

100. State Series

Terms & Conditions

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In accordance with Article 9.8.0 of the FHSAA Bylaws, the following Terms and Conditions governing the 2009 FHSAA State Flag Football Series have been approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors.

[The FHSAA utilizes a standardized calendar in which the weeks of the year are numbered. This ensures consistent dates from year to year. Week 1 begins with the first Sunday in July. Thanksgiving always falls in Week 21.]

[The forms referenced in these terms & conditions are provided on the FHSAA web site (www.fhsaa.org) as downloadable PDF and/or Word documents.]

101. Important Dates

Sunday, February 22 (Week 34)-Wednesday, March 4 (Week 35) – Online rules presentation for coaches available in E-Classroom on FHSAA.org.

Monday, February 23 (Week 34) – First practice date.

Monday, March 16 (Week 37) – First regular season competition date.

Saturday, April 18 (Week 41) – Last date for district game.

Monday, April 20 (Week 42) – Final district win-loss records must be reported to the district host not later than 10 a.m. EDT; 2009 FHSAA State Flag Football Series Official Entry List(s) must be submitted to district tournament manager.

Saturday, April 25 (Week 42) – Last date for regular season game.

Monday, April 27-Wednesday, April 29 (Week 43) – District Tournaments.

Wednesday, April 29 (Week 43) – District Tournament semifinalists must submit electronically to FHSAA Office the “2009 FHSAA Flag Football Finals Team Data Form for Official Souvenir Program and Press Booklet” (Form FF4) and a team photo.

Saturday, May 2 (Week 43) – FHSAA Flag Football Finals first-round play-in games.

Tuesday, May 5 (Week 44) – FHSAA Flag Football Finals second-round play-in games.

Wednesday, May 6 (Week 44) – FHSAA Finals quarterfinalists must submit to FHSAA Office the “2009 FHSAA Flag Football Finals Up-to-Date Statistics Form”(Form FF5).

Friday and Saturday, May 8-9 (Week 44) – FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament at Boca Raton High School in Boca Raton.

102. Eligibility of Student-Athletes, Teams

102.01 Teams.

(1) Participation in the state series is voluntary and open to any full member senior high school varsity team provided:

(a) The school successfully sponsored a varsity flag football program in the previous school year (i.e., scheduled and completed a minimum of four varsity-level contests);

(b) The school’s varsity team competes in a minimum of four (4) regular season varsity contests during the current season;

(c) The school notifies the FHSAA Office of its entry into the state series by the specified deadline;

(d) The school pays the entry fee(s) established by the Board of Directors;

(e) A school must play not less than 60 percent of its regular season contests in the sport against FHSAA member schools; and

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

(2) A school shall enter only one (1) girls team.

(3) A first-time member senior high school shall not be eligible to enter a team into the FHSAA State Series in any sport in its two years of provisional membership, unless the school is created from the consolidation or division of existing member high schools and remains under the control of the same governing board. A continuing member school that is starting a new program or resuming a previously discontinued program shall not be eligible to enter a team into the state series until the school successfully sponsors a varsity program for a minimum of one school year.

(4) Boys may not participate on a girls team or in the girls division in the FHSAA State Series in any sport. In a team sport, a girl may participate on a boys team in the FHSAA State Series only if the school does not sponsor a girls team in that sport.

102.02 Student-Athletes. Only student-athletes eligible under Bylaw 11 and applicable administrative guidelines, regulations, policies and procedures may compete in interscholastic competition. In accordance with Bylaws 11.12.1 and 11.13.1, schools are required to certify the eligibility of their student-athletes prior to the beginning of competition and to withhold ineligible student-athletes from all interscholastic competition.

A student-athlete shall participate in a minimum of four (4) flag football games on the varsity or sub-varsity levels during the regular season to be eligible to participate in the state series. A student-athlete who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a sports season and who regains his/her eligibility during that sports season, but is unable to participate in the minimum of four (4) varsity interscholastic contests in that sport shall be exempted from this provision.

103. Season and Contest Limitations

103.01 Practice. Practice shall begin not earlier than Monday, Feb. 23, 2009. Practice shall end not later than Saturday, May 9, 2009.

No practice session of any kind shall be held on a Sunday.

103.02 Contests. The first regular season contest shall be played not earlier than Monday, Mar. 16, 2009. The last regular season contest shall be played not later than Saturday, Apr. 25, 2009.

A school shall play no more than 12 regular season games, inclusive of games played in regular season tournaments. Not more than three games or one game and one tournament shall be played in a school week and 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).

No contest of any kind shall be held on a Sunday, except in tournaments under emergency conditions that are approved by the Executive Director.

103.03 Opponents. Member schools shall compete only against schools that also are full or affiliate members of the FHSAA or out-of-state schools that are members of associations that regulate interscholastic competition within their respective states. Such out-of-state schools, however, must have eligibility guidelines comparable to those of the FHSAA and must have an established season of competition

in the sport that is concurrent with that of the FHSAA. Competition with out-of-state schools, in some cases, may require the approval of the NFHS.

103.04 Contracts. The “Contract for Interscholastic Athletic Contest” (Form AT1) is required for all regular season contests.

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

103.05 Student-Athletes.

(1) A student-athlete shall play no more than 12 regular season games, inclusive of games played in regular season tournaments.

A student shall not participate on the varsity, junior varsity or other sub-varsity team in competition on the same day.

(2) The following combination of games in a school week are permissible:

- Three games;
- One game and one tournament, not to exceed four games total; or
- One tournament, not to exceed four games total.

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).

The Executive Director may, upon request of a member school, approve a fourth regular season game to be played during a school week for the purpose of rescheduling a game previously postponed due to emergency reasons.

104. Tournaments

104.01 There is no limit on the number of regular season tournaments in which a team may participate. Each and every game played by a team in a tournament, however, shall count toward the team’s maximum limit of 12 games.

104.02 Regular season tournaments:

- May have a maximum field of 16 teams;
- May have single elimination, double elimination, round robin or pool play formats;
- Must begin and end within the same one week (Monday-Saturday) unless held during a holiday period.

