, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director (GA4 Form – Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting and Non-Traditional Student Participation). Failure to comply will subject the school to minimum monetary penalty of $100 and/or other sanctions.

36.5 PENALTIES

36.5.1 Mandatory Forfeiture. A school that is found to have an athletically recruited student-athlete will forfeit all contests and awards won in team sports and all points earned and resulting awards won in individual sports in which the student-athlete participated. Mandatory forfeiture also will be required when it is determined that a student who received an impermissible benefit was allowed to participate.

36.5.2 Eligibility Effect of Violation. A student who is found to have accepted an impermissible benefit will be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition for one or more years at the school to which the student accepted the impermissible benefit, and may be declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at all member schools for one or more years.

36.5.3 Disciplinary Measures. In addition to the mandatory forfeiture of contests and awards, any one or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:

36.5.3.1 Public reprimand;

36.5.3.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of $2,500 and/or other sanctions;

36.5.3.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;

36.5.3.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including Florida High School State Championship Series competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;

36.5.3.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;

36.5.3.6 Participation in interscholastic competition at a higher classification for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;

36.5.3.7 Restricted membership for one or more years during which time some or all of the school's membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and

36.5.3.8 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.

36.5.4 Penalties to School Employees or Contractors. Any recruitment by a school employee or contractor in violation of FHSAA bylaws results in escalating punishments as follows (§ 1006.20(2)(b)2, F.S.):

36.5.4.1 for a first offense, a $5,000 forfeiture of pay for the school employee or contractor who committed the violation.

36.5.4.2 for a second offense, suspension without pay for 12 months from coaching, directing, or advertising an extracurricular activity and a $5,000 forfeiture of pay for the school employee or contractor who committed the violation.

36.5.4.3 for a third offense, a $5,000 forfeiture of pay for the school employee or contractor who committed the violation. If the individual who committed the violation holds an educator certificate, the FHSAA shall also refer the violation to the department for review pursuant to § 1012.796, F.S. to determine whether probable cause exists, and, if there is a finding of probable cause, the commissioner shall file a formal complaint against the individual. If the complaint is upheld, the individual's educator certificate shall be revoked for 3 years, in addition to any penalties available under § 1012.796, F.S.. Additionally, the department shall revoke any adjunct teaching certificates issued pursuant to § 1012.57, F.S. and all permissions under § 1012.39, F.S. and § 1012.43, F.S., and the educator is ineligible for such certificates or permissions for a period of time equal to the period of revocation of his or her state-issued certificate.

36.5.5 Penalties to Coaches (Paid or Volunteer). A coach, paid or volunteer, who violates the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting will be ineligible to coach or attend an interscholastic contest, at any level, for one or more sports for a minimum of six (6) weeks.

POLICY 37

IMPROPER CONTACT AND IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFITS

37.1 IMPROPER CONTACT

37.1.1 General Regulation. No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may make contact, either in person or through any form of written or electronic communication or through any third party, with a student, or any member of the student's family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2 Specific Prohibitions. Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, representatives of the school's athletic interests or third parties with a student includes, but is not limited to, the following:

37.1.2.1 Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic communication to the student or any member of his/her family, in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.2 Visiting or entertaining the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.3 Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively a school's athletic program or implies a school's athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student's athletic career would be better served by attending a different school.

37.1.2.4 Answering an inquiry by the student or any member of his/her family about athletic participation opportunities at a school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend a different school. The student or family member instead should be immediately referred to the school employee responsible for registrations or admissions.

37.1.2.5 Providing transportation to the student or any member of his/her family to visit a school, to take an entrance examination for a school, to participate in an athletic tryout at a school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member, other representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, as part of an effort to pressure, urge or facilitate the student's attendance at a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.6 Attending an elementary school, a junior high school, a middle school or a non-school athletic contest to identify prospective student-athletes who might be recruited to attend a school.

