Building leaders through teamwork, sportsmanship and citizenship.
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**FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building • 1801 NW 80th Boulevard • Gainesville, Florida 32606 • http://www.fhsaa.org

2014-15 FHSAA Handbook
Publisher: Dr. Roger Dearing, Executive Director
Editor: Michael Colby, CMAA, Director of Eligibility

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These Bylaws have been adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Representative Assembly of the Florida High School Athletic Association and are applicable to the 2014-15 school year.
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<td>Clarifies and adds new paragraphs to current subsection relative to contests with non-FHSAA member schools.</td>
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CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 1

Name, Purpose, Objectives, General Terms and Fundamental Belief

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.4.8 Start of a Sports Season – commences with the first day of permissible contact for the given sport as determined in the FHSAA Planning Calendar.
1.4.9 **End of a Sports Season** – concludes with the last regular season contest for the given sport or the contest in which an individual school has been eliminated from, or has been named the overall champion of, the Florida High School State Championships for the given sport as determined in the FHSAA Planning Calendar.

1.4.10 **Fiscal Year** – refers to the period of time that begins on July 1 and continues to June 30.

1.4.11 **Calendar Year** – refers to 365 continuous days.

1.4.12 **Standardized Calendar** – refers to the calendar in which each week is numbered 1 through 52, with Week 1 beginning the first Sunday in July.

1.4.13 **Semester** – refers to that period of time approximately equal to one-half of an academic year (approximately 90 days), with August through December/January as the first semester and January through May/June as the second semester.

1.4.14 **One Full Semester** – defined as being in attendance and earning a grade for an entire semester period (i.e., August through December/January as the first semester and January through May/June as the second semester).

1.4.15 **Team Sport** – refers to any sport in which competition is held between two collective groups of individuals in which winning or losing is by the group as opposed to by individuals (i.e., baseball, basketball, competitive cheerleading, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball, water polo, etc.). Only team honors are awarded in team sports.

1.4.16 **Individual Sport** – refers to any sport in which competition is held between or among individuals in which winning or losing is by individuals (i.e. bowling, cross country, golf, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, weightlifting, wrestling, etc.). Team and individual honors are awarded in individual sports.

1.4.17 **Athletic Activities** – refers to contact between coaches and student-athletes including, but not limited to: conditioning, tryouts, practices, intra-squad scrimmages and contests.

1.4.18 **Representative of a School’s Athletic Interests** – refers to any independent person, business, organization or group that participates in, assists with and/or promotes that school’s interscholastic athletic program. This includes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.4.19 **Grading Period** – A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days).

1.4.20 **Member School** – refers to a senior high school, middle/junior high school, a combination school or home education cooperative that is provisionally admitted or duly elected to membership in the Association.

1.4.21 **Secondary Violations** – Secondary violations are those that are isolated or inadvertent in nature, or provide little or no competitive advantage.

1.4.22 **Major Violations** – Major violations are those that are committed intentionally, or that provide a significant competitive advantage, or are committed due to a lack of administrative control of the interscholastic athletic program regardless of whether the school claims ignorance of the rule(s) violated, including, but not limited to, knowingly allowing an ineligible student to participate in a contest or violations to the recruiting and sportsmanship policies of the association. Multiple secondary violations may together be considered a major violation. A secondary violation committed by a school already on probation may be considered a major violation.

1.4.23 **Residence** – Residence as used throughout the rules and regulations of this association is used in two contexts; “school residence,” meaning the school at which student attends or represents and “physical residence,” meaning the location at which a student lives with his/her parent or guardian. A student and his/her parents cannot occupy a residence at more than one address, and only the student’s current residence may be used for eligibility purposes. For those students who are required to have multiple physical residences by a court of competent jurisdiction, please refer to Bylaw 9.2.1.3.

1.4.24 **Athletic Activities Affiliated with a School** – Athletic activities affiliated with a school are any athletic activities not sponsored by the school but are organized, coached and/or supervised by a school employee, athletic department staff member, or representative of the school’s athletic interests or in which the majority of participants are students who attend the school.

1.4.25 **Principal** – A “principal” is the administrator responsible for the day-to-day operation of a school, whether the individual’s specific title is principal, headmaster, director, administrator, head of school or otherwise. The principal is responsible for the conduct of the school’s interscholastic athletic programs.

1.4.26 **FHSAA Representative** – An “FHSAA representative” is the school representative who represents on behalf of the school in its relationship with the Association. The FHSAA representative is the principal, unless the principal delegates the task to an assistant principal or the athletic director. The principal, however, cannot delegate the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the school’s interscholastic athletic programs (s. 1006.20(3)(b) Florida Statutes).
1.4.27 **Calendar Week** – A “calendar week” is the seven (7) consecutive days Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

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

1.4.29 **Guardianship** – Guardianship must be permanently appointed legally by a court of competent jurisdiction (s. 744.102(5) and 744.102(9), F.S.).

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

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

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

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

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**1.5 FUNDAMENTAL BELIEF**

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

**CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 2**

**Principles for the Conduct of Interscholastic Athletics**

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

**2.1 EDUCATIONAL NATURE OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

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

**2.2 PARTICIPATION IS A PRIVILEGE**

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

**2.3 SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT**

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

(a) Establishing policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct in its interscholastic athletic programs that are consistent with the educational mission and goals of the school; and

(b) Educating, on an ongoing basis, all individuals associated with the school’s interscholastic athletic programs and events about those policies.
2.4 GENDER EQUITY
The FHSAA will conduct its activities in a manner free of gender bias and will adopt rules that enhance schools’ efforts to comply with applicable gender-equity laws.

2.5 ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL AND RESPONSIBILITY
Each school must control its interscholastic athletic programs by FHSAA rules and regulations. The principal, who is responsible for the administration of all aspects of the school’s interscholastic athletic programs, is responsible for ensuring this control, which extends to and includes responsibility for and control over the actions of:
(a) The administration and faculty;
(b) The athletic department staff and student-athletes;
(c) The student body, parents and other spectators at athletic events; and
(d) Any other individual or group engaged in activities representing, supporting or promoting the athletic interests of the school.

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

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

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

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

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

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 3

Membership

3.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.2.2 Types of Member Schools.

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

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

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

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

3.3 QUALIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.4 PROVISIONAL PERIOD

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

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

3.4.1.2 Second Year. During the second year of the provisional period:
(a) The school must be represented at an FHSAA compliance seminar by either its principal, FHSAA representative or athletic director; and
(b) The school must submit to an onsite inspection of its interscholastic athletic programs, and
(c) Demonstrate a working knowledge of FHSAA regulations.

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

3.4.3 Exemption from Provisional Period. A newly opening school created by the consolidation or division of the student populations of existing member schools is exempt from the provisional period if:
(a) The new school is governed by the same board as the existing member schools; and
(b) The new school meets all other qualifications and conditions of full membership.

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

3.5 OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5.2.4 Audits and Compliance Reviews. The FHSAA Office may review member schools to verify compliance with bylaws and other rules of the Association. A school selected for review must fully cooperate with the review. A school that refuses to grant access to and inspection of records under review or refuses to permit the interview of any individual responsible for maintaining those records, or otherwise interferes with or obstructs the review, will be in violation of this provision.
3.5.3 **Insurance Coverage.** A member school must verify that athletic accident medical insurance coverage, catastrophic accident insurance coverage, and catastrophic disability insurance coverage is provided for each of its student-athletes. The school also must provide general liability insurance coverage for itself. The Board of Directors will establish the minimum limits for each type of insurance coverage.

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

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

3.6 **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

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

3.6.1.1 **Application Packet**

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

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

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

(a) A photocopy of the school’s most recent federal tax return;

(b) A photocopy of financial statements from the most recent period that have been independently audited or reviewed by a certified public accountant;

(c) A photocopy of prior year operating revenues and expenses as reported to the governing body for the school; or

(d) A photocopy of operating budget revenues and expenses for the school that has been approved by the governing body.

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

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

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

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

3.7 **PROCEDURES FOR ADMITTANCE AND ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.8 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES
3.8.1 Annual Dues. The Board of Directors will determine the annual dues to be assessed each member school.
3.8.2 Membership Fees. The Board of Directors may assess additional membership fees to be paid by each member school.
3.8.3 Payment. Dues and fees are payable each year in accordance with the deadline set by the Board of Directors.

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

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

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

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

3.10.1.2 Failure to Provide Proof of Insurance. A member that fails to provide the FHSAA Office with proof that it has the required insurance coverage will be suspended until the proof of insurance coverage is provided.
3.10.2 Expulsion. The Board of Directors may expel a member school that fails to meet one or more of the qualifications, conditions and/or obligations of membership, or fails to support and adhere to the purposes and policies of the Association.

3.10.2.1 Restricted Membership. The Board of Directors, instead of expulsion, may restrict one, more or all of the membership privileges of the school. The school remains a member even if all of its membership privileges are restricted.
3.10.3 Cessation of Privileges. All privileges of a member school will cease upon any termination of its membership.
3.11 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA
3.11.1 Method of Division. The Board of Directors will divide the Association’s membership along existing county lines into four contiguous and compact administrative sections, each containing an equal or nearly equal number of member schools, to ensure equitable representation in the FHSAA governance structure and substructures.

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 4

Organization and Governance

4.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES
4.1.1 Form of Government. The FHSAA is a representative democracy.
4.1.2 Governance. These bylaws, administrative policies and other regulations, as well as Florida Statutes pertaining to the FHSAA or interscholastic athletics in general, govern the Association.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.3 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
4.3.1 Composition. The Board of Directors is composed of the following sixteen (16) members (s. 1006.20(4)(a), Florida Statutes):
(a) Four public school representatives, one elected from each administrative section;
(b) Four non-public school representatives, one elected from each administrative section;
(c) Two district school superintendents elected by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents – one from administrative sections 1 or 2, and one from administrative sections 3 or 4;
(d) Two district school board members elected by the Florida School Boards Association – one from administrative sections 1 or 2, and one from administrative sections 3 or 4;
(e) Three persons appointed at large by the Commissioner of Education. One must be appointed from administrative sections 1 or 2. One must be appointed from administrative sections 3 or 4. The third must help balance the Board of Directors for racial diversity or state population trends, or both, and may be appointed from any administrative section; and
(f) The Commissioner of Education or his/her designee from the Department of Education executive staff.

4.3.1.1 Restrictions. A district school superintendent and district school board member from the same public school district cannot serve on the Board of Directors at the same time.
4.3.2.1 **Budget and Audit.** The Board of Directors at its final regularly scheduled meeting of a school year approves a preliminary budget for the next school year. It approves a final budget for the school year at its first regularly scheduled meeting of that school year. The Board of Directors provides for an annual audit of all accounts by a certified public accountant and the report is made available upon request.

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

(a) Reviews, at the Executive Director’s request, the decision of a Sectional Appeals Committee or the Infraction Appeals Committee that directly conflicts with decisions of other Sectional Appeals Committees or the Board of Directors on the same question or rule, or that in the Executive Director’s opinion conflicts with the rules of the Association or has a great effect on the proper administration of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state; and

(b) Renders at the Executive Director’s request an advisory opinion addressing issues as provided by rule.

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

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

4.3.4 **Selection/ Term of Service.**

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

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

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

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

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

4.3.5.3 **Vacancies.**

(a) If the president vacates the office before the end of his/her term, the president-elect will serve as president for the remainder of the vacated term and then as president for the term to which he/she was elected.

(b) If the president-elect vacates the office before the end of his/her term, the Board of Directors elects a new president-elect during its next regularly scheduled meeting.

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

4.4.1 Composition. The Representative Assembly is composed of the following delegates (s. 1006.20(5)(b), Florida Statutes):
(a) An equal number of school representatives from each of the four administrative sections;
(b) Four district school superintendents elected by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents – one from each administrative section;
(c) Four district school board members elected by the Florida School Boards Association – one from each administrative section; and
(d) The Commissioner of Education or his/her designee from the Department of Education executive staff.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.4.3 Selection/Term of Service.

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

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

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

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

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

4.5 SECTIONAL APPEALS COMMITTEES

4.5.1 Composition. There will be one Sectional Appeals Committee in each of the four administrative sections. Each committee will consist of the following seven (7) members:
(a) Two members representing public schools elected by and from among the public school representatives in the section;
(b) One member representing non-public schools elected by and from among the non-public school representatives in the section;
(c) One member representing public school districts selected on a rotating basis, when possible, by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents from among district superintendents, or by the Florida School Boards Association from among district school board members in the section.
(d) One member representing recognized non-public school accrediting associations selected by the Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools from among district-, regional- or school-based non-public school administrators or governing board members in the section;
(e) One at-large member from an under-represented gender and/or race appointed by the Board of Directors from among district-, regional- or school-based administrators in the section; and
(f) One attorney from among attorneys living in the section, who within the last five years has been a member in good standing of the Florida Bar or the bar of any other state in the union.

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

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

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

4.5.1.3 **Committee Officers**

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.5.2 **Duties and Responsibilities.** Each Sectional Appeals Committee will:

(a) Decide requests by schools seeking exceptions to bylaws and regulations of the Association;

(b) Decide undue hardship eligibility cases that are filed by schools on behalf of students; and

(c) Decide appeals of decisions rendered by the Executive Director that are filed by member schools. The Section Appeals Committee can only sustain or overturn the decision, but cannot modify the decision.

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

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

4.5.3 **Selection/Term of Service**

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

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

4.6 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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

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

4.6.2 **Duties and Responsibilities.** The Executive Director:

(a) Manages and directs the affairs of the Association;

(b) Administers and enforces FHSAA rules and impose sanctions when he/she finds that violations have occurred;

(c) Presents an operating budget to the Board of Directors each year for approval, acts as custodian of all Association funds, and updates the Board of Directors on the Association’s financial status at each of its meetings;

(d) Waives bylaws in order to comply with changes to Florida Statutes;

(e) Prepares and issues to schools all necessary publications, forms and other materials, including but not limited to:

   1. Annual Calendar of events and activities;
2. Handbook of Bylaws and Policies;
3. Current Membership List and Membership Directory; and

(f) Receives and checks all reports submitted by schools;

(g) Rules on the eligibility of all student-athletes who participate in interscholastic athletic programs in the sports recognized by the Association;

(h) Calls upon the Board of Directors for advice and assistance, and performs such duties as may be necessary and expedient;

(i) Keeps a record of all meetings of the Representative Assembly, Board of Directors, Sectional Appeals Committees and Infractions Appeal Committee;

(j) Mediates controversies between schools at their request;

(k) Represents, or designates a representative for, the Association in mediation of student eligibility issues;

(l) Refers to the Board of Directors for its review any decisions of Sectional Appeals Committees that he/she believes directly conflict with decisions of other Sectional Appeals Committees, of the Infractions Appeal Committee or of the Board of Directors or the same question or rule, or that, in his/her opinion, conflicts with the rules of the Association or has a great effect on the proper administration of interscholastic athletic programs throughout the state;

(m) Approves and supervises all tournaments, meets and contest schedules under the rules of the Association;

(n) Refers any of his/her decisions or rulings to the appropriate Sectional Appeals Committee, the Infractions Appeal Committee or the Board of Directors upon the request of a school;

(o) Oversees and directs audits and compliance reviews; (see Bylaw 3.5.2.4);

(p) Performs any other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

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

(a) The circumstances that cause the student-athlete to be ineligible are of a sudden and extraordinary nature and are completely beyond the control of the student-athlete, his/her parents, or school; and

(b) The student-athlete will miss all or most of the sport season in which he/she participates if required to wait for the opportunity for a hearing before a Sectional Appeals Committee.

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

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

**4.7 ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

**4.7.1 Elections**

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

**4.7.1.1.1 Declaration of Candidacy.** The FHSAA Office will notify school representatives of elections that must be held, and will place on the Internet a declaration of candidacy form for each race. A school representative who wants to run in a particular race and is eligible to do so must download, complete and fax to the FHSAA Office the form for that race. The form must be completed, signed and received in the FHSAA Office by the deadline listed on the form to be valid. A school representative who is not a principal must have the form signed by his/her principal granting him/her permission to run. A school representative who wants to run in more than one race may do so, but must file the appropriate form for each race.
4.7.1.2 General Election. The FHSAA Office will provide each school representative of each constituency group, who is eligible to vote in the general election, a ballot for that constituency group. The ballot will list the names of all candidates in each race. The school representative may vote for only one candidate in each race, and will be allowed 5 business days from the date the ballot is first provided to complete and submit the ballot. The candidate in each race, of each constituency group, receiving the majority of votes cast will be the winner.

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

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

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

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

4.7.2 Vacancies

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

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

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

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

CONSTITUTIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 5

Amendments

5.1 SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS

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

5.2 ACTION BY REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

5.2.1 Action. The Representative Assembly shall consider, adopt, or reject any proposed amendments to these Bylaws. The Representative Assembly may not, in and of itself, as a body be allowed to propose any amendment for its own consideration. Any revision to a proposed amendment by the Representative Assembly shall require the written authorization of its original sponsor(s). Such revisions shall require a majority of the votes cast by delegates present at the Assembly.
5.2.2 Passage. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast by delegates present is required for passage of any proposal. A vote on the final passage of any proposal shall be by roll call or signed ballot with the vote cast by each delegate reported to the member schools.

5.3 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AMENDMENTS
5.3.1 Effective Date. An amendment shall become effective on the first day of July following its adoption unless otherwise specified.

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 6

Authority and Responsibilities of the Principal

6.1 DEFINITION AND RESPONSIBILITY
6.1.1 Responsibilities. The principal’s responsibilities include the following:

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

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

6.2 CERTIFICATION OF STUDENT ELIGIBILITY
6.2.1 Eligibility Reports. The principal or designee must annually submit all eligibility reports electronically and sign all eligibility correspondence.

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

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

6.3 RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS
6.3.1 General Principle. Recruitment or attempted recruitment of students for athletic purposes is an act of unsportsmanlike conduct and is expressly forbidden.
6.3.2 Definition of Recruiting. Recruiting is the use of undue influence or special inducement by anyone associated with the school in an attempt to encourage a prospective student to attend or remain at that school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

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

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

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 7

SPORTSMANSHIP

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, during and after any interscholastic event.

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

7.2 UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.2.6.1 Any student-athlete under the care of a pediatric endocrinologist or an appropriately trained specialist being treated with idiopathic short stature (ISS) as outline by the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) may appeal for exemption and shall provide appropriate medical documentation to the principal prior to competition.
7.2.6.2 Any student-athlete, under the direct care of a physician, who has been prescribed to use any hormone replacement drug shall provide the appropriate medical documentation to the principal prior to competition.

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

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 8

Interscholastic Contests

8.1 INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTEST

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

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

8.2 RULES OF COMPETITION

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

8.3 SCHOOLS WITH WHICH CONTESTS MAY BE HELD

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

(a) Schools which are members of this Association;

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

1. The Non-FHSAA member school must verify that athletic medical, catastrophic accident and catastrophic disability insurance coverage is provided for each of its student athletes (Policy 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3). The Non-FHSAA member school must provide general liability insurance for itself (Policy 8.4) The minimum limits for each type of insurance coverage must be the same as those established for FHSAA member schools (Policy 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4). The Non-FHSAA member school principal, or head of school, must provide the FHSAA with copies of certificates of coverage for each of these various insurance types, verifying that the Non-FHSAA member school has purchased the insurance coverage required (Bylaw 3.5.3 and 3.6.1.12); and

2. An FHSAA game/contest contract (see Bylaw 8.4.1) has been fully executed by all participating schools; and

3. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, meet the eligibility criteria listed in Florida Statutes for student-athletes of FHSAA member schools (F.S. 1006.15); and

4. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, have appropriate insurance as specified in F.S. 1006.16; and

5. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation as specified in F.S. 1006.20(2)(c), and

6. All student-athletes in the Non-FHSAA member school, who will be competing in the contest or event, must have on file a signed consent and release form (waiver of liability and parent permission to participate) as specified in F.S. 1006.20(2)(k), and

7. Non-FHSAA member schools must agree to abide by the NFHS and FHSAA rules for the contest or event being conducted (Bylaw 8.2.1).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8.5 CATEGORIZATION OF SPORTS

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

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

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

8.6 PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

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

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

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

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

8.7 FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

8.7.1 Florida High School State Championships. For the purpose of determining the official state champion(s) in those sports that are recognized or sanctioned by the Board of Directors, this Association may conduct a Florida High School State Championships.
8.7.1.1 Determining Which Schools Are Eligible. Participation is limited to member senior high schools, combination schools and home education co-ops only. This excludes member middle or junior high schools and nonmember senior high schools.

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

8.7.1.3 Commitment Form. Member schools choosing to participate in a Florida High School State Championships must complete and submit to the Association a binding “Commitment Form.”

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

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

8.8 SEASON LIMITATIONS

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

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

8.9 USE OF REGISTERED OFFICIALS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.1.2.3 Eligibility of Recruited Students. A student may be declared ineligible based on violation of recruiting rules if:
(a) The student or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has falsified any enrollment or eligibility document; or
(b) The student or parent/legal guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction accepted any benefit or any promise of benefit if such benefit is not generally available to the school’s students or family members; or
(c) The benefit or promise of benefit is based in any way on athletic interest, potential, or performance.

9.1.3 Rationale for Eligibility Standards. Eligibility rules are necessary for participation in interscholastic athletics because:
(a) They protect the opportunities of qualified students to participate; and
(b) They promote competitive equity among schools; and
(c) They encourage academic achievement by student-athletes.

9.2 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

9.2.1 Student May Only Participate at School he/she First Attends Each School Year. A student must attend school, and may participate only in the interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by the school he/she first attends each school year, which is either: (s. 1006.20(2)(a), Florida Statutes)
(a) The school where the student first attends classes; or
(b) The school where the student first participates in athletic activities on or after the official start date of that sport season before he/she attends classes at any school.

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

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

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

9.2.2 Attendance Exceptions

9.2.2.1 Home Education Student. A legally registered home education student may participate at one of the following: (s. 1006.15(3)(c), Florida Statutes)
(a) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to district school board attendance area policies; or
(b) A private school that will accept the student for participation; or
(c) A home education cooperative to which the student belongs.

9.2.2.1.1 Home Education Student Requirements. To participate in interscholastic athletics, a home education student must: (s. 1006.15(3)(c)1-7, Florida Statutes)
(a) register as a home education student with the district school superintendent of the county in which he/she resides; and
(b) register with the school of his/her intent to participate before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wants to participate; and
(c) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as the school requires of other participating students; and
(d) certify to the school at the end of each semester that he/she has the minimum cumulative grade point average required for participation; and
(e) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and
(f) must be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.


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

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

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements (no form is required).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

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

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

(b) The student must register his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and

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

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

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

(b) The private school does not offer an interscholastic or intrascholastic athletic program: and

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

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

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

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

(c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and
(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and
(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and
(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements; and
(g) be approved by the FHSAA Office each year using a form provided by the Association.

9.2.2.6 Florida Virtual School – Full Time Program (FLVS-FT) Students. A student of the Florida Virtual School full-time program may participate in any interscholastic extracurricular activity at:
(a) The public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies; or
(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student.

9.2.2.6.1 FLVS-FT Student Requirement. To participate in interscholastic athletics, an FLVS-FT student must:
(s. 1006.15(3)(e)1-5, Florida Statutes)
(a) meet any additional requirements as determined by the board of trustees of the Florida Virtual School; and
(b) meet the minimum grade point average standards that are required of all students; and
(c) meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and
(d) meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance that are required of other students in interscholastic athletics; and
(e) register with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletics as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he/she wishes to participate; and
(f) meet all other FHSAA eligibility requirements.

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

9.2.2.8 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.

9.2.3 Attendance Within First 10 Days of Semester Required. A student must attend classes within the first 10 school days of a semester. Otherwise, the student will not be eligible until:
(a) The student has made up all class work missed during his/her absence; and
(b) The student has attended one school day for each school day missed.

9.2.4 Contact between Member School Coach and Student in Non-School Athletic Activities. The FHSAA supports and endorses Florida’s philosophy of school of choice for academic purposes. However, if a student chooses to attend or participate for a school, public or private, the following shall affect student eligibility related to participation in any non-school athletic activities affiliated with a member school followed by attending the affiliated member school within 365 days. If a student begins attending or participating for a school, public or private, within 365 days following direct contact with a member school’s coach, during the previous school year and in a non-school activity the student’s participation is impacted in the following manner:
(a) The student must participate at the sub-varsity level for the sport(s) in which the contact occurred, for a period of 365 days; the student may participate at the varsity level for every other sport sponsored by the member school at the school’s discretion; OR
(b) The student may participate at the varsity level in any sport, provided the student began attending the new school due to the fact that he/she could no longer attend the previous school because of its terminal grade; OR
(c) The student may participate at the varsity level of the sport(s) in which the contact occurred, however, the school’s coach shall not participate in any manner at the school in the impacted sport(s) for a period of 365 calendar days.

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

9.2.4.1 Non-School Athletic Activities Affiliated with a School. Non-school athletic activities affiliated with a school are any athletic activities not sponsored by the school but are organized, coached and/or supervised by a coach (paid or unpaid) of an FHSAA member school. Such activities include, but are not limited to:
(a) club/travel teams;
9.3.1 "Transfer" Defined. 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 Transfer Eligibility. A student who transfers from one school to another will be eligible at the new school provided:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) The student must participate at the sub-varsity level for the sport(s) in which the contact occurred, for a period of 365 days; the student may participate at the varsity level for every other sport sponsored by the member school at the school’s discretion provided the coach does not coach in any other sport; OR

(b) The student may participate at the varsity level in any sport, provided the student began attending the new school due to the fact that he/she could no longer attend the previous school because of its terminal grade; OR

(c) The student may participate at the varsity level for every other sport sponsored by the member school at the school’s discretion provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements in the new school on or prior to the beginning date of the sport season, as established in the FHSAA Calendar, and the school’s coach shall not participate in any manner at the school in the impacted sport(s) for a period of 365 calendar days.

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

9.2.6 Ineligible Student Cannot Change Schools to Become Eligible. A student who is deemed ineligible for a period of time cannot change schools and become eligible. Attending a new school at the beginning of the school year does not decrease or eliminate the period of ineligibility.
9.3.2.4 **Move to New Residence Following Marriage.** The student marries and immediately establishes a new residence with his/her spouse at a residence that makes it necessary for the student to attend a different school and the student meets all other eligibility requirements in Article 9.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.3.5.1.1 **Student Who Participated in the State Championships in Another State.** A student who attends a member school after having participated in the State Championships in a sport in another state is ineligible to participate in that sport for that school year.
9.4 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.4.3 Effect of Summer School or its Graded Equivalent Courses on Cumulative GPA. A student may raise or lower his/her cumulative GPA by attending summer school or its graded equivalent if:
The summer school or its graded equivalent is regularly scheduled and regularly organized under the direction of a district school board or private school;

All coursework taken by the student is completed before the first day of classes in the subsequent semester; and

All courses taken by the student, in which he/she receives a grade, whether during the regular academic year or summer school, or its graded equivalent, must be used to calculate the student’s cumulative GPA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.4.5.1 Considerations

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

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

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

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

9.5 LIMIT OF ELIGIBILITY

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

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

9.5.1.2 Participation Prior to High School Does Not Affect Limit of Eligibility. A student’s four-year limit of high school eligibility is not affected by the student’s participation in interscholastic athletics before beginning the ninth grade for the first time.
9.5.2 A 6th, 7th or 8th Grade Student Has 1-Year Limit of Eligibility in Each Grade. A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student may participate only one year in each grade level. A 6th, 7th or 8th grade student who repeats a grade will not be eligible during the grade being repeated.

9.6 AGE

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

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

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

9.6.2.1 When Junior High Age Limit Applies. The 16 year 9 month junior high school age limit applies to a participating student only when:
   (a) Teams representing junior high schools compete against each other; or
   (b) Teams representing the junior high school departments of combination junior-senior high schools compete against each other.

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

9.6.3.1 When Middle School Age Limit Applies. The 15 year 9 month middle school age limit applies to a participating student only when:
   (a) Teams representing middle schools compete against each other; or
   (b) Teams representing the middle school departments of combination middle-senior high schools compete against each other.

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

9.6.4.1 What is Documented Proof of Age? Documented proof of age is one or more of the following:
   (a) An original birth certificate issued by the office of vital records in the country, province, state, county or city where the student was born;
   (b) A passport, visa or “green card” that lists the student’s date of birth; or
   (c) An official record of birth from the hospital in which the student was born.

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

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

9.7.2 Qualified Practitioners. The annual physical evaluation must be administered either by a licensed physician, a licensed osteopathic physician, a licensed chiropractic physician, a licensed physician assistant, or a certified advanced registered nurse practitioner.
9.7.3 Filing Requirements. The student-athlete shall be required to file with the principal or his/her designee a fully executed physical evaluation form signed by the practitioner and medical history questionnaire signed by the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

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

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

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

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

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

9.9 AMATEURISM

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

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

(a) Competing for money or other monetary compensations;
(b) Receiving any award or prize of monetary value which has not been approved by the FHSAA;
(c) Capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of a monetary nature;
(d) Signing a professional playing contract in any sport or hiring an agent to manage his/her athletic career;
(e) Competing under an assumed name.

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

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

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

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

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

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

OPERATIONAL BYLAW, ARTICLE 10

Compliance and Enforcement

10.1 PRINCIPLES AND PENALTIES

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

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

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

(b) **FINE**—A monetary payment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.1.2.2 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.

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

10.1.4 Court Injunctions. If a member school or student, in violation of or noncompliance with any provisions of this Association’s rules, competes based on an injunction or restraining order which is later voluntarily vacated, stayed or reversed, or it is determined that injunctive relief is not or was not justified, they will still be subject to the penalties listed in 10.1.1.

10.2 FORFEITURE OF CONTEST

10.2.1 General Principle. If anineligible student is intentionally permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest, forfeiture of the game and honors shall be automatic and mandatory. If an ineligible student is inadvertently permitted to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest, forfeiture of the game and honors shall be automatic and mandatory if the coach or school administrator knew or should have known that such use would be a violation of the association’s rules and regulations.
10.2.1.1 **Team or Individual Sports.** In team sports, the contest and honors shall be forfeited. In individual sports, the points won by the ineligible student, individually or as the member of a relay team shall be forfeited. If an ineligible student participates on a relay team, the relay team shall be disqualified.

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

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

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

### 10.3 PROTEST PROCEDURE

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

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

### 10.4 DUE PROCESS

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

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

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

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

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

##### 10.4.4.2 Criteria for an Undue Hardship Waiver Determination.
By seeking an undue hardship waiver, the student and the member school accept the fact that the student is ineligible under the FHSAA Bylaws but are asking for a grant of waiver of those Bylaws. For the purpose of determining whether to grant or deny an undue hardship waiver the Sectional Appeals Committees and the Board of Directors 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 illness, or injury, must be supported by a physician’s record indicating that the absence was directly and solely related to such injury or illness, or events which were beyond the control of the student and/or the parent or guardian which causes the student to miss
school for a prolonged period of time causing the student to repeat a grade, may be grounds for granting an undue hardship waiver request.

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

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

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

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

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

10.5 GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR APPEALS AND REQUESTS FOR WAIVER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.5.7.1 Infraction Appeals Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.5.7.1.4 Authority and Duties of Committee. The committee:

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

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

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

10.5.8.1.2 Composition of Committee. The committee will be composed of five ad hoc members as follows:
   (a) One non-attorney member from each of the four Sectional Appeals Committees; and
   (b) One attorney member from one of the four Sectional Appeals Committees. The attorney member shall chair the Emergency Appeals Committee.

10.5.8.1.3 Selection of Committee Members. When requested by the Executive Director, the Emergency Appeal Committee members will be selected as follows:
   (a) Each non-lawyer member will be designated by the Chairperson of the respective Sectional Appeals Committees; and
   (b) The attorney member, who will serve as the chair of the committee, will be designated by the Executive Director.

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

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

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

10.6 APPEAL AND REQUEST FOR WAIVER PROCEDURES
10.6.1 Filing an Initial Appeal or Request for Waiver. An appeal or request for waiver must be filed with the Executive Director on the form(s) provided by this Association and must be accompanied by all necessary documentation. The appeal or request, including all required documentation, must be signed by the principal and received in the office of this Association no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on the filing dates established by the Board of Directors and printed in the FHSAA Planning Calendar. Appeals and requests received after the deadline date will not be considered at that Sectional Appeals Committee meeting, but will be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting. Incomplete appeals or requests for waiver will be returned to the person or entity making the appeal for an opportunity to resubmit with all the necessary information prior to the deadline, if time allows.

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

10.6.3 Appearances Before Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee, Emergency Appeals Committee and/or Board of Directors. The person or entity making the appeal has the opportunity to appear before the Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee, Emergency Appeals Committee and/or the Board of Directors if he/she so chooses. The person or entity making the appeal must give notice of their choice to appear at the time the appeal or request for waiver is filed. Appearance by the student and a school representative is mandatory for an appeal or request for undue hardship waiver involving age, limit of eligibility and unsportsmanlike conduct provisions when heard by the Sectional Appeals Committee, and is optional when heard by the Board of Directors.
10.6.3.1 Procedure for Appearance. A person or entity making the appeal who is required, or who chooses, to appear before the Sectional Appeals Committee, Infraction Appeals Committee and/or the Board of Directors will be assigned a time for the appearance. A twenty (20)-minute block will be allotted for each case involving an appearance.

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

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

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

10.6.5 Mediation

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

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 held once a month on dates established annually by the Board of Directors.

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 five business days following the mediation session.

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

10.6.6 Infraction Appeals Committee Appeals Procedure

10.6.6.1 Written Notice of Appeal. To be considered by the appropriate appeals committee, the school’s written notice of appeal of the findings of fact or the penalty imposed, or both, must be received in the FHSAA Office not later than ten 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.
10.6.2.2 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.

10.6.2.3 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.

10.6.2.3.1 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.

10.6.3 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 10.6.2.3.1.

10.6.7 Emergency Appeals Committee Appeals Procedures

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

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

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

10.7 EMPOWERMENT

10.7.1 Sectional Appeals Committee Powers. The Sectional Appeals Committee is empowered to consider a request from member schools seeking exceptions to Bylaws and regulations, to hear undue hardship eligibility cases filed by member schools on behalf of student-athletes, and to hear appeals filed by member schools or other individuals. The decision in each case shall be by majority vote and may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

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

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

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

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

10.7.4 Executive Director's Powers

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

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

(a) Notice. The Executive Director will notify in writing the principal of the school of the date, time and site of the Board of Directors meeting at which a hearing on the school’s membership status will be conducted. The notice must state the findings of the Executive Director and must advise the principal of his/her obligation to represent his/her school at the hearing. This notice must be received by the principal of the school not fewer than 10 business days in advance of the date of the hearing.

(b) Hearings. During the hearing before the Board of Directors, the school may have an attorney present, may present witnesses, testimony, and any other relevant evidence or information for consideration by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director may also present witnesses, testimony, and any other relevant evidence or information for consideration by the Board of Directors.

(c) Final Decision. Following the presentation of evidence and arguments, the Board of Directors will render its decision by majority vote. The Board of Directors is empowered to sustain, modify or reject the findings and recommendation of the Executive Director. The decision of the Board of Directors will be final.