104.03 No member school may participate in a tournament game that begins earlier than 3 p.m. on a school day.

104.04 No junior varsity, junior high or other sub-varsity team may participate in a tournament involving a varsity team. Junior varsity, junior high and other sub-varsity tournaments, if held, must be held as separate events.

104.05 Certain invitational tournaments involving out-of-state schools may require the approval of the NFHS. See Appendix B for NFHS regulations on interstate and international competitions.

104.06 Preseason classics and jamborees are prohibited.

105. Rules of Competition

105.01 Playing Rules. National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) Flag Football Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all regular season games involving teams participating in the state series as well as

FHSAA State Flag Football Series games. The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- **Rule 1-1-3, Supervision:** The game shall be played under the supervision of 2 to 4 officials. It is recommended strongly that 3 officials be used during regular season competition. Four officials shall be used during FHSAA State Flag Football Series contests.

- **Rule 1-4-1, Jersey:** Players of opposing teams must wear contrasting solid-colored jerseys, without pockets, numbered on the front and back. Numbers must be the same color on the front and back of the jersey. The number on the front of the jersey must be a minimum of 6 inches in height and centered. The number on the back of the jersey must be a minimum of 8 inches in height and centered. Numbers must be of solid color contrasting with the color of the shirt. The number may have a contrasting color border, which shall not exceed 1/4 inch. No players on the same team shall wear identical numbers.

- **Rule 1-5-5, Mouth and Tooth Protector:** A mouth piece shall be worn by all players.

- **Rule 1-5-6, Sunglasses:** Players shall not be permitted to wear sunglasses.

- **Rule 9-1-3E, Taunting:** The FHSAA disapproves of any form of taunting that is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstances, including comments or remarks regarding race, religion, gender or national origin.

105.02 Athletic Uniforms. The home team shall wear the darker-colored jersey. The visiting team shall wear the lighter-colored jersey. It is recommended that each participating team bring to the competition site two sets of jerseys (one dark, one light) with identical numbers.

Commercial advertising, with the exception of the manufacturer's logo, is prohibited on all athletic uniforms.

105.03 Suspended Contest. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption.

105.04 Protests. Protests of interscholastic contests shall not be allowed. The decision of the officials shall be 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.

105.05 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). It is strongly recommended that an automated external defibrillator (AED) be present and available for use if needed at the site of every interscholastic athletic contest conducted during the preseason and regular season in which member schools participate.

106. Cheerleader Guidelines

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 management is responsible for the enforcement of this regulation during regular season contests. Local tournament managers are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation during state series contests.

107. Sportsmanship and Unsporting Conduct

107.01 Sportsmanship. Student-athletes, coaches, administrators, spec-

tators 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.

Each participating school shall be held strictly accountable for unsporting conduct on the part of its competitors, coaches and spectators.

If contestants or people from any school are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school or host organization, such school will be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

107.02 Disciplinary action for unsporting conduct.

(1) **Student-Athlete.** Suspended from competition for remainder of contest and all contests on all levels for the following seven days, but not less than the next two regularly scheduled contests (one contest in boys football); if last contest of season, suspension is served in the next sport in which the student-athlete participates; beginning with fourth such ejection in a sport, program in that sport is placed on administrative probation and school is assessed a \$100 fine per occurrence in that sport.

(2) **Coach.** Suspended from competition for remainder of contest and all contests on all levels for the following seven days, but not less than the next two regularly scheduled contests (one contest in boys football); if last contest of season, suspension is served in the next sport in which the individual coaches; school is assessed a minimum fine of \$100 per occurrence. All coaches who have been ejected from a contest must complete the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Fundamentals of Coaching Course. This course is accessible through the E-Classroom icon on FHSAA.org. This must be completed by the end of the suspension. A copy of the coach's certificate of completion must be forwarded to the FHSAA Office.

107.03 Disciplinary action for gross unsporting conduct (Bylaw 11.11.2), or second or subsequent act of general unsporting conduct or flagrant foul.

(1) **Student-Athlete.** Suspended from competition for remainder of contest and all contests on all levels for up to a period of six weeks; if last contest of season, suspension is served in the next sport in which the student-athlete participates; beginning with second such ejection in any sport, school is assessed a \$250 fine per occurrence. Second or subsequent acts of a gross unsporting nature may result in ineligibility for a period of one calendar year and/or the possibility of permanent loss of eligibility for the duration of the student-athlete's high school career.

(2) **Coach.** Suspended from competition for remainder of contest and all contests on levels for up to a period of six weeks; if last contest of season, suspension is served in the next sport in which the individual coaches; school is assessed a minimum fine of \$100 per occurrence. Second or subsequent acts of a gross unsporting nature may result in ineligibility for a period of one calendar year.

107.04 Restrictions on Disqualified Coach.

(1) Must immediately leave the competition area to a place where he/she is not visible to student-athletes, officials, spectators or other coaches and where he/she cannot see the competition itself.

(2) Must not have any further contact with or give instruction to student-athletes

or other members of his/her staff for the remainder of the contest; including halftime intermission; breaks between quarters, periods or innings; and post-contest activities.

(3) Shall not attend any subsequent contest from which he/she has been suspended in any capacity; shall not be present at the site; and shall not accompany his/her team to the site of the contest.

107.05 Enforcement. It is the responsibility of local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. When an ineligible student-athlete is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. When a coach is allowed to coach in a contest from which he/she has been suspended, the school shall face additional penalties. When a coach is disqualified (ejected) from a contest and no other authorized school personnel are present to take charge of the student-athletes, the contest shall be forfeited. Contest officials, or host schools for contests in sports in which there are no registered officials, must report acts of unsporting conduct to the FHSAA Office using Form AT6 or iFHSAA.