37.1.2.7 Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee, other representative of the school's athletic interests or any other person, such as an alumnus of a school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.), a coach of or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, a scout for a professional team or other third parties, to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.8 Making or arranging any other contact with the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.3 Contact Initiated by Prospective Student. When a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school's athletic interests is contacted by a student who does not attend that school and/or any other member of his/her family, about the school's interscholastic athletic program or attending the school, the school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the school's athletic interests must immediately refer the student and/or his/her family member to the appropriate school personnel who have the responsibility of registering and admitting prospective students. Only during the summer period, as defined in Policy 20, and once the student has registered, been accepted and no longer attends the previous school may the student have contact with athletic department staff members or representatives of a school's athletic interests.

37.1.4 Casual Contact with Students in Normal Community Settings. It is not considered a violation of this policy for an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of a high school to have casual contact with a student who does not attend that school or any member of the student's family in a normal community setting. At no time during such contact, however, may the employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of the high school pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a high school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.2 IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFIT

37.2.1 General Regulation. No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may be involved, directly or indirectly, in giving an impermissible benefit to any student or any member of his/her family for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics, or to any student-athlete who already attends a school.

37.2.2 Specific Prohibitions. Specifically prohibited arrangements, assistance or benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

37.2.2.1 School-based financial assistance of any kind that exceeds the amount for which a student has been approved by an independent financial needs assessment company that is recognized by the FHSAA or otherwise is in excess of any supplemental assistance provided by a school to each and every student who qualifies for financial assistance.

37.2.2.2 Cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates, coupons or vouchers.

37.2.2.3 Gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.

37.2.2.4 Loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind.

37.2.2.5 Payment for any work or service that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount normally paid for such work or service.

37.2.2.6 Free or reduced-cost transportation.

37.2.2.7 Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school's athletic interests, unless legal guardianship appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has been obtained.

37.2.2.8 Free or reduced-cost rent for housing, vehicles or other items.

37.2.2.9 Full or partial payment of moving expenses or assistance of any kind with an actual physical move.

37.2.2.10 Employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid.

37.2.2.11 Free or reduced costs to attend a sport or skills camp.

37.2.2.12 Any other form of arrangement, assistance, discount or benefit that is not generally available to other students in the school or their families or that is based in any way on athletic ability.

POLICY 38

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

38.1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

38.1.1 School-Administered Financial Assistance. Financial assistance provided by a school must be administered by the school; meaning that the school, through an established process that conforms to this policy, makes the final determination of the student who is to receive the assistance and the amount of assistance to be given. No student-athlete may accept financial assistance from any other person, business or organization unless it is received from one upon whom the student-athlete is naturally or legally dependent or is received through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida.

38.1.1.1 Criteria for Providing Financial Assistance. School-based financial assistance must be based entirely on financial need as determined by an independent financial needs assessment company that is approved by the FHSAA. A school may supplement the amount of financial assistance for which a student is determined to qualify provided the same form of supplemental assistance is provided to each and every student who qualifies for any amount of financial assistance. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student's athletic interest, potential or performance. Financial assistance based even partially on a student's athletic interest, potential or performance is not permitted.

38.1.1.2 Assistance with Room or Meals. School-based financial assistance for costs associated with room or meals, other than those meals made available during the school day to all students, may be provided only to students who board at FHSAA-recognized boarding schools, and then only if such financial assistance is based on financial need.

38.1.1.3 Work-Study Programs. A work-study program in which students receive financial assistance from a school in exchange for labor performed by the student for the school may be operated as follows:

(a) The school must limit participation in the work-study program to those students who have been independently determined to have a need for financial assistance.

(b) The school must submit to the FHSAA Office each school year a complete description of the work-study program and the process for determining the students who are chosen for participation.

(c) The school must maintain detailed records regarding each student who participates in the work-study program. These records must include a description of the job(s) performed by the student, a documentation of the hours worked by the student, and the amount of financial assistance given the student in exchange for his/her labor.