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

10.9 COMPLIANCE WITH DECISIONS

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

2014-15 Edition

Pursuant to the authority granted it in Article 4.3 of the FHSAA Bylaws, the FHSAA Board of Directors has established the following policies to govern the Association’s interscholastic athletic programs. In the case of any conflict, whether actual or believed, with the Bylaws of the FHSAA, the Bylaws shall control. Any understanding, misunderstanding, opinion or belief by an individual as a result of reading these policies shall not be binding on the FHSAA. The term “Executive Director” as used throughout these policies shall mean the Executive Director of the FHSAA or his/her designee, unless otherwise specifically noted. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal or designated official representative of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director or his/her designee. Only a formal ruling by the Executive Director or his/her designee is binding on the FHSAA. General failure to comply with FHSAA Policies will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per occurrence. Substantive changes for the 2014-15 school year are shaded.
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<td>clarifies and modifies current language relative to second level reviews on gender identity issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3.7</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>modifies current language by adding a new subsection relative to gender identity exemptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to continuing membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.2.2</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to sport season limitation to match current practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>clarifies current language relative to hosts of sanctioned events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>modifies current language by adding a new section with subsections relative to hosts of sanctioned events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>clarifies current language relative to third party special events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>modifies current language by adding a new subsection relative to non-tax sources of funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>clarifies and modifies current language of numerous subsections relative to membership dues and fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>clarifies and modifies current language relative to legal fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>clarifies and modifies current language of numerous subsections relative to administrative fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to student discounts and contest contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.9.2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to financial reporting and revenue sharing Florida High School State Championships events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.12</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to non-tax funds limitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>adds a new subsection relative to cancellation of events not held due to unusual circumstances or weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>modifies and deletes several subsections relative team participation in Florida High School State Championships events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>modifies current language by deleting requirement of certain signatures of State Entry Lists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1.3</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to classification term</td>
</tr>
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<td>12.2.6</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to the Executive Director’s classification authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to Florida High School State Championships passes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5</td>
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<td>modifies current language relative to Lifetime Passes</td>
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<td>16.1.2</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to high school GPA calculation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.1.4</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>adds a new subsection relative to academic records</td>
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<td>17.1.2</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to placement with host families for foreign students</td>
</tr>
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<td>17.1.10</td>
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<td>modifies current language to match bylaws relative to eligibility of foreign graduates</td>
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<td>17.3</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>modifies current language relative registration procedures for foreign students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>77 &amp; 78</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to spring practice for football and competitive cheerleading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>79-81</td>
<td>modifies current language of and adds numerous subsections relative to advisory committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.1.1</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>modifies current language of and deletes subsections relative to coaching camps and clinics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>modifies and reorganizes current language relative to all-star games and showcases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to crowd control by visiting schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.1.6</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to the completion an NFHS coaching course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>91-92</td>
<td>modifies current language and adds new subsections relative alcohol, tobacco and other substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.1</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to inclement weather during Florida High School State Championships contests</td>
</tr>
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<td>34</td>
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<td>modifies current language relative to filming athletic contests</td>
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<td>36.2.1.1</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>modifies current language to match bylaws relative to representatives of a school athletic interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>41.4.2</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>modifies current language relative to consent forms related to heat acclimatization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>110-111</td>
<td>modifies current language and adds new language relative to changes in administrative fees</td>
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</table>
PRIORITY 1

APPORTIONMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECTIONS

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

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

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

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

1.1.4 Next Review Period. Pursuant to this policy, the next review of the apportionment of administrative sections by the Board of Directors shall be conducted in Fall 2014. Any reapportionment resulting from this review shall be in effect for the elections to be conducted beginning in February 2015.

POLICY 2

DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLICY 3

CATEGORIZATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

3.1 General Principles. The following guidelines shall govern the categorization of interscholastic sports programs sponsored by member schools, as well as the implementation of Florida High School State Championships competitions in those sports.
These guidelines establish the thresholds (minimum standards) that sports must meet for categorization and Florida High School State Championships implementation. Any member school that sponsors a sport, as defined in Administrative Procedure 2, that is recognized or sanctioned by this Association shall abide by all regulations of this Association.

3.2 Club Sports

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

3.3 Recognized Sports

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

3.3.2 Requirements for Recognition. The Board of Directors may extend recognition to a sport, effective with the beginning of the next school year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, when a minimum of 32 member senior high schools that are geographically situated in at least two (2) of the four (4) administrative sections submit letters of petition requesting recognition status for the sport on their respective schools’ official stationery. Not more than three-fourths of these schools may be located in the same one administrative section. Each school submitting a letter of petition must have sponsored a program in the sport for a minimum of two (2) years in which it actively engaged in competition in the sport with other schools. The letters of petition must be submitted by the requisite number of member senior high schools within the same school year, and shall become invalid at the conclusion of that school year.

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

3.3.3.1 Requirements for Florida High School State Championships. A minimum of 48 member senior high schools must have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the recognized sport for a minimum of one (1) year.

3.3.3.2 Commitment to Participate in Florida High School State Championships. When the Board of Directors authorizes a Florida High School State Championships in a recognized sport, the FHSAA Office shall mail to all member senior high schools a form on which to record its intention with regard to participation in the Florida High School State Championships. A minimum of 48 member senior high schools, of which not more than three-fourths may be geographically located within the same one administrative section, must respond in the affirmative on the commitment form for a Florida High School State Championships to be implemented. These schools must have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of one (1) year since the sport was given recognition status. It is not necessary that all member senior high schools that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championships have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of one (1) year since the sport was given recognition status. It is only necessary that at least 48 of the member senior high schools that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championships have done so. In committing to participate in the Florida High School State Championships, schools shall agree to abide by all season limitations, as well as all terms and conditions for the Florida High School State Championships, as established by the Board of Directors. If the requisite number of member senior high schools does not commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championships under these conditions, the Florida High School State Championships shall not be implemented at that time.

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

3.4 Sanctioned Sports

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

3.4.2 Requirements of Sanctioning. The Board of Directors may sanction a recognized sport as being eligible for official Florida High School State Championships competition, effective with the beginning of the following school year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, when a minimum of 10 percent of the total member senior high schools, which are geographically situated in at least two (2) of the four (4) administrative sections, have sponsored a program in, and competed in, a recognized sport for a minimum of two years. Not more than three-fourths of these schools may be located in the same one administrative section.

3.4.3 Implementation of a Florida High School State Championships. When a sport is sanctioned by the
Board of Directors as being eligible for official Florida High School State Championships competition, the FHSAA Office shall mail to all member senior high schools a form on which to record its intention with regard to participation in an official Florida High School State Championships in the sport. A minimum of 10 percent of the total member senior high schools, of which not more than three-fourths may be geographically located within the same one administrative section, must respond in the affirmative on the commitment form for an official Florida High School State Championships to be implemented in a single classification in the following school year. These schools must have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of two (2) years since the sport was given recognition status. It is not necessary that all member senior high schools that commit to participate in the official Florida High School State Championships have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the sport for a minimum of two (2) years since the sport was given recognition status. It is only necessary that at least 10 percent of the member senior high schools that commit to participate in the official Florida High School State Championships have done so. Otherwise, the official Florida High School State Championships shall not be implemented at that time. Any Florida High School State Championships that has been implemented and is being conducted in the sport, however, shall be continued.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLICY 4

INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS

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

4.1.1.1 Penalties Assessed to Schools.
(a) Permitting a student-athlete to compete in an interscholastic contest prior to his/her name being submitted to the FHSAA Office on an Annual Eligibility Report will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $50 per student.
(b) Failure to contract with sanctioned local officials associations for registered officials at all interscholastic home contests will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per contest.
(c) Actions which may not be regarded as unsportsmanlike which result in a contest being prematurely concluded will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100.

### 4.1.2 Submission of Schedule

**4.1.2.1** Sports Other Than Football. Member schools must submit their schedules to the FHSAA online via C2C Schools prior to the first week of regular season competition of the sport.

**4.1.2.2** Football. Each member school must submit to the FHSAA via C2C Schools not later than March 31 of each year the varsity football schedule for the following school year.

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

### 4.1.3 Sport Rosters

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

### 4.1.4 Reporting Scores

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

**4.1.4.1.1** The HOME team shall report the score of the previous week’s games.

**4.1.4.1.2** In the event a member school plays in a game hosted by a school outside of the state of Florida or plays a nonmember Florida school permissible by state statute, the member school shall be required to report the score following the same procedure in 4.1.4.1.1.

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

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

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

### 4.1.5 Prohibited Contests

**4.1.5.1** 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.

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

### 4.1.6 Absence from School

**4.1.6.1** 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.

**4.1.6.2** 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.

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

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

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

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

### 4.2 Outcome of Interscholastic Contests

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

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**4.2.2 Elimination is Final.** Elimination from a Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships competitions are final. Championships or other placements ordered vacated by individuals or teams, will not bring about advancement in placements or receipt of awards for those placements.

**4.3 GENDER IDENTITY PARTICIPATION**

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

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

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

- **4.3.2.1** Current transcript and school registration information;
- **4.3.2.2** All information required for participation and eligibility in FHSAA athletics (i.e. birth certificate, proof of residency, EL2, EL3 and EL3CH);
- **4.3.2.3** A written statement from the student affirming the consistent identity and expression to which the student self-relates;
- **4.3.2.4** Documentation from individuals such as, but not limited to, parents/legal guardians appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, friends and/or teachers, which affirm that the actions, attitudes, dress and manner demonstrate the student’s consistent gender identification and expression;
- **4.3.2.5** A complete list of all the student’s prescribed, non-prescribed or over the counter, treatments or medications;
- **4.3.2.6** Written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (doctor, psychiatrist, and psychologist) of the student’s consistent gender identification and expression; and
- **4.3.2.7** Any other pertinent documentation or information which the student or parent(s) /legal guardian(s) appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction believe relevant and appropriate.

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

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

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

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

**4.3.5 Second Level of Review.** Any school, on behalf of a student-athlete, which was denied participation at the First Level of Review wishing for a Second Level of Review of the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee’s decision shall file notice with the Executive Director of the FHSAA on or before the tenth (10th) school/business day following the date of receipt of the written decision.
MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Attendance at Compliance Seminar

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

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

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

5.1.4 First Year Provisional Member Schools. A senior member high school in its first year of provisional membership must be represented at a compliance seminar by its principal and athletic director and FHSAA representative.

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

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

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

5.1.8 Choice of Seminar Site. Schools attending a compliance seminar may choose from any compliance seminar held in the state that year.

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

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

5.2 Membership Applications

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

5.3 Approved Accrediting Agencies

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

(a) Association of Christian Schools International;
(b) Association of Christian Teachers and Schools;
(c) Association of Independent Schools of Florida;
(d) Christian Schools of Florida;
(e) Council of Bilingual Schools;
(f) Episcopal Diocese of Florida;
(g) Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools;
(h) Florida Catholic Conference;
(i) Florida Coalition of Christian Private Schools;
(j) Florida Conference of Seventh Day Adventist Schools;
(k) Florida Council of Independent Schools;
(l) Florida League of Christian Schools;
(m) Lutheran Schools Florida-Georgia District;
(n) National Independent Private School Association;
(o) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

5.4 Suspension of Membership

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

POLICY 6

SPORTS SEASONS LIMITATIONS

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

6.1 General Principles.

6.1.1 Season Limitations. A member school shall not organize its teams for interscholastic practice or interscholastic competition in a sport outside of the dates listed for that sport. The Board of Directors will establish the dates for the first day of allowable practices/tryouts, pre-season contests, first and last days of regular season contests and the Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships competition, whichever is last to occur.

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

6.1.2 Restrictions for Football and Wrestling

6.1.2.1 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 procedure. During the initial five (5) days, the use of arm shields, tackling and blocking dummies, sleds and other devices can be used for instructional purposes, however, deliberate body-to-body contact is prohibited.
6.1.1.2.2 Wrestling. Each student must participate in minimum of 10 practice sessions on 10 separate days prior to first competition (except a student who participates in a fall sport may compete after participating in 5 practice sessions on 5 separate days).

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

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

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

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 of which has the limits as specified in 6.1.2.

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

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

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

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

POLICY 7

MULTI-SCHOOL, SPECIAL AND SANCTIONED ATHLETIC EVENTS

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

7.1 Definitions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.1.5 **Host**

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

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

7.2 **Multi-Team Events and Tournaments.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7.8 Third Party Special Events

7.8.1 Member schools serving as Host (as defined in Policy 7.1.5) for an event on campus or through rights to use an off campus facility where the event is co-sponsored or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community with a third party entity, or the event involves a national television network (i.e. but not limited to, KSA Events, ESPN, ESPNU, Fox, TBS, Paragon Sports, etc.) must obtain permission to participate a minimum of 90 days prior to the event by filing a Form AT2 or AT3 along with the required supplemental form AT2S or AT3S. All such events hosted within the state of Florida must include the FHSAA as a party to the contract with the third party promoter and the administrative fee due to FHSAA shall be individually negotiated for each event with a minimum fee equivalent to 20% of gate receipts for non-televised events, or a minimum fee equivalent to 25% of gate receipts for televised events unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director. A member school who files a form AT2 or AT3 on behalf of a promoter is fully responsible for all financial obligations of the event in regard to payment to the FHSAA. This policy applies only to national promoters and does not apply to locally televised regular season events.

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

7.8.3 Any event hosted by or held on a college or university campus must be directly sanctioned by the College, University or third party with the FHSAA.

POLICY 8

MEMBER SCHOOL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

8.5 FHSAA Additional Insured. The FHSAA shall be named as an additional insured under all of the above coverage. Member schools shall require the insurance companies to give the FHSAA thirty (30) days prior notice in the event of policy lapse, non-payment of premiums or non-renewal.

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FINANCES

9.1 Definitions

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

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

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

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

9.2 Membership Dues and Fees

9.2.1 Membership Dues.

9.2.1.1 Continuing Senior High School Members. Dues for the current school year are $25, regardless of school size. Dues will be billed on or before July 1. Payment of dues must be received in the FHSAA Office by September 30.

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

9.2.1.3 Continuing Middle/Junior High Schools. Dues for the current school year, regardless of school size are $10. Dues will be billed on or before July 1. Payment of dues must be received in the FHSAA Office by September 30.

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

9.2.2 Membership Fees.

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

9.2.2.2 Application Fee For Continuing Members. Application for continuation of membership is due in the FHSAA Office by April 30.

9.2.3 Re-admission of Former Member School. A former member school that applies for re-admission will be assessed an administrative fee of $250 for high schools and $75 for middle/junior high schools (this is in addition to the member application fee as per Bylaw 3.6.1.2).

9.3 Legal Cost Sharing

9.3.1 Senior High Schools (Full Members).

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

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

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

9.4 Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Dues

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

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

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

(a) Preseason classic tournaments and jamborees: $100; Preseason classics and jamborees exceeding four (4) teams are subject to additional fees of $50 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director;

(b) Tournaments – 4 or fewer teams: $70; 5 to 8 teams: $175; 9 to 16 teams: $350; 17 to 20 teams: $525; 21 to 24 teams: $700; 25 to 32 teams: $1,050;

(c) Tournaments exceeding 32 teams are subject to conditional approval by the Executive Director.

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

(a) Preseason classic tournaments: $75; Preseason classics and jamborees exceeding four (4) teams are subject to additional fees of $50 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director;

(b) Tournaments – 8 or fewer teams: $70; 9 to 16 teams: $105; 17 to 32 teams: $175;

(c) Tournaments exceeding 32 teams are subject to additional fees of $35 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director and will be assessed $175, plus an additional $35 per team in excess of 32.

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

(a) Preseason classic tournaments: $50; Preseason classics and jamborees exceeding four (4) teams are subject to additional fees of $50 per team and conditional approval by the Executive Director;

(b) Tournaments – up to 4 teams: Sanction approval is not necessary and there are no administrative fees; 16 or fewer teams: $35; 17 to 32 teams: $70; Tournaments exceeding 32 teams are subject to $175 fee and conditional approval by the Executive Director.

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

9.6 Admission to Special Events

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

9.7 Admission to Florida High School State Championships Events

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

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

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

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

9.7.4 Girls Weightlifting and Boys Weightlifting. The admission price to meets in the Florida High School State Championships shall be as follows: Florida High School State Championships, $9.
9.7.5 **Bowling, Flag Football, Lacrosse and Water Polo.** The admission price to tournament sessions in the Florida High School State Championships shall be as follows: district tournaments/meets, $6; regional tournaments/meets, $7; Florida High School State Championships, $8.

9.7.6 **Golf and Tennis.** No admission shall be charged to Florida High School State Championships events in these sports.

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

9.8 **Ticket Policy for Florida High School State Championships Events**

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.9 **Special Events Financial Reporting and Revenue Sharing**

9.9.1 **Football Preseason and Spring Jamborees.** A financial fee of $150 per Spring Jamboree and $450 for Fall Jamboree must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Fall Classic Fee</th>
<th>Spring Classic Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8A, 7A, 6A, 5A</td>
<td>$1,150</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4A, 3A, 1A</td>
<td>$750</td>
<td>$350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2A, Independent</td>
<td>$450</td>
<td>$200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

9.10 **Florida High School State Championships Games, Tournaments & Meets Financial Reporting and Revenue Sharing**

9.10.1 **Football.** Each district tie-breaker, regional tournament game and state semifinal game shall be financially independent. The total gate receipts of each district tie-breaker, regional tournament game and state semifinal game shall be divided as follows: FHSAA shall receive 25 percent of gate receipts or the total net profit after host expenses, whichever is less. The amounts remaining after host expenses and FHSAA share are paid shall be divided 55 percent to the host school and 45 percent to the visiting school(s).

If, however, a district tie-breaker, regional tournament game or state semifinal game shows a net profit of $250 or less, the host school shall retain the net profit and no percentage shall be paid to the visiting school(s) or the FHSAA. In the event the host school reports a net profit of $250 or less, the host school must provide supporting documentation for all expenses claimed. The net profit is determined...
by subtracting total expenditures from the total gate receipts on the financial report form. If a district tie-breaker, regional tournament game or state semifinal game shows a net loss on the financial report form, the FHSAA shall compensate the host school up to $350 for the loss, subject to the provisions of 9.10.5. Financial Report Form FB5 for district tie-breakers, regional and state semifinals must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee shall be assessed as follows: 1 to 60 days late, $50; 61 to 90 days late, $75; beyond 90 days late, $100.

9.10.2 Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Girls Volleyball. Each district tournament and regional tournament contest shall be financially independent. The total gate receipts of each district tournament and each regional tournament contest shall be divided as follows: FHSAA shall receive 15 percent of gate receipts or the total net profit after host expenses, whichever is less. The amounts remaining after host expenses and FHSAA share are paid shall be divided 45 percent to the host school and 45 percent to the visiting school(s). If, however, a district tournament or regional tournament contest shows a net profit of $250 or less, the host school shall retain the net profit and no percentage shall be paid to the visiting school(s) or the FHSAA. The net profit is determined by subtracting total expenditures from the total gate receipts on the financial report form. If a district tournament or regional tournament contest shows a net loss on the financial report form, the FHSAA shall compensate the host school up to $350 for the loss, subject to the provisions of 9.10.5. Financial Report Form FN2 for district and regional tournaments must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee shall be assessed as follows: 1 to 60 days late, $50; 61 to 90 days late, $75; beyond 90 days late, $100.

9.10.3 Bowling, Cross Country, Flag Football, Golf, Lacrosse, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Boys Volleyball, Water Polo, Weightlifting and Wrestling. The FHSAA will not receive any percentage of the gross receipts from district or regional tournaments or meets or any Florida High School State Championships play-in games. Host school(s) of district tournaments or Florida High School State Championships play-in games in these sports do not need to file a financial report.

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

9.10.4.1 Charge the full admission price established in Policy 9.7 without waiver;

9.10.4.2 Sell numbered tickets and account for all tickets sold as stipulated in Policy 9.8;

9.10.4.3 File a financial report form for the game, tournament or meet as stipulated in Policy 9.10 (the sports listed in Policy 9.10.3 are ineligible since they do not file financial reports);

9.10.4.4 Submit with the financial report form the Florida High School State Championships Contest Pass Gate Sign-In Form(s) as stipulated in Administrative Procedure 3.11;

9.10.4.5 Provide supporting documentation for all expenses reported; and

9.10.4.6 Be in compliance with all policies for the event.

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

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

(a) Cross Country event held on property that does not permit ticket sales. Fees may be assessed to cover reasonable costs of the event

(b) Tennis and Golf event where fees are assessed to share reasonable costs of the event with the host

(c) Swimming & Diving events where host incurs a pool rental fee and splits the cost of the rental with participating schools (see policy 14 for maximum rental fees)

(d) Sharing shortfalls on a District Florida High School State Championships event after FHSAA loss reimbursement, when authorized by the District Planning Meeting

(e) Upon prior written permission from the Executive Director or his/her designee

9.10.7 Florida High School State Championships Awards

(a) In the sport of football, the District Champion/Runner-up may elect to purchase District Championship/Runner-up Trophies, and if so, must purchase these from the FHSAA authorized award vendor.

(b) In the sports of Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball and Girls Volleyball, the Host may elect to purchase District Championship trophies, and if so, must purchase these from the FHSAA authorized award vendor and report the expense on the FN2 financial report for the event.
If then

The host of any sanctioned event where a cancellation of the event occurs prior to any

9.12.4 Compensation to Schools Participating in Florida High School State
Championships Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.13 Invoices Charged to Member Schools’ Accounts

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

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

9.14 Member Schools Limited to Non-Tax Funds. Member schools must only use non-tax sources of funds as defined in Policy 9.14 to make payments of any kind to the FHSAA. Payments for administrative fees for tournaments and classics in Policies 9.5 and 9.9, and payments to FHSAA for Florida High School State Championships games in Policy 9.10 are deemed to be derived from the public sale of tickets to the event. Member schools must assure payments for membership fees, legal cost sharing and all other fees and fines are made from funds that are not derived from taxes.
POLICY 10

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

10.1 Participation in Florida High School State Championships

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

A school for legitimate reasons may exercise the option of independence. Such reasons include, but are not limited to: a newly opening school that can and should participate, do so.

High school students that are academically ineligible at the beginning of a sports season and who regains his/her eligibility during that sports season, but is unable to participate in the minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests in that sport, shall be exempted from this provision.

In a sport, an individual student-athlete shall participate in a minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests in that sport for the current season.

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

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

10.1.2 Participation is for Full Member Senior High Schools. Participation in the Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships is not guaranteed.

10.2 Team Participation

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

(a) The school successfully sponsors a varsity program in the previous school year (i.e. completes a comparable district schedule to the other schools in the district which they would be placed).

(b) The school files a commitment (team sports) or intent (individual sports) to participate in the Florida High School State Championships with FHSAA by the specified deadline.

(c) A varsity team shall engage in a minimum of four (4) interscholastic contests (games, matches or meets) or the required number of district contests as determined in the district meeting, whichever is greater, in the sport. To count as a contest, the school’s team actually shall participate in and complete the contest. Scheduled contests that are canceled or not completed (in accordance with the playing rules of the sport in question) may not be counted.

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

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

10.2.2 Only One Varsity Team May Enter. A school may enter only one varsity team in the Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships in any sport during its period of provisional membership.

10.3 Individual Participation

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

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

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

10.5 Commitment to Participate Form for Team Sports

10.5.1 Commitment Form. Each member school that elects to participate in a Florida High School State Championships competition in a team sport must notify the FHSAA Office of its intent to do so on the “Commitment to Participate in Florida High School State Championships” form. The FHSAA issues commitment forms on a biennial basis. A commitment made using this form is for the following two school years.

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

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

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

No school, however, under any circumstance, shall be assigned to a classification and district in the Florida High School State Championships in a team sport if its request for such assignment is received in the FHSAA Office on or after the date of the district tournament planning/scheduling meeting.

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

10.6 Notice of Intent to Participate Form for Individual Sports

10.6.1 Commitment Form. Each member school that elects to participate in a Florida High School State Championships competition in an individual sport must notify the FHSAA Office of its intent to do so on the “Declaration of Intent to Participate in Florida High School State Championships” form. The FHSAA issues intent forms on a biennial basis. A commitment made using this form is for the following two school years.

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

10.6.3 Non-Binding Agreement. A properly executed intent form is non-binding on the member school. A school that elects to withdraw from its intent to participate in an individual sport may do so without penalty, prior to the beginning of the fifth (5th) week of competition in the sport, by notifying the FHSAA Office of its decision using the form provided for that purpose. If, however, the school fails to notify in writing, the FHSAA Office of its decision to withdraw from its intent to participate in an individual sport prior to the beginning of the fifth (5th) week of competition, that school shall be assessed a $250 monetary penalty and its program in that sport placed on administrative probation.

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

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

10.6.5 Intention Agreement. By filing notice of intent to participate in a Florida High School State Championships, a member school agrees to participate in accordance with and abide by all the procedures, guidelines, policies and regulations for the Florida High School State Championships as approved by the FHSAA Board of Directors in accordance with the Bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association.
10.7 Failure to Appear

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

10.7.2 Student Athlete Failure to Appear. A student-athlete who qualifies in a Florida High School State Championships meet as an individual is expected to compete on successive levels of the Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships in that sport. Personnel on relay teams may be changed in accordance with the rules governing those sports. A school must submit in writing to the FHSAA Office the name of the student-athlete and an explanation for the inability to compete in advance of the competition whenever situations make it possible to do so. Failure to participate in the district/regional meet by an individual or relay team is a violation of FHSAA policy and shall subject the school to a $50 penalty unless the reason for failure to participate is approved by the FHSAA Office.

10.8 Neutrality

10.8.1 Neutrality. It is the responsibility of the host school to ensure that an atmosphere of neutrality is maintained in all Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships.

10.9 Allegations and Protests

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

10.9.2 Withholding Information. Member schools (or persons defined in Bylaw 1.4.18) who intentionally withhold information impacting Florida High School State Championships participation shall be considered unethical and unsportsmanlike and addressed in accordance with Policy 44.

POLICY 11

OFFICIAL STATE ENTRY LIST (SEL)

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

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

11.2 Requirements. The SEL must contain only the names of those student-athletes who have been previously reported to the FHSAA Office on an Annual Eligibility List electronically by use of utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director. Only those student-athletes who meet the requirements of Bylaw 9 for a school prior to the following:

11.2.1 Team Sports. The last permissible date for a district contest in team sports (i.e. baseball, basketball, flag football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball and water polo); or

11.2.2 Competitive Cheerleading and Football. As specified on the FHSAA Website for competitive cheerleading and football; or
11.2.3 **Individual Sports.** The Saturday that is immediately prior to the Monday on which the SEL is due in individual sports (i.e. bowling, cross country, golf, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, weightlifting, wrestling).

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

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

The terms and conditions governing the Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships contest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLICY 12

CLASSIFICATION

12.1 General

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

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

12.1.3 Classification Term. Schools shall be classified on a biennial basis for the following two school years. The current classification term is for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. Note: the classification term commencing with the 2015-16 school year will be based on a quadrennial basis for the 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

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

12.2 Classification Criteria

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

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

12.2.1.1.1 Exceptions.

(a) Dual Enrolled and Early Admission student as per Bylaw 9.2.2.3
(b) Youth Exchange and International students are classified as Non-traditional students due to the need of being approved on an annual basis as per Policy 17

12.2.1.2 Non-Traditional Students. Non-traditional Students are students that are not enrolled in and physically attend the school at which they participate, including, but not limited to; Home Education Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.1 and, Charter School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.2, Special School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.4 and Non-Member Private School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.5 and FLVS-FT Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.6.

12.2.1.2.1 Exception. Youth Exchange and International students are classified as Non-traditional students due the need of being approved on an annual basis as per Policy 17.

12.2.1.3 Population Count of Non-traditional Students. The count of non-traditional students, with the exception of Foreign Exchange and International Student, will be the average of the number of students in each category for each of the previous number of years as the number of years in the classification term as defined in 12.1.3.

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

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

12.2.4 Significant Increase or Decrease in Student Population. An existing full member senior high school that expects to incur a significant increase or decrease in student population the following school year due to the opening of a new school or to the redrawing of attendance zone boundaries by the district school board may request to be classified on the basis of the school’s projected student population for the following school year rather than the school’s actual student population reported in the current school year. This projected student population must be submitted by the district superintendent for a public school or the senior administrator for a private school, and must be certified with their respective signatures. If a school requesting to be classified on such a projection reports an actual student population in October of the following school year that would place it into a classification lower than that of its projected student population, the school shall be required to compete in the Florida High School State Championships in the higher classification. If, however, the school’s actual student population would place it into a classification higher than that of its projected student population, the school shall not be eligible to compete in the Florida High School State Championships in the lower classification.

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

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

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

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

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

12.2.6 Executive Director Classification Authority. The Executive Director, at his/her discretion, may administratively assign a school to the next classification lower than the classification to which it would otherwise be assigned if:

(a) the school is geographically isolated from other schools in the classification to which it would be assigned; and

(b) the school has a student population that is within 10 percent of the dividing line between the classification to which it would be assigned and the next lower classification (Note: this language sunsets after the 2014-15 school year).

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

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

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

(a) the higher student population would place the school into a higher classification; and

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

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

(a) the higher student population computed in accordance with this policy would place the school into a higher classification; and

(b) every other school in the current classification that is not similarly adding one or more grades has a student population that is less than that of the school in question.
12.2.8.3 A school that reports in the subsequent year(s) of the classification term a decrease in student population that equals or exceeds 20 percent of the student population number that was used to assign the school to its current classification shall be reassigned to a lower classification if:
(a) the lower student population would place the school into a lower classification; and
(b) every other school in the current classification that has not experienced an equal or greater percentage decrease in student population has a student population that is more than the lower student population of the school in question.

12.2.8.4 A school that will experience a decrease in student population in the subsequent year(s) of the classification term due to the opening of a new school or the redrawing of school attendance boundaries shall be assigned to a lower classification if:
(a) the lower student population projected by the district school board office would place the school into a lower classification; and
(b) every other school in the current classification that is not similarly decreasing in student population because of these reasons has a student population that is more than that of the school in question.

12.3 Football

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

12.3.2 Division of Classifications.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12.4.2 Division of Classifications.

12.4.2.1 The total number of existing member senior high schools which commit to participate in boys basketball (which is the team sport with the most participation) shall be ranked in order of student population and shall be assigned to basic classifications as follows: schools shall be ranked in order of student population and divided into eight basic classifications (8A, 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A). Schools located in geographic areas that are eligible as determined by Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI), population density by zip code and median family income by zip code and have an enrollment up to 600 students may be placed in 1A. The remaining schools shall be evenly distributed among the basic classifications beginning with the lowest classification and working up. The student population of the smallest school assigned to each classification shall form the dividing line between that classification and the next lowest classification. Schools that have the same student population as a school whose student population forms the dividing line between classifications shall be placed with that school into the higher classification. The requisite number of schools then shall be assigned to each successive classification. Once the dividing lines between classifications for a term are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification term.

12.4.2.2 The dividing lines between the basic classifications are listed under “Assignments” on each sport page on the FHSAA Website.
12.4.2.3 A new member school that requests to participate in the Florida High School State Championships in the sports of baseball, girls basketball, boys basketball, softball and girls volleyball at the time of joining, and is eligible to do so, shall be assigned to the appropriate classification according to its student population or projected student population.

12.4.3 Assignment to Districts. Schools in each classification – regardless of the sports in which they sponsor programs – shall be assigned to basic districts on a geographic basis. The actual competitive districts in each sport then shall be determined by deleting from each basic district the schools that do not commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championships in that sport. For baseball and softball, if there is a significant inequity in the balance and/or geography of the districts, the Executive Director may make adjustments accordingly.

12.5 Girls & Boys Soccer

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

12.5.2 Division of Classifications.

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

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

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

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

12.6.1 Number of Classifications.

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

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

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

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

12.6.2 Division of Classifications.

12.6.2.1 Once the total number of classifications in a sport is determined according to the criteria above, the total number of schools that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championships in the sport shall be ranked in order of student population and evenly divided across the total number of classifications determined for that sport. Any remainder shall be evenly distributed among the classifications beginning with the lowest classification and working up. The student population of the smallest school assigned to each classification shall form the dividing line between that classification and the next lowest classification. Schools that have the same student population as a school whose student population forms the dividing line between classifications shall be placed with that school into the higher classification. The requisite number of schools then shall be assigned to each successive classification. Once the dividing lines between classifications for a classification term are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification term.
12.6.2.2 A new member school that requests to participate in the Florida High School State Championships in an individual sport at the time of joining, and is eligible to do so, shall be assigned to the appropriate classification according to its student population or projected student population.

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

POLICY 13

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

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

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

13.2 District Scheduling/Tournament Planning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13.3 Seeding and Bracketing

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

13.3.1.1 In the sports of baseball, basketball, flag football, lacrosse, softball, volleyball and water polo, each school shall be seeded based on its win-loss record in the contests played against all district opponents during the regular season. The school with the best district record shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-best district record shall be seeded No. 2; etc.

13.3.1.2 In the sport of soccer, each school shall be seeded based on the district points it accumulates in the games played against all district opponents during the regular season. Three (3) points shall be awarded for each victory over a district opponent. One (1) point shall be awarded for each tie with a district opponent. The school with the most district points shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-most district points shall be seeded No. 2; etc.

13.3.1.3 In the event two or more schools within the district are unable to play the required district contests due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations which are deemed acceptable by the Executive Director, all schools within that district shall be seeded according to the percentage of district contests won (average of points accumulated in soccer). The school with the highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 2, etc.

13.3.2 Two Schools Tied. When two schools are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used in the following order until the tie is broken:

(a) Won-loss results of head-to-head district competition between the two schools;
(b) Won-loss record (points in soccer) in district competition of the two schools versus the highest-seeded school (and proceeding through the lowest-seeded school, if necessary);
(c) Number of district victories (points in soccer) on the road in district games/matches;
(d) Number of district victories (points in soccer) at home in district games/matches; and
(e) Coin toss or blind draw by the district tournament/meet manager.

13.3.3 Three (or more) Schools Tied. When three or more schools are tied for a seed, the following procedure shall be used in the following order until the tie has been reduced to two schools, then the two-school tiebreaker formula shall be used:

(a) Total won-loss record (points in soccer) of district contests played among the tied schools;
(b) Won-loss record (points in soccer) in district competition of the tied schools versus the highest-seeded school (and proceeding through the lowest seeded school, if necessary);
(c) Number of district victories (points in soccer) on the road in district games/matches;
(d) Number of district victories (points in soccer) at home in district games/matches; and
(e) Blind draw by the district tournament/meet manager.

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

13.3.5 Seeding Report. Each school in the district shall report to the tournament/meet manager its final district win-loss record (points in soccer) not later than 10 a.m. Monday of the week immediately preceding the week in which the district tournament is to be played. The tournament/meet manager then shall seed the schools, place the schools on the bracket according to their seed, and assign contest dates and times in accordance with the provisions herein and the arrangements agreed upon during the district scheduling/tournament planning meeting. A copy of the finalized bracket shall then be faxed by the tournament/meet manager to all schools in the district, as well as to the FHSAA Office.
14.1 General Principles. The FHSAA Board of Directors has established the following minimum specifications for facilities in which Florida High School State Championships contests in basketball, football and girls volleyball are to be held. These specifications do not preclude a school with inadequate facilities from hosting a Florida High School State Championships contest in either sport. However, the school will be required, at its own expense, to host the contest in a neutral facility which does meet the necessary specifications. Rental expenses involved in securing an adequate facility for all sports Florida High School State Championships contests can only be claimed as a host expense if both the host and visitor schools have inadequate facilities and no reasonable alternative is available. The maximum host expense that can be claimed for costs involving an off campus facility (rent, utilities, cleaning, etc) on the FHSAA financial report is $1,000 for all sports, except Swimming & Diving. In the sport of Swimming and Diving, the host may offset a maximum of $2,000 facility cost with entry fees from participants without approval of the Executive Director. If a school in line to host a contest has inadequate facilities and chooses not to host the contest at another site, the visiting school will be given the opportunity to host the event in its facilities, if adequate, or at an adequate neutral site, if not. A basketball district in which no school has a facility that meets these minimum specifications must either play its district tournament at an adequate neutral facility or place it at the district school whose facility is closest to these minimum specifications. Only those schools that have filed the necessary facility specifications reports with the FHSAA Office will be eligible to host a Florida High School State Championships contest in the sports of basketball, football and girls volleyball. Schools that cannot meet the specifications can appeal to the Executive Director or his/her designee for relief.

14.2 Determination of Host School. Determination of a host school is not absolute. In all cases, the FHSAA reserves the right to select an alternate site.

14.3 AED Recommended. It is strongly recommended that an automated external defibrillator (AED) be present and available for use if needed at the site of every preseason and regular season interscholastic athletic contest in which member schools participate. The presence and availability of an automated external defibrillator (AED) shall be mandatory at the site of every FHSAA Florida High School State Championships contest on the district, regional, sectional and state levels.

14.4 Minimum Facility Requirements.

14.4.1 Basketball.

14.4.1.1 The facility must be adequately constructed to control the entry and exit of spectators for the purpose of charging admission.

14.4.1.2 The facility must have a minimum of two restrooms (one male and one female) for public use.

14.4.1.3 The facility must have an electronic clock and scoreboard clearly visible to both team bench areas and spectators.

14.4.1.4 The facility must have a public address system.

14.4.1.5 The facility must have separate dressing rooms for both home and visiting teams, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.

14.4.1.6 The facility must have a separate dressing area for officials, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.

14.4.1.7 The facility must have a playing surface which is not fewer than 84 feet from end line to end line and not fewer than 50 feet from sideline to sideline. The court must be properly marked according to National Federation rules, including the proper markings for both teams’ coaching boxes.

14.4.1.8 The facility must have a minimum of three feet of unobstructed space from sidelines to seating, walls or other obstacles and a minimum of six feet of unobstructed space from end lines to seating, walls or other obstacles.