107.06 Additional Penalties. In addition to the standard monetary penalty of \$100 for the disqualification (ejection) of a coach, a school may be assessed additional minimum fines for unsporting conduct by the coach or other school personnel as follows:

- Use of profanity or gutter language – \$150.00
- Continuing to give instruction to student-athletes or other members of the coaching staff after having been disqualified from a contest – \$150.00
- Pursuit of officials following a contest – \$150.00
- Refusal to leave the court, playing field or team area following disqualification – \$100.00
- Physical contact with an official – \$250.00
- Removal of a team or individual from an athletic contest prior to its normal conclusion – \$250.00
- Storming the playing field, court or pool before, during or after an athletic contest – \$500.00

107.07 Appeals of Disciplinary Action for Unsporting Conduct. The decision to disqualify (eject) a student-athlete or coach from a contest is a decision of the contest official and, per Bylaw 9.1.2, not subject to review by the Association, but that penalties in excess of the minimums prescribed may be appealed to the Executive Director, and from there through the normal appeals structure, providing that the ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect until modified or reversed.

107.08 Public Criticism of Officials. No coach or other school employee may publicly criticize or berate an official prior to, during or following a contest. Professional ethics require that coaches and other school employees use proper channels to report their complaints about officials rather than airing them publicly. A minimum fine of \$50 shall be assessed a school whose coach or other employees are in violation of this provision.

107.09 Crowd Control.

(1) The home school administration is responsible for the control of spectators during a contest. The presence of uniformed officers is recommended.

(2) The visiting school administration is encouraged to assist with the control of its own spectators. 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. must be provided complimentary admission to the event, provided the visiting school submits

their names to the home school administration by fax in writing on school stationery not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the event.

(3) The officials assigned to officiate a contest are responsible for the conduct of the contest itself. In the event, however, a spectator or group of spectators interferes with the conduct of a contest or causes an official to become distracted through continual, unrelenting verbal abuse, the official should immediately stop the action and report the spectator or group of spectators to the home school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer and ask that they be restrained or removed from the facility. If the home school administration or uniformed security officer is unwilling or unable to comply and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point. Under no circumstance should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during or after a contest.

(4) The officials assigned to officiate a contest and the home school administration are required to file with the FHSAA Office by fax within 24 hours a written report on any contest that is disrupted or terminated due to interference by a spectator(s).

107.10 Banned Substances.

(1) The use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products by student-athletes, coaches and officials is prohibited during any interscholastic athletic contest and in the vicinity of the playing field or court. A student-athlete in violation of this policy is guilty of gross unsporting conduct, will be disqualified from the contest and shall be suspended from subsequent contests in accordance with the provisions of s.107.03(1). 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 shall subject the school to a monetary penalty. Violation of this policy by an official shall subject the official to a monetary penalty or suspension or both. For violations of this policy, a minimum fine of \$100.00 shall be assessed.

(2) The use of anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs by a student-athlete is not permissible and is considered to be an act of gross unsporting conduct. A student-athlete discovered to be using such substances shall be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic contest until such time as medical evidence can be presented that the student's system is free of those substances.

108. Inclement Weather Procedures

108.01 If a severe 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, the officials must immediately honor such request. If the principal or his/her designee of only one of the competing schools is available, his/her request must be honored.

(1) The safety and welfare of all concerned is of paramount importance. In no case shall an official deny a request by a principal 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.

(2) A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption under the

109. Photography, Filming, Videotaping Contests

109.01 Filming and Videotaping. A visiting school may film or videotape its team's or contestants' performance in a contest when permission is secured from and arrangements are made with the host school principal. Videographers and their equipment must be positioned so that they do not block the view of any spectator. No representative of a school that is not participating in a contest may film or videotape all or any part of the contest unless permission to do so is granted by the principal of each school that is participating in the contest. Any school violating these guidelines is guilty of unsporting conduct and shall be subject to reprimand and the assessment of a financial penalty by the FHSAA. It is recommended that opposing teams cooperate in a timely exchange of game films.

110. Entries and Entry Fees

110.01 Entry Procedure.

(1) A member school that elects to participate in the state series in a team sport must have filed with the FHSAA Office a Commitment to Participate form by the specified deadline. This commitment to participate is a binding agreement between the member school and the Association, and obligates the school to participate in accordance with and abide by all guidelines, regulations, policies and procedures for the state series.

(2) A school that does not commit to participate in the state series in a team sport by the specified deadline may be permitted to participate without penalty if its written request for entry (Form AT12) is received before the state series assignments are released. Once the state series assignments are released, the following provisions will apply:

(a) No existing or future member school will be assigned to a district after the district scheduling meeting has been held.

(b) Existing member schools which, at the time of commitment, were eligible for state series assignment and declined to commit, but then request assignment using the appropriate form (Form AT12) effective with a subsequent year of the four-year term will be assessed a \$100 administrative fee.

(3) A school that commits to participate in the state series may be released from its commitment without penalty if written notice of its withdrawal (Form AT13) is received in the FHSAA Office before the state series assignments are released. Once the state series assignments are released, a school may withdraw from a commitment in a team sport only between years 2 and 3 of the four-year term. Withdrawal will result in the assessment of a \$250 fine and disqualification of the school from participation in the state series in that sport for the duration of the term. Withdrawal from a commitment will not relieve a school of any contractual obligations it may have with other member schools.

110.02 Entry Fee. Each school accepting the invitation to participate in the state series by the specified deadline has been assessed a non-refundable \$50 entry fee.

110.03 Official Entry List.

(1) Each participating school must generate in iFHSAA and submit by fax to its

district tournament manager a “2009 FHSAA State Flag Football Series Official Entry List” on which is listed the name of each student-athlete who will represent the school in the state series. The official entry list:

(a) Must be filed by 5 p.m. Monday, Apr. 20, 2009 (late filing fee is \$50, increases to \$100 if not received by district tournament manager by 5 p.m. Friday, Apr. 24, 2009).

(b) There is no limit to the number of names that may be submitted on the list. All student-athletes listed must have been previously reported to the FHSAA Office on an “Annual Eligibility Report” through iFHSAA.

(c) Must be signed by the principal, FHSAA representative and head coach.

(d) Cannot be e-mailed.

(2) A school whose official entry list is not received by the time of its team’s first game in the district tournament may be permitted to participate only with the approval of the FHSAA Office; however, that school shall be assessed a minimum financial penalty of \$250. This penalty will increase if it is later determined that a student-athlete(s) representing the school was ineligible to do so.