(d) A student-athlete must not receive financial assistance through a work-study program during the season of the sport(s) in which the student-athlete participates.

(e) Athletic department staff members and other representatives of the school's athletic interests cannot supervise student-athletes in work-study programs.

38.1.1.4 Approved Financial Needs Assessment Companies. The FHSAA approved independent financial needs assessment companies are as follows:

(a)	FACTS Management	www.factsmgt.com
(b)	FAST	www.ismfast.com
(c)	Financial Aid Independent Review	www.fairtuition.com
(d)	Private School Aid Service	www.psas.org
(e)	Smart Tuition	www.smarttuition.com
(f)	SSS (School & Student Services)	www.sssbynais.org
(g)	TADS	www.tads.com

38.1.1.5 Records Relating to Financial Assistance. The school must keep detailed records of school-based financial assistance provided to each student. This includes the report of the student's financial need as determined by the independent assessment company as well as the actual amount of financial assistance provided to the student by the school, and how that actual amount was determined. The school must make all records available to the Executive Director or his/her designee for inspection upon request.

38.1.1.6 Persons Who May Discuss Financial Assistance Opportunities. The only persons who may discuss financial assistance opportunities with a prospective student or any member of his/her family are those school employees who administer the school's registration, admission and financial assistance programs. No other school employee, any athletic department staff member or representative of the school's athletic interests may suggest to or promise a prospective student or any member of his/her family that any part of the student's costs of attending the school may be reduced, waived or paid for, or that financial assistance may be granted for any reason, including financial need.

38.1.1.7 Involvement of Athletic Personnel in Administration of Assistance Program. Athletic department staff members, other than those persons who have as their major responsibility an official leadership role in the academic leadership or admission programs of the school, are prohibited from sitting on the school's financial assistance committee or otherwise playing any role in the process of deciding which students receive financial assistance or the types or amount of assistance they will be given.

38.1.2 Financial Assistance Not Administered by School. Students may apply for and receive financial assistance through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida. These programs are:

38.1.2.1 The Opportunity Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a student in a failing public school may request and receive an Opportunity Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

38.1.2.2 The McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, through which the parent of a public school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student's progress may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

38.1.2.3 The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a public school student who qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch may seek a scholarship to attend an eligible private school from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

38.1.3 Contributions by Donor. Funds that are donated to schools by persons, businesses and organizations may be given as financial assistance to students provided the decision as to how the funds are allocated rests exclusively with the school. It is not permissible for a donor to contribute funds to provide financial assistance for a particular student-athlete.

38.2 PENALTIES

38.2.1 Disciplinary Measures. Any one or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:

38.2.1.1 Public reprimand;

38.2.1.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of $2,500 and/or other sanctions;

38.2.1.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;

38.2.1.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including Florida High School State Championship Series competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;

38.2.1.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;

38.2.1.6 Restricted membership for one or more years during which time some or all of the school's membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and

38.2.1.7 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.

POLICY 40

CONCUSSIONS

To help ensure the health and safety of student athletes, the following policy provides guidelines and procedures on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion.

40.1 Education on Management of Concussions

40.1.1 Requirement for Coaches and Student Athletes. All FHSAA member school head coaches, paid/supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the most current FREE online education course. This NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.1.1.1 Coaches in all sports are strongly recommended to teach proper techniques to avoid concussion injuries.

40.1.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, parents and media are encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the most current FREE online education concussion course. This free NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.1.3 Additional Information. Current and up-to-date information on concussion can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at:

- http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html; and
- http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/highschool.html.

40.2 Concussions. A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Concussions can also result from a fall or from collisions between with one or more individuals or with obstacles. As brain injury, concussions are serious.

40.2.1 Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion including, but not limited to, loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

40.2.2 When you suspect that a player has a concussion, follow the "Heads Up" 4-step Action Plan:

- Remove the athlete from play.
- Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.
- Inform the athlete's parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them information on concussion.
- Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until an appropriate health-care professional says he or she is symptom-free and gives the okay to return to activity.

The signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion are not always apparent immediately after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and may develop over a few hours. An athlete should be observed following a suspected concussion and should never be left alone until the student-athlete is under the care of a parent/guardian or is evaluated by an appropriate health care provider.

40.3 Appropriate Health-Care Professional (AHCP). An appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) is an individual who is trained in the diagnosis, evaluation and management of concussions. Such individuals will be a licensed physician (MD, as per § 458, F.S.) or a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per § 459, F.S.). Consistent with the American Academy of Neurology and other organizations, it is strongly recommended that an AHCP as defined in Policy 40.2 above or an athletic trainer (ATC, as per § 468, F.S.) is present at all sporting events, including practices, where athletes are at risk for concussion or for those classified as a collision sport, whenever possible.

40.4 Mechanics for Removal from Athletic Contest. The FHSAA concussion rule calls for the immediate removal of the participant from the contest or practice. Players, coaches and contest officials should be cognizant of athletes who display signs, symptoms or behaviors of a concussion and immediately stop play for injury evaluation within the rules of the game (the responsibility of the contest official is limited to activities that occur on the field, court, mat, etc.).

40.4.1 Symptoms Reported by the Athlete

- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

40.4.2 Signs Observed by Other Individuals

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about what to do
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Numbness in the arms or legs
- Pupils becoming unequal in size
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can't recall events prior to hit
- Can't recall events after hit
- Repeated vomiting
- Seizures
- Slurred speech or inability to speak

40.4.3 Removal. Once the participant has been removed from a contest due to a suspected concussion, the coach, school and AHCP(s) assumes full responsibility for that athlete's further evaluation and safety. If available, a certified athletic trainer (ATC) under the direct supervision of a MD/DO can assist with the sideline evaluation of a student-athlete when a student-athlete is sent out of a competition or practice, but cannot provide written clearance to return to play (refer to above). If after sideline evaluation, it is determined the athlete does not demonstrate symptoms consistent with a concussion the ATC will follow procedures within a written operational protocol created and signed by a supervising physician to determine return to play. In this situation, the athlete should continue to be monitored for any delayed onset of concussion symptoms and must be removed from activity immediately if signs or symptoms return.

40.5 Return to Play (RTP) Criteria – Recommended Concussion Management

40.5.1 No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a suspected concussion. "When in doubt, sit them out!"

40.5.2 Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an ACHP (as defined above) as soon as possible and practical.

40.5.3 Any athlete who has sustained a concussion must be medically cleared by an AHCP (as defined above) prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.

40.5.4 After evaluation and examination by an AHCP (as defined above), return to play must follow a step-wise protocol as defined by the "Graded Return to Play Protocol" form and under the supervision of an AHCP, athletic trainer, coach or other health care professional (Post Head Injury/Concussion Form).

40.5.5 A written medical clearance from an AHCP (as defined above) is required for return to competition (Post Head Injury/ Concussion – RTP Form, AT18).

40.6 Concussion Release Form. Each student-athlete and their parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit a release form provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate).

40.7 Sanctions on Coaches

40.7.1 Level 1 Suspension. A head coach who commits a violation of any condition listed in Policy 40 will be ineligible to coach or attend the next contest, at any level, for a minimum of the next two (2) contests during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) football game; or

40.7.2 Level 2 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 1 Suspension due to a violation of any condition listed in Policy 40, or commits multiple violations in Policy 40 will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

40.7.3 Level 3 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 2 Suspension for violating any condition of Policy 40 or commits an egregious violation of Policy 40, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

POLICY 41

EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS

Heat illness is a cause for concern for high school student-athletes beginning pre-season practices in the warm, summer months and other times of extreme heat. The most serious heat illness, exertional heat stroke, is one of the leading causes of preventable death in these athletes. Heat production during intense exercise is 15 to 20 times greater than at rest and can raise body core temperature one to two degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes unless heat is dissipated. The following policy provides guidelines and procedures for conducting preseason practices and activities to insure the well-being of student-athletes.