14.4.1.9 It is recommended, but not required, that the facility have spectator seating on both sides of the court. In any case, however, the facility must meet the following minimum seating capacities:

(a) Class 8A – 1,300 seats;
(b) Class 7A – 1,100 seats;
(c) Class 6A – 900 seats;
(d) Class 5A – 700 seats;
(e) Class 4A – 700 seats;
(f) Class 3A – 500 seats;
15.1 Florida High School State Championships Pass. Florida High School State Championships passes may be used at district, regional and Florida High School State Championships state championship events. Each member school is eligible to receive two complimentary passes each school year for use by the principal and the FHSAA representative or athletic director, issued in their names. Each school has the option to purchase additional as follows:

15.1.1 Individual passes purchased must be issued in the name of a specific individual.

15.1.2 Passes may be issued in the school’s name (generic) with all the other passes issued in the names of specific individuals; for every four (4) passes purchased, one (1) generic pass may be purchased, with a limit of five (5) generic passes per school.

15.1.2.1 A lost or stolen Florida High School State Championships pass issued as a school pass (generic) will not be reissued.

15.1.3 Each individual who registers as a contest official with the FHSAA also shall be permitted at the time of his/her registration to purchase one Florida High School State Championships pass.
15.1.4 The following restrictions shall apply to all Florida High School State Championships passes regardless of whether they are issued in the names of specific individuals or in the names of schools (generic):

15.1.4.1 The principal is responsible for the generic passes. The person bearing the generic pass is considered a representative of the school’s athletic interest.

15.1.4.2 All pass users shall be 18 years of age or older.

15.1.4.3 Passes are not intended for use by students and must not be issued to students.

15.1.4.4 Each pass will admit only the bearer. Spouses, children and other family members or friends accompanying the bearer of the pass must purchase a ticket of admission to the event.

15.1.4.5 The bearer of the pass must present a valid government-issued photo ID (i.e. driver’s license) along with the pass to the pass gate attendant. If the bearer is unable to present a valid photo ID at the pass gate, the pass shall not be honored.

15.1.4.6 The bearer of the pass must make an entry into a “Florida High School State Championships Event Pass Gate Log” when entering the pass gate. The bearer must record his/her name, position with member school, type of pass and Florida High School State Championships pass number.

15.1.4.7 If the manager of a Florida High School State Championships event determines the event is sold out, Florida High School State Championships passes cannot be honored at that event.

15.1.4.8 Exceptions to this policy must be approved in advance by the Executive Director.

15.1.4.9 Improperly used passes will be confiscated by the event manager and returned to the FHSAA. Once confiscated, the pass or passes will not be valid for the remainder of the school year. A minimum monetary penalty of $100 will be assessed for misuse and offending schools may be restricted from purchasing passes in future years.

15.1.4.10 The Florida High School State Championships pass only allows admittance into the contest. It does not grant access to the field, court, or pool deck.

15.5 FHSAA Lifetime Pass. FHSAA Lifetime Passes (either the previous white paper or the current gold plastic cards) are issued by the Executive Director to individuals who serve the Association as members of its Board of Directors; office staff upon their retirement; and inductees into its Hall of Fame. This pass will provide the bearer and one (1) guest with complimentary general admission to preseason and regular season events at the discretion of the host school, and to all Florida High School State Championships events on the district, regional and state level. The FHSAA Lifetime Pass only allows admittance into the contest. It does not grant access to the field, court, or pool deck. The bearer will be required to show a picture I.D. with the Lifetime Pass and provide a signature on an official Florida High School State Championships Contest Pass Log to be provided to each host site by the FHSAA Office.

POLICY 16

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

16.1 GPA Calculation.

16.1.1 Middle School GPA Calculation. For grades 6 through 8, the semester GPA will be calculated at the conclusion of each semester by taking the sum of quality points earned (as per Bylaw 9.4.2) divided by the number of credits attempted during that semester.

16.1.2 High School GPA Calculation. For grades 9 through 12, the cumulative GPA will be calculated at the end of the first semester, including high school level grades earned while in grades 6 – 8, and the end of the school year (including summer school or its equivalent, if applicable) by taking the sum of all quality points earned (as per Bylaw 9.4.2) divided by the number of all credits attempted since the student began taking senior high school level courses and adjusting for forgiveness grades as per Bylaw 9.4.3.1. All such high school courses attempted at all schools attended by the student, including out-of-state and/or out-of-country schools, must be included in the cumulative GPA calculation.

16.1.2.1 Exception. Senior high school level courses taken prior to the initial first semester of 9th grade will not be calculated in the cumulative GPA until the conclusion of the initial first semester of 9th grade.

16.1.2.2 End of Course Exams. Grades earned in courses in which an “End of Course Exam” is administered must be included in the cumulative GPA. At the conclusion of the first semester, schools must include the grade the student earned in all “End of Course Exam” courses up to that point; this might necessitate a hand calculation of the GPA for student athletes if the course has not been concluded at the end of the first semester. Upon conclusion of the course or the school year, schools must include the final grade the student would have earned in all “End of Course Exam” courses, including the percentage of the grade from the “End of Course Exam” as mandated by state statute. A Student whose cumulative GPA falls below the minimum 2.0 due to the final results of “End of Course Exam” courses will not subject the school to penalties due to that student’s participation in contests during the previous semester(s) regarding academic requirement.
16.1.3 **Rounding off GPA.** No rounding of calculated values will be used in determining the GPA.

16.1.4 **Academic Records.** A student must provide the school with all information the school needs to determine the student’s eligibility using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2. The student cannot be declared academically eligible by the member school until all such information is received to its satisfaction. Final grades previously earned by the student shall not be converted using the scale in Bylaw 9.4.2.

16.2 **Schools with Alternate Scheduling Formats.**

16.2.1 **Grading Period.** A grading period is defined as one semester. A semester is defined as one half of a school year (approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days). This definition is applicable to all member schools regardless of the type of scheduling format (i.e. block, traditional, trimester, etc.) they use.

16.3 **Special Schools and Special Programs.**

16.3.1 **Evaluation of Athletes.** A student-athlete attending any special school or special program must be evaluated on a semester that is consistent with the semester for all other students attending the member school which the student-athlete represents.

16.3.2 **Grade Point Average.** The minimum grade point average requirement as stated in s.1006.15(3), Florida Statutes, and the Association’s Bylaws must be maintained each semester by all student-athletes attending special schools or special programs regardless of the nature of the special school or special program.

16.4 **U.S. Students Studying Abroad**

While the FHSAA acknowledges the benefits of U.S. students studying abroad as youth exchange program students, a student who studies abroad will do so at his/her own jeopardy in relation to the following:

16.4.1 **Bylaw 9.4.** as the student must include grades from all coursework attempted while studying abroad in his/her cumulative GPA. For athletic eligibility purposes, the school must include all such course work on the official transcript of the student.

16.4.2 **Bylaw 9.5,** as the student may not gain an additional year of eligibility due studying abroad for a semester or full school year.

16.5 **Home Education Program Cooperatives**

16.5.1 **Requirements of Cooperatives.** A cooperative of home education programs may become a member of this Association provided:

(a) the cooperative establishes a Board of Directors or governing body which appoints a designated representative to the FHSAA so far as the obligations of the cooperative to this Association are concerned;

(b) the cooperative pays membership dues and other such fees as established by the FHSAA Board of Directors under the authority of these Bylaws;

(c) each participating student has basic medical insurance coverage and has catastrophic insurance coverage provided by the cooperative or independently secured;

(d) the cooperative purchases and maintains liability insurance coverage which names the FHSAA as an insured party;

(e) the FHSAA representative at the conclusion of each semester certifies to the Executive Director on a form to be provided by the FHSAA Office that each student participating in interscholastic athletics in the cooperative meets the minimum grade point average standards which are required of all students; and

(f) each student participating in interscholastic athletic competition is considered a “Non-Traditional” student and must be registered as a home education student with the school district in which the student resides, complete and submit an EL7 Form (Registration Form for Home Education Students), be registered with this association as per Policy 16.7 and comply with FHSAA eligibility requirements regarding age and limits of eligibility.

16.5.2 **Ineligibility.** A student who withdraws from a regular school program to enroll in a home education cooperative and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition as a member of the home education cooperative until he/she has successfully completed one full semester (see Bylaw 1.4.14) and has met all other eligibility requirements of this association. In determining the academic eligibility of a student who withdraws from a regular school program prior to the normal conclusion of the current semester and subsequently enroll in a home education program, the grades as posted in each subject for that student on the date of his/her withdrawal from the regular school program shall be used.

16.5.3 **Transfers.** A student who is attending a school and transfers to a home education cooperative, who is representing a member school as a "Non-Traditional" student (as defined in 16.6.1) and transfers to a home education cooperative or who is representing a home education cooperative and transfer to a different home education cooperative shall be ineligible to represent that cooperative in interscholastic athletic competition for the duration of that school year unless the student meets one of Bylaws 9.3.2.1, 9.3.2.2, 9.3.2.3, 9.3.2.4, 9.3.2.5 or 9.3.2.6.
16.5.4 Athletic Competition. Home education cooperatives which become members of this Association may participate in interscholastic athletic competition as per Bylaw 8.3. Home education cooperatives shall be classified for Florida High School State Championships competition based on the total number of students participating in the cooperative in grades 9 through 12.

16.6 Non-Traditional Student Participation at Member Schools
16.6.1 Eligibility for Participation. Non-Traditional students, as defined in Bylaw 1.4.30, are eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school attendance area policies or, except Non-Member Private School Students, the public school which the student could choose to attend pursuant to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment provisions, (completion of the EL14 Form – “Verification of Student Controlled Open Enrollment Option with Public School District” is required) provided these specific requirements are met:

16.6.1.1 Charter School Students. The student must attend a charter school that does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program in a sport in which the student desires to participate.

16.6.1.2 FLVS-FT Students. The student must be a full time student of the statewide Florida Virtual School Full Time program (DOE #71-0300 or #71-0400).

16.6.1.3 Home Education Students. The student must be registered as a home education student with the school district in which the student resides. The student is also eligible to participate with a Home Education Program Cooperative or a private school. Completion of an EL7 Form (Registration Form for Home Education Students) is required.

16.6.1.4 Non-Member Private School Students. The student must attend a non-FHSAA member private school consisting of 125 students or fewer in grades 6 through 12 and does not offer an interscholastic or intrascholastic (i.e. intramural) athletic program. Completion on an EL12 Form (Registration Form for Non-Member Private School Students) is required. The student is only allowed to participate at the public school the student is zoned for the physical address at which the student resides.

16.6.1.5 Special/Alternative School Students. The student must attend an alternative school or a special school operated by a school district identified by the Superintendent and does not offer an interscholastic athletic program.

16.6.2 Requirements for Participation. A Non-Traditional student is eligible to participate provided:
(a) the student meets the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he/she participates; and
(b) the student meets the same standards of acceptance, behavior and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities; and
(c) the student registers with the school his/her intent to participate in interscholastic athletic competition as a representative of the school, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, as outlined in Administrative Procedure 1.2; and
(d) the student complies with all FHSAA regulations, including eligibility requirements regarding age and limits of eligibility, and local school regulations during the time of participation; and
(e) the student provides proof of basic medical insurance coverage and both independently secured catastrophic insurance coverage and liability insurance coverage which names the FHSAA as an insured party in the event the school’s insurance provider does not extend coverage to such students; and
(f) the student provides his/her own transportation to and from the school; and
(g) the student provides to school authorities all required forms and provisions.

16.6.3 Ineligibility. A student who withdraws from a regular school program to establish school residence as a “Non-Traditional” student (as defined in 16.6.1) and who is ineligible at the time of withdrawal from the regular school program due to his/her failure to meet academic or behavioral eligibility standards shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition under the provisions of 16.6.2 until he/she has successfully completed one full semester (see Bylaw 1.4.14) and has met all other eligibility requirements of this association. In determining the academic eligibility of a student who withdraws from a regular school program prior to the normal conclusion of the current semester and subsequently establishes school residence as a “Non-Traditional” student (as defined in 16.6.1), the grades as posted in each subject for that student on the date of his/her withdrawal from the regular school program shall be used.

16.6.4 Transfers. A student who, after the beginning of the school year (see Bylaw 1.4.5), transfers from any school and establishes school residence as a “Non-Traditional” student (as defined in 16.6.1), transfers school residence as a “Non-Traditional” student (as defined in 16.6.1) to any member school or transfers school residence as one type of “Non-Traditional” student (as defined in 16.6.1) and establishes school residence as “Non-Traditional” student of the same or different type (as defined in 16.6.1) is considered a transfer student and is subject to the provisions of Bylaw 9.3. Unless the student meets one of Bylaws 9.3.2.1, 9.3.2.2, 9.3.2.3, 9.3.2.4, 9.3.2.5 or 9.3.2.6, the student will be ineligible to represent a member school in interscholastic competition.

16.6.4.1 Exception. A student, who after making a transfer as described in 16.6.4, does not change his/her affiliation with the member school, will continue to be eligible to represent the member school in interscholastic competition, provided all other eligibility requirements are met.
16.7 Registration of Non-Traditional Students

16.7.1 Non-Traditional Student Defined. Non-traditional Students are students that are not enrolled in and physical attend the school at which they participate, including, but not limited to; Home Education Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.1, Charter School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.2, Special School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.4, Non-Member Private School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.5 and Florida Virtual School-Full Time Public Program Students (FLVS-FT) as per Bylaw 9.2.2.6.

16.7.2 Student Registration Process. The student must register with the school by completing and submitting the EL2, EL3, EL3CH, GA4, EL7 (if applicable, including the EL7V), EL12 (if applicable) and EL14 (if applicable).

16.7.2.1 Returning Non-Traditional Students. A student who has previously registered intent for a sport or sports by submitting a GA4 and an EL7 (if applicable) or EL12 (if applicable) and an EL14 (if applicable) to participate for a member school and is going to continue to participate for that school in the sport or sports in which he/she originally registered intent need only submit the EL2, EL3 and EL3CH forms for subsequent school years.

16.7.2.1.1 Home Education Student Exception. A home education student must provide the school each year with a completed and signed EL7V Form.

16.7.3 School Registration Process. The school must register each Non-Traditional Student with this association, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director and outlined in Administrative Procedure 1.8, each year before adding the student to a roster and allowing the student to participate in an interscholastic contest. It remains the responsibility of the school to verify the eligibility of all returning non-traditional students.

16.8 Use of Ineligible Students.
The intentional or inadvertent use of ineligible students is strictly prohibited by this association and should be reported immediately upon discovery.

16.8.1 Ineligible Student Defined. An ineligible student is one who has been found to have violated one or more the bylaws or policies of this association such as, but not limited to:

(a) Age (Bylaw 9.6)
(b) Academic requirements (Bylaw 9.4)
(c) Attendance requirements (Bylaw 9.2)
(d) Limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5)
(e) Transfer regulations (Bylaw 9.3)
(f) Amateurism (Bylaw 9.9)
(g) Sport season limitations (Policy 6)
(h) Non-approved Youth Exchange/International/Immigrant students and non-registered Non-Traditional students (Policy 12.2.1.2, 16 and 17)
(i) Participation in All-Star games (Policy 26)
(j) Suspended students due to unsportsmanlike acts (Policy 30 and 31)
(k) Recruited students (Policy 36)

16.8.2 Penalties for Use of Ineligible Students. Schools found to have used ineligible students could be subject to one or more of, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Forfeiture of contests
(b) Forfeiture of playoff advancement
(c) Monetary penalties
(d) Reprimand
(e) Probation; administrative, restrictive or suspension
(f) Expulsion or restricted membership

16.9 Penalties Assessed to Schools.

16.9.1 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL2 form (Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation, see Bylaw 9.7) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $500 per student.

16.9.2 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL3 form (Consent and Release from Liability Certificate, see Bylaw 9.8) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $500 per student.

16.9.3 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed and approved EL4 form (Registration of Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Student, see Policy 17) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per student.
16.9.4 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without properly registering a non-traditional student (see Policy 16.7.3) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum $100 per student.

16.9.5 Use of an ineligible student when not self-reported, will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $2,500 per contest.

16.9.6 Use of an ineligible student when self-reported, will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per contest.

**POLICY 17**

**ELIGIBILITY OF YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM, INTERNATIONAL AND IMMIGRANT STUDENTS**

The FHSAA acknowledges the importance of permitting foreign-born and U.S. students to experience the benefits of participation in interscholastic athletics. The following policy and procedures shall govern the eligibility of foreign-born students who attend member schools and U.S. students wishing to study abroad. Note: Federal guidelines do not permit students holding a B1 or B2 U.S. Visa or those visiting through the Visa Waiver Program to study for credit in the U.S.

17.1 Students in Youth Exchange Programs

Youth exchange program participants, like all non-immigrant visitors to the United States, are subject to U.S. immigration laws. Educational institutions, including high schools, are subject to immigration regulations with regard to non-immigrant students who visit the United States as F-1 academic students and J-1 exchange visitors. The FHSAA will adhere to the standards adopted by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET) and will permit a youth exchange student to participate in interscholastic athletic competition under the following conditions:

17.1.1 U.S. Nonimmigrant Registration. Youth exchange students must be registered through one of the following:

17.1.1.1 The F-1 youth exchange student must have a “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status - For Academic and Language Students” (Form I-20A-B) for the high school at which the student is receiving instruction as required by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

17.1.1.2 The J-1 youth exchange student must have a “Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status” (Form DS-2019) and be sponsored and placed with a U.S. host family by a “bona fide” international student exchange program that has been accepted for listing by CSIET and recognized by the U.S. Department of State.

17.1.2 Placement with Host Family

(a) the school that the student attends may assist with locating and screening potential host families (Note: member schools that participate in locating and screening potential families must develop a written process which may be reviewed by the Association upon request),

(b) no member of the school’s coaching staff may serve as the host family,

(c) no representative of the school’s athletic interest, as defined in Bylaw 1.4.18(c-f), who is associated with the same sport as the youth exchange student, may serve as the host family; and

(d) the host family placement must be approved by the national headquarters of the sponsoring CSIET organization for J-1 youth exchange students.

This does not preclude a member school or its representatives from violations of the Association’s recruiting policy.

Note: certain CSIET agencies, including but not limited to the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, allow or require exchange students to change their host families mid-way through their stay, which will require the student to re-submit a portion of the EL4 Form. If this change requires a change of schools the student will be classified a transfer student (see 17.1.5 below).

17.1.2.1 Host Family Restriction. A host family that wishes to host more than one youth exchange student per school year, for the same gender and sport, must have approval of the Executive Director.

17.1.2.1.1 Exception. Youth exchange students approved by this office during the 2012-13 school year may remain with their host family for the remainder of their stay.

17.1.3 Visa Requirements. The youth exchange student must possess either an F-1 or a J-1 visa issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or Department of State, respectively. The F-1 academic student program is a non-immigrant visa category intended for the use by nonresident students whose primary purpose for visiting the United States is to study full-time at an approved institution. The J-1 exchange visitor program is a non-immigrant visa category designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through bona fide educational and cultural exchange.

17.1.3.1 Exception: Citizens of Bermuda or Canada. In general, citizens of Bermuda and Canada do not need a visa to travel in the United States. However, these students must meet 17.1.1.1 and have a completed I-20 A-B Form as per the requirements of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).
17.1.4 Attendance. The student must be in attendance at the school within the first twenty (20) days of the school year and must be enrolled in a full-year program, rather than a program of shorter duration such as a six-week, three-month or six-month program, etc.

17.1.5 Transfer. Any subsequent transfer by the student to a different school during the school year must meet one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

17.1.6 Eligibility for One Year Only. The J-1 youth exchange student may be eligible for a maximum of one year at any school or combination of schools in this or any other of the United States commencing with his/her initial date of enrollment in a U.S. school. The F-1 youth exchange student, pursuant to federal law, attending a public school is eligible to remain in the U.S. for a maximum of one year and must reimburse the public school for the cost of his/her U.S. education.

17.1.6.1 A youth exchange student (J-1 or F-1) is not permitted to return for any additional years using a different youth exchange Visa (i.e. J-1 or F-1) and participate in interscholastic athletics.

17.1.7 Placed in Academic Track. The student must be placed in a traditional academic track that leads to a high school diploma by the member school.

17.1.8 Must Not Have Been Recruited. The student must not have been recruited to attend the member school for athletic reasons by any individual or agency, whether or not associated with the school’s athletic interest, or selected or placed in the school on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. The student must complete and submit a GA4 Form with the school, in addition to the requirements in Policy 17.3, before the student added to a roster and allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest.

17.1.9 Financial Assistance. No individual or agency associated with the school’s athletic interest may provide financial assistance to the international student in gaining necessary visas, assist in the payment of the student’s transportation to the U.S., or contribute to the student’s living expenses while in the U.S.

17.1.10 Student Must be an Undergraduate. The youth exchange student must not have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or his/her home country. Youth exchange students will not be eligible once they have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or their home country. The terminal grade of the student is based on the graduation requirements of the country the student last attended school, including the completion of the GED or its equivalent.

17.1.11 FHSAA Eligibility. The student must meet all other eligibility standards of the FHSAA Bylaws while a student at a member school. Limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5) is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student’s former country.

17.2 Other International and Immigrant Students

A “nonimmigrant” student who does not possess an F-1 or a J-1 visa or an “immigrant” student may be eligible to represent an FHSAA member school in interscholastic athletic competition under the following conditions:

17.2.1 Previous School Attendance. The student must have started and completed the 8th grade, or earlier, for the first time in a U.S. school and have the appropriate school records to verify this fact.

17.2.2 Placed in Academic Track. The student must be placed in a traditional academic track that leads to a high school diploma by the member school.

17.2.3 Must Not Have Been Recruited. The student must not have been recruited to attend the member school for athletic reasons by any individual or agency, whether or not associated with the school’s athletic interest, or selected or placed in the school on any basis related to his/her athletic interests or abilities. The student must complete and submit a GA4 Form with the school, in addition to the requirements in Policy 17.3 (if applicable), before the student added to a roster and allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest.

17.2.4 Financial Assistance. No individual or agency associated with the school’s athletic interest may provide financial assistance to the student in gaining necessary visas or other immigration documents, assist in the payment of the student’s transportation to the U.S., or contribute to the student’s living expenses while in the U.S.

17.2.5 Residence. The student must have resided with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction for a minimum of the previous two (2) consecutive full school years.

17.2.6 Must not be a Graduate. The international student must not have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or his/her home country. International students will not be eligible once they have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or their home country. The terminal grade of the student is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student’s home country.

17.2.7 FHSAA Eligibility. The student must meet all other eligibility standards of the FHSAA Bylaws while a student at a member school. Limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5) is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student’s former country.

17.3 Registration Procedures

All youth exchange students (J-1 and F-1), in addition to any other international or immigrant students that do not meet the requirements of Policy 17.2, must be registered with this association, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, prior to participation at a member school. Requested with this registration, include the completed EL4 Form (Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Students) electronically submitted to the association and, but not limited to:
17.3.1 Proof of Age. A scanned copy of the student’s original passport or original birth certificate (including translation, if necessary) or U.S. Visa or U.S. Permanent Resident Card;

17.3.2 U.S. Customs Documentation

17.3.2.1 Youth Exchange Students. A scanned copy of the F-1 or J-1 “Eligibility Certificate” (Form I-20 A-B or Form DS-2019, respectively).

17.3.2.2 Other International and Immigrant Students. A scanned copy of the original U.S. Nonimmigrant Visa or a scanned copy of the “Arrival-Departure Record” (Form I-94, which is attached to the student’s passport).

17.3.3 Original Language Transcripts. A scanned copy of the original official transcripts from the school(s) in the foreign country, in the original language (un-translated), of grades since entering the 8th grade (or its equivalent);

17.3.4 Translated Transcripts. A scanned copy of the verbatim translated transcripts of grades since entering the 8th grade, including but not limited to analysis and evaluation of the transcripts performed by:

(a) an individual employed by the school or school district who is qualified to provide such services; or

(b) an independent organization or agency used to translate and analyze the transcripts from foreign countries.

Note: through the translation, analysis and evaluation of the youth exchange or international student’s transcript, the appropriate grade in which the student should be placed in the member school must be determined, recognizing that this association uses the compulsory education requirements of the home country as a basis for determining limit of eligibility. It must be demonstrated that the student is on track to receive a high school diploma. It must also provide an explanation or description of the educational system in the student’s home country. The cost of this service, if any, must be borne either by the student or the member school.

Additionally: For athletic eligibility purposes, after the first semester of attendance at a member school, the school must include all transfer courses on an official transcript of the student and these courses must be reflected in the cumulative GPA for the student.

17.3.5 Returning Students. Returning, previously approved, youth exchange and any other international or immigrant students that still do not meet Policy 17.2, must submit electronically, the EL4 Form, a scanned copy of their I-20A-B Form or I-94 Form, respectively, a complete official transcript from the member school and change of host family residency information (where applicable). For athletic eligibility purposes, after the first semester of attendance at a member school, the school must include all transfer courses on an official transcript of the student and these courses must be reflected in the cumulative GPA for the student.

17.4 U.S. Students Studying Abroad

While the FHSAA acknowledges the benefits of U.S. students studying abroad as youth exchange program students, a student who studies abroad will do so at his/her own jeopardy in relation to the association’s limit of eligibility bylaw (Bylaw 9.5.1) and the student will not gain an additional year of eligibility.

POLICY 18

PRACTICES AND SCRIMMAGES

18.1 General Practices

18.1.1 Only those student-athletes who are attending a member school, or who are either home education program or charter school program students registered with a member school, may participate in the practice of an athletic team which represents that member school.

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

18.1.3 The conduct of practice sessions, practice games or exhibitions/exhibition games of any kind on a Sunday is prohibited.

18.1.4 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 per occurrence.

18.2 Spring Football Practice

18.2.1 Spring Football practice is a continuation of the regular fall football season. Consequently, a student who transfers schools and does not meet one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2, is not eligible to participate in a spring jamboree or spring classic game in the new school.

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

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

18.2.4 Students who are not enrolled and in attendance in a school cannot 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 and will attend as ninth-graders in 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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18.3 Spring Competitive Cheerleading Practice

18.3.1 Spring Competitive Cheerleading practice is a continuation of the regular fall competitive cheerleading season.

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 Students who are not enrolled and in attendance in a school cannot participate in spring practice at that school.

18.3.5 Incoming 9th grade students cannot participate in spring practice.

18.4 Scrimmages

18.4.1 Bona Fide Students Only. Only those student-athletes who are attending a member school, or who are either home education program or charter school program students registered with a member school, may participate in the scrimmage of an athletic team which represents that member school.

18.4.2 Multi-Schools Prohibited. Scrimmages and scrimmage games or exhibitions and exhibition games in which students from two or more schools participate are un-contracted interscholastic contests and are prohibited except for FHSAA-sponsored officials clinics (only those students who meet all of the FHSAA eligibility requirements are allowed to participate). Such scrimmages and scrimmage games may be on an intra-squad basis only.

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

18.4.4 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 per occurrence.

**POLICY 19**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

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

19.2 Purpose, Authority and Compensation

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

19.2.2 An advisory committee shall have no direct authority to establish guidelines, regulations, policies or procedures; and its decisions and recommendations shall not be final unless adopted by the Board of Directors in general session.
19.2.3 An item must pass an advisory committee by simple majority vote to be referred to the Board of Directors. A tie vote among voting members on any item shall defeat the item.

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

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

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

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

19.2.8 An individual can serve on only one advisory committee.

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

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

19.3 Athletic Directors Advisory Committee

19.3.1 Composition. The Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall be comprised of 15 individuals, as follows: one Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (FIAAA) Director from each of the four FHSAA administrative sections; three executive committee members of the FIAAA (i.e. president, president-elect, immediate past president, etc.); four private school Athletic Directors, one from each of the four FHSAA administrative sections; one Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) athletic director representative appointed by the FACA Executive Director; and three at-large current, active school athletic directors appointed by the FHSAA Executive Director.

19.3.2 Elections. Each FIAAA District Directors representative will be elected by their peers from among the FIAAA District Directors in each of the four FHSAA administrative sections. Each of the four private school representatives will be elected by their peer private school Athletic Directors in each of the four FHSAA administrative sections. Elections for all eight of these representatives will be conducted by the FHSAA.

19.3.2.1 Initial Two Years. For the initial two years, the following procedure will be followed:

(a) For the 2014-15 school year, two (2) FIAAA District Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 2 and 4; two (2) private school Athletic Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 1 and 3; and the Executive Director will appoint at least one (1) private school Athletic Director (2 appointed positions will be open during this year).

(b) For the 2015-16 school year, two (2) FIAAA District Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 1 and 3; two (2) private school Athletic Directors will be elected, one each from Administrative Sections 2 and 4; and the Executive Director will appoint one at-large position.

19.3.3 Term. All members of the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall serve a term of three years and shall be not be eligible to immediately succeed himself/herself. A rotation of terms shall be established to ensure that not more than one-half of the elected members’ terms expire in any given year.

19.3.4 Meetings. The Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall meet three times annually – once following each season’s round of sports advisory committee meetings to review the recommendations brought forward by those committees; and to evaluate the entire FHSAA interscholastic athletic program, making such recommendations of its own as it deems necessary. In reviewing the recommendations brought forward by the various sports advisory committees, the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall either give its endorsement or withhold its endorsement on each recommendation, but shall not have the authority to defeat any recommendation.

19.3.5 Quorum. Eight (8) of the voting members of the Athletic Directors Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

19.4 Sports Advisory Committees

19.4.1 Committees. There shall be an advisory committee in each sport in which the FHSAA sanctions a Florida High School State Championships competition. Currently, these sports are baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, girls volleyball, boys weightlifting and wrestling.
19.4.2 **Composition.** Each sport advisory committee shall be comprised of 10 individuals – two member school head coaches from each of the Association’s four administrative sections, the Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) state chairperson in that sport if he/she is not elected to represent a section, and a member of the Officials Advisory Committee in an ex-officio capacity. In sports in which there are both girls and boys teams, representation on the committee shall be one-half girls team coaches and one-half boys team coaches. The FHSAA staff shall establish a rotation to ensure such equitable gender representation.

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

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

19.4.5 **Meetings.** Each sports advisory committee shall meet once annually following the conclusion of its respective Florida High School State Championships to evaluate the FHSAA program for that sport.

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

19.5 **Officials Advisory Committees**

19.5.1 **Composition.** There shall be three Officials Advisory Committees, one for each of the sport seasons. The Fall Sports Officials Advisory Committee shall be comprised of officials from football and girls volleyball. The Winter Sports Officials Advisory Committee shall be comprised of officials from basketball, soccer, and wrestling. The Spring Sports Officials Advisory Committee shall be comprised of officials from baseball and softball. Each committee will be comprised of four officials from each sport, one official from each of the four administrative sections.

19.5.2 **Elections.** All committee members shall be elected by those officials who are registered and in good standing in that sport and who are in attendance at the mandatory FHSAA Rules Clinics.

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

19.5.4 **Meetings.** The Officials Advisory Committee shall meet at least once annually to evaluate the FHSAA officials program.

19.5.5 **Quorum.** A quorum of each Officials Advisory Committee shall consist of one more than half of its members.

19.6 **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee**

19.6.1 **Charge.** There will be a Student-Athlete Advisory Committee to provide a voice in the FHSAA governance structure to the Association’s largest constituency – the more than 200,000 participating student-athletes. The committee will focus on the following areas: current issues facing student-athletes, input regarding rules and regulations, input on FHSAA special initiatives (e.g., sportsmanship program), and promoting a positive image of the student-athlete.

19.6.2 **Composition.** The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will be comprised of 16 members: four student-athletes from Administrative Section 1; four student-athletes from Administrative Section 2; four student-athletes from Administrative Section 3; and four student-athletes from Administrative Section 4.

19.6.3 **Nominations.** Each member school will be allowed to nominate one male and one female student-athlete for consideration. To be eligible for nomination, the student-athlete must meet the following requirements:

- **19.6.3.1** Must be an active student-athlete participating in at least one FHSAA- sponsored sport at his/her school;
- **19.6.3.2** Must be a sophomore (rising junior) or junior (rising senior) in good academic and disciplinary standing;
- **19.6.3.3** Must show commitment toward representing the interests of all student-athletes;
- **19.6.3.4** Must display strong character and commitment to sportsmanship and integrity; and
- **19.6.3.5** Must demonstrate leadership in his/her school.
- **19.6.3.6** Juniors may serve a second year on the committee if they still fulfill the requirements above.

19.6.4 **Selection.** Committee members will be selected by the FHSAA staff. The selection process will take into consideration gender, racial and sport diversity to ensure a well-rounded committee.

19.6.5 **Meetings.** The committee will meet once or twice annually.

19.6.6 **Quorum.** Eight (8) of the voting members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

19.7 **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee**

19.7.1 **Composition.** Pursuant to s. 1006.20(2)(m), Florida Statutes, the Association shall establish, sustain, fund and provide staff support to a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee appointed by the Executive Director and comprised of:

- Eight physicians licensed under chapters 458 or 459 of Florida Statutes, with at least one member licensed under chapter 459; and
• One chiropractor licensed under chapter 460 of Florida Statutes; and
• One podiatrist licensed under chapter 461 of Florida Statutes; and
• One dentist licensed under chapter 466 of Florida Statutes; and
• Three athletic trainers licensed under part XIII of chapter 468 of Florida Statutes; and
• One member who is a current or retired head coach of a Florida high school.

19.7.2 Meetings. The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee shall meet at least once annually to review the interscholastic athletic program and make recommendations on safety and other health-related issues.

19.7.3 Quorum. Eight (8) of the members of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

19.8 Public Liaison Advisory Committee

19.8.1 Composition. Pursuant to s. 1006.20(6), Florida Statutes, the Association shall establish, sustain, fund, and provide staff support to a Public Liaison Advisory Committee appointed by the Executive Director and composed of the following:

- The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee;
- A member public school principal;
- A member non-public school principal;
- A member school principal who is a member of a racial minority;
- An active athletic director;
- An active coach, who is employed full time by a member school;
- A student athlete;
- A district school superintendent;
- A district school board member;
- A member of the Florida House of Representatives;
- A member of the Florida Senate;
- A parent of a high school student;
- A member of a home education association;
- A representative of the business community; and
- A representative of the news media.

19.8.2 Restrictions. No member of the Board of Directors, a Sectional Appeals Committee or the Representative Assembly is eligible to serve on the Public Liaison Advisory Committee.

19.8.3 Authority and Duties. The authority and duties of the Public Liaison Advisory Committee are as follows:

19.8.3.1 To act as a conduit through which the general public may have input into the decision-making process of the Association and to assist the Association in the development of procedures regarding the receipt of public input and disposition of complaints related to high school athletic and competition programs.

19.8.3.2 To conduct public hearings annually in each of the four administrative sections during which interested parties may address issues regarding the effectiveness of the rules, operation, and management of the organization.

19.8.3.3 To conduct an annual evaluation of its findings, organization as a whole and recommendations to the Board of Directors, to the Executive Director of Education, and to the respective education committees of the Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives. The recommendations must delineate policies and procedures that will improve the implementation and oversight of high school athletic programs by the organization.

19.8.4 Meetings. The Public Liaison Advisory Committee shall meet four times annually. Additional meetings may be called by the committee chairperson, the Association president, or the Executive Director.

19.8.5 Quorum. Eight (8) of the members of the Public Liaison Advisory Committee in attendance shall constitute a quorum.

POLICY 20

SUMMER ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

20.1 Policy

20.1.1 Not Regulated in Summer. The FHSAA does not regulate the athletic activities of member schools held with their own students during the summer as defined herein with the exception of football and lacrosse. The individual member school principal, district school superintendent, district school board or private school governing body are responsible for adopting regulations governing the activities of their respective schools during this period of time.
20.1.2 Football. A member school shall not permit student-athletes in its football program to wear helmets or pads or engage in physical contact in any activity sponsored by or under the supervision of the school during the summer. This shall not preclude the school from issuing school-owned equipment to a student-athlete for his/her use at a summer football camp, provided the camp is organized, operated and conducted by a third-party entity. Camps hosted by a third party, which allow the use of helmets or pads or engage in physical contact, may not be held at a participating member school’s facility.

20.2 Summer Defined. The summer season is defined as that period of time outside the FHSAA sports year. This period for each member school is defined as beginning the day following the school’s last day of classes for the spring semester or the day following the school’s last day of spring athletic activities (including spring football practice), whichever is later, or June 1 for schools whose last day of classes for the spring semester occurs on May 31 or thereafter, and concluding with the Saturday of Week 5 in the FHSAA standardized calendar for the following school year.