(3) Additions or changes to an official entry list must be submitted in writing to the district, regional or state tournament manager using Form AT8. A coach making a change to his/her official entry list must declare that the student affected in the addition/change is otherwise eligible by all FHSAA policies and bylaws; appears on his/her school’s annual eligibility list in the iFHSAA database, and meets all minimum contest requirements as established by the Association. The following provisions will apply:

(a) Additions/changes are permissible at any time during the state series provided the change is made between tournament games. Once a team begins a tournament game it cannot make an addition/change to its official entry list for that game.

(b) An administrative fee of \$50 per addition or change will be assessed if the AT8 form is filed after the district entry list deadline. The fee(s) will appear on the school’s next monthly statement.

(4) The manager for the district tournament, regional tournament game or state tournament shall forward to the FHSAA Office all entry list change forms (AT8) and entry list receipt logs filed by schools participating in the event within 10 business days of the conclusion of the event.

111. State Series Structure and Time Schedule

111.01 School Classification. Competition in flag football will be held for all member schools without classification by enrollment. The state series provides for a field of 96 teams. Competition will be single-elimination games (*see Appendix E for tournament bracket*).

111.02 State Series Levels. The successive state series shall be designated respectively as district and FHSAA Finals. The FHSAA Office will select the FHSAA Finals host site. Gary Pigott, FHSAA administrator for flag football, shall be the State Series Director.

111.03 District Complex. Participating schools are geographically assigned to one of 24 district complexes in their classification (See Appendix D or FHSAA.org). A tournament shall be conducted in each district complex at the conclusion of the regular season to determine the team that shall represent the district

complex in the remainder of the state series.

(1) **District Coordinator.** One school in each district complex has been designated as the district coordinator (See Appendix D or FHSAA.org). 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/tournament planning meeting. The tournament manager is responsible for all aspects of the district tournament, including the seeding of teams, upon conclusion of the district planning meeting and receipt of the meeting's minutes.

(2) **District Meeting.** Each district coordinator was required to conduct a district meeting on Monday, Sept. 15, 2008 to schedule mandatory district games and plan the district tournament for the 2008-09 school year. During this meeting, district members were to:

(a) Determine whether district members would schedule and play one or two games against each other for district tournament seeding purposes.

(b) Schedule the necessary district games against each other; and

(c) Determine a site and make arrangements for the district tournament, including the selection of officials.

(d) A similar meeting will be held on Sept. 14, 2009 to schedule mandatory district games and plan the district tournament for the 2009-10 school year. Each school in the district shall be required to send a representative to attend the meeting and vote on behalf of the school on all matters pertaining to plans for the district tournament. A school that is not represented at the meeting shall be assessed a \$100 penalty. If a school wishes to submit an invitation to host the district tournament at the meeting and its representative present is not the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director, the representative must have in his/her possession a letter of invitation signed by one or more of the principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director. [Note: A District Coordinator may request of the Associate Executive Director for Athletic Administration permission to conduct a district scheduling/tournament meeting by teleconference if his/her district is spread over a large geographic area.]

If the FHSAA representative, athletic director, or flag football coach at a given school has requested and was granted placement in a district and has not received written notification from the district coordinator relative to the site and time of the district meeting, it is his/her responsibility to contact the district coordinator for the arrangements. The following agenda must be followed:

- (1) Review FHSAA rules, policies, terms and conditions governing the state series, including the FHSAA Licensing and Merchandising Policy.
- (2) Schedule all mandatory games between district opponents within the permissible dates. All district games must be scheduled during this meeting. If a school does not have the appropriate representative present at the meeting, the district coordinator shall schedule the district games for that school.
- (3) 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.)
- (4) Review the seeding and bracketing provisions.
- (5) Determine team awards to be ordered.
- (6) Select and make arrangements for purchase of footballs.
- (7) Determine number of passes to be allowed participating teams.
- (8) Select officials and submit recommended list to FHSAA Office by deadline.

- (9) Select official timer and scorer and set their compensation.
- (10) Determine financial arrangements. See Section 113. Determine how expenses/profits will be shared among participating schools.
- (11) Determine allocation of tickets to participating schools on an equitable basis if seating is limited.
- (12) Determine the amount of compensation, not to exceed \$100 total for the event, to be paid to the tournament manager.
- (13) Use of multiple sites for district tournaments requires the approval of the FHSAA Office.
- (14) Other business (i.e., AED availability, etc.).

(e) 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 immediately after the meeting is concluded. A copy of the report form as well as the minutes of the meeting should be forwarded to each school in the district.

(3) **District Schedule.** Each participating school shall schedule and play one or two regular season games (as determined in the district meeting) with every other district member to be eligible to participate in the district tournament. The results of the district games shall be used to determine seeding for the district tournament.

(a) The decision to play a one-game district schedule, rather than two, must be by majority vote of representatives present at the district meeting. If a majority cannot agree to play a one-game schedule, then a two-game schedule shall be played.

(1) If a district votes to play a one-game district schedule and two district opponents elect to play each other more than once, then the results of the first game played will count toward district seeding.

(b) All district games must be scheduled and played not later than Saturday, Apr. 18, 2009. If a scheduled district game is postponed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations and can only be played after the Apr. 18, 2009 deadline, the FHSAA Office **may** grant permission for the game to be played after the deadline and counted. This exception, however, will be granted only if the game was originally scheduled to be played prior to the deadline.

111.04 District Tournaments. District tournaments shall be played on Monday, Apr. 27-Wednesday, Apr. 29, 2009. Each district will determine the host school and site of the district tournament. This information will be announced on FHSAA.org. The FHSAA representative at the host school shall be designated the tournament manager. The following time schedule shall be followed unless an alternate schedule is approved by the FHSAA Office:

Session 1

Semifinal Game 1 (No. 1 vs. No. 4 seed), 6 p.m.

Semifinal Game 2 (No. 2 vs. No. 3 seed), 7:30 p.m.

Session 2

Championship Game (semifinal winners), 7 p.m.

No local manager is authorized to change the dates, times or order of games unless permitted by the FHSAA Office.

(1) **Seeding.** The following guidelines shall be used to seed a district tournament:

(a) The team with the most district victories shall be seeded No. 1; the second most district victories seeded No. 2, etc. In the event two or more teams are unable to play the required district games due to reasons acceptable to the FHSAA Office, all teams in that district shall be seeded according to the percentage of district games

won.

