



Florida High School Athletic Association

Board of Directors Meeting – Agenda Item

Site: FHSAA Robert W. Hughes Building Date:

Check One: Action:

Discussion: XX
Information:
Presentation:

Topic (brief descriptive statement):

Approved nonmembers

Detailed Information (background, observations, etc.):

A brief rundown of approved nonmembers within the FHSAA

Recommendation(s):

Rationale:

Alternative(s) to Recommendation(s):

Data Source:

FHSAA handbook and online database

Impact (to be completed by FHSAA staff):

None

Seth Polansky, Membership Services

Individual(s) Submitting Item

Signature

Dr. Roger Dearing

FHSAA Staff Member Presenting Item

Signature

Approved nonmembership was established at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year to allow smaller, private schools an avenue to compete against full member schools of the FHSAA while not competing for a district championship or for a state title. It was formerly called "affiliate membership" and there were many more schools involved. After it was determined there was too much time spent on acquiring documents and monies from affiliate members, a comprehensive rewrite of Bylaw 3 pared down the affiliate members into a smaller group of approved nonmembers. The former affiliate member schools could either go to full membership and abide by all Association rules and guidelines, or go to approved nonmembership and give up the few luxuries afforded by affiliate membership.

Today most approved nonmember schools are small and have a basketball team as its main sport. Some schools have football and others just have cross country or other smaller sports. There is no minimum number of teams that approved nonmembers must sponsor in order to be associated, just like full members. The insurance requirements are also the same - general liability, catastrophic medical and disability, and student accident.

Approved nonmembership is currently established by Bylaw 3.11 of the handbook. In Bylaw 3.11.3, it states the approved nonmember school must abide by FHSAA rules and regulations when playing a full member school. That includes eligibility of its student-athletes and the hiring of FHSAA-sanctioned officials, if it's a home game. Application consists of a three-page application, a non-refundable check for \$150, all insurance documents and a copy of their Board's minutes agreeing to adhere to the FHSAA's Bylaws and Policies. These approved nonmember school also cannot participate in the preseason, postseason or in any tournaments that involve at least one full member school. It's designed for dual-team, one-on-one competition.

Some approved nonmembers have stated that they are only affiliated with the FHSAA so they can be a part of another small independent conference, like the Florida Christian Conference and the Panhandle Christian Conference.

There are currently 43 approved nonmembers. Each school pays \$150 a year for its approved nonmembership. That's \$6,450 in revenue for the 2009-10 school year. Full member high school schools are charged a minimum of \$330 for a year's membership with a maximum of \$1,100 as outlined in Policy 9.2.1.1. It does not cost the association anything to administer approved nonmembership, but when insurance certificates and other documents are needed from these schools, there is time spent tracking down the paperwork. A small, yet noticeable percentage of time is spent following up on allegations made by member schools against approved nonmember schools in the operations and compliance & eligibility departments.



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If the approved nonmember schools were placed into the same administrative sections as the full members, then the breakdown would be:

13 in Section 1
10 in Section 2
10 in Section 3
10 in Section 4

- There were 34 affiliate members in 2006-07.
- From 2006-07 to 2007-08, 11 approved nonmembers joined and 6 left
 - One of the schools that joined was Potter's House (Jacksonville), who was removed from full membership and placed into approved nonmembership
 - Two of the schools that left approved nonmembership went to full membership
- From 2007-08 to 2008-09, 19 approved nonmembers joined and 10 left
 - One of the schools that joined came from full membership
 - One of the schools that left went to full membership
- From 2008-09 to this current year, 14 approved nonmembers joined and 15 left
 - Two of the schools that joined came from full membership
 - Six of the schools that left went to full membership, and one more school was not renewed for approved nonmembership by the Board in June