POLICY 21
OFF-SEASON CONDITIONING

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

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

21.1.2.1 the last permissible date for a regular season contest (if not participating in Florida High School State Championships competition) in that sport; or
21.1.2.2 the date of the team’s elimination from Florida High School State Championships 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, rockets, 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 9.2.2.6.

21.3 All preseason and/or postseason conditioning program participants shall file with the school the “FHSAA Consent and Release of Liability Certificate” and the “FHSAA Pre-participation Physical Evaluation” form.

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

21.5 Supervision by school personnel is required.

21.6 Schools shall provide information in the following areas:
21.6.1 Proper use of weight room equipment;
21.6.2 Proper weight training techniques;
21.6.3 Proper nutrition;
21.6.4 Proper cardiovascular conditioning techniques;
21.6.5 Ergogenics.

21.7 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:
21.7.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation.
21.7.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
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

- the last permissible date for a regular season contest (if not participating in Florida High School State Championships competition) in that sport; or
- the date of the team’s elimination from Florida High School State Championships competition in that sport; or
- 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:

- make arrangements for and assist in the conduct of physical examinations; or
- explain eligibility regulations; or
- solve insurance problems; or
- review films; or
- conduct off-season conditioning as defined in the “Off-Season Conditioning Guidelines” as per Policy 21.

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

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

- Baseball – Babe Ruth, American Legion, city/county leagues
- Basketball – AAU, USA, USOC
- Football – USA Football
- Golf – USGA, AJGA
- Lacrosse – US Lacrosse
- Soccer – FIFA, Youth leagues
- Softball – ASA, USSSA
- Swimming & Diving – USS, NISCA, ASCA, CSCAA, AAU
- Tennis – FTA, USTA, USOC, ITF
- Track & Field – USA, AAU
- Volleyball – USVBA, USOC, USA, AVA
- Wrestling – USA, AAU
22.3.2 Participation must include competition in the published scheduled events of the outside agency.
22.3.3 Student athletes and coaches, where applicable, are not permitted to wear any portion of a school’s athletic uniform.
22.3.4 All fees or assessment for participation must be documented.
22.3.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.
22.3.6 Member schools may make their gymnasiums and other athletic facilities available to outside groups or organizations provided a fully executed usage agreement is provided and available upon request.
22.3.7 The personnel affiliated with the non-school team, including, but not limited to, any coach, assistant, director, manager, supervisor, organizer, etc., must provide notification in writing to the student athletes that participation with the team could jeopardize their eligibility to participate in high school interscholastic athletics and verification of such notification must be made utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director (GAP Form – Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Non-School Teams and Off-Season Participation).

22.4 Participation by a student in non-school athletic activities (i.e. AAU, American Legion, club teams, travel teams, etc.) that is affiliated with any school other than the school which the student attends or attended the previous school year, followed by the establishment of school residence by that student at the affiliated school, shall render the student ineligible at the school which that student established school residence. The student shall be ineligible to represent that school in interscholastic athletics for a period of 365 consecutive days from the date of his/her establishment of school residence at that school. A team affiliated with a school is one that is supervised by, organized by and/or coached by any member of the coaching staff at, or any other person who is a representative of that school’s athletic interests; and/or on which the majority of the members of the team (participants in practice and/or competition) are students who attend that school (Bylaw 9.2.4).  

22.4.1 Coaches. A coach at a member school that has had more than one (1) appeal denied to waive the above policy or Bylaw 9.2.4 through the due process procedures as per Bylaw 10.4, and did not provide evidence of the written notification to the student athlete as specified in Policy 22.3.7 or by some other effective means by the school, shall not be permitted to coach in any Florida High School State Championships contest for one or more years.

22.5 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:
22.5.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation.
22.5.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
22.5.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.
22.5.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.
22.5.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championships.

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 9.2.2.6. 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 9.2.2.6.
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 9.2.2.6 and as defined in 3.2.2.3.
23.1.4 Supervision by school personnel is required. School personnel, including faculty and non-faculty coaches in attendance, however, shall not provide coaching or instruction in the skills and techniques in any sport. Their presence may be in a supervisory capacity only.
23.1.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.
23.1.6 No sport-specific tasks or drills shall be taught or assigned to students to perform during open facility activities.
23.1.7 Open facility activities in a specific sport (with the exception of the fall sports) shall be concluded a minimum of two weeks prior to the first permissible date of interscholastic practice in that sport.

23.2 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:
23.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation.
23.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
23.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.
23.2.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.
23.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championships.

POLICY 24

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

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

24.1 The event is conducted only during the summer as defined in the “Policy on Summer Athletic Participation.”
24.1.1 Exception. Coaches may participate in camps, clinics, workshops provided the following criteria are met:
   24.1.1.1 The event is hosted by a third party (not-for-profit organization), of which the coach is not an organizer, supervisor, owner, etc.; and
   24.1.1.2 The coach participates in an instructional capacity only; and
   24.1.1.3 The coach does not wear any school paraphernalia which identifies the school with which the coach is affiliated; and
   24.1.1.4 The coach is subject to the provisions of Policy 36 and the students are subject to Bylaw 9.2.4 Policy 22.4, and/or Policy 36; and
   24.1.1.5 The event is not held on the coach’s school campus.
24.1.2 Exception. Representatives of member schools athletic interests may provide personal instruction provided:
   24.1.2.1 The individual providing instruction owns or is employed by a company which provides instruction of athletic skills; and
   24.1.2.1.1 Instruction provided to students who attend the school with which the representative of the school’s athletic interests is affiliated may not exceed more than two students during the time of instruction, if the instruction takes place on that school’s campus.
   24.1.2.2 The company which the individual owns or is employed by is a licensed business, containing a current tax identification number; and
   24.1.2.3 Properly executed facility usage agreement, if instruction is provided on a member school’s campus and made available upon request; and
   24.1.2.4 All fees or assessment for participation must be documented; and
   24.1.2.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team; and
   24.1.2.6 The personnel affiliated with the non-school team, including, but not limited to, any coach, assistant, director, manager, supervisor, organizer, etc., must provide notification in writing to the student athletes that participation with the team could jeopardize their eligibility to participate in high school interscholastic athletics and verification of such notification must be made utilizing the official association process as approved by the Executive Director (GA6 Form – Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Non-School Teams and Off-Season Participation); and
   24.1.2.6.1 Owners, managers, etc. who have a general administrative and/or instructional function in the activity are considered to have contact with all students receiving instruction through this activity.
   24.1.2.6.2 Individuals who work in an instructional capacity only, are considered to have contact with only the students he/she directly contact through his/her instructional capacity. However, this does not exempt instructors from compliance with Policy 36.

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24.1.2.7 The representative of the school’s athletic interests is subject to the provisions of Policy 36.

24.2 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:

24.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation.
24.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
24.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.
24.2.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.
24.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championships.

POLICY 25

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

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

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

25.1.1 Students participating in the event do not, in any way, represent their school.
25.1.2 Fees for the students who participate in the event are not paid by the school, coach or school district.
25.1.3 Students provide their own transportation or are provided transportation by their own school. No student may be transported to or from the event by an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of any school other than the school that the student currently attends.

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

25.2.1 The coaching school, camp, clinic, combine or workshop takes place only during the summer as defined in the “Policy on Summer Athletic Participation.” Participation by school teams in coaching schools, camps, clinics or workshops held during the school year is strictly prohibited.
25.2.2 Fees for the students or team who participate in the event are not paid by the school, coach or school district; however, internal account funds generated from fund-raising activities may be used.
25.2.3 Participation in the event by students is not an actual or implied prerequisite to their membership on the team.

25.3 Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 44:

25.3.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation.
25.3.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
25.3.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.
25.3.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.
25.3.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championships.
POLICY 26

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

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

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

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

26.1.1.1 The all-star game, or tryouts or practices for the all-star game, may not be conducted prior to the completion of the regular season in the sport in which the all-star game is to be conducted. An all-star game, however, shall not be played on any date on which an FHSAA Series contest in that sport is scheduled.

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

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

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

26.2 Showcases. Showcases are events comprised of athletes who are selected or invited to participate as a result of the athletes’ performance as an athlete. Any student athlete who participates in, but not limited to, combines and showcases do so at his/her own peril as it relates to Bylaw 9.2.4.1 and Policy 36.

POLICY 27

SCHOOLS’ RESPONSIBILITIES TO FHSAA OFFICIALS

Member schools have the following responsibilities relative to FHSAA officials when serving as host for an athletic contest to which the officials are assigned:

27.1 An authorized representative of the host school shall greet the officials upon their arrival.

27.2 The host school should provide a private, secure place for the officials to park.

27.3 The host school should provide a secure dressing facility which affords privacy.

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

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

27.6 The host school must provide pregame, halftime and postgame security for the officials. A school official or principal’s designee must escort the officials to and from the playing field or court to prevent harassment.
27.7 The host school principal, principal’s designee or game administrator must indicate to the referee or umpire-in-chief his/her seat location should a situation develop where assistance is needed during the contest. The contest coaches should not serve as the principal’s designee or game administrator.

27.8 School personnel, including coaches, shall not enter the officials dressing facility while the officials are in attendance except when requested by the officials.

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

POLICY 28
RULES OF CONDUCT FOR FHSAA OFFICIALS

A violation of any one of these provisions may subject an offending official to a monetary penalty, suspension as an official, or both.

28.1 All FHSAA officials shall conduct themselves on and off the athletic field in a manner conducive to the best interests of the FHSAA, its member schools, and the interscholastic athletic program in general. No FHSAA official shall pursue a course of action which is detrimental to the welfare of the FHSAA or its member schools.

28.2 All FHSAA officials shall comply with all FHSAA guidelines, regulations, policies and procedures as contained in the FHSAA Officials Guidebook.

28.3 All FHSAA officials shall be neatly dressed in the appropriate uniform as prescribed in the Officials Guidebook, and project a physically fit appearance, when officiating a contest involving an FHSAA member school.

28.4 All FHSAA officials are expected to arrive on time for the contest as required by the rules of the applicable sport.

28.5 All FHSAA officials should be in good physical condition, mentally ready to work the best possible contest and be fully cognizant of the sport’s rules. Officials are expected to make each call as they see it without fear or favor, regardless of the score, and hustle at all times.

28.6 No FHSAA official should fraternize with athletes, coaches, or spectators before, during or after a contest.

28.7 No FHSAA official may officiate a contest involving a school which his/her child currently attends, a relative currently works, or from which the official himself/herself attended or graduated within the last 7 years. No FHSAA official who is employed by a member school shall officiate a contest involving a team from that school except as provided in Bylaw 8.9.5 of the FHSAA Bylaws, which states, “Coaches or other persons connected with competing schools shall not officiate in contests except with the consent of all competing schools.”

28.8 No FHSAA official shall arrive or appear at the contest site with the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his/her breath.

28.9 No FHSAA official shall use tobacco or tobacco-like products during the contest or in the vicinity of the athletic field.

28.10 No FHSAA official shall engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.
28.11 No FHSAA official shall refuse to officiate any contest with another FHSAA official because that same other FHSAA official is or is not also a registered member of a national or international officials organization.

28.12 No FHSAA official shall officiate a contest or part of a contest which is classified as an exhibition or practice game between two or more member schools. Such games are prohibited by the FHSAA Bylaws. This provision, however, does not preclude an FHSAA official from officiating an intra-squad contest or scrimmage in which all participants are students at the same one school.

28.13 No FHSAA official shall publicly criticize or berate a coach or other employee of a member school. Professional ethics require that officials use proper channels to report their problems rather than airing them publicly.

POLICY 29

CROWD CONTROL

29.1 Home/Host School. The home/host school administration is responsible for the control of spectators before, during and after an athletic contest. The FHSAA recommends that the home/host school administration secure uniformed security to assist with this responsibility.

29.2 Visiting School(s). The visiting school administration is encouraged to assist with the control of its own spectators at athletic contests. Visiting school administrators (i.e., principal, FHSAA representative, assistant principals, athletic director, assistant athletic director, assistant coaches, etc.) who are required by their principal to attend the event for supervisory purposes upon presentation of a photo I.D. must be provided complimentary admission to the event, provided the visiting school submits their names to the home/host school administration by fax in writing on school stationery not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the event.

29.3 Florida High School State Championships. Participating school administration (i.e., principal, FHSAA representative, assistant principals, athletic director, assistant athletic director, assistant coaches, etc.) must be present at district, regional, and state events when their school is competing. Administration must enforce appropriate behavior of their student/adult fan base.

29.4 Officials. The officials assigned to officiate a contest are responsible for the on-the-court or on-the-field conduct of the contest itself. In the event a spectator or spectators interfere with the conduct of a contest or cause an official to become distracted through continual, unrelenting verbal abuse, the official should immediately stop the action and report the spectator or spectators to the home/host school administration or the nearest uniformed security officer. If the home/host school administration or uniformed security is unwilling or unable to resolve the situation the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point. Under no circumstance should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during or after a contest.

29.5 Reports. Both the officials assigned to officiate a contest and the home/host school administration are required to file with the FHSAA Office within 24 hours a written report on any contest that is terminated due to interference by a spectator(s).

POLICY 30

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

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

30.1.1 Penalties Assessed the School.

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

30.1.1.2 Removal by a coach or school personnel of a team or individual from an athletic contest prior to its normal conclusion will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250.
30.1.1.3 Vandalism by a team, student -athlete, coach or school personnel may result in a minimum $250 monetary penalty, or any other penalties as outlined in Bylaw 10.1, in addition to the school being financially responsible for restitution of the item(s) vandalized.

30.2 Unsportsmanlike Act by a Student-Athlete

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

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

30.2.1.2 Level 2 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act, as defined in Bylaw 7.2.1, will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

30.2.1.3 Level 3 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives a second Level 2 Suspension or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to compete in any 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 Championships 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, beginning with the fourth suspension, the school will be immediately placed on administrative probation in that sport for one or more years, and will be assessed a minimum financial penalty of $100 per suspension in that sport for the remainder of that sport’s season.

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

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

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

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

30.3.1.1 Level 1 Suspension. A coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who commits an unsportsmanlike act for which he/she is ejected from the contest, will be ineligible to coach or attend the remainder of that contest and for a minimum of the next two (2) contests, at the same level of participation in the sport of the suspension and in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) 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 any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

30.3.1.3 Level 3 Suspension. A coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who receives a third 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 in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year; or

30.3.1.4 Level 4 Suspension. A coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests (see Bylaw 1.4.18) who receives four (4) or more Level 3 Suspensions or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, will be ineligible to coach or attend in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for the duration of the coach’s high school career.

30.3.1.5 It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. When an ineligible coach is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This policy applies to all regular season and Florida High School State Championships contests.
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 any 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) Fundamentals of Coaching Course prior to the completion of the suspension or within thirty (30) calendar days, whichever comes first. A copy of the certificate of completion must be sent to the FHSAA at time of completion. This course is accessible from the NFHS Learning Center online.

30.3.2 **Penalties Assessed the School.**

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

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

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

30.5 **Appeals**

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

**POLICY 31**

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

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

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

31.2.1 Any student-athlete under the care of a pediatric endocrinologist or an appropriately trained specialist being treated with idiopathic short stature (ISS) as 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 Final events, the officials must immediately honor such request. If the principal or his/her designee of only one of the competing schools is available, with the exception of FHSAA State Final events, the request must be honored. The FHSAA administrative staff, State Finals host and officials shall manage any inclement weather situations at FHSAA State Finals events.

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

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

POLICY 33

SIDELINE CHEERLEADING

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

33.1 General Regulations

33.1.1 Cheerleaders are prohibited from building pyramids higher than two tiers during any routine in practice or during a performance in conjunction with an interscholastic contest. Host school principals are responsible for the enforcement of this regulation during regular season contests. Tournament/Meet managers and directors will be responsible for the enforcement of the regulation during Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships. Sideline cheerleading squads will be permitted to cheer at Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships Contests
34.2.1 Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships events. Consult the appropriate section(s) in Administrative Procedures or the state finals information packet, when available, for additional guidelines or restrictions concerning photographing, filming and videotaping at a state championship event in that sport.

34.3 Penalty
34.3.1 A school that violates these guidelines shall be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct and will be subject to reprimand and the assessment of a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 by the FHSAA.
34.3.2 An organization or individual who violates these guidelines, and in so doing infringes upon the rights of the FHSAA as stated hereinabove, shall be subject to one or more of the following actions: remedies under breach of contract; revocation of credentials; expulsion from the site of competition; and legal action under applicable state and federal laws.
POLICY 35

BOARDING SCHOOLS

A boarding student who attends a boarding school that does not comply fully with the provisions of this policy shall not be eligible to represent the boarding school in interscholastic athletic competition.

35.1 Boarding School Defined. A boarding school is defined as a school that has an enrolled resident boarding school population in the ninth through 12th grades of at least 25 boarding students or 10 percent of the full student enrollment in its ninth through 12th grades, whichever is greater. Schools that do not meet these enrollment requirements must satisfy the additional requirements set forth in paragraph 8 and its subparagraphs herein below.

35.2 Requirements. A boarding school must have appropriate dormitory facilities to house, feed and provide general living accommodations for boarding students. A boarding school must also employ and have on duty 24 hours a day in the dormitories appropriately trained supervisory dormitory personnel.

35.3 Must be Recognized. A boarding school must be recognized as a boarding school in its own literature and must be verified as such by the Florida Association of Academic Non-public Schools (FAANS), Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) and/or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

35.4 Per Week Living Requirements. A boarding student must spend at least an average of five (5) days per week living and boarding on campus while school is in session.

35.5 Sport Eligibility. No more than 50 percent of the athletes on any team, sub-varsity or varsity, can be boarding school students, if the team intends to participate in the Florida High School State Championships in that sport. In individual sports, schools with either rosters or SELs consisting of more than 50 percent students who are boarding students shall not be eligible to participate in the Florida High School State Championships in that sport.

35.5.1 Exception. Schools boarding student population which exceeds 50 percent of the total school population may field a team or roster in individual sports proportional to their boarding student population, provided it does not exceed 2/3 of the team membership.

35.5.2 Exception. Boarding students who travel home on the weekends and whose parent’s permanent address is inside the county boundaries where the school is located shall not be calculated in the boarding student population as in 35.5 and 35.5.1.

35.6 Supervisors. Coaches or other individuals employed by or associated with a boarding school’s athletic program shall not serve as dormitory supervisors or otherwise live with boarding students in school housing.

35.7 Financial Assistance. Only those schools that qualify as boarding schools, as defined herein may provide any assistance for room and board to students who participate in interscholastic athletics, and only if such assistance is based on financial need. In no other schools may room and board expense be included in the determination of school expenses and financial need.

35.8 Compliance Issues. A school that satisfies the requirements of sections 35.2 – 35.7 above, but cannot satisfy the requirements of section 35.1 above, shall comply with the following additional requirements:

35.8.1 The school shall notify the FHSAA in writing of the name of each boarding student, his/her grade in school and the interscholastic sport(s) in which he/she will participate;

35.8.2 Not more than 25 percent of the school’s boarding students may be members of the school’s varsity or junior varsity athletic teams in any single sport;

35.8.3 The school shall permit the FHSAA to conduct on-site inspections of the school, the full costs of such inspections to be borne solely by the school; and

35.8.4 The FHSAA at any time may disqualify the students enrolled in the school’s boarding program from further interscholastic athletic participation should the Executive Director determine that the school is using the boarding program for any improper athletic purpose.
36.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES
36.1.1 Athletic Recruiting Forbidden. Athletic recruiting is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics. Athletic recruiting is unethical and unsporting conduct, and is forbidden by FHSAA Bylaws (FHSAA Bylaw 6.3).

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

36.1.2.1 The acts of any employee or athletic department staff member;
36.1.2.2 The acts of third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, that is a representative of the school’s athletic interests when a member of the school’s administration or athletic department staff knows or should know that the person, business or organization is promoting the school’s interscholastic athletic program; and
36.1.2.3 The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting at the request, direction, or otherwise on behalf of any employee or representative of the school’s athletic interests.
36.1.2.4 The acts of any other third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, acting on behalf of any student athlete.
36.1.2.5 Informing student athletes and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of potential eligibility issues related to the participation by the student athlete in non-school athletic activities (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.) affiliated with the school through one of its coaches or other athletic department staff members or a representative of the school’s athletic interests.

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

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

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

36.1.6 Extra Benefit. Student-athletes must not receive extra benefits, which are benefits that are not offered or generally made available to all other students in the school.

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

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

(a) A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
(b) The parents, guardians or other family members of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school;
(c) Immediate relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school;
(d) A volunteer with that school’s athletic program;
(e) A member of an athletic booster organization of that school;
(f) A person, business or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or that is otherwise involved in promoting the school’s interscholastic athletic program.

36.2.2 Improper Contact. “Improper contact” is contact, either directly or indirectly, whether in person or through written or electronic communication, by a school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school’s athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, with a student or any member of the student’s family, in an effort to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics. See Policy 37.
36.2.3 **Impermissible Benefit.** An “impermissible benefit” is any arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not offered or generally made available to all students and/or their families who apply to or attend a school, or that otherwise is prohibited by FHSAA rules. Receipt of a benefit by a student-athlete or his/her family is not a violation of FHSAA rules if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the school’s students or family members and is not based in any way on athletic interest, potential or performance. See Policy 37.

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

36.3 **ACADEMIC RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS**

36.3.1 **References to Athletic Program.** Any presentation conducted as part of a school’s academic recruitment program must promote the school’s overall educational and extracurricular programs. Any mention of the school’s interscholastic athletics program must be limited to a listing of the interscholastic sports sponsored by the school and to a description of the school’s athletic facilities. It is understood that the presentations and activities of all persons involved in the school’s academic recruitment program must avoid any references to the school’s athletic program that might pressure, urge or entice a student to attend that school for purposes of athletic participation. All such presentations and activities must be in keeping with the general spirit of the rules prohibiting athletic recruiting.

36.3.2 **Open Houses.** A school may conduct an open house for prospective students and members of their families. Information distributed and presentations made during the open house, as well as advertisements for the open house, must limit references to the school’s athletic program to a listing of the interscholastic sports sponsored by the school and to a description of the school’s athletic facilities. No information can be distributed or any statement made that in any way implies that the school’s interscholastic athletic program is better than any other school’s interscholastic athletic program, or that a student would be better served by participating in interscholastic athletics at that school as opposed to any other school.

36.4 **COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS**

36.4.1 **Certification of Compliance Form.** Each member school each year must submit to the FHSAA Office, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, certifying that the principal, the athletic director and the president of each athletic booster organization of the school have reviewed the “FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting,” and that he/she will comply with all provisions of the policy, and will review the provisions of the policy with school employees, athletic department staff members and representatives of the school’s athletic interests. The head coach in each varsity sport offered by the school shall, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, certify that he/she has reviewed the “FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting,” will comply with all provisions of the policy and will review the provisions of the policy with his/her coaching staff and players electronically in a process facilitated by the FHSAA. Failure to comply will subject the school to minimum monetary penalty of $100.

36.4.2 **Affidavit of Compliance.** A student who for any reason changes schools after beginning the 9th grade, as well as the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s), duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must sign in the presence of a notary public an “Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting.” The affidavit will be necessary regardless of whether the student changes schools during the school year or during the summer period between school years. The affidavit will be accompanied by an explanation of the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting, including the penalties for violating the policy, as well as the consequences of making a false statement on the affidavit. The student will not be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic competition at his/her new school until the school submits the affidavit, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director (GA4 Form – Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting). Failure to comply will subject the school to minimum monetary penalty of $100.

36.5 **PENALTIES**

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

36.5.2 **Eligibility Effect of Violation.** A student who is found to have been athletically recruited or is found to have received an impermissible benefit will be ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition for one or more years at the school to which the student was athletically recruited or at which he/she received the impermissible benefit, and may be declared ineligible for interscholastic athletic competition at all member schools for one or more years.

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

36.5.3.1 Public reprimand;
36.5.3.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of $2,500;
36.5.3.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;

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

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

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

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

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

POLICY 37
IMPROPER CONTACT AND IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFITS

37.1 IMPROPER CONTACT

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

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

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

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

37.1.2.3 Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively a school’s athletic program or implies a school’s athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student’s athletic career would be better served by attending a different school.

37.1.2.4 Answering an inquiry by the student or any member of his/her family about athletic participation opportunities at a school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend a different school. The student or family member instead should be immediately referred to the school employee responsible for registrations or admissions.

37.1.2.5 Providing transportation to the student or any member of his/her family to visit a school, to take an entrance examination for a school, to participate in an athletic tryout at a school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member, other representative of the school’s athletic interests or third parties, as part of an effort to pressure, urge or facilitate the student’s attendance at a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.2.6 Attending an elementary school, a junior high school, a middle school or a non-school athletic contest to identify prospective student-athletes who might be recruited to attend a school.

37.1.2.7 Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee, other representative of the school’s athletic interests or any other person, such as an alumnus of a school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.), a coach 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 promising, offering or giving an impermissible benefit to any student or any member of his/her family for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics, or to any student-athlete who already attends a school.

37.2.2 Specific Prohibitions. Specifically prohibited arrangements, assistance or benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 37.2.2.1 School-based financial assistance of any kind that exceeds the amount for which a student has been approved by an independent financial needs assessment company that is recognized by the FHSAA or otherwise is in excess of any supplemental assistance provided by a school to each and every student who qualifies for financial assistance.
- 37.2.2.2 Cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates, coupons or vouchers.
- 37.2.2.3 Gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.
- 37.2.2.4 Loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind.
- 37.2.2.5 Payment for any work or service that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount normally paid for such work or service.
- 37.2.2.6 Free or reduced-cost transportation.
- 37.2.2.7 Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school’s athletic interests or other individual(s) who are not the student’s parent(s) or legal guardian(s) duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 37.2.2.8 Free or reduced-cost rent for housing, vehicles or other items.
- 37.2.2.9 Full or partial payment of moving expenses or assistance of any kind with an actual physical move.
- 37.2.2.10 Employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid.
- 37.2.2.11 Promise of a position on an interscholastic athletic team or playing time as a member of the team.
- 37.2.2.12 Promise of guaranteeing a college athletic scholarship.
- 37.2.2.13 Free or reduced costs to attend a sport or skills camp.
- 37.2.2.14 Any other form of arrangement, assistance or benefit that is not generally available to other students in the school or their families or that is based in any way on athletic ability.

37.3 PENALTIES

37.3.1 Disciplinary Measures. Any one or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:

- 37.3.1.1 Public reprimand;
- 37.3.1.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of $2,500;
- 37.3.1.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;
- 37.3.1.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including FHSAA Florida High School State Championships competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
- 37.3.1.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
- 37.3.1.6 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
- 37.3.1.7 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.
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 can be found on the FHSAA Website.

38.1.1.5 Records Relating to Financial Assistance. The school must keep detailed records of school-based financial assistance provided to each student. This includes the report of the student’s financial need as determined by the independent assessment company as well as the actual amount of financial assistance provided to the student by the school, and how that actual amount was determined. The school must make all records available to the Executive Director or his/her designee for inspection upon request.

38.1.1.6 Persons Who May Discuss Financial Assistance Opportunities. The only persons who may discuss financial assistance opportunities with a prospective student or any member of his/her family are those school employees who administer the school’s registration, admission and financial assistance programs. No other school employee, any athletic department staff member or representative of the school’s athletic interests may suggest to or promise a prospective student or any member of his/her family that any part of the student’s costs of attending the school may be reduced, waived or paid for, or that financial assistance may be granted for any reason, including financial need.

38.1.1.7 Involvement of Athletic Personnel in Administration of Assistance Program. Athletic department staff members, other than those persons who have as their major responsibility an official leadership role in the academic leadership or admission programs of the school, are prohibited from sitting on the school’s financial assistance committee or otherwise playing any role in the process of deciding which students receive financial assistance or the types or amount of assistance they will be given.

38.1.2 Financial Assistance Not Administered by School. Students may apply for and receive financial assistance through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida. These programs are:

38.1.2.1 The Opportunity Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a student in a failing public school may request and receive an Opportunity Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.
38.1.2.2 The McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, through which the parent of a public school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student’s progress may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

38.1.2.3 The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a public school student who qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch may seek a scholarship to attend an eligible private school from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

38.1.3 Contributions by Donor. Funds that are donated to schools by persons, businesses and organizations may be given as financial assistance to students provided the decision as to how the funds are allocated rests exclusively with the school. It is not permissible for a donor to contribute funds to provide financial assistance for a particular student-athlete.

38.2 PENALTIES

38.2.1 Disciplinary Measures. Any one or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:

38.2.1.1 Public reprimand;
38.2.1.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of $2,500;
38.2.1.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;
38.2.1.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including FHSAA Florida High School State Championships competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
38.2.1.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
38.2.1.6 Restricted membership for one or more years during which time some or all of the school’s membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and
38.2.1.7 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.

POLICY 39

INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURES

The FHSAA compliance staff receives information about possible violations from several different sources. Member schools, media reports, confidential/anonymous sources, parent(s) of student-athletes, and other individuals or sources may provide information to be used by this office. In addition to unsolicited information, the staff also cultivates sources that provide information about possible violations.

39.1 Responsibility for Investigations. The executive director, or his/her designee, will supervise all investigations, audits and/or compliance reviews. Investigations may be assigned to either FHSAA staff members or approved investigative consultants. The executive director will provide the member school with the specific allegations of an inquiry or investigation and the facts upon which the allegations are being made. The executive director will be responsible for making final rulings/determinations concerning any investigation.

39.2 Investigators. The approved FHSAA Investigative Consultant will:
(a) meet Level 2 screening standards as per s. 435.04, F.S.; and
(b) be a licensed notary public, with the authority to place individuals under oath; and
(c) have proper FHSAA photo identification; and
(d) not determine matters of eligibility; and
(e) submit information and evidence to the executive director or his/her designee for an unbiased and objective determination of eligibility; and
(f) attend an FHSAA approved training session/orientation.

39.3 Nature of Investigations. Investigations will largely consist of, but not limited to, examinations of school records and any other documents, as well as interviews of individuals who are believed to have knowledge of possible violations or who are implicated in potential violations.
39.3.1 Interviews of Individuals. Approved FHSAA Investigative Consultants will make every reasonable effort to interview every individual implicated in a potential violation. Individuals, who are interviewed, may be provided with limited detail about the subject of the investigation to promote honest, candid responses and to protect the integrity of the process. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will conduct interviews on Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. only, unless previously agreed to by the interviewee.

39.3.2 Documents, Correspondence and Other Materials. In addition to interviews, the investigative consultants may obtain significant supporting documentation, such as compliance files, academic records, e-mails, financial records, etc.

39.3.3 Additional Information or Evidence. Student athletes, parents, and schools may present, to the association or to the investigative consultant, any information or evidence that is credible, persuasive, and of a kind reasonably prudent persons rely upon.

39.4 Guidelines for Investigations. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will adhere to the following guidelines when conducting an investigation.

39.4.1 Notification of Investigation. FHSAA Office will notify its member school principal, headmaster or FHSAA Representative when an investigation is initiated. Member school principals shall notify, or cause to be notified in writing, student athletes and parents/legal guardians or other individuals identified by the FHSAA or its investigative consultant.

39.4.2 Investigations Conducted on School Campus. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will contact a school’s FHSAA Representative to schedule visits to the school’s campus to review records or to interview student-athletes, athletic department staff members, administrators or other representatives of the school’s athletic interests who are involved in possible violations at the school.

39.4.2.1 Conflict with Academic Schedule. Interviews of student-athletes and teachers will be scheduled to minimize a loss of time from class.

39.4.3 Investigations Conducted at Residences. Unless otherwise agreed to, FHSAA Investigative Consultants may conduct residential investigations on weekdays (Monday through Friday) between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

39.4.3.1 Searches of Residence. FHSAA Investigative Consultants will obtain written consent of the parent/legal guardian before commencing a search of a family’s residence, which might include a search of a student’s personal living area(s).

39.4.4 Presence of School Representative and/or Parent During Interview of Student-Athlete. A school representative, preferably the FHSAA Representative, must be present, and a parent/legal guardian may be present, during the interview of a student athlete that is conducted on campus. A parent/legal guardian must be present during the interview of a student athlete that is conducted off campus.

39.4.5 Representation by Legal Counsel. Any individual being interviewed is allowed to have private legal counsel present during interviews.

39.4.6 Notice to Individuals Being Interviewed

39.4.6.1 Disclosure of Purpose of Interview. FHSAA Investigative Consultant will disclose the purpose of the interview.

39.4.6.2 Responsibility to Cooperate. FHSAA Investigative Consultant will remind those being interviewed of their responsibility to cooperate. Individuals who choose to not cooperate with the investigative process may impact student participation in interscholastic contests. Parents and/or students who choose to not cooperate with the investigative process are considered to void their consent to participate as outlined in the EL3 form.

39.4.7 Interview Record. FHSAA Investigative Consultant may electronically record an interview unless the interviewee objects in writing.

39.4.7.1 Access to Recordings. An individual being interviewed may also electronically record the interview or may request and obtain, at their expense, a copy of the interview through the FHSAA office.

39.5 Result of an Investigation. If the investigation uncovers no verifiable evidence of a major violation, the case is closed, no further action is taken and such notice will be sent to the member school. If evidence of a major violation is discovered, the case moves to the next phase, and a notice of preliminary findings is sent to the member school.

POLICY 40

Concussions

To help ensure the health and safety of student athletes, the following policy provides guidelines and procedures for preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion.
40.1 **Concussions.** A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Concussions can also result from a fall or from collisions between with one or more individuals or with obstacles. As brain injury, concussions are serious.

40.1.1 Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion including, but not limited to, loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

40.1.2 When you suspect that a player has a concussion, follow the “Heads Up” 4-step Action Plan:
- Remove the athlete from play.
- Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.
- Inform the athlete’s parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them information on concussion.
- Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until an appropriate health-care professional says he or she is symptom-free and gives the okay to return to activity.

The signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion are not always apparent immediately after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and may develop over a few hours. An athlete should be observed following a suspected concussion and should never be left alone.

40.2 **Appropriate Health-Care Professional (AHCP).** An appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) is an individual who is trained in the diagnosis, evaluation and management of concussions. Such individuals will be a licensed physician (MD, as per Chapter 458, Florida Statutes) or a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per Chapter 459, Florida Statutes). Consistent with the American Academy of Neurology and other organizations, it is recommended that an AHCP as defined in Policy 40.2 above or an athletic trainer (ATC, as per Chapter 468, Florida Statutes) is present at all sporting events, including practices, where athletes are at risk for concussion or for those classified as a collision sport, whenever possible.

40.3 **Mechanics for Removal from Athletic Contest.** The FHSAA concussion rule calls for the immediate removal of the participant from the contest or practice. Players, coaches and contest officials should be cognizant of athletes who display signs, symptoms or behaviors of a concussion and immediately stop play for injury evaluation within the rules of the game (the responsibility of the contest official is limited to activities that occur on the field, court, mat, etc.).

40.3.1 **Symptoms Reported by the Athlete**
- Headache
- Nausea
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or fuzzy vision
- Sensitivity to light or noise
- Feeling sluggish
- Feeling foggy or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion

40.3.2 **Signs Observed by Other Individuals**
- Appears dazed or stunned
- Is confused about what to do
- Forgets plays
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can’t recall events prior to hit
- Can’t recall events after hit

40.3.3 **Removal.** Once the participant has been removed from a contest due to a suspected concussion, the coach, school and AHCP(s) assumes full responsibility for that athlete’s further evaluation and safety. If available, a certified athletic trainer (ATC) under the direct supervision of a MD/DO can assist with the sideline evaluation of a student-athlete when a student-athlete is sent out of a competition or practice, but cannot provide written clearance to return to play (refer to above). If after sideline evaluation, it is determined the athlete does not demonstrate symptoms consistent with a concussion the ATC will follow procedures within a written
operative protocol created and signed by a supervising physician to determine return to play. In this situation, the athlete should continue to be monitored for any delayed onset of concussion symptoms and must be removed from activity immediately if signs or symptoms return.

40.4 Return to Play (RTP) Criteria – Recommended Concussion Management

40.4.1 No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a suspected concussion. “When in doubt, sit them out!”

40.4.2 Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an ACHP (as defined above) as soon as possible and practical.

40.4.3 Any athlete who has sustained a concussion must be medically cleared by an AHCP (as defined above) prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.

40.4.4 After evaluation and examination by an AHCP (as defined above), return to play must follow a step-wise protocol as defined by the “Graded Return to Play Protocol” form and under the supervision of an AHCP, athletic trainer, coach or other health care professional (Post Head Injury/Concussion Form).