(b) Two Teams Tied. When two teams are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used (in the following order until the tie is broken):

1. Won-loss results of head-to-head district competition between the two teams;
2. Won-loss record of the two teams versus the highest-seeded team (and proceeding through the lowest seeded team, if necessary);
3. Number of victories on the road in district games;
4. Number of victories at home in district games; and
5. Coin toss by the tournament manager.

(c) Three (or more) Teams Tied. When three or more teams are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used (in the following order until the tie is broken):

1. Total won-loss record of district games played among the tied teams;
2. Won-loss record of the tied teams versus the highest-seeded team (and proceeding through the lowest seeded team, if necessary);
3. Number of victories on the road in district games;
4. Number of victories at home in district games; and
5. Draw by the tournament manager.

Once the three-or-more-way tie has been reduced to two schools, the two-school tiebreaker formula shall be used.

111.05 FHSAA Finals State Tournament. The 2009 FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament shall be played on Friday and Saturday, May 8-9, 2009 at Boca Raton High School in Boca Raton. The tournament managers will be Bill Massey, athletic director at Boca Raton High School, and Dave Currier, athletic director at West Boca Raton High School. The following provisions will apply:

(1) The state series bracket will be divided into six quadrants. Districts 1-4 will comprise quadrant 1; districts 5-8, quadrant 2; districts 9-12, quadrant 3; districts 13-15, quadrant 4; districts 16-19, quadrant five; and districts 20-24, quadrant 6. One or more district champions in each quadrant may receive a bye into the second-round play-in game. These quadrants and byes are the result of an effort to minimize travel. The byes will be rotated within each quadrant in subsequent years.

(2) First-round play-in games will be played at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 2, 2009 at host school sites to determine the teams advancing to the second-round play-in games. The FHSAA representative of the host school shall be designated the game manager.

(3) Second-round play-in games will be played at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at eight sites to determine the eight quarterfinal teams advancing to the FHSAA Flag Football Finals state tournament. The FHSAA representative of the host school shall be designated the game manager.

(4) The following time schedule shall be followed in the FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament:

Friday, May 8

Meeting of head coaches, 1 p.m. **The head coach of each participating team is required to attend.**

Session 1

Quarterfinal Game 1, 4 p.m.

Quarterfinal Game 2, 5:30 p.m.

Quarterfinal Game 3, 7 p.m.

Quarterfinal Game 4, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 9

Session 2

Semifinal Game 5 (winners of quarterfinal games), 2 p.m.

Semifinal Game 6 (winners of quarterfinal games), 3:30 p.m.

Championship Game (semifinal winners), 7 p.m.

The FHSAA Office will determine the exact order of quarterfinal games.

111.06 Advancement of Winners. The winners of the 24 district tournaments shall advance to FHSAA Flag Football Finals first-round play-in games or receive a bye into the second-round play-in games. The winners of the eight (8) FHSAA Finals second-round play-in games shall advance to the FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament.

111.07 Bracketing. In establishing the competitive rotation of the bracket, Regions 2, 3 and 4 rotate clockwise against the stationary Region 1. The rotation for the next three years is as follows:

- 2008-09 – Region 1 vs. Region 2; Region 3 vs. Region 4
- 2009-10 – Region 1 vs. Region 3; Region 2 vs. Region 4
- 2010-11 – Region 1 vs. Region 4; Region 2 vs. Region 3

112. Local Management

112.01 The FHSAA representative of the host school will be the Local Manager for the state series tournament or game 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 necessary reports to the FHSAA Office upon conclusion of the event.

112.02 The district tournament manager must report to the FHSAA Office at the conclusion of the district tournament, but not later than 9 a.m. EDT the day following, the scores of the three tournament games and the updated win-loss record of the district champion team. This report may be made online via iFHSAA, by e-mail to “flagfootball@fhsaa.org”, or by faxing the “FHSAA State Flag Football Series Contest Results and/or Arrangements Report Form (AT9),” which will be supplied by the FHSAA Office, to **(352) 372-9086**. All required information must be provided regardless of the manner in which the report is filed.

112.03 The local manager for an FHSAA Flag Football Finals first-round play-in game must report to the FHSAA Office not later than 9 a.m. EST on the day following the district tournament, the site for the first-round play-in game. This report may be made online via iFHSAA, by e-mail to “flagfootball@fhsaa.org”, or by faxing the “FHSAA State Flag Football Series Contest Results and/or Arrangements Report Form (AT9),” which will be supplied by the FHSAA Office, to **(352) 372-9086**. All required information must be provided regardless of the manner in which the report is filed.

113. Financial Arrangements

113.01 District Tournaments.

(1) **Admission.** \$5.00.

(2) **Event Manager Fee.** A maximum fee of \$100 may be paid to the event manager.

113.02 FHSAA Finals Play-In Games.

(1) **Admission.** \$6.00.

(2) **Event Manager Fee.** A maximum fee of \$50 may be paid to the event

manager.

113.03 FHSAA Finals State Tournament.

(1) **Admission.** \$7.00.

(2) **Division of Receipts.** No reimbursement of any kind will be paid to schools which qualify teams and/or individual contestants to the FHSAA Finals. Neither the FHSAA nor the host organization will assume responsibility for any participating school or individual contestant expenses of any kind.

113.04 Team Expenses. Neither the FHSAA nor the local tournament management shall assume responsibility for any team expenses of any kind. Individual schools entering the state series must be ready to assume responsibility for all expenses related to their participation, including travel, housing and meals; and for unusual expenses due to accident, inclement weather, fire, theft or any other extraordinary cause.

113.05 Financial Policies. The FHSAA will not receive any percentage of the gross receipts from district tournaments or meets or FHSAA Finals first- and second-round play-in games in the sports of bowling, flag football, lacrosse, boys volleyball, water polo and girls weightlifting. However, the host schools of district tournaments or FHSAA Finals play-in games in these sports must file a financial report with the FHSAA Office within 21 days of the event.