41.1 Education of Management of Heat Illness

41.1.1 Requirement for Coaches and Student Athletes. All FHSAA member school head coaches, and paid/ supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the FREE NFHS online education course "Heat Illness Prevention". This free NFHS heat illness course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

41.1.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, student-athletes, parents and media are strongly encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE NFHS online education course "Heat Illness Prevention". This free NFHS heat illness course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

41.2 Intent. The intent of this policy is to require FHSAA member schools to follow a preseason acclimatization and recovery model for all sports that enhances student-athlete well-being. The policy also requires individual schools, or districts, to select and promote a method of environmental monitoring to be used outside the acclimatization period and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete.

41.2.1 These policies provide general regulations for conducting preseason practices for secondary school-age student athletes and to provide recommendations for voluntary conditioning workouts.

41.2.2 These policies should be applied before and during the academic year to ensure the athletes arrive with and maintain adequate sport-specific conditioning.

41.2.3 Application of these regulations should not be based solely on the information contained here within; but, should represent the minimal safety precautions promoted through the FHSAA. Coaches and Schools are encouraged to review published recommendations through the NFHS or the National Athletic Trainers Association to further protect student-athletes from the harmful effects of the heat.

41.2.4 Individuals using these guidelines are responsible for prudent judgment with respect to each practice, athlete and facility and each athlete is responsible for exercising caution when following these general requirements.

41.3 Rationale. The recommendation of the National Federation of High School Association's (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) and the National Athletic Trainers' Association's (NATA) Secondary School Committee, that all sports use acclimatization and recovery principles to develop their preseason practice schedules for the purpose of enhancing the student athlete well-being, is based on the following: The primary focus of the preseason period should be to provide an adjustment period to the intensity and duration of exercise and environmental conditions. These procedures are based upon medical literature. Careful consideration should be given to the various levels of fitness in the high school student-athlete.

41.4 Definitions.

41.4.1 Voluntary Conditioning. Voluntary conditioning is defined as any conditioning (i.e. running, weight lifting, warm-up, stretching, or cool-down) that occurs outside the season as defined in Policies 20 and 21.

41.4.2 Official Practice. An official practice is defined as one continuous period of time in which a participant engages in physical activity. It is required that each practice be no more than three hours (3 hours) in length and consist of no more than 90 minutes of intense exercise. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are to be included as part of the official practice time. All conditioning and/ or weight room activities shall be considered part of the official practice beginning on the first calendar day of official sport season.

41.4.3 Acclimatization Period. The acclimatization period is defined as the first 14 calendar days of a student-athletes' participation, beginning with the first allowable date of practice in that sport or the first day an athlete begins official practice, whichever is later. All student-athletes, including those who arrive to preseason practice after the first official day of practice, must adhere to the safety precautions afforded by this acclimatization policy. This period does not restrict an athletes' availability to participate in a contest but does restrict the amount of total hours an athlete can participate on a daily and weekly basis.

41.4.4 Walk-Through. A walk-through shall be defined as an additional teaching/learning opportunity for student-athletes and coaches with no protective equipment (i.e. helmets, shoulder pads, shin guards) or equipment related to a given sport (i.e. footballs, blocking sleds, pitching machine, soccer balls, etc.). The duration of any walk-through must not exceed one hour in length. A walk-through shall not include conditioning or weight room activities.

41.4.5 Recovery Period. A recovery period is defined as the time between the end of one practice or walk-through and the beginning of the next practice or walk-through. Physical activity is restricted during this time period (i.e. speed , strength, conditioning, or agility drills). Walk-throughs are prohibited during this recovery period.

41.5 Procedures

41.5.1 Prior to participation in any preseason practice activities, all student-athletes are required to undergo a Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (see Bylaw 9.7, Form EL 2) administered as required by state law.