40.4.5 A written medical clearance from an AHCP (as defined above) is required for return to competition (Post Head Injury/Concussion – RTP Form).

40.5 Education on Management of Concussions

40.5.1 Requirement for Coaches. All FHSAA member school head coaches and paid/supplemented coaches are required to view the FREE online education course “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know”. This NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.5.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, student-athletes, parents and media are encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE online education course “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know”. This free NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.5.3 Additional Information. Current and up-to-date information on concussion can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at:

- http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html; and

40.6 Concussion Release Form. Each student-athlete and their parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit a release form provided by the association (Form EL3CH – Concussion& Heat Related Illness Information Release Form).

POLICY 41

HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION

Heat illness is a cause for concern for high school student-athletes beginning pre-season practices in the warm, summer months and other times of extreme heat. The most serious heat illness, exertional heat stroke, is one of the leading causes of preventable death in these athletes. Heat production during intense exercise is 15 to 20 times greater than at rest and can raise body core temperature one to two degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes unless heat is dissipated. The following policy provides guidelines and procedures for conducting preseason practices and activities to insure the well-being of student-athletes.

41.1 Intent. The intent of this policy is to require FHSAA member schools to follow a preseason acclimatization and recovery model for all sports that enhances student-athlete well-being. The policy also requires individual schools, or districts, to select and promote a method of environmental monitoring to be used outside the acclimatization period and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete.

41.1.1 These policies provide general regulations for conducting preseason practices for secondary school-age student athletes and to provide recommendations for voluntary conditioning workouts.

41.1.2 These policies should be applied before and during the academic year to ensure the athletes arrive with and maintain adequate sport-specific conditioning.

41.1.3 Application of these regulations should not be based solely on the information contained here within; but, should represent the minimal safety precautions promoted through the FHSAA. Coaches and Schools are encouraged to review published recommendations through the NFHS or the National Athletic Trainers Association to further protect student-athletes from the harmful effects of the heat.
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.

**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.

**Definitions.**

- **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.
- **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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Procedures**

- **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.**
- **The student and parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit release forms provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate and Form EL3CH – Concussion & Heat Related Illness Information Release Form).**
- **During the first seven days of an athlete’s participation, it is required that participants not engage in more than one practice per day.**
- **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.**
- **Competition is counted as three (3) hours. An official practice is not permitted on the same day of a competition.**
- **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.**
- **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.**
- **For football athletes, the first availability for a contest would be after completion of the 6 practice sessions as listed above in 41.4.6.**
41.4.11 On days when two practices are conducted, it is required that either practice not exceed three (3) hours in length and student-athletes do not participate in more than five (5) total hours of practice activities on these days. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are included as part of the official practice time. Practices must be separated with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between the end of the first practice and the beginning of the very next practice. A walk-through is not permitted on days that have two (2) official practices. Weekly practice time shall not exceed twenty-four (24) hours for days 8-14.

41.4.12 It is recommended that any voluntary conditioning session is limited to three (3) hours maximum per session and these sessions should include the safeguards listed within 41.5 below.

41.4.13 Cross Country: Individuals must participate in a minimum of 10 practice sessions on 10 separate days prior to the first contest.

41.5 Hydration and Rest. Once the 14 day acclimatization period expires or within ANY voluntary conditioning session, each individual school, or district, must select and promote a method of monitoring the environment for heat related concerns and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete. Schools must continue to adhere to the above hydration/rest policies as well as the time limits and sequencing imposed on practice (2-1-2).

- Rest time should involve both unlimited hydration intake and rest without any activity involved.
- For sports utilizing helmets (i.e. football, lacrosse, baseball, softball and others) helmets should be removed during rest time.
- For every 30 minutes of practice, there must be at least a minimum 5 minute rest and hydration break.
- The area identified for rest should be considered a “cooling zone” and out of direct sunlight. This area can include ice sponges, cold immersion tubs and other cooling alternatives to facilitate the cooling process.
- Coaches should promote a heat injury prevention philosophy by promoting unrestricted access to water at all times without consequence.
- A student-athlete should never be denied access to water if he/she requests.

41.5.1 Suggested methods of monitoring the environment include:

1. Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT)
2. Heat Index
3. Digital meters or Psychrometers

41.6 Sanctions on Coaches

41.6.1 Level 1 Suspension. A head coach who commits a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any contest, at any level, for a minimum of the next two (2) contests during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) football game; or

41.6.2 Level 2 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 1 Suspension due to a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41, or commits multiple violations in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

41.6.3 Level 3 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 2 Suspension for violating any condition of Policy 41 or commits an egregious violation of Policy 41, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

POLICY 42

LICENSING AND ROYALTIES

42.1 Rights to FHSAA Properties

The FHSAA owns or controls all rights and interests in its name, logos, trademarks and service marks, whether registered or unregistered, including “Florida High School Athletic Association,” “Florida High School Activities Association,” “FHSAA,” “Florida High School State Championships,” “FHSAA Florida Finals,” “Florida Finals,” “FHSAA Championships,” “Florida High School State Championships,” “Sport the ‘Tude!,” and “Play Strong. Play Hard. Play Fair.” The FHSAA will prosecute infringement of identical
or confusingly similar marks. The FHSAA shall maintain control over the nature and quality of the goods and services rendered under the marks; therefore, no use of the marks by others will be permitted in advertising, in association with commercial services or related to the sale of merchandise without the specific approval of the FHSAA.

42.2 Registration

The name, emblem and logos of the FHSAA are registered service marks under the laws of the State of Florida and will be protected from unlawful use for the benefit of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). By virtue of its membership in this Association, each school will be an authorized agent of the FHSAA with respect to use of any or all service marks subject to the terms and conditions of this “Licensing and Royalty Policy.”

42.3 Licensing

42.3.1 Member schools are encouraged and licensed to use the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos and service marks on programs and event merchandise in connection with sanctioned interscholastic events only as set forth herein. A royalty will be due or owing the FHSAA for any use of the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos, trademarks and service marks for any item sold or distributed by a member school or outside vendor at or in connection with any such activity during the regular sports season when any official marks or logos are used. Required use during Florida High School State Championships events is set forth separately in this policy.

42.3.2 Member schools may not authorize any other individual or entity to use any FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logo or service mark without the prior written approval of the FHSAA.

42.3.3 Member schools may contract only with those outside vendors who are licensed by the FHSAA to produce event merchandise on which the FHSAA name, emblem and/or logos is displayed. It will be the responsibility of the member schools to refer outside vendors wishing to become licensed to the FHSAA Office. The FHSAA Office will prepare and distribute to member schools a listing of such licensed vendors on a regular basis. The annual licensing fee shall be determined at the discretion of the executive director.

42.3.4 Any use of the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos or service marks not otherwise specifically stated in this policy will obligate either the member school or an outside vendor doing business with the member school to remit to the FHSAA a royalty fee determined at the discretion of the executive director.

42.3.5 Any other use of the FHSAA name, acronym, emblem, logos or service marks, such as on team patches, shirts, sweatshirts, hats, jackets, towels, artifacts or otherwise, requires the prior written approval of the FHSAA on terms specified by the FHSAA at its discretion.

42.3.6 Print, radio and television media may use the FHSAA name, emblem and logos as part of its coverage of FHSAA events and/or in any publication, slide, videotape, brochure, pamphlet, advertisement, commercial, etc., relating to its coverage of the FHSAA. Permission from the FHSAA Office is not required and the terms of this “Licensing and Royalty Policy” do not apply. However, the use of any of the official marks in any merchandise created and/or distributed in connection with coverage of and/or sale of promotional use is subject to this “Licensing and Royalty Policy.”

42.3.7 The enforcement of this policy will be the responsibility of each member school in conjunction with the FHSAA Office. The collection of the revenue required pursuant to this policy will be the responsibility of the FHSAA Office via the member school or outside vendor, depending upon who is responsible for arranging for the actual production or distribution of any merchandise for the event.

42.3.8 A member school which contracts with an outside vendor not licensed by the FHSAA to produce merchandise and otherwise in which the FHSAA official marks are displayed, for sale or distribution at regular season events will be in violation of this policy and will be assessed a monetary penalty $250 plus additional monetary damages for lost royalties to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

42.4 Florida High School State Championships Events

42.4.1 The FHSAA Championships Logo must be conspicuously displayed on all T-shirts, other merchandise, printed materials or otherwise produced and/or distributed in connection with any Florida High School State Championships event. Florida High School State Championships events include, but are not limited to, all contests, games, meets or other events conducted by or under the auspices of the FHSAA on the district, regional and FHSAA State Championship levels. Other merchandise includes caps, hats, golf shirts, rugby shirts, sweat shirts, muscle shirts, key chains, car tags, bumper stickers, pennants, banners, cups, mugs, posters and similar items. Printed materials are considered to include programs, heat sheets, bracket sheets, scorecards, placards, promotional posters, flyers, advertisements, billboards and similar items.

42.4.2 The FHSAA Office will enter into an agreement with one or more vendor(s) to exclusively produce the official merchandise, including T-shirts, for all Florida High School State Championships events on the district, regional and state levels. The exclusive vendor(s) of Florida High School State Championships event merchandise shall be subject to the Terms and Conditions of the contract between the FHSAA and the vendor. A member school or organization that serves as host for any Florida High School State Championships event and wishes to sell souvenir merchandise specific to that event shall be required to purchase such souvenir
merchandise from the exclusive vendor(s). Should the exclusive vendor(s) elect to come to the site of any Florida High School State Championships event and sell such souvenir merchandise directly to the participants and general public at the event, the host school/organization for the event shall be required to grant to the exclusive vendor(s) ingress to and egress from the facility in which the event is to be conducted, as well as space in the facility in which to set up a booth(s) from which to sell the souvenir merchandise. The FHSAA will retain complete control over the design of merchandise to be produced for sale at a Florida High School State Championships event. In either case, the minimum royalty fee to be paid to the FHSAA is at the discretion of the executive director.

42.4.3 No individual(s), including those affiliated with a participating member school, shall bring onto the property of a facility at which a Florida High School State Championships event is being conducted any items (including but not limited to T-shirts, caps, posters, bumper stickers, etc.) to be sold or otherwise distributed on the property to student-athletes, coaches or spectators without the written approval of the FHSAA. An individual(s) found in violation of this provision shall surrender the items for confiscation, shall be expelled from the property and may be subject to legal action. A member school found in violation of this provision shall be assessed a minimum monetary penalty of $250 and additional monetary damages for lost royalties to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

POLICY 43

MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS EVENTS

The FHSAA does not issue credentials to Florida High School State Championships contests below the state championship level. Authorized working personnel employed by an outlet which has been approved to broadcast a Florida High School State Championships contest must be admitted to the facility without charge upon presentation of proper identification and payment of appropriate rights fees to the host school principal or contest manager. Application must be made to the FHSAA for credentials to certain Florida High School State Championships contests on the state championship level.

43.1 Making a Request. Requests for media credentials for each Florida High School State Championships state championship event must be submitted online via the FHSAA media site (http://www.fhsaa.org/departments/media) by the deadline established for the event. The online form must be completed in its entirety. It is the responsibility of the individual to confirm that his or her request has been received. The request can only be made by an editor/manager of a news outlet or publication, or an owner/operator of an Internet site.

43.2 Credential Limits. Credentials to a Florida High School State Championships event will be issued on a space-available basis only to Student-based media of member schools participating in the event (limit of one (1)). This request must be made by the school’s athletic director using the online system;

43.2.1 If a school is unable to secure a credential for a student, an adult staff member of the school or an adult at an outside company who has been hired by the school and had a background check performed may be issued a credential. This request must be made by the school’s athletic director using the online system (limit of one (1)).
# Monetary Description of Violation and Reference | Amount
---|---
44.1.1 General failure to comply with FHSAA Policies or Administrative Procedures (Policies and Administrative Procedures Preambles) | $100.00
44.1.2 Permitting a student-athlete to compete in an interscholastic contest prior to his/her name being submitted to the FHSAA Office on an Annual Eligibility Report (Policy 4.1.1.1(a)) | $50.00
44.1.3 Failure to contract with sanctioned local officials associations for registered officials at all interscholastic home contests (Policy 4.1.1.1(b)) | $100.00
44.1.4 Actions which may not be regarded as unsportsmanlike which result in a contest being prematurely concluded (Policy 4.1.1.1(c)) | $100.00
44.1.5 Exceeding the number of contests allowed in a tournament or withdrawing from a tournament to avoid exceeding number of contests allowed (Policy 4.1.5.4) | $250.00
44.1.6 Failure to attend a required Compliance Seminar (Policy 5.1.10) | $250.00
44.1.7 Violation of the Sanctioning Policy (Policy 7.7) | $100.00
44.1.8 Failure of a team or student-athlete who has qualified to advance in the Florida High School State Championships to participate at the next level (Policy 10.7.1 and 10.7.2) | $250.00/$50.00
44.1.9 Permitting a student-athlete to compete in a Florida High School State Championships contest who was not submitted to the FHSAA Office on the Official Entry List for that sport (Policy 11.1) | $50.00
44.1.10 Failure of school to have representative participate in the District Tournament/Meet Planning Meeting (Policy 13.2.2.2) | $100.00
44.1.11 Improper use of a Florida High School State Championships Pass (Policy 15.1.4.9) | $100.00
44.1.12 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL2 form (Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form, see Bylaw 9.7), per student (Policy 16.9.1) | $500.00
44.1.13 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed EL3 form (Consent and Release from Liability Certificate, see Bylaw 9.8), per student (Policy 16.9.2) | $500.00
44.1.14 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a completed and approved EL4 form (Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Student, see Policy 17), per student (Policy 16.9.3) | $100.00
44.1.15 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without registering a Non-Traditional Student (see Policy 16.7), per student (Policy 16.9.4) | $100.00
44.1.16 Use of an ineligible student when not self-reported, per contest (Policy 16.9.5) | $2,500.00
44.1.17 Use of an ineligible student when self-reported, per contest (Policy 16.9.6) | $100.00
44.1.18 Conduct of an illegal practice session or illegal practice contest (Policy 6.1.1.3 and 18.1.4) | $250.00
44.1.19 Conduct of an illegal scrimmage (Policy 18.4.4) | $250.00
44.1.20 Violation of the Off-Season Conditioning Policy, per violation (Policy 21.7.1) | $2,500.00
44.1.21 Violation of the Non-School Teams and Off-Season Participation Policy, per violation (Policy 22.5.1) | $2,500.00
44.1.22 Violation of the Open Facilities Policy, per violation (Policy 23.2.1) | $2,500.00
44.1.23 Violation of the Coaching School, Camps, Clinics, Workshops by Member Schools Policy, per violation (Policy 24.2.1) | $2,500.00
44.1.24 Violation of the participation by student-athletes and teams in Coaching School, Camps, Clinics, Workshops Policy, per violation (Policy 25.3.1) | $2,500.00
44.1.25 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement to each affected school and the FHSAA (Policy 25.3.3) | $500.00
44.1.26 Storming the playing field, court, or pool by spectators and students at the conclusion of an athletic contest,
null
appropriate deadline, of for other administrative services. This schedule is not all inclusive and does require the Executive Director to determine administrative fees for services not specifically covered herein. In all cases, these amounts are minimums and may be increased relative to the level of service. The following chart is for reference only, when a conflict in language occurs the policies or administrative procedures will take precedence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Minimum Description of Violation and Reference</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44.2.1</td>
<td>Late filing of an Application for Sanction less than 30 days prior to the event (Policy 7.2.1.1)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.2</td>
<td>Late filing of an Application for Sanction less than 10 days prior to the event (Policy 7.2.1.2)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.3</td>
<td>Late filing of an Application for Sanction after first date of event (Policy 7.2.1.3)</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.4</td>
<td>Application fee for first time membership (Policy 9.2.2.1)</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.5</td>
<td>Re-admission of former members school (Policy 9.2.3)</td>
<td>$75.00 (MS) $250.00 (HS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.6</td>
<td>Administrative fee for jamborees and classics in sanctioned team sports (except football and girls volleyball)</td>
<td>$100.00 (additional $50.00 per team 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.7</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 4 teams or less (Policy 9.5.1.1)</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.8</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 5 - 8 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.9</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 9 - 16 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.10</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 17 - 20 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)</td>
<td>$525.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.11</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 21 - 24 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.12</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball, 25 - 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.1)</td>
<td>$1,050.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.13</td>
<td>Administrative fee for jamborees and/or classics in girls volleyball and wrestling (Policy 9.5.1.2)</td>
<td>$75.00 (additional $50.00 per team 4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.14</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, 8 teams or less (Policy 9.5.1.2)</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.15</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, 9 - 16 (Policy 9.5.1.2)</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.16</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, 17 - 32 (Policy 9.5.1.2)</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.17</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling, more than 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.2)</td>
<td>$175.00 + $35.00 per school over 32</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.2.18</td>
<td>Administrative fee for jamborees and/or classics in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming &amp; diving and track &amp; field (Policy 9.5.1.3)</td>
<td>$50.00 (additional $50.00 per team 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.2.19</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming &amp; diving and track &amp; field, 5 - 16 teams (Policy 9.5.1.3)</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.2.20</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming &amp; diving and track &amp; field, 7 - 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.3)</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.21</td>
<td>Administrative fee for tournaments in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming &amp; diving and track &amp; field, more than 32 teams (Policy 9.5.1.3)</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.2.22</td>
<td>Administrative fee for Spring Football Jamborees (Policy 9.9.1)</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.23</td>
<td>Administrative fee for Preseason Football Jamborees (Policy 9.9.1)</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.2.24</td>
<td>Late filing of financial report for classics, 30-60 days late (Policy 9.9.2)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.2.25</td>
<td>Late filing of financial report for classics, 60-90 days late (Policy 9.9.2)</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.2.26</td>
<td>Late filing of financial report for classics, more than 90 days (Policy 9.9.2)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>44.2.27</td>
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Administrative Procedures
of the
Florida High School
Athletic Association, Inc.

2014-15 Edition

Pursuant to the authority granted it in Article 4.6 of the FHSAA Bylaws, Executive Director has established the following procedures to govern the Association’s interscholastic athletic programs. They apply to all regular season contests as well as the Florida High School State Championships unless otherwise modified or superseded by the terms and conditions approved for the Florida High School State Championships. In the case of any conflict, whether actual or believed, with the Bylaws of the FHSAA, the Bylaws shall control. Any understanding, misunderstanding, opinion or belief by an individual as a result of reading these procedures shall not be binding on the FHSAA. The term “Executive Director” as used throughout these procedures shall mean the Executive Director of the FHSAA or his/her designee, unless otherwise specifically noted. Official rulings shall be requested in writing only by the principal or designated official representative of a member school and shall be provided in writing by the Executive Director or his/her designee. Only a formal ruling by the Executive Director or his/her designee is binding on the FHSAA. General failure to comply with FHSAA Administrative Procedures will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per occurrence.
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# Revisions to Administrative Procedures for 2014-15 School Year

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**NOTE:** Changes to the Sport Specific Procedures are highlighted in grey highlighted text, with pages identified with grey bleed bars on the sides of the pertinent pages.

A notable change can be found relative to a “Coaches Packet” for the Florida High School State Championships in baseball (pg. 135), basketball (pg. 137), cross country (pg. 150), golf (pg. 160), lacrosse (pg. 165), soccer (pg. 170), softball (pg. 173), swimming & diving (pg. 177), track & field (pg. 187), volleyball (pg. 193), water polo (pg. 197) and wrestling (pg. 210).

Significant changes have been made to the following sports:

- Baseball (pg. 134)
- Competitive Cheerleading (pg. 148)
- Football (pgs. 153 and 154)
- Lacrosse (pg. 164)
- Soccer (pgs. 168 and 170-171)
- Softball (pg. 172)
- Swimming & Diving (pgs. 177 and 178)
- Tennis (pg. 181)
- Track & Field (pg. 190)
- Weightlifting (pg. 203)
- Wrestling (pgs. 206, 208 and 211)
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 1

ELIGIBILITY & COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

1.1 Establishing School Residence

1.1.1 Traditional Students. A “Traditional” student may participate only in the interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by the school he/she first attends each school year, which is either the school where the student first attends classes or 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. The student will have been considered to have established his/her school residence at that school for that school year. School residence is only established once during a school year.

1.1.2 Non-Traditional Students. A “Non-Traditional” student may participate only in the interscholastic athletic programs sponsored by the school he/she first registers his/her intent to participate. As such the student will have been considered to have established his/her school residence at that school for that school year. School residence is only established once during a school year.

1.2 Register Intent. A “Non-Traditional” student must register his/her intent to participate on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate.

1.2.1 Register Intent Only Once. A “Non-Traditional” student needs to register their intent only one time for each sport in which the student wishes to participate. As long as the student remains affiliated with a school in the sport(s) in which the student was originally registered and does not participate in any other school’s athletic program, the student does not need to re-register intent. However, if the student subsequently changes his/her affiliation to a different school, then the student must register intent with the new school prior to a date, which is not earlier than, the first day of practice for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate in addition to meeting one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

1.2.2 Forms. Registering intent can be accomplished by the completion and submission of one or more of the following forms:

1.2.2.1 GA4 Form. The student must complete and submit the GA4 Form to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form needs to be complete only once time. As long as the student remains affiliated with a school in the sport(s) in which the student originally registered and does not participate in any other school’s athletic program, the student does not need to re-submit the form. However, if the student subsequently changes his/her affiliation to a different school, then the student must submit a new GA4 Form with the new school prior to a date not earlier than the first day of practice for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate in addition to meeting one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

1.2.2.2 EL7 Form. The student must complete and submit the EL7 Form to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form needs to be completed only one time. As long as the student remains affiliated with a school in the sport(s) in which the student originally registered and does not participate in any other school’s athletic program, the student does not need to re-submit the form. However, if the student subsequently changes his/her affiliation to a different school, then the student must submit a new EL7 Form with the new school prior to a date not earlier than the first day of practice for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate in addition to meeting one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

1.2.2.3 EL12 Form. The student must complete and submit the EL12 Form to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form needs to be complete only one time. As long as the student remains affiliated with a school in the sport(s) in which the student originally registered and does not participate in any other school’s athletic program, the student does not need to re-submit the form. However, if the student subsequently changes his/her affiliation to a different school, then the student must submit a new EL12 Form with the new school prior to a date not earlier than the first day of practice for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate in addition to meeting one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

1.2.2.4 EL14 Form. The student must complete and submit the EL14 Form only if the student is choosing to participate at a public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the “Controlled Open Enrollment” provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student. The completed form must be submitted to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form needs to be complete only one time. As long as the student remains affiliated with a school in the sport(s) in which the student originally registered and does not participate in any other school’s athletic program, the student does not need to re-submit the form. However, if the student subsequently changes his/her affiliation to a different school, then the student must submit a new EL14 Form with the new school prior to a date not earlier than the first day of practice for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate in addition to meeting one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2. Note, this form must be signed by a school district official and the student should allow sufficient time for the school district to process this paperwork.

1.2.2.5 EL2 Form. The student must complete and submit the EL2 Form to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form is valid for 365 from the date it is first signed and must be completed and submitted each year the student participates. This form is nontransferable.
(except for pages 2 and 3) and a new page 1 of the form must be completed and submitted to the school athletic director when a student changes school affiliation.

1.2.2.6 EL3 Form. The student must complete and submit the EL3 Form to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form is valid for 365 days from the date it is first signed and must be completed and submitted each year the student participates. This form is nontransferable and a new form must be completed and submitted to the school athletic director when a student changes school affiliation.

1.2.2.7 EL3CH Form. The student must complete and submit the EL3CH Form to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form is valid for 365 days from the date it is first signed and must be completed and submitted each year the student participates. This form is nontransferable and a new form must be completed and submitted to the school athletic director when a student changes school affiliation.

1.3 Transfers

1.3.1 Definitions

1.3.1.1 Transfer. A transfer of schools occurs when a student changes the school they attend during the school year (see Bylaw 1.4.5). The student is subject to the transfer provision in Bylaw 9.3.

1.3.1.2 Change of School. A change of schools occurs when a student changes the school they attend during the summer (see Bylaw 1.4.6). The student is subject to provisions of Bylaw 9.2.

1.3.2 Parent/Student Responsibilities. Once the student has completed the transfer (i.e. is attending classes at the new school), the student/parent must:

1.3.2.1 Speak with the school’s administration (including the athletic director) on the first day of attendance.

1.3.2.2 Complete and submit a GA4 Form to the athletic director.

1.3.2.3 Complete and submit new EL3 Form to the athletic director, as well as submit copies of the EL2 and EL3CH Forms.

1.3.3 School Administration Responsibilities. Prior to allowing the student to participate in interscholastic athletics, the school administration must:

1.3.3.1 Determine the student’s cumulative GPA, and

1.3.3.2 Ensure an official transcript has been received and verify the student’s date of birth by documented proof provided by the parent (see Bylaw 9.6.4.1, i.e. original passport or original birth certificate or U.S. Visa or U.S. Permanent Resident Card); and

1.3.3.3 Obtain a copy of the student’s EL2 and EL3CH Forms and have the student/parent complete a new EL3 Form; and

1.3.3.4 Determine that the student meets one of the six provisions listed in Bylaw 9.3.2 (Note: the student needs to meet only one of the provisions not all of them):

1.3.3.4.1 Bylaw 9.3.2.1 – Transfer Before the Beginning of a Sport Season

(a) The student must transfer and attend before the first day of the sports season, as established in the FHSAA calendar.
(b) The transfer was approved by the district school board or private school policies.
(c) An EL 6 Form was completed and signed by the principal indicating the student is eligible.
(d) The EL 6 Form is submitted to the FHSAA via fax or e-mail at eligibility@fhsaa.org.

1.3.3.4.2 Bylaw 9.3.2.2 – Transfer with a Full and Complete Move

(a) The EL6 Form IS NOT applicable with this type of transfer.
(b) The student’s former residence is not occupied by anyone the student lived with prior to moving; and
(c) Personal belongings no longer existance in the previous residence; and
(d) Mail is received at the new residence; and
(e) All utilities are transferred to the new residence; and
(f) Driver’s license, voter registration and any other forms of legal identification have been changed to the new residence; and

(g) This move made it necessary to change schools (see Bylaw 9.3.2.7).

(Note: all of conditions b - g must be met)

1.3.3.4.3 Bylaw 9.3.2.3 – Transfer Required Due to Change of Residence by the Student

(a) The EL6 Form IS NOT applicable with this type of transfer.
(b) A person the student was living with dies; or
(c) A person the student was living with is imprisoned or committed by court order to a mental facility; or
(d) The student is made ward of the court or state and placed in a foster home; and
(e) This move made it necessary to change schools (see Bylaw 9.3.2.7).

1.3.3.4.4 Bylaw 9.3.2.4 – Transfer Due to Marriage of the Student
(a) The EL6 Form IS NOT applicable with this type of transfer.
(b) The student is married and needs to move with their spouse, and
(c) This move made it necessary to change schools (see Bylaw 9.3.2.7)

1.3.3.4.5 Bylaw 9.3.2.5 – Transfer Due to Reassignment by the School District
(a) The EL6 Form IS NOT applicable with this type of transfer.
(b) Review the student’s reassignment by the school board to ensure the following:
   • The assignment is not prompted by a request from the student, parents or legal guardian; and
   • The assignment is not for athletic or disciplinary reasons.

1.3.3.4.6 Bylaw 9.3.2.6 – Transfer Within the First Twenty School Days
(a) The EL6 Form IS NOT applicable with this type of transfer.
(b) Contact the previous school to determine:
   • If the student was recruited; or
   • If the transfer is due to athletic reasons; or
   • If the transfer is because of disciplinary reasons or misconduct.

1.3.3.5 Contact the student’s previous school to verify eligibility while the student was enrolled at the previous school.

1.3.3.6 Complete and submit an EL6 Form only if the student qualifies under Bylaw 9.3.2.1 (transfer before the beginning of the sport season) as follows:

1.3.3.6.1 This form must be completed by the receiving school; and
1.3.3.6.2 The principal or his/her designee must contact the previous school(s) to verify eligibility; and
1.3.3.6.3 The form must identify the previous school(s) attended by the student for the current school year only, with
   the name, city and state of the school(s); and
1.3.3.6.4 The principal’s or designee’s signature certifies the student’s eligibility.

1.4 Transcripts
1.4.1 Official Transcripts. Some member schools have different additional graduation requirements related to the school’s curriculum. As a result the member school may not accept certain grades earned by the student prior to attending its institution (i.e. transfer courses). For the purpose of determining academic, athletic eligibility, the school must provide a transcript which includes all of the following:

1.4.1.1 All grades earned by the student since first entering 9th grade must be reflected and used to calculate the student’s athletic eligibility. (Note: some member schools now reflect a weighted GPA, an unweighted GPA and athletic GPA to indicate the student’s GPA).
1.4.1.2 Students required to repeat an academic course or an academic year must have the initial grade earned and the repeated grade earned reflected on the transcript used for athletic eligibility (Note: repeating an academic course or academic year does not extend a student’s limit of eligibility beyond four (4) years).
1.4.1.3 Grades earned in other countries must be reflected on the transcript used for athletic eligibility.
1.4.1.4 Grades earned through virtual programs must be reflected on the transcript used for athletic eligibility.
1.4.1.5 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.

1.4.2 Grade Forgiveness. In accordance with Florida Statutes (s. 1003.428(4)(d) note) and Bylaw 9.4, member schools may enhance a student’s GPA to meet the minimum 2.0 GPA requirement through grade forgiveness. It is important to remember that some member schools and school districts may apply grade forgiveness differently for the purpose of meeting graduating requirements, in the event a student is in danger of not meeting the school’s or school district’s graduation requirements. Athletic Directors must be in communication with their school’s guidance department to ensure grade forgiveness is being applied correctly for the purpose of determining academic, athletic eligibility. The following are some guiding principles for applying grade forgiveness for athletic eligibility:

1.4.2.1 The replacement of a core course must be by a core courses in the same subject and level, i.e. exchange a chemistry grade for a chemistry grade, but not biology grade for a chemistry grade (different levels; science courses are very restrictive);
1.4.2.2 The replacement of a core course by an elective course cannot be done until the requirements of that core has been met and the required electives have been met (this is what impacts graduation);
1.4.2.3 The grade replacing another grade must match by semester, i.e. 2nd semester English I may only replace 2nd semester English I, (it may not replace 1st semester English I);
1.4.2.4 The grade being used for forgiveness must succeed the grade it is replacing;
1.4.2.5 The grade being used for forgiveness must not be used for a grade during the same semester;
1.4.2.6 Students can enhance a grade in any elective course by taking another elective course, provided the required electives have been met (i.e., keyboarding may replace weightlifting).

1.5 Due Process. Casual conversations with staff, telephone call inquiries and e-mail inquiries concerning student eligibility or possible violations of association rules and regulations are NOT official rulings.

1.5.1 EL10, EL11 or EL11S Form. The EL10 – Request for Eligibility Ruling Form – is used when a school is uncertain as to the eligibility of a student; or other potential violation, based on the bylaws and policies of the association. The EL11 – Request for Sectional Appeals Committee Hearing – is used when the school has determined that a student is ineligible based on the bylaws and policies of the association and the school is seeking a waiver of those bylaws or policies on behalf of the student. The EL11 is also used when a school is seeking a waiver of other violations of the bylaws and policies of the association that are not directly related to student eligibility. The EL11S – Request for Mediation or Board of Directors Appeal Hearing – is used when a school chooses to seek the mediation of a student’s eligibility or the school chooses a hearing before the Board of Directors seeking a waiver of the bylaws and policies of the association. It is NOT required that an EL10 Form precede an EL11 or EL11S Form.

1.5.2 When to File an EL10 Form. Student eligibility issues related to Bylaw 9.2 (Attendance Requirements) and Bylaw 9.3 (Transfer Regulations) are often times open to interpretation. Uncertainty with these two bylaws may warrant the use of the EL10 Form. While issues related to Bylaw 9.4 (GPA), Bylaw 9.5 (4 year limit of eligibility) and Bylaw 9.6 (age limit) are generally clear cut, schools may submit the EL10 Form. The use of this form is not required in order to file the EL11 or EL11S Form if an appeal or mediation is requested. Additionally, an EL10 Form should not be filed within 10 business days of the filing deadline for an EL11 Form without filing the EL11 Form as well. It is much easier for the association to remove an appeal from the hearing agenda than to add an appeal to the hearing agenda after the EL11 submission deadline has passed.

1.5.3 When to File an EL11 Form. When the school has determined that there has been a clear cut violation of the bylaws or policies of the association and the school feels an appeal for a waiver of the violated bylaws or policies is justified, then it would be appropriate to file the EL11 Form. Additionally, if a student or parent requests an appeal of an eligibility ruling, the school must honor that request and file an EL11 Form. However, Bylaw 10.4.4 (Undue Hardship Waivers) and following sub-sections should be reviewed, in their entirety, with the student and parent, with particular emphasis on the potential cost to the school (which can be levied to the student/parent by the school) for the appeal being heard by the Section Appeals Committee.

1.5.4 When to File an EL11S Form. When a school chooses to appeal a matter to the Board of Directors or chooses to request the mediation of student eligibility on behalf of a student, then it would be appropriate to file an EL11S Form. Note, a request for the mediation of student eligibility must follow a ruling of an appeal before a Section Appeals Committee. In the case of student eligibility appeals to the Board of Directors, Bylaw 10.4.4 (Undue Hardship Waivers) and following sub-sections should be reviewed, in their entirety, with the student and parent, with particular emphasis on the potential cost to the school (which can be levied to the student/parent by the school). The cost of mediation of student eligibility will be shared equally by both parties.

1.6 Combination Schools with Multiple Campuses
If a combination school submits documentation, from at least one source in each of the following Levels (for a total of 3 documents, as a minimum) indicating that the combination school is considered as a “single school”, then FHSAA will also consider the combination school to be a “single school”, for the purposes of Bylaw 3.2.2.3:

1.6.1 Federal Level
1.6.1.1 Documentation through the IRS; or
1.6.1.2 Documentation through the Office of Homeland Security; or
1.6.1.3 Documentation through the Federal EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission).

1.6.2 State Level
1.6.2.1 Documentation through the Florida Department of Education; or
1.6.2.2 Documentation through the Florida Department of Revenue.

1.6.3 Accreditation Level
1.6.3.1 Documentation through FCIS; or
1.6.3.2 Documentation through SACS; or
1.6.3.3 Documentation through one of the FHSAA Approved Accrediting Agencies as listed in Policy 5.3.
1.7 What is a School?

1.7.1 Background. FHSAA member schools are allowed to compete against non-member schools located in the state of Florida. Member schools and coaches must be cautious allowing their teams to compete against other teams which may not be considered a school. Member schools must insure that the non-member school is in compliance with Bylaw 8.3.1.

1.7.2 Florida State Statutes. State Statutes clearly define public schools (s. 1003.01(2)), private schools (s. 1002.01(2) and s. 1002.42) and home education programs (s. 1002.01(1) and s. 1002.41).

1.7.3 Florida Department of Education. Public schools, Charter schools, virtual schools, and private schools duly registered with the Florida Department of Education are issued Department of Education identification numbers. A condition of being issued a DOE number is that the school will meet the provisions of F.S. 1002. Home Education Cooperatives are not issued a DOE number, but for the purposes of interscholastic athletics they are considered a school.

1.7.4 Interscholastic Athletic Competition. The following serves as a guideline for determining if a team represents a school:

1.7.4.1 The school has been issued a Florida Department of Education Identification Number (does not apply to home education cooperative school/teams); and

1.7.4.2 The school provides academic instruction in courses as required in F.S. 1003.43(1); and

1.7.4.3 The school is physically located in the state of Florida; and

1.7.4.4 Course of instruction culminates with conferring a diploma or other recognition of a satisfactorily completed program (except for Home Education Programs).

NOTE: Institutions listed in C2CSchools may not meet the above provisions and member school representatives are strongly encouraged to practice due diligence in determining if the team is compliant with the above. Member schools are cautioned to avoid competition between a team in question.

1.8 Non-Traditional Students

1.8.1 Student Registration Procedures

1.8.1.1 Home Education Students (Bylaw 9.2.2.1). Home education students are permitted to participate at the following:

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

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions of the school district and provided the deadlines established in the provisions are met by the student; or

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

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

1.8.1.1.1 Applicable Forms.

(a) **EL7 Form.** The student must complete and submit the EL7 Form to the school athletic director on or before the date established on the FHSAA Calendar for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form needs to be completed only one time. As long as the student remains affiliated with a school in the sport(s) in which the student originally registered, the student does not need to re-submit the form. However, if the student subsequently changes his/her affiliation to a different school, then the student must submit a new EL7 Form with the new school prior to a date not earlier than the first day of practice for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate in addition to meeting one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

(b) **EL7V Form.** The student must complete and submit the EL7V Form to the school athletic director each school prior to the student participating in an interscholastic contest. Note, this form must be signed by the school district home education coordinator and the student should allow sufficient time for the school district to process this paperwork. This form must be completed and submitted each school year.