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

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

(2) If a financial hardship results from the inclement weather and the related loss of playing time, the host school should submit a written request for waiver of financial share payments. Requests should be submitted to the Associate Executive Director for Athletic Administration. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

114. Tournament Regulations

114.01 Squad Size. There is no limit on the number of players in uniform that a school participating in the FHSAA State Flag Football Series may dress. Credentials, or complimentary admission, shall be provided to participating school personnel as follows:

- Players in uniform – unlimited
- Team support (coaches, managers, trainers, etc.) – 7
- Administration (principal, athletic director, etc.) – 3
- School media (student newspaper, yearbook, etc.) – 3

114.02 Designation of Home Team. Throughout the state series,

the home team for each game shall be the team on the **upper** line of the bracket. The visiting team shall be the team on the **lower** line of the bracket. Consequently, the host school for a state series event may not necessarily be the “home team” during competition in that event.

114.03 Pregame Warmup and Procedures. The following pre-game time schedule shall be followed in all state series games:

First Game of Session

25:00 before kickoff – Set game clock at 15:00 and begin countdown; competing teams given access to field for 15-minute pregame warmup

10:00 – Introduction of visiting team in order of non-starters, starters and head coach

7:30 – Introduction of home team in order of non-starters, starters and head coach

5:00 – National Anthem

3:00 – Coin toss

1:00 – Teams take field

0:00 – Reset clock to 12:00; ball placed on the 14-yard line

Second and Subsequent Game(s) of Session

23:00 before kickoff – Set game clock at 15:00 and begin countdown; competing teams given access to field for 15-minute pregame warmup

8:00 – Introduction of visiting team in order of non-starters, starters and head coach

5:30 – Introduction of home team in order of non-starters, starters and head coach

3:00 – Coin toss

1:00 – Teams take field

0:00 – Reset clock to 12:00; ball placed on 14-yard line

114.04 Official Ball. The Spalding J5Y youth football shall be the official game ball for the 2009 FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament. The host school of each district tournament and FHSAA Finals first-round play-in game shall provide a Spalding J5Y or comparable model game ball. Spalding and the FHSAA shall provide the game balls to be used at the FHSAA Finals state championship tournament site. Failure to comply shall subject the host school to penalties including, but not limited to, financial penalties and revocation of state series event hosting privileges in the respective sport.

114.05 Bands. Pep bands not to exceed 20 members including the adult director and chaperones, may be given complimentary admission to state series events in which their respective schools’ teams are competing. Under no circumstances may the band instruments be played at any time when the ball is live.

114.06 Cheerleaders. Cheerleaders in uniform, along with their adult sponsors, will be admitted free of charge to all state series events in which their respective schools’ teams are participating. The number of cheerleaders permitted will be the same as the number who cheered at varsity games during the regular season.

114.07 Noisemakers. All mechanical noisemaking devices of any kind, as well as any noisemaker that mimics the sound of an official’s whistle, are prohibited at state series events.

114.08 Failure to Appear. In the event a team fails to appear at the contest site to compete at the scheduled time, the contest shall be declared forfeited to the team’s opponent, and that team will 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.

114.09 Team Data Form and Photo. The FHSAA Office will produce the official souvenir program for the FHSAA Flag Football Finals and will retain all proceeds from its sale. The four schools that advance to the district tournament must send to the FHSAA Office a completed "2009 FHSAA Flag Football Finals Team Data Form for Official Souvenir Program & Press Booklet" (Form FF4), along with a photograph of the team for publication in the official souvenir program. The deadline for receipt of these materials in the FHSAA Office is 5 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Apr. 29, 2009. The team data form must be downloaded from FHSAA.org, completed in a computer and transmitted electronically via e-mail to "program@fhsaa.org". A digital team photo also must be transmitted as an e-mail attachment to the same e-mail address. 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). Each school that does not meet the 5 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Apr. 29, 2009 deadline shall be assessed a \$50 late fee. If the school advances to the FHSAA Finals and the materials are not received by the FHSAA Office's publication deadline and, therefore, do not appear in the souvenir program, the school shall be assessed fines of up to \$300.

114.10 Up-to-Date Statistics. The eight schools whose teams win their respective FHSAA Finals first-round play-in games and advance to the FHSAA Finals state championship tournament must report to the FHSAA Office up-to-date cumulative statistics through the Florida Finals first-round play-in game by completing the "2009 FHSAA Flag Football Finals Up-to-Date Team Statistics" form (Form FF5) not later than noon EDT Wednesday, May 6, 2009. The up-to-date statistics form must be downloaded from FHSAA.org, completed in a computer and transmitted electronically via e-mail to "program@fhsaa.org" or faxed to 352.373.1528. Each qualifying school that does not meet the noon EDT Wednesday, May 6, 2009 deadline shall be assessed a \$100 fine.

115. State Series Policies

115.01 Administration and Management. As specified in FHSAA Bylaw 4.1.4, all FHSAA state championship series shall be conducted in accordance with the general policies established by the Board of Directors and shall be under the control, direction and supervision of the FHSAA Office.

115.02 Enforcement of Rules & Policies. The determination of the host school for any state series event shall be conditioned in part on the school's willingness to comply with and enforce all 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.

115.03 Neutrality. It is the responsibility of the host school to ensure that an atmosphere of neutrality is maintained in all state 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., activities designed to rally support for the

home team, such as light shows, or give special recognition to members of the home team) are not permitted during the state series.

115.04 Forfeitures and Vacation of Brackets, Standings.

Individuals or teams that are eliminated from state series competition by defeat by individuals or teams that later are ordered to forfeit their victory, place and/or points are not reinstated and do not advance in the state series competition from they were eliminated by defeat.

If championships or other placements in state series competitions are ordered vacated by individuals or teams, other individuals or teams neither advance to those placements nor receive awards for those placements.

115.05 Passes.

(1) FHSAA State Series Passes, FHSAA Lifetime Passes and legitimate news media credentials ONLY will be honored for complimentary admission to state series events.