41.5.2 The student and parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit release forms provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate).

41.5.3 During the first seven days of an athlete's participation, it is required that participants not engage in more than one practice per day.

41.5.4 If a practice session is interrupted by inclement weather or heat restrictions, it is required the session be divided for the good of the student-athlete's welfare as long as the combined total practice time for that session does not exceed three (3) hours. The addition of a walk-through session in this situation is acceptable provided it is added because of a weather related disruption, and occurs inside an air-conditioned facility.

41.5.5 Competition is counted as three (3) hours. An official practice is not permitted on the same day of a competition.

41.5.6 A walk-through is permitted during Days 1 – 6 of the acclimatization period. However, a one-hour recovery period is required between the end of practice and the start of the walk-through or vice-versa.

41.5.7 Football only (including spring): Due to the protective equipment required in football, these additional procedures apply: the first two (2) days of practice are restricted to helmets only, days 3-5 can introduce shoulder-pads with shorts and then beginning day six (6) of practice, full gear can be utilized and body-to-body contact is permitted. Student-athletes who begin practice with a team after the start of official practice will be required to follow this same 6 day procedure. During the initial five (5) days, the use of arm shields, tackling and blocking dummies, sleds and other devices can be used for instructional purposes, however, deliberate body-to-body contact is prohibited.

41.5.8 For football athletes, the first availability for a contest would be after completion of the 6 practice sessions as listed above in 41.5.6.

41.5.9 Beginning Day 8, it is required that the practice schedule not exceed a 2-1-2-1 format. This means that a day consisting of two practices should be followed by a day with only one practice. On a day consisting of two practices, the two practices must be separated by at least three (3) hours of continuous rest. One walk-through session may be added to a day with a single practice session, with a minimum of three (3) hours of continuous rest time between the practice and walk-through. If a two practice day were followed by a day off, a two-practice day would be permitted on the next day.

41.5.10 On days when two practices are conducted, it is required that either practice not exceed three (3) hours in length and student-athletes not participate in more than five (5) total hours of practice activities on these days, Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are included as part of the official practice time. Practices must be separated with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between the end of the first practice and the beginning of the very next practice. A walk-though is not permitted on days that have two (2) official practices. Weekly practice time shall not exceed twenty-four (24) hours for days 8-14.

41.5.11 On days when a single practice is conducted, it is required that practices not exceed three hours (3 hours) in length. A walk-through is permitted after a minimum one-hour recovery period between the end of the first practice and the walk-through, or vice-versa.

41.5.12 It is recommended that any voluntary conditioning session is limited to three (3) hours maximum per session and these sessions should include the safeguards listed within 41.6 below.

41.5.13 Cross Country: Individuals must participate in a minimum of 10 practice sessions on 10 separate days prior to the first contest.

41.6 Hydration and Rest. Once the 14 day acclimatization period expires or within ANY voluntary conditioning session, each individual school, or district, must select and promote a method of monitoring the environment for heat related concerns and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete, including, but not limited to, the following:

41.6.1 Rest time must involve both unlimited hydration intake and rest without any activity involved.

41.6.2 For sports utilizing helmets (i.e. football, lacrosse, baseball, softball and others) helmets should be removed during rest time.

41.6.3 The area identified for rest should be considered a "cooling zone" and out of direct sunlight.

41.6.3.1 It is strongly recommended that cooling zone areas include ice sponges/towels, cold immersion tubs, tarps that can be filled with ice and wrapped around individuals and other cooling alternatives to facilitate the cooling process.

41.6.4 Coaches must promote a heat injury prevention philosophy by promoting unrestricted access to water at all times without consequence.

41.6.5 A student-athlete should never be denied access to water if he/she requests.

41.7 It is strongly recommended that all member schools use methods of monitoring the environment using devices like a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature device.