(c) **EL14 Form.** The student must complete and submit the EL14 Form only if the student is using “Controlled Open Enrollment” in order to participate at a school other than the school the student is zoned to attend and required only once unless there is a subsequent change in schools (reference AP 1.2.2.4).

(d) **GA4 Form.** The student must complete and submit the GA4 Form to the school athletic director only once unless there is a subsequent change in schools (reference AP 1.2.2.1).

(e) **EL2, EL3 and EL3CH Forms.** The student must complete and submit the EL2, EL3 and EL3CH Forms to the school athletic director prior to a date, which is not earlier than, the first day of practice for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. These forms are valid for 365 from the date they are first signed and must be completed and submitted each year the student participates. These forms are nontransferable (except for pages 2 and 3 of the EL2 Form) and new forms must be completed and submitted to the school athletic director when a student changes school affiliation (reference AP 1.2.2.5, 1.2.2.6 and 1.2.2.7).
1.8.1.2 Non-Member Private School Students (Bylaw 9.2.2.5). Non-member private school students are permitted to participate at the public school the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies, provided the private school offers no sports and does not have more the 125 students in grades 6 – 12 attending the school.

1.8.1.2.1 Applicable Forms.

(a) **EL12 Form.** The student must complete and submit the EL12 Form to the school athletic director prior to a date not earlier than the first day of practice for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. This form needs to be complete only one time. As long as the student remains affiliated with a school in the sport(s) in which the student originally registered, the student does not need to re-submit the form. However, if the student subsequently changes his/her affiliation to a different school, then the student must submit a new EL12 Form with the new school prior to a date not earlier than the first day of practice for the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate in addition to meeting one of the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

(b) **GA4 Form.** The student must complete and submit the GA4 Form to the school athletic director only once unless there is a subsequent change in schools (reference AP 1.2.2.1).

(c) **EL2, EL3 and EL3CH Forms.** The student must complete and submit the EL2, EL3 and EL3CH Forms to the school athletic director prior to a date, which is not earlier than, the first day of practice for the first sport in which the student wishes to participate. These forms are valid for 365 from the date they are first signed and must be completed and submitted each year the student participates. These forms are nontransferable (except for pages 2 and 3 of the EL2 Form) and new forms must be completed and submitted to the school athletic director when a student changes school affiliation (reference AP 1.2.2.5, 1.2.2.6 and 1.2.2.7).

1.8.1.3 Charter, Special/Alternative and Florida Virtual School Students (Bylaws 9.2.2.2, 9.2.2.4 and 9.2.2.6). Charter, Special/Alternative and Florida Virtual School (FLVS) students are permitted to participate at the following:

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

(b) A public school, operated by the school district, the student could choose to attend according to district school board attendance area policies; or

**1.8.2 School Registration Procedures**

1.8.1.1 School Registration Process. The school must register each Non-Traditional Student with this association each year before adding the student to a roster and allowing the student to participate in an interscholastic contest. It remains the responsibility of the school to verify the eligibility of all non-traditional students.

1.8.1.2 C2CSchools. The school must input specific information in their C2CSchools database for each non-traditional student.

1.9 Youth Exchange, Other International and Immigrant Students

1.9.1 How to Determine the Type of Student. As with all students participating in interscholastic athletics, the student is required to provide documented proof of age (see Bylaw 9.6.4.1). If that form of documentation is a birth certificate or passport from a foreign country or is a U.S. Visa then additional questions need to be addressed as follows:

1.9.1.1 Has the student gained U.S. citizenship (documentation required) or become a U.S. Permanent Resident (Permanent Resident Card, i.e. Green Card, required)? If no, then continue to question. If yes, then this procedure is not applicable.

1.9.1.2 Does the student have a U.S. Non-immigrant Visa? If no, then continue to question. If yes, then ask to see the Visa and proceed as follows:

1.9.1.2.1 U.S. Visa class is an F-1 or J-1; see 1.9.2 below.

1.9.1.2.2 U.S. Visa class is some other class (such as, but not limited to, A-1, A-2, E-1, E-2, F-2, H-4, L-2, O-3, P-4, R-2, TD, U-3, etc.); see 1.9.3 below.
1.9.1.2.3 Student entered on the Visa Waiver Program, due to the short term nature of the program, 90 days or less, the student is not eligible per Policy 17.2.1 and Policy 17.2.5.

1.9.1.3 Does the student have a U.S. Immigrant Visa or other immigration documentation? If yes, see 1.9.3 below.

1.9.1.4 If the student has no documentation for being in this country, see 1.9.3 below.

1.9.2 Youth Exchange Students. Youth exchange student are those students who enter the U.S. on an F-1 or J-1 U.S. Visa. These students must register and be approved by the FHSAA (see 1.9.4 below).

1.9.2.1 Returning F-1 youth exchange students must be re-registered each year by submitting, via C2CSchools, pertinent information on the EL4 Form, attaching a copy of the I-20 A-B Form (page 1 only) and attaching an official school transcript. These documents must be scanned and attached to the submission through C2CSchools to the association.

1.9.3 Other International or Immigrant Students. These students may have been in this country for numerous years. If each of the following two (2) conditions have been met, then no action is necessary, the student may participate in interscholastic athletic provided they are eligible in all other respects. Otherwise the student must be registered, one time only, with the association (see 1.9.4 below).

1.9.3.1 The student must have resided with his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction for a minimum of the previous two (2) consecutive full school years; and

1.9.3.2 The student must have started and completed the 8th grade, or earlier, for the first time in a U.S. school and have the appropriate school records to verify this fact.

1.9.4 Student Registration Procedures. The school must complete and submit the EL4 Form via C2CSchools and attach scanned copies each of the following:

1.9.4.1 Documented proof age (see Bylaw 9.6.4.1; i.e. birth certificate, passport, U.S. Visa, etc.); and

1.9.4.2 The F-1 or J-1 “Eligibility Certificate (Form I-20 A-B or Form DS-2019, respectively; page 1 only); and

1.9.4.3 Original language (un-translated) official transcripts since the student entered the 8th grade/year of compulsory education from the school(s) in the student’s home country; and

1.9.4.4 Verbatim translated transcripts since the student entered the 8th grade/year of compulsory education from the school(s) in the student’s home country; and

1.9.4.5 The GA4 Form.

1.10 Self-Reporting

1.10.1 A self-report must be submitted on school letterhead via email attachment to selfreport@fhsaa.org and should include the following:

1.10.1.1 Identify and list the bylaws and/or policies that have been violated; and

1.10.1.2 Provide a description of the circumstances leading to the reported violation; and

1.10.1.3 Provide the name of the student and/or coach (if applicable); and

1.10.1.4 List the contests in which the student participated (if applicable); and

1.10.1.5 State any corrective actions taken by the school to deter this situation from happening again in the school’s athletic program.

1.10.2 The Executive Director reserves the right to further review and investigate this matter with respect to potential, additional compliance issues which may be identified as a result of this communication. The association’s position is to support the member school in a mentoring fashion where possible.

1.10.3 In accordance with Bylaw 10 and Policy 41, any one or combination of the following may be applied as a result of the self-report:

- Forfeiture of contest (if the student participated in a contest while ineligible); and/or
- Reprimand; and/or
- Fine for each occurrence of the violation ($100 instead of the required $2500 for allowing an ineligible player to participate, unless re-occurring violations); and/or
- Probation (Typically administrative probation to the specific sport program or athletic program, depending upon the individual with oversight of the committed infraction. If re-occurring violations while the program is on administrative probation, then restrictive probation and/or extended administrative probation apply.) Reference Bylaw 10.1 for a definition of the different types of probations.

1.10.4 Member school principals are responsible for enforcing the Association’s bylaws and policies in his/her school and to maintain institutional control of all phases of interscholastic athletic activities within a member school, including the activities of its student-athletes, booster clubs, parent groups, etc. (reference Bylaw 6.1).
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE 2

REGULAR SEASON PROCEDURES

2.1 Coaches
2.1.1 Sports Safety Course. As per state statute 1012.55 (2)(b) Florida Statutes, 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.

2.1.2 Concussion in Sports Course. All FHSSA member school coaches are required to view the FREE online education course “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know” prior to the start of practice. This NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com. All member school personnel, contest officials, student-athletes, parents and media are encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE online education course “Concussion in Sports – What You Need to Know”.

2.1.3 A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention. All FHSAA member school coaches are encouraged to view the FREE online education course “A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention”. This NFHS course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

2.2 Team Sport Clarification
2.2.1 Club Teams. Club teams are teams which are not sponsored by the school or school sponsored teams in sports not recognized or sanctioned by this Association. School teams which are considered sponsored by the school may include, but not limited to, the following:

   2.2.1.1 School issuing uniforms
   2.2.1.2 School owned and/or issued equipment
   2.2.1.3 Use of school facility (without use of third party facility usage agreement)
   2.2.1.4 Use of school’s parental consent forms, physical forms, any other documentation produced and/or maintained by the school
   2.2.1.5 School’s booster club funding
   2.2.1.6 School provides staff (i.e. coach, coaches insurance, sponsor, supervisor, etc.)
   2.2.1.7 School insurance covers participants
   2.2.1.8 School allows publishing, distributing materials relative to the activity (including announcements)

2.3 Athletic Uniforms
2.3.1 Athletic Uniforms. Commercial advertising, with the exception of the manufacturer’s logo as permitted by NFHS rules, is prohibited on all athletic uniforms.

2.4 Regular Season Public Address Protocol
2.4.1 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.

2.5 Line-up Cards and Scorebooks
2.5.1 Line-up Cards and Scorebooks. The head coach’s or acting head coach’s first and last name, as well as each official’s first and last name, are required to be included on the line-up card roster and/or scorebook in all team sports for all contests.

2.6 Officials
2.6.1 Officials. See FHSAA Officials Guidebook (which can be downloaded from FHSAA.org).

2.7 Preseason Jamborees and Classics
2.7.1 Preseason Jamborees and Classics. Schools are limited to participation in either one (1) Jamboree or one (1) Classic during the preseason. Preseason Jamborees and Classics may not be played outside the state of Florida.

   2.7.1.1 Limitation. Preseason Jamborees and Classics are limited to only varsity squads/teams.
2.7.1.2 Contest Dates. Preseason Jamborees and Classics may be played during the school week prior to the first regular season contest week, unless otherwise specified.

2.7.2 Preseason Jamborees

2.7.2.1 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.

2.7.2.2 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.

2.7.3 Preseason Classics

2.7.3.1 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.

2.7.3.2 Individual Sports. Preseason Classics for the individual sports are limited to a field of four varsity teams. 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.

2.7.3.3 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.

2.8 FHSAA Identification Card

2.8.1 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 Championships contest on the district, regional or state level. Late submittal of the “Member School Athletic Personnel List/FHSAA Identification Card Order Form” (GA1) by the deadline will subject the school to a minimum $50 administrative fee.

2.9 Broadcast of Events

2.9.1 Regular Season

2.9.1.1 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.

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

2.9.1.2 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.

2.9.2 Obtaining Broadcast Rights

2.9.2.1 Notification of Approval. 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 will also be faxed and/or e-mailed to the host school principal or contest manager. An outlet’s broadcast crew should have a copy of the broadcast approval in its possession to ensure admission to the facility.
2.10 Sample Eight (8) Team Tournament Bracket

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<th>Quarterfinals</th>
<th>Semifinals</th>
<th>Finals</th>
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3.1  Florida High School State Championships

3.1.1  Administration and Management. As specified in Bylaw 4.3.2, all Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships. 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships tournaments/meets in outdoor sports. Bands are prohibited at football district tiebreakers.

3.1.5.2  Indoor Sports. With the exception of basketball, bands will not be allowed to play at Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships; 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 Championships 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 Championships 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.

3.1.8  Public-Address Protocol. The public-address announcer shall be considered a bench official for all Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships contest until the competition has concluded and a winner has been determined. Photographers shall honor photographer lines and designated areas when marked.

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 Championships for all sanctioned sports except for Boys Weightlifting (district and Florida High School State Championships).

3.2.1.1.1 Team Sports. The successive rounds following the district tournament (completion of district season for football, including District Tiebreakers) in team sports will be Regional Quarterfinals (except 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B football and 1A girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball), 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 one of sixteen (16) district complexes in their respective classifications except for the 1A, 1B, 2A and 2B football and 1A girls volleyball, boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball classifications which will be assigned to eight (8) district complexes. Except for football, a tournament shall be conducted in each district complex at the conclusion of the regular season to determine the two teams (champion and runner-up) that shall represent the district complex in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championships. In football, the champion and the runner-up shall represent the district complex in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championships.

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

• Cross Country – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
• Golf – Twenty-four (24) district complexes, boys and girls
• Swimming & Diving – Twelve (12) district complexes, boys and girls
• Track & Field – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
• Boys Weightlifting – Nine (9) district complexes
• Wrestling – Sixteen (16) district complexes
3.2.2 Recognized Sports.

3.2.2.1 Series Structure. The successive tournament series shall be designated respectively as district and Florida High School State Championships for all recognized sports except for Competitive Cheerleading (region and Florida High School State Championships).

3.2.2.1.1 Team Sports. The successive rounds following the district tournament for team sports will be as follows:

(a) Flag Football – First-Round Play-Ins, Second-Round Play-Ins, State Quarterfinals, State Semifinals and State Championship
(b) Lacrosse – First-Round Play-Ins, Second-Round Play-Ins, Third-Round Play-Ins, State Semifinals and State Championship
(c) Boys Volleyball and Water Polo – First Round Play-Ins, State Quarterfinals, State Semifinals and State Championship

3.2.2.2 District Complex. Participating schools are geographically assigned to the number of complexes as listed below.

- Bowling – Fourteen (14) district complexes, boys and girls
- Flag Football – Thirty-two (32) district complexes
- Lacrosse – Thirty-two (32) district complexes
- Boys Volleyball – Sixteen (16) district complexes
- Water Polo – Sixteen (16) district complexes, boys and girls
- Girls Weightlifting – Ten (10) district complexes

3.3 Bracketing and Sites

3.3.1 Sanctioned Team Sports Except Football. For the sanctioned team sports of baseball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, softball and girls volleyball the following procedure will be followed:

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:

(a) In the quarterfinals, the champion of each district will host the runner-up from their neighboring district.
(b) In the regional semifinals, the school on the bottom line of the bracket in each game shall be designated the host school, except that when a district champion plays a district runner-up, the district champion always shall be designated the host school.
(c) In the regional championships, the school on the bottom 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; what initially begins on the bottom line this year will alternate to the top line next year.**
(d) 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.

3.3.1.2 Florida High School State Championships. The school on the bottom line of the bracket shall be the home team for the state championship game.

3.3.2 Recognized Team Sports

3.3.2.1 For the recognized team sports of flag football, lacrosse, boys volleyball and water polo the following procedure will be followed:

3.3.2.1.1 Play-in Games. One of the competing schools shall serve as the host school for play-in games. The host school shall be designated by the FHSAA as follows (**NOTE: the host school line position, i.e. top line or bottom line, alternates each year; what initially begins on the bottom line this year will alternate to the top line next year**):

(a) **First Round Play-in Games.** The home team for each game shall be the team on the bottom line of the bracket and the visiting team shall be the team on the top line of the bracket in the first round play-in game in each region. Consequently, the host school of the tournament may not necessarily be the “home team” during competition in that event.

(b) **Second Round Play-in Games.** The champion on the bottom line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the top line of the bracket in the second-round play-in game in each region. If, however, the school on the bottom line of the bracket served as a host school in the first-round play-in game and the school on the top line of the bracket was a visitor in the first-round play-in game, the school on the top line of the bracket will be designated the host school for the second-round play-in game.
(c) **Third Round Play-in Games.** The champion on the bottom line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the top line of the bracket in the third-round play-in game in each region. If, however, the school on the bottom line of the bracket served as a host school in the second-round play-in game and the school on the top line of the bracket was the visitor in the second-round play-in game, the school on the top line of the bracket will be designated the host school for the third-round play-in game.

(d) **Determination of 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.

### 3.3.2.1.2 Florida High School State Championships. The school on the bottom line of the bracket shall be the home team for the state championship game.

### 3.3.2.1.3 Determination of Host. Determination of a host school is not absolute. In all cases, the FHSAA Office reserves the right to select an alternate site.

### 3.3.3 Competitive Bracketing for Team Sports. 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 for all team sports except football, lacrosse, soccer, boys volleyball and water polo is as follows:

- 2014-15—Region 1 vs. Region 2; Region 3 vs. Region 4
- 2015-16—Region 1 vs. Region 3; Region 2 vs. Region 4
- 2016-17—Region 1 vs. Region 4; Region 2 vs. Region 3

### 3.3.3.1 Home Team. The following Region Champions will be designated as the home team in each semifinal game of the Florida High School State Championships Finals for the next three years:

- 2014-15—Region 1and Region 3
- 2015-16—Region 3and Region 4
- 2016-17—Region 1and Region 2

### 3.3.4 Florida High School State Championships Finals Championship Brackets.

Championship brackets for the Florida High School State Championships Finals will be posted on the FHSAA website and in online Sports Manual for each team sport.

### 3.4 District Meeting

#### 3.4.1 Team Sport Meeting Agenda.

- Review FHSAA rules, policies, terms and conditions governing the Florida High School State Championships, including the FHSAA “Licensing and Royalties” Policy.
- 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.
- 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 Appendix C or 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 Championships, 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.)

• 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 C2C Schools, except for the sports of competitive cheerleading, tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. Failure to report the results of any Florida High School State Championships event will subject the host school to a minimum $50 administrative fee. Failure to report arrangements for the next level Florida High School State Championships 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. The local meet manager must submit to both the FHSAA Office and the next level meet manager the results of the meet that his/her school hosted. These results must be transmitted using Hy-Tek Meet Manager software. The first and last names of each participant, together with their recorded times (manual or FAT), must be provided. These results must be submitted within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meet. Failure to report the results of any Florida High School State Championships event will subject the host school to a minimum $50 administrative fee. Failure to report arrangements for the next level Florida High School State Championships event will subject the school to a minimum $50 administrative fee.

3.6 Post-Competition Procedures

3.6.1 Florida High School State Championships Preliminary Rounds. For district, district tiebreaker (football), play-in, regional and state semifinal (football) rounds of the Florida High School State Championships, the host school should cooperate with news media representatives in providing them access to a work area and telephone following a Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships. The host school 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. The FHSAA will award a trophy, at no expense to the school, to each district champion football team. See Policy 9.10.8 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 9.10.8 for further clarification.

3.7.1.3 Florida High School State Championships. Trophies will be awarded to the champion and runner-up in each class in the Florida High School State Championships. 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 Championships. Medallions will be presented to members of the champion and runner-up teams at the Florida High School State Championships. 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 – 10 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 each singles & doubles division; 2 individual overall medallions for singles & doubles
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 Championships. 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 Championships.

3.7.2.3 Florida High School State Championships 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. Information concerning the official Florida High School State Championships game/contest ball will be posted on the FHSAA website and in the online Sport Manual for each sport using an official game/contest ball. The use of an official game/contest ball shall be mandatory in each district tournament, play-in round, regional tournament and the Florida High School State Championships. The host school for each district tournament, play-in round 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 Championships. Failure to comply shall subject the host school to penalties including, but not limited to, financial penalties and revocation of Florida High School State Championships event hosting privileges in the respective sport.

3.9 Official Florida High School State Championships Souvenir Program

3.9.1 Team Data Form and Photo. The FHSAA Office will produce the official souvenir program for select Florida High School State Championships and will retain all proceeds from its sale. Schools that advance beyond certain points in the Florida High School State Championships (please see the specific sport section) must send to the FHSAA Office a completed “Florida High School State Championships Team Data Form for Official Souvenir Program & Press Booklet”, along with a photograph of the team for publication in the official souvenir program. The team data form must be downloaded from FHSAA.org, completed in a computer and transmitted electronically via e-mail to “program@fhsaa.org”. The 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). The deadline for the receipt of these materials in the FHSAA office is 9 a.m. EDT on the date specified in the “Important Dates” section for each sport. Each school that does not meet this deadline shall be assessed a $50 monetary penalty. If the school advances to the Florida High School State Championships and the materials are not received by the FHSAA Office’s publication deadline, the school shall be assessed monetary penalties of up to $300.

3.10 Admittance to Florida High School State Championships Contests

3.10.1 District, Regional 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 Working news media with appropriate identification;
- 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 Championships Passes or Florida High School State Championships Passes issued by the Executive Director; and
- 3.10.1.9 Authorized individuals with Florida High School State Championships Passes upon presentation of a photo I.D.

3.10.2 State Level. 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 Championships Passes or Florida High School State Championships Passes issued by the Executive Director; and
- 3.10.2.9 Authorized individuals with Florida High School State Championships Passes upon presentation of a photo I.D.

3.11 Broadcast of Events

3.11.1 Florida High School State Championships

3.11.1.1 Rights Held by FHSAA. An outlet wishing to broadcast a contest in the Florida High School State Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships 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 Championships contest that has not been approved by the FHSAA will subject his/her school, organization or facility to a monetary penalty 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 Championships 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. 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 will also be faxed and/or e-mailed to the host school principal or contest manager. An outlet’s broadcast crew should have a copy of the broadcast approval in its possession to ensure admission to the facility.
4.1  Baseball
Administrator:  Dale Klaus, ext. 390, dklau@fhsaa.org

4.1.1  Regular Season Procedures

4.1.1.1  Rules of Competition

4.1.1.1.1  Competition Rules.  NFHS Baseball Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official playing rules for all baseball games.  The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors:

- 1-2-9.  A double first base is permitted.
- 1-4-4.  Commemorative or memorial patches may be affixed to jerseys upon written approval of the FHSAA Office.
- 2-33.  Speed-up rules may be exercised by either or both head coaches without any need for agreement.
- 2-33.  Addition.  The designated hitter and the starting pitcher may be the same person.  If the pitcher opts to bat for himself, he is treated as two separate positions – a pitcher and a designated hitter (abbreviated P/DH on the lineup card) – and may be substituted for as such (i.e. if he is removed as the pitcher, then he may remain as the designated hitter and vice versa).  However, if a player who starts the game as a P/DH is relieved as the starting pitcher, he may not return to the mound even if he remains in the game as DH, and he may not play any other defensive position after being relieved as the pitcher.
- 3-3-1.  Penalty.  Coaches or players will not be restricted to the dugout for violations of g, h, i, j, k or l.  If ejected, the coach will be removed from the coaching position and must exit the facility.  When the head coach is ejected from the contest as a result of NFHS rule 3-3-1(g)(6), he/she will be ineligible for a minimum of the reminder of the contest in which he/she was ejected.  Ejected players must remain in the dugout under the supervision of the head coach.  Exception: For discovery of an illegal player (2-36-3) by an umpire or either team, the player shall be restricted to the dugout.
- 4-2-2.  Ten-run rule is in effect.
- 4-2-4.  A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure or other conditions in which a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game.  If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, subject to the rules of the game.  A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure or other conditions after four-and-one-half innings or five innings have been completed will be declared a completed game.

In sub-varsity baseball games, no new inning shall start two hours after the first pitch of the game.  Any inning in progress shall be completed.  Exception 1: in a game delayed by weather, the delay time shall be added to the two hour timeframe.  Example: Game starts at 3 p.m. and between the top and bottom of the third inning there is a 45-minute rain delay.  No new inning will start after 5:15 p.m.  Exception 2: in any non-doubleheader situation (i.e., another game is scheduled to follow the current game, if the score is tied after the two-hour time limit has been reached, additional innings shall be played to resolve the tie.  Exception 3: Saturday games.

- 4-5.  The decisions of the game officials are final.  No protests will be allowed.
- 6-1-6.  A pitcher may not pitch more than 14 innings in a week (Monday through Saturday) and may never pitch more than 10 innings on two consecutive days.  A pitcher may pitch a maximum of 10 innings on any one day.  An inning is counted if a pitcher throws a minimum of one pitch.

4.1.1.1.2  FHSAA Competition Rules.  While occupying the first base and third base coaching boxes, a coach must wear a non-earflap style helmet.

4.1.2  Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.1.2.1  District Meeting

4.1.2.1.1  Date.  Tuesday of Week 10 through Friday of Week 11

4.1.2.1.2  Meeting Agenda.  See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.1.2.2  Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.1.2.2.1  District Tournaments.

(a)  Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

(1)  Dates.  Monday-Friday of Week 43.

(2)  Time Schedule.  The championship game shall be played prior to or on Friday of Week 43.  Otherwise, each district will determine its own dates of competition and time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting.

(3)  Site.  Each district will determine a site for its tournament at the district meeting.
4.1.2.2 Regional Tournaments.
(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. 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. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.
(b) Dates and Time Schedule. Regional tournaments shall be played during Weeks 44 and 45 on the following dates:
   • Quarterfinals – Wednesday-Thursday of Week 44;
   • Semifinals – Tuesday of Week 45; and
   • Finals – Friday of Week 45 and Tuesday of Week 46.
   The FHSAA has the right to move any regional playing dates to better accommodate both participating schools.
(c) Times for all regional tournament games must be 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. local time. If, however, a school is serving as host for both a baseball and softball regional tournament game, the game times may be staggered. Exceptions must be presented in writing and approved by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

4.1.2.3 Florida High School State Championships.
(a) Dates. The FHSAA Baseball Finals state tournament shall be played Wednesday of Week 46 through Thursday of Week 47.
(b) Schedule. The Finals schedule will be posted on the FHSAA Website:
(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.

4.1.2.4 Advancement of Winners.
(a) District to Regional. The champion and runner-up from each of the 16 district tournaments shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned.
(b) Regional to Florida High School State Championships. The champion from each of the four regional tournaments in each classification shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

4.1.2.3 Tournament Regulations
4.1.2.3.1 Squads.
(a) Player Limit. Each participating school shall be allowed a maximum of 20 players in uniform for each tournament game. Uniformed players, coaches and team managers will be admitted to tournament games free of charge.
(b) Florida High School State Championships. The number of field passes for participating teams shall not exceed the number of uniformed players plus eight to be used by coaches, managers, statisticians, trainers, medical personnel, administrators, etc.

4.1.2.3.2 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures. A pregame warm-up period of 15 minutes will be permitted prior to each game in the FHSAA Baseball Playoffs (district and regional tournaments) for infield practice. Infield practice may be reduced or eliminated due to existing field conditions. No batting practice will be permitted on the playing field.
4.2 Basketball

Girls Administrator: Craig Damon, ext. 250, cdamon@fhsaa.org
Boys Administrator: Dale Klaus, ext. 390, dklaus@fhsaa.org

4.2.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.2.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.2.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Basketball Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official playing rules for all basketball games. The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

• 1-12-3. Adopted specific ball for Florida High School State Championships.
• 1-13. Coaching Box: Allows the head coach a 14-foot restricted box to instruct players and substitutes while off the bench during a live ball situation. Coaching boxes marked on end lines are prohibited.
• 2-3; 5-12. TV or radio timeouts may be authorized.
• 3-5 Note. The use of artificial limb provision.
• 3-5-2e. Medical documentation is required.
• 3-5-3 Ex. The authorized use of a head covering provided it meets authorized criteria and as approved by the FHSAA.
• 5-4-3. Interrupted games.
• 5-5 Note. Mercy Rule: At any point during the second half when a differential of 35 points or 30 points in games played in 6 minute quarters is reached, the game clock shall begin to run continuously during jump ball possessions, held ball situations, fouls, violations, out-of-bounds plays and free throw shooting situations (non-technical foul free throws) for the duration of the game. The game clock shall be stopped only for timeouts, injuries, administration of technical fouls, or if the officials need to address a situation that requires excessive time to resolve.
• 10-3 Note. The second technical charged to a player is not automatically considered flagrant when both violations carry the penalty of a technical foul (i.e., dunking before the game and delay of game by touching or dislodging the ball on the throw-in [9-2 Pen. 3]). The player would be disqualified for the remainder of the contest.

4.2.1.1.2 Cutting of Nets. The cutting or removal of nets from goals to serve as souvenirs by any team or individual is prohibited.

4.2.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.2.2.1 District Meeting

4.2.2.1.1 Date. Monday of Week 37 through Thursday of Week 41

4.2.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.2.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.2.2.2.1 District Tournaments.

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

(1) Dates.

(a) Girls: Week 31
(b) Boys: Week 32. No games will take place on Thursday.

(2) Time Schedule.

(a) Girls: The championship game shall be played on Friday or Saturday of Week 31 at 7:00 p.m. Otherwise, each district will determine its own dates of competition and time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting.

(b) Boys: The championship game shall be played on Friday or Saturday of Week 32 at 7:00 p.m. Otherwise, each district will determine its own dates of competition and time schedule for its at the district meeting.

(c) Suggested Pre-Game Schedule

The following format is suggested for pre-game protocol in the FHSAA State Basketball Series. If players and coaches will be introduced prior to the game, the host school is expected to notify the visiting team and officials upon their arrival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:38 p.m.</td>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 15 minutes. Sound horn to open floor for pre-game warm-up period. Officials report to floor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:41 p.m.</td>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Coaches/captains meeting with officiating crew.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:43 p.m.</td>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Referee checks official scorebook.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:52 p.m.</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Horn sounds to end pre-game warm-up period. Teams report to their respective benches.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6:53 p.m. 0:00 Public address announcer begins pre-game script. Player and coach introductions, followed by National Anthem.

7 p.m. 8:00 Reset game clock to 8 minutes. Opening tip.

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

**4.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments.**

(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. 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. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Dates and Time Schedule. Regional tournaments shall be played during Weeks 32-33 for girls and Weeks 33-34 for boys on the following dates:

1. **Quarterfinals**
   - Girls – Thursday of Week 32
   - Boys – Thursday of Week 33

2. **Semifinals**
   - Girls – Tuesday of Week 33
   - Boys – Thursday of Week 34

3. **Finals**
   - Girls – Saturday of Week 33
   - Boys – Saturday of Week 34

Times for all regional tournament games must be 7:00 p.m. local time. Exceptions must be approved by the FHSAA Office.

(4) Suggested Pre-Game Schedule

The following format is suggested for pre-game protocol in the FHSAA State Basketball Series. If players and coaches will be introduced prior to the game, the host school is expected to notify the visiting team and officials upon their arrival.

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:53 p.m.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
<td>Public address announcer begins pre-game script. Player and coach introductions, followed by National Anthem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Reset game clock to 8 minutes. Opening tip.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**4.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships.**

(a) Dates.
   - Girls – Tuesday through Saturday of Week 34.
   - Boys – Tuesday through Saturday of Week 35.

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

(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.

**4.2.2.4 Advancement of Winners.**

(a) District to Regional. The champion and runner-up from each of the 16 district tournaments shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned.

(b) Regional to Florida High School State Championships. The champion from each of the four regional tournaments in each classification shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships.
4.2.2.3 Tournament Regulations

4.2.2.3.1 Squads.

(a) Player Limit. Each participating school shall be allowed a maximum of 15 players in uniform for each tournament game. Uniformed players, coaches and team managers with proper credentials will be admitted to tournament games free of charge.

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

4.2.2.3.2 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures. A pregame warm-up period of 15 minutes will be permitted prior to each game in the Florida High School State Championships.

4.2.2.3.4 Bands.

(a) District Tournaments, Regional Tournament Games. If the host school of a district tournament or regional tournament game has a pep band capable of contributing to the entertainment of spectators, there is no objection to have them perform before games, during timeouts and during intermissions. Up to 15 members, including the director, may be given free admission. Under no circumstances may the band instruments be used for cheering purposes, or be played at any time when the ball is live, including free throw opportunities. Neither shall the band be seated behind either team bench. The use of band instruments for cheering purposes or during live balls, or the seating of the band behind a team bench, will be considered evidence of discourteous conduct and upon receipt of substantiating evidence of such conduct, the Executive Director will instruct the Local Director to exclude the band from the gymnasium. No pep band other than the one from the host school shall be admitted except by special permission of the Executive Director who will act only upon petition of the Local Director.

(b) Florida High School State Championships. A pep band from each participating school will be permitted to perform at its own expense at the Florida High School State Championships for entertainment purposes during that school’s respective game(s). A maximum of 15 pep band members per school, including the director, will be given free admission to the finals facility for only those sessions in which its team is scheduled to play. Pep band seating will be assigned by the FHSAA. The use of band instruments will be prohibited when the ball is live, including free throw opportunities. When both participating schools’ pep bands are present, the bands will perform alternately during timeouts and during intermissions.

4.2.2.3.5 Cheerleaders. Cheerleaders in uniform, along with their adult sponsors (maximum of two (2)), will be admitted free of charge to Florida High School State Championships events (i.e., contests or sessions) in which their school’s team participates. A maximum of 16 cheerleaders will be permitted on the floor.
4.3 Bowling

Administrator: Will Adams, ext. 470, wadams@fhsaa.org

4.3.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.3.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.3.1.1.1 Competition Rules. USBC High School General Playing Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all regular season competition involving teams participating in the Florida High School State Championships as well as FHSAA State Bowling Series tournaments. These general playing rules are available online without charge at “usbchighschool.com.” Schools may use traditional tenpin or Baker formats or combinations of both during regular season competitions. The following exceptions to those rules have been adopted by the FHSAA.

- Rule 3, Article 8, Bowling Ball – Altering Surface: The provisions of Policy 30 are in effect.
- Rule 5, Article 3, Appeals: No protests will be allowed.

4.3.1.1.2 Dress Code.

(a) Competitors. Competitors shall appear in appropriate matching tops and bottoms for their school’s bowling uniform. Slacks (no blue denim material), skirts, collared sports shirts and sleeveless collared blouses with a commercially lettered school name and/or logo are acceptable team apparel. JEANS AND/OR T-SHIRTS ARE NOT PERMITTED. Individual names may appear on either the front or back of the shirt. No hats, caps, visors, headbands, etc., shall be worn. All team members must be similarly dressed.

(b) Coaches. Coaches shall be attired in slacks of school colors or khaki, white or gray. A collared coaching/polo shirt may be worn in lieu of the bowling team shirt.

4.3.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.3.2.1 District Meeting.

4.3.2.1.1 Date. Monday of Week 8 through Friday of Week 9

4.3.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:

- Select coaches in addition to the tournament manager and proprietor of the host bowling center who will comprise the tournament committee.

4.3.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.3.2.2.1 District Tournaments.

(a) Dates. Monday and Tuesday of Week 18.

(b) Site. Each district will determine a site (bowling center) for its tournament at the district meeting. The date and site of each district tournament will be posted on FHSAA.org. The FHSAA representative of the host school and the proprietor of the host bowling center will be co-tournament managers.

(c) Format. District tournaments shall consist of two rounds of competition bowled in a single day. Round one shall include three games of American tenpin scoring. The teams with the four (4) highest total pin counts shall advance to the second round. Round two shall consist of a four-line double elimination bracket with each team bowling a best 3 of 5 Baker series.

- Match No. 1 shall be comprised of the team with the highest score from round one vs. the team with the fourth highest score from round one.
- Match No. 2 shall be comprised of the team with the second highest score vs. the team with the third highest score from round one.

(Match No. 1 and Match No. 2 shall be bowled simultaneously)

- Match No. 3 shall be comprised of the losers from Match No. 1 and Match No. 2. (Loser eliminated)
- Match No. 4 shall be comprised of the winners from Match No. 1 and Match No. 2.

(Match No. 3 and Match No. 4 shall be bowled simultaneously)

- Match No. 5 shall be comprised of the winner from Match No. 3 and the loser from Match No. 4. (Loser eliminated)
- Match No. 6 shall be comprised of the winner from Match No. 5 and the winner from Match No. 4. (NOTE: Both teams advance to the FHSAA Bowling Finals)
- Match No. 7 (necessary only if the winner from Match No. 5 defeated the winner from Match No. 4) shall be comprised of the same two teams from Match No. 6.