(2) FHSAA State Series Passes issued to member schools may only be issued to and used by those individuals who are directly connected to the schools' athletic departments (i.e. coaches, athletic director, athletic secretary, etc.). A state series pass issued to an individual may only be used by the individual in whose name it is issued. Member schools must not issue state series passes to students or other individuals under the age of 18. Use of state series passes by students or other individuals under the age of 18 is prohibited. Users of state series passes must present a valid government-issued photo ID (i.e., drivers license) with the pass to gain admittance. A state series pass admits only the bearer. Individuals accompanying the bearer of a state series pass who themselves do not possess a pass must purchase a ticket of admission to the event. State series event managers are instructed to confiscate and return to the FHSAA Office any state series pass that is misused.

(3) 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 shall be admitted 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.

(4) All individuals who gain admittance to a state series event using any one of the accepted passes must record their name, position with school or organization, type of pass used, and pass number (if applicable) on the "FHSAA State Series Event Pass Gate Log" (Form AT10). This pass gate log must be submitted to the FHSAA Office with the financial report.

115.06 Licensing and Merchandising. The FHSAA owns or controls all rights and interests in its name, logos, trademarks and service marks, whether registered or unregistered, including the official event logo for all FHSAA Finals events. The sale of items bearing any of these marks by a member school or organization without the written consent of the FHSAA is prohibited.

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 state series. Host schools/organizations are required to sell items provided by the official FHSAA event souvenir merchandiser.

The official FHSAA event souvenir merchandiser is Team IP Sportswear, Inc., of

Port St. Lucie. They may be reached at (877) 821-8643. Team IP has been awarded exclusive souvenir merchandising rights to all state series events in all sports. A host school/organization that desires to sell souvenir merchandise at a state series event must purchase such merchandise from Team IP. No other vendor shall be permitted to produce such merchandise. Team IP shall have the right to go on-property and sell souvenir merchandise at the site of any state series event. The host school/organization of a state series event shall grant Team IP access to its property for the event.

No individual(s), including those affiliated with a participating member school, shall bring onto the property of a facility at which an FHSAA State Series event is being conducted any items (including but not limited to T-shirts, caps, posters, bumper stickers, etc.) to be sold or otherwise distributed on the property to student-athletes, coaches or spectators without the written approval of the FHSAA. An individual(s) found in violation of this provision shall surrender the items for confiscation, shall be expelled from the property and may be subject to legal action. A member school found in violation of this provision shall be assessed a minimum fine of \$250 and, in addition, shall pay monetary damages to be mutually determined by the FHSAA and its exclusive vendor(s).

The host school/organization of a state 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 state series event.

115.07 Souvenir Programs. All host schools of district tournaments and Florida Finals first-round play-in games that produce an official program must display on the program cover both the appropriate sport logo and sportsmanship logo, which may be downloaded from FHSAA.org. If the program cover is preprinted, the logo must be displayed prominently inside or on the team roster inserts.

115.08 Signs and/or Banners. The display of signs, banners, placards or similar items at state series events is permitted, provided:

- (1) They are in good taste and reflect good sportsmanship in their message and use;
- (2) 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;
- (3) They are not displayed on the court/field, or in a manner which interferes with play;
- (4) They do not obstruct the view of participants or spectators; and
- (5) They are not safety hazards.

115.09 Public-Address Announcer. The public-address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all state 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, player introductions and awards ceremonies. Other announcements are limited to:

- Those of an emergency nature (e.g., paging a doctor);
- Those of a "practical" nature (e.g., announcing that a driver has left his/her vehicle lights on); and
- Announcements that FHSAA souvenir merchandise, souvenir programs and

concessions are on sale in the facility.

During the contest, the announcer:

- Should recognize players involved in a play (e.g., “Smith pass complete to Jones; Williams on the stop” or “Smith pass intended for Jones, incomplete, broken up by Williams” or “Jones on the run, stopped by Williams” or “Smith back to punt; deep to receive is Jones”); and the results of the play (e.g., “first down,” “third down,” “touchdown”); and
- Should report a penalty as signaled by the referee (if the referee is not miked).
- 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.

115.10 Public-Address Announcements. Announcements promoting the FHSAA and its interscholastic programs must be read over the public-address system, if available, prior to and during all contests in the state series. See FHSAA.org for the appropriate script.

115.11 Photography and Videotaping.

(1) The FHSAA, subject to the policies of the host facility, allows still cameras and video cameras to be used at state series events so that participants and spectators may record the excitement and festivities for their own personal entertainment – not for the purposes of commercial re-sale or public re-distribution 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 state series contests and then only in accordance with the terms and conditions established by the FHSAA.

(2) Each participating school shall be permitted to photograph, film or videotape, for archival, coaching or instructional purposes, only those state 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.

(3) Spectators may be allowed to bring handheld video cameras that operate on battery power into the facility. Spectators shall be prohibited from using tripods.

(4) There may be additional guidelines or restrictions for FHSAA Finals state championship events.

(5) A school that violates these guidelines shall be guilty of unsporting conduct and will be subject to reprimand and the assessment of a financial penalty by the FHSAA. An organization or individual who violates these guidelines, and in so doing infringes upon the rights of the FHSAA, shall be subject to one 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.

115.12 All-Tournament/Meet Teams. No employee of the FHSAA nor 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.”

115.13 Uniformed Security. The local manager for a state series event is responsible for providing appropriate uniformed security at the event that his/her school is hosting.

115.14 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). The presence and availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) is mandatory at the site of every FHSAA state championship series contest on the district, regional, sectional and state levels.

116. Media Policies

116.01 Admission and Seating. Media representatives covering a state series event must be admitted free of charge upon presentation of proper news media identification. Space must be set aside to provide for news media representatives whether they be from newspapers, radio stations, commercial television stations and/or cable television stations.

116.02 FHSAA Finals Credentials. News media representatives planning to cover the FHSAA Finals state championship tournament must secure credentials as instructed by the FHSAA Office, according to the FHSAA Policy on Media Credentials. Requests for credentials should be submitted to the FHSAA Office not later than 5 p.m. EDT Monday, May 4, 2009. Only those representatives requesting credentials by the deadline will be guaranteed seating and informational materials at the tournament.

Each school participating in an FHSAA Finals event may request up to three (3) credentials – for use by student media (i.e., student newspaper, yearbook, TV/video yearbook) who will be covering the school’s participation in the event. These credentials may be issued only to and used only by students.