41.8 Sanctions on Coaches

41.8.1 Level 1 Suspension. A head coach who commits a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any contest, at any level, for a minimum of the next two (2) contests during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) football game; or

41.8.2 Level 2 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 1 Suspension due to a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41, or commits multiple violations in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

41.8.3 Level 3 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 2 Suspension for violating any condition of Policy 41 or commits an egregious violation of Policy 41, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

POLICY 42

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of sports-related death. This policy provides procedures for educational requirements of all paid coaches and recommends added training.

42.1 Education of Management of Sudden Cardiac Arrest

42.1.1 Requirement for Coaches and Student Athletes. All FHSAA member school head coaches and paid/supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the FREE NFHS online education course "Sudden Cardiac Arrest". This free NFHS cardiac arrest course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

42.1.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, parents and media are strongly encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE NFHS online education course "Sudden Cardiac Arrest". This free NFHS cardiac arrest course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

42.2 Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA can cause death if it's not treated within minutes.

42.2.1 Symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest include:

42.2.1.1 Sudden Collapse

42.2.1.2 No Pulse

42.2.1.3 No breathing

42.2.2 Warning Signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest include

42.2.2.1 Fainting during exercise or activity

42.2.2.2 Shortness of breath

42.2.2.3 Racing heart rate

42.2.2.4 Dizziness

42.2.2.5 Chest pains

42.2.2.6 Extreme fatigue

42.2.3 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It is strongly recommended all coaches, whether paid or volunteer, are regularly trained in CPR and the use of an AED. Training is encouraged through agencies that provide hands-on training and offer certificates that include an expiration date. Member schools are strongly encouraged to have at least one individual present at athletic events that has current CPR/AED training.

42.2.3.1 Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are required at all FHSAA State Series games, tournaments and meets. The FHSAA also strongly recommends that they be available at all preseason and regular season events as well along with coaches/individuals trained in CPR.

42.2.3.2 It is recommended the location of AEDs be well marked, publicized and known among trained staff and AEDs should be maintained regularly as recommended by the manufacturer.

42.2.4 What to do if your student-athlete collapses

42.2.4.1 Call 911

42.2.4.2 Send for an AED

42.2.4.3 Begin compressions

42.2.4.4 Use AED when it becomes accessible

42.2.5 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Release Form. The student and parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit the release form provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate).

Guidelines on Handling Practices and Contests During Lightning or Thunder Distrurbances

These guidelines provide a default policy to those responsible or sharing duties for making decisions concerning the suspension and restarting of practices and contests based on the presence of lightning or thunder. The preferred sources from which to request such a policy for your facility would include your state high school activities association and the nearest office of the National Weather Service.

Proactive Planning

(1) Assign staff to monitor local weather conditions before and during practices and contests.

(2) Develop an evacuation plan, including identification of appropriate nearby safer areas and determine the amount of time needed to get everyone to a designated safer area:

   (a) A designated safer place is a substantial building with plumbling and wiring where people live or work, such as a school, gymnasium or library. An alternate safer place from the threat of lightning is a fully enclosed (not convertible or soft top) metal car or school bus.

(3) Develop criteria for suspension and resumption of play:

   (a) When thunder is heard or lightning seen*, the leading edge of the thunderstorm is close enough to strike your location with lightning. Suspend play for at least 30 minutes and vacate the outdoor activity to the previously designated safer location immediately.

   (b) 30-minute rule. Once play has been suspended, wait at least 30 minutes after the last thinder is heard or lightning is witnessed* prior to resuming play.

   (c) Any subsequent thunder or lightning* after the beginning of the 30-minute count will reset the clock and another 30-minute count should begin.

   (d) When lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location. However, you should never depend on the reliability of these devices and, thus, hearing thunder or seeing lightning* should always take precedence over information from a mobile app or lightning-detection device.

   *At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.

(4) Review the lightning safety policy annually with all administrators, coaches and game personnel and train all personnel.

(5) Inform student-athletes and their parents of the lightning policy at start of the season.