The winner of Match No. 6 (or Match No. 7 if bowled) shall be the district team champion. The individual bowler with the highest total pin count in round one shall be the individual champion.
(d) Time Schedule. Each district will determine the time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting. The following time schedule is recommended:

- 8:00 a.m. – Pass gate opens.
- 8:20 a.m. – Coaches meeting to draw lane assignments; Doors open to general public.
- 8:45 a.m. – First-round warm-up begins.
- 9:00 a.m. – First-round competition begins (block of 3 games American tenpin scoring).
- Approx. noon – Lunch.
- 12:45 p.m. – Second coaches meeting (top four teams) to review Baker format rules/procedures, etc. A total of 3 games will be used to seed a 4-line bracket. (Note: top two individual scorers advance to state tournament if their teams do not qualify later in afternoon.)
- 1:10 p.m. – Afternoon warm-up period begins.
- 1:30 p.m. – First round of championship bracket begins (see FHSAA.org); best 3-of-5 Baker games for the remainder of the team tournament.
- 2:20 p.m. – Second round of championship bracket and first round of consolation bracket begin (2 teams eliminated).
- 3:10 p.m. – Consolation bracket finals begin.
- 4:00 p.m. – Consolation bracket winner vs. championship bracket winner competition begins (NOTE: Both teams advance to the FHSAA Bowling Finals).
- Immediately following—IF NECESSARY game (if consolation bracket winner defeats championship bracket winner).
- Awards presentation follows last team match.

4.3.2.2.2 Florida High School State Championships.

(a) Dates. The FHSAA Bowling Finals state tournament shall be held on Wednesday and Thursday of Week 19. The FHSAA representative of the host school and the proprietor of the host bowling center will be co-tournament managers.

(b) Format. The FHSAA Bowling Finals shall consist of three rounds of competition held over a two-day period. Round one shall include four games of American tenpin scoring. The teams with the sixteen (16) highest total pin counts shall advance to the second round. The individual bowlers (including individual district tournament qualifiers, members of teams that have been eliminated and members of teams that have advanced to round two) with the 16 highest total pin counts shall advance to the third round. Round two shall consist of a sixteen-line double elimination bracket with each team bowling a best 3 of 5 Baker series. Teams will be seeded in the order of finish in round one. The Nos. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 seeds shall be placed in the upper half of the bracket and the Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 seeds shall be placed in the lower half of the bracket. Round three shall consist of a 16-line double elimination bracket for the individual qualifiers. Each individual bowler shall compete in a best 2 of 3 American tenpin games versus an individual opponent. Individuals will be seeded in the order of finish in round one. The Nos. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 seeds shall be placed in the upper half of the bracket and the Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 seeds shall be placed in the lower half of the bracket. Rounds two and three shall be bowled according to the time schedule.

(c) Time Schedule. The Florida High School State Championships time schedule is available on the FHSAA Website:

(d) Coaches Meeting. A pre-tournament coaches meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday of Week 19 at Boardwalk Bowl in Orlando. The head coach of each school entering a team or individual in the Florida High School State Championships must attend the meeting. A school whose coach fails to attend the meeting shall be assessed a monetary penalty.

4.3.2.2.3 Advancement of Teams and Individuals.

(a) District Tournament to Florida High School State Championships. The top two (2) placing teams and the top two (2) placing individuals who are not members of those two teams in each district tournament shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

(b) Florida High School State Championships.

(1) Team. The top 16 boys teams and top 16 girls teams shall advance to a 16-line double-elimination bracket. Competition shall be best 3-of-5 Baker format.

(2) Individual. The top 16 boys and 16 girls shall advance to a 16-line double elimination bracket. Competition shall be head-to-head in a best 2-of-3 game block.

(c) Tiebreaker. In the event of a tie for the final individual qualifying spot from a district tournament to the Florida High School State Championships, or from the first round to the second round of the Florida High School State Championships: A two frame roll-off will take place beginning with the 9th frame and concluding with the 10th frame. The best score shall advance. If the score remains tied after the first tiebreaker, a second tiebreaker using the same format will be conducted. Teams and individuals will bowl their two frame roll-off on a pair of lanes not used.
in that round. Teams or individuals will be allowed one practice ball per lane with no re-racks in the first tiebreaker only. The open substitution rule shall apply to all tiebreakers. Roll offs for any ties will commence immediately upon completion of the first round.

4.3.2.3 Tournament Regulations

4.3.2.3.1 Teams. A team shall consist of five (5) bowlers. A school may list up to eight (8) eligible student-athletes on its official entry list. This provides for five (5) starting bowlers and up to three (3) substitutes. The head coach shall designate his/her starting bowlers at the tournament site not later than 15 minutes prior to the start of the first-round competition. If a school enters fewer than five bowlers, the school shall not be eligible for team honors. All bowlers, however, shall be eligible for individual honors. Pacers or pacer teams shall not be allowed.

4.3.2.3.2 Substitutions. Substitutions may be made at any time during American Tenpin and Baker Games. The substitute bowler shall assume the score of the bowler replaced. In the event a bowler is replaced during a game, he/she shall not be eligible to return to competition until the start of the next game. In the event of a mid-game substitution, neither bowler shall be eligible to qualify for individual competition.

4.3.2.3.3 Participant Passes. A maximum of eight (8) passes will be allotted to each team listed on the district tournament results report for competitors in the Florida High School State Championships. One (1) additional pass will be issued to the coach of a qualifying team. Each team’s coach should be listed on the district tournament results report. One pass per individual qualifier will be issued. In addition, one coach’s pass will be provided to schools with an individual qualifier(s). Packets containing competitor and coach passes will be distributed at the pre-tournament coaches meeting.

4.3.2.3.4 Scoring. The game of American tenpins shall be used in district tournaments and the Florida High School State Championships. Each game shall consist of 10 frames. The total pin count of five bowlers in a game shall be used to determine a team’s score for that game. Similarly, the pin count of an individual bowler in a game shall be the individual bowler’s score for that game. Pin counts for both teams and individual bowlers shall be cumulative from one game to the next. Coaches shall sign the score sheet game by game to accept the score of teams and individuals as official. The head coach is responsible for the accuracy of the score recorded for each bowler for each game. If the head coach returns a score for any game higher than actually rolled, the individual bowler shall be disqualified. If the head coach returns a score for any game lower than actually rolled, the returned score shall stand. Mathemathical errors may be corrected without penalty.

4.3.2.3.5 Bowling Balls. All bowling balls used in the Florida High School State Championships must adhere to USBC rules for weight and hardness and be in compliance with these terms and conditions. Balls must be certified for Florida High School State Championships prior to the first round of competition. Coaches shall submit the completed “FHSAA Bowling Finals Ball Certification Form” to the Florida High School State Championships director prior to the start of competition. Additional balls may be added to the certification list during the Florida High School State Championships provided they go through the certification process. Bowling balls once checked in for competition shall be impounded and must not be removed from the host bowling center between sessions on any day of competition.

4.3.2.3.6 Practice at Tournament Site. Practice at the district and Florida High School State Championships tournament site shall be permitted prior to the first day of competition at the school’s or individual bowler’s expense for lane fees and shoe rentals. Practice at the Florida High School State Championships site shall not be permitted after 5 p.m., Tuesday, November 4. On the days of competition, however, practice shall be limited to the 15-minute warm-up period prior to selected rounds of competition. The penalty for violating this provision is disqualification of the offending team or individual bowler from the tournament.

4.3.2.3.7 Warm-ups. A 15-minute warm-up period will be allowed for practice balls prior to selected rounds of team competition – 7 1/2 minutes on one lane and 7 1/2 minutes on the other lane. Individual Round Matches will have 5 minutes of practice. The penalty for violating this provision is disqualification of the offending bowler from the tournament.

4.3.2.3.8 Conduct, Settee Area and Approach. The team captain and the coach shall be the official representatives of their team in all communications with the scorers and tournament officials. One coach and the eight team members or individual(s) bowling in a round are the only persons authorized to be in the settee area. One pit pass will be issued to each school that has a team or individual bowler(s) competing for use by the coach. Coaches shall remain in or behind the settee area during the competition. No person except the bowlers who are bowling shall be permitted on the approach. Penalties for violations of this rule are cumulative and are as follows:

- First offense – 10-pin deduction;
- Second offense – 50-pin deduction;
- Third offense – 100-pin deduction; and
- Fourth offense – disqualification.

Policy 30, “Sportsmanship and Unsporting Conduct,” shall apply to all acts of unsporting conduct. Members of participating teams and individual participants must be in the settee area at all times during warm-up periods and rounds of competition. Participants shall be mindful of spectators trying to view the competition. Depending on conditions, it may be necessary to require all participants except the current bowler and the on deck bowler to remain seated. Participants shall not use cell phones, walkie-talkies, etc. while in the settee area.

4.3.2.3.9 Courtesy and Pace of Play. To maintain the pace of bowling it is proper etiquette to observe two-
lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time. Additional courtesy or delivery time is inappropriate, delays the pace and hinders the completion of competition in a reasonable time. If a bowler/team does not adhere to this rule, that bowler will receive a warning. There will be a maximum of three warnings given. Thereafter, that bowler/team will receive zero for that frame and any additional frames that a bowler violates this rule.

**4.3.2.3.10 Lane Assignments.** Each team shall be assigned to lanes for each round of competition as follows:

(a) District Tournament.

(1) First-Round Lane Assignments. First Round lane assignments may be scheduled by regular season record or bye draw. This will be determined at the August coach’s district meeting. Teams must change lanes each game. Competition lanes for the day of the district tournament will be determined by the host center based on availability.

(b) Florida High School State Championships.

(1) First-Round Lane Assignments. First-round lane assignments for qualifying teams and individuals shall be on the basis of a draw-by-lot conducted by the FHSAA Office and provided to coaches of participating teams and individuals at the pre-tournament coaches meeting. Each team will be assigned to and share with one other team a pair of lanes. The first two teams drawn shall be assigned the preferred lanes. District champion teams shall be drawn first. District runners-up shall be drawn second. The first two teams drawn shall be assigned the preferred lanes. For example, utilizing a 48-lane bowling center, girls teams will be assigned to lanes 7-24 and boys teams will be assigned to lanes 27-42. Individual girls’ bowlers will be assigned to lanes 1-6 and individual boys bowlers will be assigned to lanes 43-48. Lanes 25 and 26 will left open as a buffer. Exact lane assignments shall be dependent upon the number of available lanes in the host bowling center.

**4.3.2.3.11 Lane Fees.** Schools participating in district tournaments will be responsible to pay any lane fees or fees for rental of shoes that might be assessed by the host bowling centers. Schools participating in the Florida High School State Championships will not be responsible for lane fees, but will be responsible for any fees for rental of shoes. Lane fees and/or shoe rental for practice on Monday will be the responsibility of the participating school.

**4.3.2.3.12 Cameras and Video Equipment.** No cameras with flashes can be used during competition in a district tournament or the Florida High School State Championships. Only hand-held video cameras with their own power source will be permitted.

**4.3.2.4 Officials**

**4.3.2.4.1 Official Scorekeeper.** Each participating school team, as well as each school entering an individual bowler(s), shall furnish its own scorekeeper at the district tournament if the host bowling center does not have automatic scoring. The official scorekeeper must be the head coach, an assistant coach, a bowling team member or a designated faculty representative.

**4.3.2.4.2 Tournament Committee.** A tournament committee shall be appointed for each district tournament and the Florida High School State Championships to hear appeals and address matters not covered in these terms and conditions. The tournament committee for each district tournament shall be comprised of seven individuals – five coaches from participating schools selected by the representatives present at the district planning meeting, the district tournament manager and the proprietor of the host bowling center or his/her designee. The tournament committee for the Florida High School State Championships shall be comprised of seven individuals – four coaches from participating schools selected by the participating schools at the pre-tournament coaches meeting, the Florida High School State Championships director (FHSAA administrator for bowling), the Florida High School State Championships manager, and the proprietor of the host bowling center or his/her designee. The decisions of the tournament committee shall be final. The tournament committee cannot set aside any rule.

**4.3.3 Baker Rules**

**4.3.3.1 FHSAA District Team Championships.**

(a) To be eligible to participate in the FHSAA Team Championship, teams must have a five-player roster with an optional sixth through eighth players for substitution.

(b) Each team will begin competition bowling one block of three games American tenpin scoring. The total pin fall will determine the 1 – 4 seeds going into the double elimination competition.

Ties: If there is a tie for any seeds 1 through 3, the team captains will be summoned for a coin flip. If there is a tie for 4th seed, then the tied teams will bowl a two frame roll-off, beginning with the 9th frame and concluding with the 10th frame.

The best score shall advance. If the score remains tied after the first tiebreaker, a second tiebreaker using the same format will be conducted. Teams will bowl their two-frame roll-off on a pair of lanes not used in that round. Teams will be allowed one practice ball per lane in the first tiebreaker only with no re-racks. The substitution rule shall apply to all team tiebreakers.

All 4 teams in each division (boys, girls) will participate in the true double elimination competition. Competition shall consist of a best three out of five Baker system match. There will be no byes. Qualifying scores from round one will determine bracket assignments. No. 1 will bowl No. 4 and No. 2 will bowl No. 3 in the opening round of match play. From the second round on, the winning teams of each match will remain in the winner bracket and the losing teams will move into the consolation bracket. In order for a team in the consolation bracket to advance in the tournament,
they must keep winning. Once a team in the consolation bracket incurs a second loss, that team is eliminated from the tournament.

(c) There will be a 15-minute practice session prior to the beginning of the first round of Baker competition. Bowlers not present for any scheduled practice forfeit their time. Substitutes will receive no additional practice throws before entering competition. Violators will be disqualified from tournament play.

(d) Lane assignments will be determined in advance by the Tournament Manager.

(e) Teams must submit a team lineup in order to the opposing coach prior to each Baker game. The team on the top line of the bracket will bowl on the odd numbered lane for Game 1 and the team on the bottom line of the bracket will bowl on the even numbered lane for game 1. The teams will then switch lanes for each game in the match. If a fifth game is necessary, then the higher seeded team will have its choice of lanes for game No. 5. There shall be 2 minutes between games. The lower seeded team will submit the team line-up in order to the scorekeeper/monitor first.

In the event of a tie during the double-elimination match play at the completion of regulation, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will determine the winner with each team bowling on the same lane as they used during the match. The players who roll the 9th and 10th frames may be selected from the entire team. If a tie still exists, the same players will continue rolling 9th and 10th frames alternating lanes until the tie is resolved.

(f) Each team may be granted not more than two time outs during a match to permit the coach or assistant coach to confer with a player or players in the settee area.

Time outs may be called between any time. Time outs shall be timed by the opposing coach and shall be limited to 45 seconds each. If a team exceeds 45 seconds, a warning shall be issued. If the team is not ready to bowl within 15 seconds after the warning, that team will receive zero for the next frame. The number of time outs is not cumulative.

(g) When a substitution is made during a game, that substitute must complete the remainder of the game. A maximum of three substitutions are permitted in each Baker game. Any player once removed cannot return to bowl for the remainder of that game.

(h) Each team is allowed a total of one re-rack per Baker game. Violations will result in a forfeit of all pin fall for that frame. The Tournament Manager may grant additional re-racks.

(i) Coaches are responsible for verification of their team’s scores. Any scoring corrections must be made prior to signing the recap forms.

(j) Any player arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. A bowler who misses one frame or more by not being present and ready to bowl when it is his/her turn shall be credited with a zero for all frame(s) missed.

(k) All equipment must meet USBC specifications. Student-athletes are limited to use of a maximum of six (6) bowling balls, including practice and competition.

(l) The District Tournament Committee shall determine all matters not covered by these rules and regulations.

(m) To maintain the pace of bowling it is proper etiquette in this event to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time. Additional courtesy or delivery time is inappropriate, delays the pace and hinders the completion of competition on time. If a bowler/team does not adhere to the rule, that bowler will receive a warning. There will be a maximum of three warnings given. After the third warning, that bowler/team will receive zero for that frame and any additional frames that a bowler violates this rule.

- ABC Secretary Emeritus Frank Baker developed the Baker Format. In this format the lead-off bowler rolls the first and sixth frames, the second player rolls the second and seventh frames, the third player rolls the third and eighth frames, the fourth player rolls the fourth and ninth frames, and the fifth player rolls the fifth and tenth frames including any extra deliveries in the tenth frame.

4.3.3.2 FHSAA Bowling Finals Team Championship.

(a) To be eligible to participate in the FHSAA Team Championship, teams must have a five-player roster with an optional sixth through eighth players for substitution.

(b) Each team will begin competition bowling one block of four games American tenpin scoring. The total pin fall will determine the 1-16 seeds going into the double elimination competition.

Ties: If there is a tie for any seeds 1 through 15, the team captains will be summoned for a coin flip. If there is a tie for 16th seed, then the tied teams will bowl a two-frame roll-off, beginning with the 9th frame and concluding with the 10th frame. The best score shall advance. If the score remains tied after the first tiebreaker, a second tiebreaker using the same format will be conducted. Teams will bowl their two-frame roll-off on a pair of lanes not used in that round. Teams will be allowed one practice ball per lane in the first tiebreaker only with no re-racks.

The substitution rule shall apply to all team tiebreakers.

All 16 teams in each division (boys, girls) will participate in the true double elimination competition. Competition shall consist of a best three out of five Baker system match. There will be no byes. Qualifying scores from round one
will determine bracket assignments. No. 1 will bowl No. 16, No. 2 will bowl No. 15, No. 3 will bowl No. 14, No. 4 will bowl No. 13, No. 5 will bowl No. 12, No. 6 will bowl No. 11, No. 7 will bowl No. 10 and No. 8 will bowl No. 9 in the opening round of match play. From the second round on, the winning teams of each match will remain in the winner bracket and the losing teams will move into the consolation bracket. In order for a team in the consolation bracket to advance in the tournament, they must keep winning. Once a team in the consolation bracket incurs a second loss, that team is eliminated from the tournament.

(c) There will be a 15-minute practice session prior to certain rounds of competition. Bowlers not present for any scheduled practice forfeit their time. Substitutes will receive no additional practice throws before entering competition. Tournament participants are not permitted to practice at Boardwalk Bowl after 5 p.m. on Tuesday of Week 19, except during designated practice sessions. Violators will be disqualified from tournament play.

(d) Lane assignments will be determined in advance by the FHSAAN.

(e) Teams must submit a team lineup in order to the opposing coach prior to each Baker game. The team on the top line of the bracket will bowl on the odd numbered lane for Game 1 and the team on the bottom line of the bracket will bowl on the even numbered lane for game 1. The teams will then switch lanes for each game in the match. If a fifth game is necessary, then the higher seeded team will have its choice of lanes for game No. 5. There shall be 2 minutes between games. The lower seeded team will submit the team line-up in order to the scorekeeper/monitor first. In the event of a tie during the double-elimination match play at the completion of regulation, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will determine the winner. The higher seeded team will have its choice of lanes from the pair being used for the first tie-breaker. The players who roll the 9th and 10th frames may be selected from the entire team. If a tie still exists, the head coach will again select two players to bowl the 9th and 10th frames, with the teams alternating choice of lanes until the tie is resolved.

(f) Each team may be granted not more than two time outs during a match to permit the coach or assistant coach to confer with a player or players in the settee area. Time outs may be called at any time. Time outs shall be timed by the opposing coach and shall be limited to 45 seconds each. If a team exceeds 45 seconds, a warning shall be issued. If the team is not ready to bowl within 15 seconds after the warning, that team will receive zero for the next frame. The number of time outs is not cumulative.

(g) When a substitution is made during a game or tie-breaker, that substitute must complete the remainder of the game. A maximum of three substitutions are permitted in each Baker game. Any player once removed cannot return to bowl for the remainder of that game.

(h) Each team is allowed a total of one re-rack per Baker game. Violations will result in a forfeit of all pin fall for that frame. The Tournament Manager may grant additional re-racks.

(i) Coaches are responsible for verification of their team’s score. Any scoring corrections must be made prior to signing the recap forms.

(j) Any player arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. A bowler who misses one frame or more by not being present and ready to bowl when it is his/her turn shall be credited with a zero for all frame(s) missed.

(k) All equipment must meet USBC specifications. Student-athletes are limited to use of a maximum of six (6) bowling balls, including practice and competition. All teams participating in the FHSAAN Bowling Finals must submit a ball registration form prior to the start of competition. Penalty for first offense: Individual and team are warned and the ball is removed from the competition. The game(s) in which the violation occurred are forfeited and the bowler will receive a score of zero. Penalty for second offense: Bowler is disqualified from the event and all game(s) in which the violation occurred are forfeited and the bowler will receive a score of zero.

Each bowling ball to be used must be registered with the event. All bowling balls must be listed on the player’s ball registration form and are subject to spot checks. In the event a ball is found in violation of specifications, it must be modified to meet USBC specifications prior to being used in competition. Each bowling ball registered must contain official manufacturer identifying mark, logo, trademark or product name imprinted over the heaviest portion of the ball prior to being drilled. If the equipment does not have any of these identifying markings, the bowling ball’s official paperwork must accompany the ball. The paperwork must say the manufacturer, name of bowling ball, verification that it meets USBC specifications and signed by the manufacturer with their title and telephone number. If the bowling balls does not meet these requirements, it cannot be used in the tournament. An undrilled bowling ball cannot be registered with the tournament.

Once the equipment registration is completed, no additional equipment can be added and no alterations can occur to any bowling ball without permission from the Tournament Manager. After the approved alteration has occurred, the bowling ball must be re-checked to meet USBC specifications before it is used in competition.
A bowling ball may only be replaced if the Tournament Manager declares that the bowling ball is damaged beyond repair. A replacement bowling ball can be submitted to the Tournament Manager who will have that ball checked, approved and listed on the Equipment Registration form before it is used in competition.

(i) The FHSAA Tournament Committee shall determine all matters not covered by these rules and regulations.

(m) To maintain the pace of bowling it is proper etiquette in this event to observe one-lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time. Additional courtesy or delivery time is inappropriate, delays the pace and hinders the completion of competition on time. If a bowler/team does not adhere to the rule, that bowler will receive a warning. There will be a maximum of three warnings given. After the third warning, that bowler/team will receive zero for that frame and any additional frames that a bowler violates this rule.

- ABC Secretary Emeritus Frank Baker developed the Baker Format. In this format the lead-off bowler rolls the first and sixth frames, the second player rolls the second and seventh frames, the third player rolls the third and eighth frames, the fourth player rolls the fourth and ninth frames, and the fifth player rolls the fifth and tenth frames including any extra deliveries in the tenth frame.

### 4.3.3.3 FHSAA Bowling Finals Individual Championship.

(a) Each individual bowler will begin competition bowling one block of four games American tenpin scoring. The total pin fall will determine the 1 – 16 seeds going into the single elimination competition.

Ties: If there is a tie for any seeds 1 through 15, the individual bowler will be summoned for a coin flip. If there is a tie for the 16th seed, then the tied individuals will bowl a two-frame roll-off, beginning with the 9th frame and concluding with the 10th frame. The best score shall advance. If the score remains tied after the first tiebreaker, a second tiebreaker using the same format will be conducted.

Bowlers will bowl their two-frame roll-off on a pair of lanes not used in that round.

Individuals will be allowed one practice ball per lane in the first tiebreaker only with no re-racks.

(b) All 16 individual bowlers in each division (boys, girls) will participate in the double elimination competition. Competition shall consist of a best two out of three American tenpin games. There will be no byes. Qualifying scores from round one will determine bracket assignments. No. 1 will bowl No. 16, No. 2 will bowl No. 15, No. 3 will bowl No. 14, No. 4 will bowl No. 13, No. 5 will bowl No. 12, No. 6 will bowl No. 11, No. 7 will bowl No. 10 and No. 8 will bowl No. 9 in the opening round of match play. From the second round on, the winning bowler of each match will remain in the winner bracket and the losing bowler will move into the consolation bracket. In order for a bowler in the consolation bracket to advance in the tournament, they must keep winning. Once a bowler in the consolation bracket incurs a second loss, that bowler is eliminated from the tournament.

(c) There will be a 5-minute practice session prior to certain rounds of competition. Bowlers not present for any scheduled practice forfeit their time. Tournament participants are not permitted to practice after 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, except during designated practice sessions. Violators will be disqualified from tournament play.

(d) Lane assignments will be determined in advance by the FHSAA.

(e) The individual bowler on the top line of the bracket will bowl on the odd numbered lane for Game 1 and the individual bowler on the bottom line of the bracket will bowl on the even numbered lane for game 1. The bowlers will then switch lanes for each game in the match. If a fifth game is necessary, then the higher seeded bowler will have his/her choice of lanes for game No. 5. There shall be two minutes between games. In the event of a tie during the single-elimination match play at the completion of regulation, a 9th and 10th frame roll-off will determine the winner. The higher seeded bowler will have his/her choice of lanes from the pair being used for the first tie-breaker. If a tie still exists, the bowlers will alternate choice of lanes until the tie is resolved, with the individual bowler continuing to roll the 9th and 10th frames.

(f) Coaches are responsible for verification of their bowler’s score. Any scoring corrections must be made prior to signing the recap forms.

(g) Any player arriving late shall begin play and the score shall count beginning with the frame then being bowled. A bowler who misses one frame or more by not being present and ready to bowl when it is his/her turn shall be credited with a zero for all frame(s) missed.

(h) All equipment must meet USBC specifications. Student-athletes are limited to use of a maximum of six (6) bowling balls, including practice and competition. All teams participating in the FHSAA Bowling Finals must submit a ball registration form prior to the start of competition.

Penalty for first offense: Individual and team are warned and the ball is removed from the competition. The game(s) in which the violation occurred are forfeited and the bowler will receive a score of zero. Penalty for second offense: Bowler is disqualified from the event and all game(s) in which the violation occurred are forfeited and the bowler will receive a score of zero.

Each bowling ball to be used must be registered with the event. All bowling balls must be listed on the player’s ball registration form and are subject to spot checks.
In the event a ball is found in violation of specifications, it must be modified to meet USBC specifications prior to being used in competition. Each bowling ball registered must contain official manufacturer identifying mark, logo, trademark or product name imprinted over the heaviest portion of the ball prior to being drilled. If the equipment does not have any of these identifying markings, the bowling ball’s official paperwork must accompany the ball. The paperwork must say the manufacturer, name of bowling ball, verification that it meets USBC specifications and signed by the manufacturer with their title and telephone number. If the bowling ball does not meet these requirements, it cannot be used in the tournament.

An undrilled bowling ball cannot be registered with the tournament.

(i) Once the equipment registration is completed, no additional equipment can be added and no alterations can occur to any bowling ball without permission from the Tournament Manager. After the approved alteration has occurred, the bowling ball must be re-checked to meet USBC specifications before it is used in competition.

A bowling ball may only be replaced if the Tournament Manager declares that the bowling ball is damaged beyond repair. A replacement bowling ball can be submitted to the Tournament Manager who will have that ball checked, approved and listed on the Equipment Registration form before it is used in competition.

(j) The FHSAA Tournament Committee shall determine all matters not covered by these rules and regulations.

(k) To maintain the pace of bowling it is proper etiquette in this event to observe one lane courtesy and deliver the bowling ball within a reasonable amount of time.

Additional courtesy or delivery time is inappropriate, delays the pace and hinders the completion of competition on time. If a bowler does not adhere to the rule, that bowler will receive a warning. There will be a maximum of three warnings given. After the third warning, that bowler will receive zero for that frame and any additional frames that a bowler violates this rule.
4.4 Competitive Cheerleading

Administrator: Kellie Doucette, ext. 450, kdoucette@fhsaa.org

4.4.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.4.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.4.1.1.1 Competition Rules

(a) All NFHS Spirit Rules as found in the NFHS Spirit Rules Book are applicable.

(b) Each squad’s presentation must include at least one cheer or sideline chant. The musical portion must not exceed one minute and thirty seconds, total time is two minutes and thirty seconds. Timing will begin with the first movement, voice, or note of music, whichever comes first.

(c) If a squad exceeds either time limit, a three (3) point deduction per judge will be assessed for 3-5 seconds over, a five (5) point deduction per judge will be assessed for 6-10 seconds over and a seven (7) point deduction per judge will be assessed for being eleven (11) or more seconds over. BECAUSE PENALTIES ARE SEVERE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ALL SQUADS TIME THEIR PERFORMANCE SEVERAL TIMES PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE COMPETITION AND LEAVE A SEVERAL SECOND CUSHION TO ALLOW FOR VARIATIONS IN SOUND EQUIPMENT.

(d) Participants must start in the competition area with at least one foot on the ground. Squads may line up anywhere inside the competition area. The tournament director according to the size of the facility being used will determine the competition area. Approximate floor size will be fifty-four feet wide by forty-two feet deep (9 strips).

(e) All organized introductions (tumbling, entrances, chants, spell-outs, etc.) are considered part of the routine and are timed as part of the performance. There should not be any organized exits or other activities after the official ending of the routine.

(f) Any squad in violation of the general rules will be assessed a two (2) point deduction for each violation. Any squad in violation of specific safety regulations will be assessed a five point (5) deduction for each violation, unless otherwise noted.

4.4.1.1.2 Uniform Guidelines. All NFHS Spirit Rules apply. Any squad in violation of the uniform guidelines will be assessed a two (2) point deduction for each violation.

4.4.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.4.2.1 Commitment to Participate. All teams must commit to participate by submitting an AT12 form via C2CSchools prior to the Entry List Deadline Date of Monday of Week 20. If a team wishes to withdraw from the Florida High School State Championships, an AT13 form must be submitted to the FHSAA via C2CSchools prior to the Entry List Deadline Date of Monday of Week 20 to avoid late withdrawal penalties. All participating teams can be found on the Competitive Cheerleading webpage under “Assignments.”

4.4.2.2 Official State Entry List. The schools Official State Entry List is due to be submitted via C2C Schools no later than Monday of Week 20. The number of participants a team may enter on the Official State Entry List is unlimited. The chosen division a school wishes to compete in must be indicated on the Official State Entry List. Once the deadline passes for the Official State Entry List to be submitted, no changes to the selected division will be accepted. Should changes need to be made after the Official State Entry List has been submitted, the Entry List must be updated online and resubmitted to the FHSAA via C2C Schools. A fee of $50 will be posted to the schools account for each change that is made after the Entry List Deadline.

4.4.2.3 Competition Structure and Time Schedule

4.4.2.3.1 Region Competition. One region competition will be held in each FHSAA Administrative Section. Each site and date is posted at FHSAA.org on the Competitive Cheerleading page.

4.4.2.3.2 Florida High School State Championships

(a) Date. Friday and Saturday of Week 31

(b) Time Schedule. All designated divisions will run concurrently and the schedule will be available on the Competitive Cheerleading webpage at www.fhsaa.org once the Official State Entry List deadline has passed and all Official State Entry Lists have been received.

4.4.2.4 Competition Regulations

4.4.2.4.1 Squads

(a) Squad Size. There will be two classifications (1A and 2A) for each division based on school enrollment during the State Finals. All-Girl divisions: Small may have up to 12 female participants, Medium may have 13-16 female participants, Large may have 17-20 female participants, Extra-Large may have 21-26 female participants, Small Non-tumbling may have up to 16 female participants and Large Non-tumbling may have 17-26 female participants. Co-Ed divisions: Small may have 1-4 male squad members, Large may have 5+ male squad members. At no time may a Co-Ed team exceed 26 participants. The FHSAA reserves the right to combine divisions and/or classifications as deemed necessary due to the number of competing teams in two or more divisions/classifications.
4.4.2.4.2 **Interruption of Performance**

(a) If, in the opinion of the competition officials, a squad’s routine is interrupted because of failure of the competition equipment, facilities, or other factors attributable to the competition rather than the squad, the squad affected should stop the routine. The squad will be allowed to present its routine from the place in the routine where the interruption occurred. The competition officials will determine the degree and effect of the interruption.

(b) In the event a squad’s routine is interrupted because of failure of the squad’s own equipment, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition.

(c) In the event that an injury causes the squad's routine to be interrupted, the squad must either continue the routine or withdraw from the competition. Competition officials reserve the right to stop the routine if an injury occurs. The competition officials will determine if the squad will be allowed to perform again from the point of interruption. If the squad is allowed to begin again they will be evaluated only from the point in the routine where the interruption occurred.

4.4.2.4.3 **Deductions and Disqualifications.** Any squad in violation of the “Rules and Regulations” will be assessed a two (2) point deduction for each violation. Any squad that does not adhere to the terms and conditions in the “FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading Rules and Regulations” may be disqualified from the competition and automatically forfeit the right to any awards and is subject to further sanctions or penalties.

4.4.2.4.4 **Scores and Rankings.** Individual judges score sheets are for the exclusive use of each particular judge. Each judge has the responsibility and authority to review and submit his/her final scores and rankings prior to the final tally of the scores for all squads. Scores and rankings will be available only to head coaches at the conclusion of the competition.

At the FHSAA Competitive Cheerleading State Championships, semi-finals and finals will be conducted in each division with 10 or more teams entered. If a division has less than 10 teams entered, there will be finals only. When calculating the number of teams that will advance from semi-finals to finals in a given division, the FHSAA will advance 1 team for every 4 teams entered. The FHSAA reserves the right to combine divisions and/or classifications when deemed necessary.

Once the qualifying teams have been determined, the head coach from each team will draw a number to establish the order of competition for the finals.

4.4.2.4.5 **Judging Criteria.** The judges will score the squads according to the judging criteria on a 100-point system. The music portion of the routine will be worth a total of 65 possible points and the cheer portion will be worth a total of 35 possible points. Score sheets can be found under “Forms” on the Competitive Cheerleading webpage at www.fhsaa.org.

4.4.2.5 **Advancement of Teams**

(a) **Region Competitions to Florida High School State Championships.** All Region Champions and Region Runners-Up in each division will advance directly from Regionals to the “finals” round of competition at the State Championships in their respective division. Any team earning a minimum raw score (point deductions not included) of 60 points, will advance from Regionals to the “semifinals” round of competition at the State Championships. Teams that do not earn a raw score of 60 points or higher, will be eliminated from competition and will not advance to the State Championships.

(b) **Florida High School State Championships.** At the Florida High School State Championships, semifinals and finals will be conducted in each division with 10 or more teams qualified. If a division has less than 10 teams qualified, there will be finals only. When calculating the number of teams that will advance from semifinals to finals in a given division, the FHSAA will advance 1 team for every 4 teams qualified for the semifinals. This will be in addition to the two (2) teams that qualified for finals at each region competition. The FHSAA reserves the right to combine divisions and/or classifications when deemed necessary. Once the qualifying teams have been determined from semifinals to finals, the head coach from each team that qualified, whether it was from regionals or from the state semifinals, will draw a number to establish the order of competition for the finals.
4.5 Cross Country

Administrator: Alex Ozuna, ext. 320, aozuna@fhsaa.org

4.5.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.5.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.5.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Cross Country Rules (Rule 9 in the NFHS Track & Field Rules Book), as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all cross country meets. The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- **9-1-1.** The length of the course for regular season competition – both girls and boys – is five kilometers (5K), which is 3.1 miles.
- **9-2-3.** Modified scoring is optional for the regular season. All cross country meets shall be scored in accordance with NFHS rules, which state: If fewer than five (5) competitors of a team finish a race, the places of all members of that team shall be disregarded and the team scores re-ranked.
- **9-4-4.** The starting procedure for all cross country meets will be one long whistle blast followed by the firing of the starting gun.
- **9-5.** A varsity level cross country team must be composed of five (5) to seven (7) runners. A cross country team on the junior varsity level or below may be allowed an unlimited number of runners unless otherwise restricted by the meet director. However, only the first seven (7) runners on each team may enter into scoring. During the regular season (non-Florida High School State Championships), meet directors/managers will have the option to allow up to 10 runners in a varsity race. Any team member beyond 7 shall be disregarded and shall not displace any opposing runner. Boys and girls must run separately.
- **9-6-1.** A headband or sweatband not exceeding two (2) inches in width made of cloth, plastic, pliable plastic or rubber may be worn by a contestant. Decorative headwear is prohibited. A single solid color ribbon or similar items used to control the hair are legal as long as it is securely affixed to the head and is not of an excessive length and size. No other type of headwear may be worn.
- **9-6-7.** Jewelry, with the exception of wristwatches, is prohibited. Watches which can be used as Global Positioning Systems are prohibited.

4.5.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.5.2.1 District Meeting.

4.5.2.1.1 Date. Monday of Week 8 through Friday of Week 9

4.5.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:

- **Select host school, site and determine time schedule.** (Note: If using alternate sites, one school must be selected as the host and be responsible for submitting all required reports at the conclusion of the district tournament with FHSAA policies.) The host school must use Hy-Tek Meet Manager 3.0 for Windows software to conduct the District Meet.
- **Determine whether meet manager or games committee will conduct the draw for starting positions and on which date the draw will be conducted.**
- **Determine a Jury of Appeals.**

4.5.2.2 Meet Structure and Time Schedules

4.5.2.2.1 District Meets

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

(1) Dates. Monday through Saturday of Week 17

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

(3) Site. Each district will determine a site for its meet at the district meeting.