116.03 Media Rights. The FHSAA owns all media rights to its state series events, including rights to radio broadcasts, telecasts, cablecasts, webcasts, audio and film/video rights, and commercial photography. Radio broadcasts, telecasts, cablecasts and webcasts of state series events are governed by the FHSAA Broadcast Policy. Such broadcasts, telecasts, cablecasts and webcasts must be approved by the FHSAA Office. The following provisions shall apply:

(1) The “Application for Media Rights to FHSAA State Series Event” (Form AT11) to the FHSAA Office by 3 p.m. EST on the business day preceding the event to be broadcast, telecast, or cablecast to avoid a \$25.00 late filing fee.

(2) Radio broadcast rights fees are \$50.00 per event. Tape-delay telecast and cablecast rights fees are \$250.00 per event. Rights fees for live telecasts and cablecasts shall be negotiated at the discretion of the FHSAA. The FHSAA Office shall invoice the outlet to which rights are granted. Rights fees must be paid by company check made payable to “FHSAA” and mailed directly to the FHSAA Office within 30 days of receipt of the invoice. Outlets that fail to make payment of rights fees by the deadline shall be assessed a \$25.00 late fee and may be denied rights to broadcast, telecast or cablecast future contests.

(3) The FHSAA Radio Network owns exclusive rights to the radio broadcast of all FHSAA Finals state championship events. Sun Sports Network owns exclusive rights to the telecast and cablecast of all FHSAA Finals state championship events.

EZStream.com owns exclusive rights to the webcast of all state series events.

(4) Approval of radio broadcasts, telecasts and cablecasts of state series contests by the FHSAA Office are final. The FHSAA Office shall fax to the host school a copy of the approved media rights agreement. A host school shall not permit the radio broadcast, telecast or cablecast of a state series contest that has not been approved by the FHSAA Office.

116.04 Postgame Procedures.

(1) **State Series Prelims.** The host school should cooperate with news media representatives in providing them access to a work area and telephone following a state series contest so that they can file their reports on the contest. The head coach of each competing team is encouraged to cooperate with the news media by participating in interviews as quickly as possible following the conclusion of the contest and providing game statistics if available.

(2) **FHSAA Finals.** The host site must designate a room or area secluded from the general public for a postgame press conference involving the head coach and up to five players from each team participating in the just-concluded game. Participation by the head coach in the postgame 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 and no interviews may take place during the awards ceremony following the championship game.

(3) **Access to Locker/Dressing Rooms.** The FHSAA operates under a closed lockerroom policy at all FHSAA Finals state championship events. At no time will news media representatives be granted access to lockerrooms or dressing rooms at any state championship event.

117. Awards

117.01 Team.

(1) **District Tournament.** Trophies are available for awarding to the champion and runner-up teams, and may be purchased from the FHSAA's authorized vendor by the host school or district as an expense of the tournament as determined by those school representatives present at the district meeting, or individually by the champion and runner-up schools. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals.

(2) **FHSAA Finals.** Trophies will be awarded to the champion and runner-up teams in the FHSAA Finals. There shall be no other team awards presented by outside organizations or individuals.

(3) **FHSAA Authorized Vendor.** Trophies must be ordered from The Trophy Shop in Gainesville by calling (352) 372-8551. The vendor should also be contacted if problems are experienced in receiving trophies on time and in good condition.

117.02 Individual. Forty (40) medallions will be presented to players, coaches and other team members of the champion and runner-up teams at the FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament. Schools may purchase additional medallions by contacting the FHSAA Office.

117.03 Additional Awards. No other trophies or awards of any kind may be presented at a state series event unless approved by the FHSAA Office.

118. Officials

118.01 Regular Season.

(1) **Assignment.** The host school shall contract with a local officials association for officials for regular season games. Only those individuals who are registered as a flag football official with the FHSAA may officiate flag football games. A crew of three (3) officials must be used. It, however, is recommended that a crew of four (4) officials be used. The decisions of the officials will be final. No protests will be allowed.

(2) **Maximum Fees.** \$33 per official for varsity contests; \$28 per official for junior varsity contests. Sixty (60) cents per mile one way, one vehicle, is the maximum mileage rate.

118.02 State Series.

(1) **Assignment.** The FHSAA Office will assign the officials for the FHSAA Finals tournament. Local officials must be contacted for the district tournaments. A crew of four (4) officials shall be assigned. The host school shall provide the electronic clock operator. The decisions of the officials will be final. No protests will be allowed.

(2) **Maximum Fees.** \$36 per official for district tournament games; \$38 per official for FHSAA Finals first-round play-in games; \$43 per official for FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament games. Sixty (60) cents per mile one way, one vehicle, is the maximum mileage rate.

118.03 Schools' Responsibilities to Officials. The Board of Directors has charged member schools with the following responsibilities relative to FHSAA officials when serving as host for an athletic contest to which officials are assigned.

(1) General.

(a) An authorized representative of the host school must greet the officials upon their arrival.

(b) The host school shall provide a private, secure place for the officials to park.

(c) The host school should provide a secure dressing facility which affords privacy.

(d) The host school should provide the officials access to private shower facilities with hot water whenever possible.

(e) The host school should provide the officials with refreshments (i.e., water and/or sports drinks) during the halftime intermission, following the conclusion of the contest and other appropriate times.

(f) The host school must provide pregame, halftime and postgame security for the officials. A school official or principal's designee must escort the officials to and from the playing field or court to prevent harassment.

(g) The host school principal or game administrator must indicate to the referee or umpire-in-chief his/her seat location should a situation develop where assistance is needed during the contest.

(h) School personnel, including coaches, must not enter the officials dressing facility while the officials are in attendance except when requested by the officials.

(2) State Series.

The host school for each state series contest beyond the district tournament (i.e.

district football tiebreakers, regional tournament games/games in all sports, etc.) 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.

119. Coaches

119.01 The head coach is required to complete the FHSAA Online Rules Presentation. The rules presentation for coaches will be available Feb. 22-Mar. 4, 2009 in the E-Classroom on FHSAA.org. The financial penalty for failure to complete this requirement is \$50.