The date and site of each district meet will be posted on FHSAA.org.

4.5.2.2.2 Regional Meets

(a) Complexes. Districts 1 through 4 will comprise the Region 1 complex, Districts 5 through 8 the Region 2 complex, Districts 9 through 12 the Region 3 complex, and Districts 13 through 16 the Region 4 complex. One meet will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Dates and Time Schedule. Regional meets shall be held on Thursday through Saturday of Week 18. Suggested schedule times for a regional meet held on Friday are 4:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Suggested schedule times for a regional meet held on Saturday are 9:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The girls race shall precede the boys race in each meet. The date and time of each meet will be posted on FHSAA.org. A coaches meeting shall be held at the site of each regional meet 60 minutes prior to the start of the meet.

(c) Sites. Please visit the cross country page on FHSAA.org for region sites (FHSAA.org/cc).
4.5.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships

(a) Dates. The FHSAA Cross Country Finals state meet shall be held on Saturday of Week 19.
(b) Time Schedule. The Finals schedule will be posted on the FHSAA Website.
(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 the event.

4.5.2.2.4 Advancement of Teams and Individuals

(a) District Meet to Regional Meet. The first three (3) placing teams and the top fifteen (15) runners in each district meet in which six (6) or less teams of five to seven runners are entered, and the first four (4) placing teams and the top fifteen (15) runners in each district meet in which 7 or more teams of five to seven runners are entered, shall advance to the regional meet to which they are assigned. “Entered” is defined as being present at the starting line and competing. A runner who qualifies in the top fifteen (15) and who also is a member of a qualifying team may be replaced in the team lineup [regional meet/Florida High School State Championships] by a substitute. The substitute, however, shall not be eligible for individual honors on any subsequent level of competition.

(b) Regional Meet to Florida High School State Championships. The first six placing teams and the top 15 runners in each regional meet shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships. A runner who qualifies in the top 15 and who also is a member of a qualifying team may be replaced in the team lineup [regional meet/Florida High School State Championships] by a substitute. The substitute, however, shall not be eligible for individual honors on any subsequent level of competition.

4.5.2.3 Meet Regulations

4.5.2.3.1 Teams. A team shall be composed of five (5) to seven (7) runners. Schools that enter fewer than five runners, and schools from which fewer than five runners finish the race, at any Florida High School State Championships meet shall not be eligible for team honors. Individual contestants from such schools, however, may earn individual awards.

4.5.2.3.2 Starting Positions. The starting position for each team in a Florida High School State Championships meet shall be drawn by lot from left to right in advance by the meet manager or games committee. Individual contestants shall be assigned starting positions using the same procedure.

4.5.2.3.3 Meet Management Software. Hy-Tek Meet Manager for Windows software shall be used to score Florida High School State Championships meets and transmit their results to the FHSAA Office and the next level meet manager. The school names and abbreviations developed by the FHSAA Office shall be used when entering competitors into the computer. Hy-Tek School Abbreviations for Cross Country can be found on the FHSAA Website.

4.5.2.3.4 Jury of Appeals.

(a) A Jury of Appeals consisting of five coaches from five different participating schools shall be appointed by the meet manager for each meet in the Florida High School State Championships. Five alternate jurors shall also be appointed. A Jury of Appeals consisting of five members is mandatory. There can be no ruling rendered without five jurors.

(b) Jurors for the Florida High School State Championships shall be chosen as follows:

1. A list of recommended jurors will be compiled by the FHSAA and/or FACA State Cross Country chairperson and submitted to the FHSAA for approval. Any coach not on the “approved” list cannot serve on a Jury of Appeals at the Florida High School State Championships.

2. Diversity in school classification, gender and geography, as well as knowledge and experience, must be taken into consideration when a Jury of Appeals is selected.

(c) A member of the Jury of Appeals whose team or individual contestant is a party to an appeal must recuse himself/herself and be replaced until the appeal is concluded.

(d) The Jury of Appeals may meet 15 minutes following the conclusion of the final race of each classification, and should conclude all rulings prior to the awards ceremony for that classification.

(e) The head coach of a team who wishes to file an appeal must do so in writing. The appeals process will adhere to NFHS Case Book guidelines.

(f) The decision of the Jury of Appeals shall be final. The Jury of Appeals cannot set aside any rule.
4.6 Flag Football

Administrator: Shanell Young, ext. 310, syoung@fhsaa.org

4.6.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.6.2.1 Rules of Competition

4.6.2.1.1 Competition 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 Florida High School State Championships 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 1-2-3, Field Markings: A 4-inch wide restraining line (sideline safety) shall be placed around the outside of the field, at least 2 yards from the sidelines and end lines. It is recommended that the restraining line be marked by placing 12-inch long lines, separated at 24-inch intervals.
- 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.

4.6.1.1.2 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.

4.6.1.1.3 Suspended Contests. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption under the provisions of NIRSA Rule 3.2.2c.

4.6.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.6.2.1 District Meeting

4.6.2.1.1 Date. Monday through Friday of Week 11

4.6.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.6.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.6.2.2.1 District Tournaments.

(a) Dates. Monday through Wednesday of Week 44

(b) Time Schedule. 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.

(c) Site. To be determined at the district meeting.

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

4.6.2.2.2 Florida High School State Championships

(a) Dates. Friday and Saturday of Week 45

(b) Format and Play-in Rounds.

1) The Florida High School State Championships bracket will be divided into eight (8) octants as follows: districts 1-4, districts 5-8, districts 9-12, districts 13-16, districts 17-19, districts 20-23, district 24-26 and districts 27-30. Two district champions will receive a bye into the second-round play-in game.
(2) First-round play-in games will be played at 4 p.m. Saturday of Week 44 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 of Week 45 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 school on the bottom line of the bracket shall serve as host to the school on the top line of the bracket in the play-in games in each region. However, the school on the bottom line of the bracket served as a host school in the first-round play-in game and the school on the top line of the bracket was a visitor in the first-round play-in game, the school on the top line of the bracket will be designated the host school for the second-round play-in game.

(c) Time Schedule. The following time schedule shall be followed in the FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament:

**Friday**
- Meeting of head coaches, 1 p.m.  The head coach of each participating team is required to attend.
- Quarterfinal Games at 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday**
- Semifinal Games (winners of quarterfinal games), at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- Championship Game (semifinal winners), 7 p.m.
- The FHSAA Office will determine the exact order of quarterfinal games.

**4.6.2.2.4 Advancement of Winners.** The winners of the 30 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) Florida High School State Championships second-round play-in games shall advance to the FHSAA Flag Football Finals state championship tournament.

**4.6.2.3 Tournament Regulations**

**4.6.2.3.1 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

**4.6.2.3.3 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures.** The following pregame time schedule shall be followed in all Florida High School State Championships 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 warm-up
- 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 warm-up
- 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
4.7 Football

Administrator: Craig Damon, ext. 250, cdamon@fhsaa.org

4.7.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.7.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.7.1.1.1 Playing Rules. NFHS Football Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official playing rules for all football games. The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- 1-1-4 Note. Size of Officials Crew: Five (5) field officials and one clock operator will be used for all varsity football games. All first-round playoff games will consist of five (5) field officials and one clock operator. For the second round of playoffs through the state championship games, a crew of seven (7) field officials and one clock operator shall be assigned.
- 1-3-1g Note. Size of Ball: A smaller ball may be used for eighth grade games and below.
- 1-3-2 Note. Official Ball: The FHSAA has adopted a specific ball for use in the FHSAA State Football Series as posted on the FHSAA Website.
- 1-3-7. Supplemental Equipment: Supplementary equipment to aid in game administration may be used (e.g., 25-second clock, referee microphone).
- 1-3-7, 3-6-1. Play Clock: If a visible 25-second clock is used it shall be operated by a registered official.
- 1-3-7. Wireless Microphone: Use of a “wireless microphone” by the referee is permitted as follows: (a) The head coach of both teams must agree to the referee’s use of the system prior to the start of the game; (b) Only the type foul and the distance penalty may be announced by the referee; (c) A player’s name, position or number may never be announced; and (d) The information is not announced until after the captain has made his decision to accept or decline the penalty.
- 1-6-7. Artificial Limbs: The use of artificial limbs is authorized on an individual player basis. The school must provide the referee with written approval from the FHSAA Office.
- 1-6-7. Note 1. Hearing Impaired Players: Teams with hearing impaired player(s) may use a drum to establish cadence following the ready-for-play signal.
- Table 1-7. Written Authorization: The specified written authorization must be according to NFHS Football Rules.
- Table 3-1. Halftime: Halftime will be 20 minutes (includes all halftime activities and three-minute warm-up). Clock operators will set the halftime clock at 17 minutes and will not start the clock until signaled by the referee after all team personnel have vacated the field. Once the 17 minutes have expired, an additional three minutes will be placed on the clock for the mandatory warm-up period.
- 3-1-1 Note. Overtime: The overtime procedure listed in the NFHS Rules Book is adopted for all contests in both the regular season and the Florida High School State Championships. The FHSAA Office may waive the use of the overtime procedure in jamborees or preseason classics upon request of the host school principal, provided the request is based on the unanimous desire of all participating schools.
- 3-1-2. Mercy Rule: If one team is ahead by a margin of 35 points or more at the end of the second quarter, the clock shall run continuously. Once the running clock is initiated, it shall run continuously with the exception of during any timeout taken by a team or officials, injuries, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties and during the period between quarters.
- 3-1-5. Interrupted Games: Games interrupted because of events beyond the control of the responsible administrative authority, at some point, must be continued from the point of interruption if the game affects a team’s berth in the Florida High School State Championships.
- 3-1-5 Note. Length of Quarters: Games involving a mixture of players in grades 7, 8 and 9 will be played in 10-minute quarters.
- 3-2-1. Coin Toss: If the coin toss, or simulated coin toss, is held on the playing field, it must be held three minutes prior to the scheduled game starting time.
- 3-5-7g. Mandatory Water Breaks: The referee must call an uncharged one-minute timeout at the first clock stoppage after the 6:30 minute mark of each quarter. If the first clock stoppage is a timeout request by either team, then that timeout is granted and the next clock stoppage that is not a requested team timeout becomes the water break. Coaches may meet with their players during this timeout. This rule must be enforced in all games up to and including the regular season and playoffs, including both fall and spring preseason classics and jamborees.
- 3-5-7l. TV Timeouts: TV timeouts may be authorized by the host school principal for regular season games. The FHSAA Office may authorize TV timeouts for contests in the Florida High School State Championships as specified elsewhere in these regulations.

4.7.1.1.2 Schedules. Each member school may sign a maximum of seven (7) two-year contracts. Each member school must sign a minimum of three (3) one-year contracts. The Executive Director, upon request, may approve exceptions to this regulation to assist schools in scheduling games with out-of-state opponents.
4.7.1.3 Cancellations or Rescheduled Games. Every district game shall be played and completed by week 10 of the season. This shall be accomplished even if it requires the rescheduling or cancelation of non-district games. It, therefore, is important that all district games cancelled due to inclement weather be made up not later than Monday of Week 18. The FHSAA office is committed to protecting the integrity of the Florida High School State Championships. Schools do not have the option to cancel a district game by agreement unless forfeiture is involved.

4.7.1.4 Forfeitures. Each contracted regular season game shall be played as scheduled unless it is canceled due to inclement weather (Policy 32). A school that fails to play a contracted game as scheduled shall forfeit the game and shall become ineligible to participate in the Florida High School State Championships that season or a future season. Should this occur, all district games played by the school shall be considered non-district games, shall not count in the district standings, and shall be removed from the football district for the remainder of the classification cycle.

4.7.1.5 Medical Personnel. The FHSAA Board of Directors recommends that each host member school have a physician as well as an ambulance present or readily available for each game.

4.7.1.6 Pregame Warm-ups. A school’s team shall warm up in an area between the end line and the 45-yard line on the side of the field to which it is assigned for pregame warm-ups by the host school management. Enforcement of this policy shall be the responsibility of the host school management until the jurisdiction of the game officials begins. A violation of this policy shall be considered an act of unsporting conduct and shall be penalized pursuant to NFHS Rules.

4.7.2 Postseason Bowl Games.

4.7.2.1 A team that does not participate in the Florida High School State Championships or participates in but does not qualify for the Florida High School State Championships as a representative of its district may compete in a postseason bowl game exclusively on Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday of Week 20, provided the school meets the requirements stated herein.

4.7.2.2 A school that qualifies for the Florida High School State Championships may not agree to play in a postseason bowl game.

4.7.2.3 A postseason bowl game hosted by a senior high school must have the approval of the FHSAA Office. Such games, however, cannot be approved by the FHSAA Office until the Monday of Week 19 or thereafter. An AT3 Form must be completed to sanction the event.

4.7.2.4 To be eligible to compete in a postseason bowl game, a school must meet the provisions of 4.7.2.3.1, must have played a representative schedule and must have a winning record (.500 or better) through the Monday of Week 19 or thereafter.

4.7.2.5 All NFHS Football Rules shall apply to postseason bowl games.

4.7.3 Spring Practice, Jamborees and Classics.

4.7.3.1 Spring Practice. See Policies 6.1.1.1 and 18.2.

4.7.3.2 Spring Jamborees and Classics. Schools are limited to either one (1) Jamboree or one (1) Classic following the procedures in 4.7.2.2 and counts as one of 20 sessions outlined in Policy 6.1.1.1. Spring Jamborees and Classics may not be played outside the state of Florida.

4.7.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.7.2.1 District Scheduling Meeting

4.7.2.1.1 Date. Coincides with the reclassification cycle (once classifications and districting are final.)

4.7.2.1.2 Scheduling Meeting.

• A representative of each school assigned to the district must be in attendance

• A district football schedule for both years of the cycle must be completed during this meeting

• Schools shall schedule district football games according to the following schedule: 10th week, 8th week, 6th week, 4th week, 9th week, 7th week, 5th week, 3rd week, 2nd week and 1st week. District games shall not be scheduled on the 11th week.

• A complete schedule, including any non-district games, must be submitted via C2C Schools by the Monday of Week 40.

4.7.2.2 District Standings. The FHSAA Office shall compute on a weekly basis the official standings for each district in each classification based on the game reports filed by member schools as required in 4.7.2.1.5. Official standings will be posted on FHSAA.org. It will be on the basis of these standings only that district champions and district runners-up will be determined. It is imperative that member schools report their game scores to the FHSAA Office each week in accordance with 4.7.2.1.5. In the event a member school wishes to challenge its win-loss record as recorded in the official FHSAA standings, the burden of proof will be upon the member school.

4.7.2.2.1 Only those varsity games played with other schools in a district shall count toward the district standings. If a school plays more than one varsity game with another school in its district, then only the first game will count in the district standings.
4.7.2.2  Breaking Ties.  
(a) If two schools are tied for first place in the final district standings, the winner of the regular season game between the two schools shall advance to the regional tournament as the district champion and the loser of the regular season game shall advance to the regional tournament as the district runner-up. If two schools are tied for second place in the final district standings, the winner of the regular season game between the two schools shall advance to the regional tournament as the district runner-up.

(b) If three schools are tied for first place in the final district standings and one of the three schools defeated the other two in regular season competition, then that school shall advance to the regional tournament as the district champion. The winner of the regular season game between the two remaining schools shall then advance to the regional tournament as the district runner-up. If three schools are tied for second place in the final district standings and one of the three schools defeated the other two in regular season competition, then that school shall advance to the regional tournament as the district runner-up.

(c) If three or more schools are tied for either first place or second place in the final district standings and the tie cannot be broken based on the results of regular season competition, then a district tiebreaker shall be played to determine the district champion and/or district runner-up.

4.7.2.3  District Tiebreakers.
4.7.2.3.1  Date, Time and Site.  District tiebreakers, if necessary, shall be played at 7 p.m. local time on Monday of Week 19. The school whose team is seeded No. 1 shall be designated the host school and will determine the site of the competition.

4.7.2.3.2  Format.  The higher-seeded team in each round shall be designated the “home team” and will wear the darker-colored jersey. Each team shall be required to have both darker and lighter-colored jerseys at the competition site in the event problems with contrasting jerseys exist. Teams shall play one entire quarter against their bracketed opponents. Each team will be allotted two timeouts per quarter. The 10-Yard Line Overtime Tiebreaker Plan as printed in the NFHS Rules Book will be used at the end of the quarter if the score is tied. There will be a warm-up period or rest period not to exceed 20 minutes between each quarter or tiebreaker. The FHSAA Office, not later than noon Sunday of Week 19, will post tiebreaker information on FHSAA.org containing the specific arrangements for the district tiebreaker.

4.7.2.3.3  Seeding.  The teams shall be seeded on the basis of their overall win-loss percentage through all games played by Sunday of Week 19. The team with the best overall win-loss percentage will be seeded No. 1, etc. If two or more of the teams have identical overall win-loss percentages, the results of their head-to-head competition during the regular season will be used to break the tie. If the tie cannot be resolved by the results of head-to-head competition, a random draw will be used to break the tie.

4.7.2.3.4  Bracketing.  The teams, based on their seeding, shall be bracketed as follows:

(a) Three teams tied for district championship:
   • Round 1 – No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed.
   • Round 2 – Round 1 winner vs. No. 1 seed; if No. 1 seed wins, it is district champion and Round 1 winner is runner-up; if Round 1 winner wins, it is district champion and No. 1 seed advances to Round 3.
   • Round 3 – No. 1 seed vs. Round 1 loser; winner is district runner-up.

(b) Four or more teams tied for district championship:
   • Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 8 seeds in upper half of bracket; Nos. 2, 3, 6 and 7 seeds in lower half of bracket; byes, if any, awarded to higher-seeded teams.
   • Winners advance through straight-progression bracket; winner of final round is district champion; loser is district runner-up.

(c) Three teams tied for district runner-up:
   • Round 1 – No. 2 seed vs. No. 3 seed.
   • Round 2 – Round 1 winner vs. No. 1 seed; winner is district runner-up.

(d) Four or more teams tied for district runner-up:
   • Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 8 seeds in upper half of bracket; Nos. 2, 3, 6 and 7 seeds in lower half of bracket; byes, if any, awarded to higher-seeded teams.
   • Winners advance through straight-progression bracket; winner of final round is district runner-up.

4.7.2.3.5  Bands.  Bands will be prohibited from playing at district tiebreakers.

4.7.2.4  Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.7.2.4.1  Regional Tournaments

(a) Complexes.  Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. Each regional complex will be comprised of either two or four districts depending upon the number of districts in the classification.
(b) Playoff Field. The tournament bracket in Classes 8A, 7A, 6A, and 5A shall include 32 teams. The tournament bracket in Classes 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A shall include 16 teams.

c) Dates and Times. Regional tournaments shall be played on the following dates:

(1) Classes 8A, 7A, 6A, and 5A
   • Quarterfinals – Friday, of Week 20
   • Semifinals – Friday of Week 21
   • Finals – Friday of Week 22

(2) Classes 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A
   • Semifinals – Friday of Week 20
   • Finals – Friday of Week 21

All regional tournament games shall begin at 7:30 p.m. local time. Any exception must be approved by the FHSAA Office.

d) Bracketing. Qualifying teams in each class shall be placed on brackets for regional tournaments by the FHSAA Office as follows:

(1) Regional Tournament. In the first round, the champion of each district will host the runner-up from their neighboring district.

(2) Release of Tournament Brackets. The completed bracket for each classification will be released on FHSAA.org no later than 5 p.m. EST Sunday of Week 20.

e) Determining the Host School. One of the two competing schools shall be designated as the host school for each regional tournament quarterfinal, semifinal and final game, and shall determine the site of the game for which it serves as host. In all regional tournament rounds, when a district champion plays a district runner-up, the district champion always shall be designated the host school. Otherwise, the host school shall be determined as follows:

(1) Regional Quarterfinals
   • Classes 8A, 6A – Schools on the upper lines of bracket (lines 2, 4, 6, 8).
   • Classes 7A, 5A – Schools on the lower lines of bracket (lines 1, 3, 5, 7).

(2) Regional Semifinals
   • Classes 8A, 6A – School on upper line of bracket; if, however, school on upper line was home for regional quarterfinals and school on lower line traveled for regional quarterfinals, then school on lower line will be designated host school.
   • Classes 7A, 5A – School on lower line of bracket; if, however, school on lower line was home for regional quarterfinals and school on upper line traveled for regional quarterfinals, then school on upper line will be designated host school.
   • Classes 4A, 3A – School on upper line of bracket.
   • Classes 2A, 1A – School on lower line of bracket.

(3) Regional Finals
   • Classes 8A, 6A – School on upper line of bracket; if, however, school on upper line was home for both the regional quarterfinals and regional semifinals and school on lower line traveled for either the regional quarterfinals or regional semifinals, then school on lower line will be designated host school.
   • Classes 7A, 5A – School on lower line of bracket; if, however, school on lower line was home for both the regional quarterfinals and regional semifinals and school on upper line traveled for either the regional quarterfinals or regional semifinals, then school on upper line will be designated host school.
   • Classes 4A, 3A – School on upper line of bracket; if, however, school on upper line was home for regional semifinals and school on lower line traveled for regional semifinals, then school on lower line will be designated host school.
   • Classes 2A, 1A – School on lower line of bracket; if, however, school on lower line was home for regional semifinals and school on upper line traveled for regional semifinals, then school on upper line will be designated host school.

(f) Awards. The FHSAA will award a trophy, at no expense to the school, to each regional champion football team.

**4.7.2.4.2 State Semifinals**

(a) Dates and Times. State semifinal games shall be played on the following dates:

• Classes 8A, 7A, 6A, and 5A – Friday of Week 23
• Classes 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A – Friday of Week 22
All state semifinal games shall begin at 7:30 p.m. local time. Any exception must be approved by the FHSAA Office.

(b) Bracketing. The Region 1 champion will play the Region 2 champion, and the Region 3 champion will play the Region 4 champion in the state semifinal games in each classification.

(c) Host Schools. One of the two competing schools shall be designated as the host school for each state semifinal game, and shall determine the site of the game for which it serves as host. The host schools shall be designated as follows:

- Classes 8A, 6A, 4A, 3A – Region 1 champion and Region 3 champion.
- Classes 7A, 5A, 2A, 1A – Region 2 champion and Region 4 champion.

**4.7.2.4.3 Florida High School State Championships**

(a) Dates. The FHSAA Football Finals state championship games shall be played Friday and Saturday of Week 23 for Classes 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A; and Friday and Saturday of Week 24 for Classes 8A, 7A, 6A and 5A.

(b) Time Schedule. The schedule shall be posted on the FHSAA Website (all times EST and subject to change by Bright House Network):

(c) Home School. In the Class 1A, Class 2A, Class 5A and Class 7A championship games, the school on the lower line of the bracket shall be designated the home school. In the Class 3A, Class 4A, Class 6A and Class 8A championship games, the school on the upper line of the bracket shall be designated the home school.

(d) Jerseys. Schools must bring both their white and dark sets of jerseys to avoid conflicts.

**4.7.2.4.4 Advancement of Winners**

(a) Regional to State Semifinals. The champion from each of the four regional tournaments in each classification shall advance to the state semifinal games in the respective classifications.

(b) State Semifinals to Florida High School State Championships. The winners of the two semifinal games in each classification shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships in the respective classifications.

**4.7.2.5 Tournament Regulations**

**4.7.2.5.1 Squads**

(a) Player Limit. Teams shall be allowed a maximum of 60 players in uniform for each game. Uniformed players, coaches and team managers of participating schools will be admitted to games in the Florida High School State Championships in which they participate free of charge.

(b) Florida High School State Championships. The number of field credentials for participating teams shall not exceed the number of uniformed players plus 20 to be used by coaches, managers, statisticians, trainers, medical personnel, etc.

**4.7.2.5.2 Exchange of Game Tapes.** The head coaches of opposing teams in each Florida High School State Championships game must exchange videotapes of their previous two (2) games by 5 p.m. EST on the Saturday (Monday for first-round games) immediately preceding their game. A minimum monetary penalty of $250 shall be assessed for willful violations of this provision.

**4.7.2.5.3 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures.** The following pregame time schedule is recommended for all Florida High School State Championships games:

- 6 p.m. – Playing surface open to kickers and punters; gates open to spectators.
- 6:30 p.m. (60:00 on pregame clock) – Clock operator starts pregame countdown on game clock.
- 7:10 p.m. (20:00 on pregame clock) – Pregame warm-up period ends; teams leave field.
- 7:12 p.m. (18:00 on pregame clock) – Announcer reads pregame script, sportsmanship message and starting lineups (both offensive and defensive) for both teams; this is not formal introductions of starting lineups and it is not necessary for players and coaches to be on the field when this occurs.
- 7:23 p.m. (7:00 on pregame clock) – Visiting team emerges from dressing room, takes the field and reports to its sideline area.
- 7:24 p.m. (6:00 on pregame clock) – Home team emerges from dressing room, takes the field and reports to its sideline area.
- 7:25 p.m. (5:00 on pregame clock) – National Anthem is performed.
- 7:27 p.m. (3:00 on pregame clock) – Coin toss at mid-field.
- 7:29:30 p.m. (0:30 on pregame clock) – Teams take positions on field for kickoff.
- 7:30 p.m. (0:00 on pregame clock) – Reset game clock to 12:00. Referee signals ready for play. KICKOFF.

No participating team, other than the host school’s team, shall be permitted onto a playoff field for practice during the week of the Florida High School State Championships game. Teams that advance to the Florida High School State Championships shall not be allowed practice time on the Florida High School State Championships facility field other than the pregame warm-up.
4.7.2.5.4 Bands.

(a) Admittance. Band and drill team members from participating schools in full dress uniform, along with their adult sponsors will receive complimentary admission to all games in the Florida High School State Championships, with the exception of district tie-breakers. One adult chaperon for every 10 participating students shall receive complimentary admission.

(b) National Anthem. The host school shall be responsible for arranging for a live performance of the National Anthem. This live performance may be by the host school’s band, singer(s) or instrumental solo or ensemble; or, if by mutual agreement of both schools, by the visiting team’s band or by both bands.

(c) Halftime Performance. The marching band of each participating school may perform at halftime of the game in which their team is involved. Each band shall be allotted a maximum of eight (8) minutes and 30 seconds for its halftime performance. The band representing the visiting team shall perform first, and must be ready to take the field and begin its performance immediately upon conclusion of the first half. The band representing the home team shall perform second and must be clear of the field before the expiration of the 20-minute halftime period. Should only one band perform at halftime, there will be no time limit except that the band must be clear of the field with three (3) minutes remaining in the halftime period.

4.7.2.5.5 Cheerleaders. Cheerleaders in uniform, along with their adult sponsors, will be admitted free of charge to Florida High School State Championships contests in which their school’s team participates. The number of cheerleaders permitted will be the same as the number who cheered during varsity contests during the regular season.
4.8  Golf

Administrator: Dale Klaus, ext. 390, dklaus@fhsaa.org

4.8.1  Regular Season Procedures

4.8.1.1  Rules of Competition

4.8.1.1.1  Competition Rules. United States Golf Association (USGA) Amateur Golf Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all golf matches, except where it may be necessary to apply local rules due to circumstances or unforeseen conditions.

(a) A team shall be composed of four, five or six players. All coaches of teams involved in a match must agree to the designated number of players who will comprise a team. If a school wishes to play more than four players in a match it must so stipulate in the “terms and conditions” section of the Contract for Interscholastic Athletic Contest. When the number of players is not stipulated in the “terms and conditions” section of the contract, a school shall play no more than five (5) players. In all matches, however, the four lowest individual scores combined shall determine the team score.

(b) A match shall be conducted on a stroke play basis. The team having the lowest aggregate score at the conclusion of play shall be the winner. Teams shall be informed of a tie-break procedure prior to the start of any regular season match and/or invitational tournament.

(c) Exhibition or practice play during a match is strictly prohibited. Only those students who are properly entered shall participate in a match. This does not prohibit the playing of junior varsity matches in conjunction with a varsity match.

(d) All participants must abide by the dress code as established by the golf course on which the match is being played.

(e) The use of caddies, including teammates, is prohibited.

(f) Players are permitted to use pull-carts if desired. The use of motorized carts or other vehicles by players is prohibited. An exception may be made for an individual player who, because of a permanent physical handicap or disability, needs the use of such equipment to compete. The player’s school must submit a request for the exception in writing, and it must be approved by the Executive Director in advance of the competition. A school with a player who has been granted this exception must notify the host school of the player’s special need in advance of the competition.

(g) The use of any electronic equipment for the purpose of communication is prohibited on the course by players, coaches and spectators. This does not include course management staff, who may need to keep or provide information on the course and play during the tournament, from using such equipment.

(h) Distance measuring devices may be used under the guidelines of the USGA rules of golf.

(i) USGA Rule 3-3(a) must be enforced when there is a doubt as to the right play procedure, and the tournament/match director or tournament committee must be consulted before a player involved signs and turns in his/her scorecard.

(j) No participant shall be allowed to accept any cash awards, sponsorship or gifts exceeding those limitations established in Bylaw 9.9.3.

(k) A player who deliberately throws any piece of equipment during competition shall be disqualified (ejected) immediately for misconduct. The disqualification (ejection) shall be reported to the FHSAA Office by the host school or tournament director using the “Unsporting Conduct Incident Report” (Form AT6).

(l) Any player that displays unsporting behavior, uses profane language, inappropriate gestures or taunts an opponent at any time during the match shall be disqualified for unsporting conduct and ejected from the match. See FHSAA Bylaws 8.1.1, 11.11.1 and FHSAA Policy 20.

(m) Betting by players and coaches is strictly prohibited. A player who violates this rule shall be disqualified from further participation in the match or tournament. A coach who violates this rule must be reported to the FHSAA Office by the host school or tournament manager using the “Unsporting Conduct Incident Report” (Form AT6).

(n) At the end of tournament/match play, each player in the assigned group must go directly from the final hole to the check-in area to verify the individual score for each player, and sign and submit the scorecard to a tournament/match official. All areas of question with regard to the right play procedure or scoring must be submitted to the tournament/match director at this time to be resolved prior to players signing their scorecards.

(o) A competition is considered to have closed when all players have submitted their scorecards to the tournament/match director and the results are officially announced.

4.8.1.2  Coaching & Advice During Competition

(a) Coaches only will be allowed to give advice under the following provisions:

(1) Only one (1) designated team coach may give advice.

(2) USGA Rule 8 entitled “Definition of Advice” must be used.
(b) Coaches who elect to advise their players during matches must not make rulings on matters of play that are the responsibility of the event director or tournament committee. A player in violation of USGA Rule 6-7, “Undue Delay,” will be assessed a two-stroke penalty for the first offense and disqualified from competition for the second offense.

(c) No players, parents or spectators shall be allowed to coach or give advice to any player who is competing during regular season matches or matches in the Florida High School State Championships.

(d) Parents and spectators of participating golfers must remain in the rough or on golf paths and 50 feet away from the golfers. Use of golf carts by spectators during matches is under the jurisdiction of the event director.

4.8.1.1.3 Unsporting Conduct Reports. Event hosts and/or officials must report acts of unsporting conduct by players and coaches to the FHSAA Office using the “Unsporting Conduct Incident Report” (Form AT6).

4.8.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.8.2.1 District Meeting

4.8.2.1.1 Date. Monday or Tuesday of Week 9

4.8.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:

• Determine if a sub-district qualifying tournament(s) will be played. Sub-district tournaments may be played during Week 15, which is the week preceding the District Tournament. If a sub-district tournament is to be played during the earlier week, all participating schools must submit their official entry lists to the district tournament manager not later than 5 p.m. Monday of Week 14.

• Adopt a procedure for determining the pairings for the tournament.

• Adopt a method for deciding individual and team ties. If a sudden death playoff or the matching scorecards method is to be used, the hole(s) to be played or compared in the tie-breaker must be designated.

• Develop an alternative plan for competition in case of inclement weather.

• Discuss the host provisions for region tournaments and the deadline date.

4.8.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.8.2.2.1 District Tournaments

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

(1) Dates. Monday-Wednesday of Week 16.

(2) Time Schedule. To be determined at district meeting.

(3) Site. To be selected at the district meeting.

(i) Yardages

• Girls 5200-5600 yards

• Boys 6400-6800 yards

(b) Sub-District Tournaments. Sub-district tournaments are part of the district tournament and are subject to all regulations pertaining to district tournaments. Sub-district tournaments may be played during the week preceding the district tournament, which is Week 15. If a sub-district tournament is to be played, all participating schools must submit their official entry lists to the district tournament manager by e-mail not later than 5 p.m. Monday of Week 14.

(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 the event.

4.8.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments

(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in eight regional complexes in each classification. Districts 1, 2, and 3 will comprise the Region 1 complex; Districts 4, 5 and 6 the Region 2 complex; Districts 7, 8 and 9 the Region 3 complex; Districts 10, 11 and 12 the Region 4 complex; Districts 13, 14 and 15 the Region 5 complex; Districts 16, 17 and 18 the Region 6 complex; Districts 19, 20 and 21 the Region 7 complex; and Districts 22, 23 and 24 the Region 8 complex. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Dates. Monday-Wednesday of Week 17.

(c) Sites. Current regional meet sites are listed on FHSAA.org.

(1) Yardages

(i) Girls 5200-5600 yards

(ii) Boys 6400-6800 yards

(d) Coaches Meeting. A coaches meeting will be held at the tournament site 30 minutes prior to the first tee time to confirm pairings and to cover items of information or rulings that are necessary for the administration of the tournament.
(e) Invitations to Host. The deadline date for submitting an invitation to serve as host for a regional tournament is Monday of Week 10.

(f) Region Site Provisions. The following guidelines have been approved for determining hosts for region sites. The districts shall host in a rotation based on ascending numerical order. The rotation for the next three years is as follows:

- 2012-13 – middle district (Districts 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23)
- 2013-14 – highest-numbered district (Districts 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24)
- 2014-15 – lowest-numbered district (Districts 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22)

(g) FSGA/USGA Officials. Each regional tournament site is required to have an FSGA/USGA official on site if there is one available.

4.8.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships

(a) Dates and Site. The FHSAA Golf Finals will be held on Tuesday-Wednesday of Week 18 for all girls classes and Tuesday-Wednesday of Week 19 for all boys classes.

(b) Coaches Meeting. A pre-tournament coaches meeting will be put online at FHSAA.org for coaches of all schools with participants in the Florida High School State Championships. The head coach from each school, or his/her representative, shall be required to view this presentation.

4.8.2.2.4 Advancement of Teams and Individuals

(a) District Tournament to Regional Tournament. The top three lowest scoring teams and the top three lowest scoring individuals who are not members of the top three lowest scoring teams in district tournament shall advance to the regional tournament to which they are assigned.

(b) Regional Tournament to Florida High School State Championships. The first- and second-place teams and the two lowest-scoring individuals who are not members of the advancing teams in each regional tournament shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships. If no invitations to host are received in a region by Friday of Week 12, the qualifiers will be determined by the following:

1. from the three district team winners, the two teams with the lowest scores will advance;
2. from the district individual winners, the two individuals with the lowest scores will advance;
3. if the two lowest scoring individuals are on the qualifying teams, no other individual shall qualify for the Florida High School State Championships; and
4. if the three first-place teams or individuals have the same qualifying score, the teams and/or individuals shall meet for a playoff on Monday of Week 17 at a site to be determined.

4.8.2.3 Tournament Regulations

4.8.2.3.1 Teams. A team consists of four or five players. The four lowest scores shall determine the team score.

(a) A school may enter an individual golfer(s) in the district tournament to compete for the individual championship if the school is unable to enter a team of four or five players.

(b) Each team that qualifies for the Florida High School State Championships, in addition to its four or five players, may be accompanied by a maximum of one (1) alternate. The alternate may not be used once tournament play begins. No alternate is permissible for contestants who qualify on an individual basis.

4.8.2.3.2 Format. All Florida High School State Championships tournaments shall be conducted on a stroke-play basis. The team having the lowest aggregate score at the conclusion of the prescribed number of holes will be the team champion. The individual player having the lowest score at the conclusion of the prescribed number of holes will be the individual champion.

(a) District Tournaments. One round, 18 holes. Each district shall adopt a method for breaking individual and team ties. If a sudden-victory playoff or the matching scorecards method is to be used, the hole(s) to be played or compared in the tie-breaker must be designated.

(b) Regional Tournaments. One round, 18 holes. In the event of a tie for the first- and second-place team or individual qualifiers, a sudden-victory playoff shall be used to determine the qualifiers who will advance to the Florida High School State Championships. The hole(s) for the sudden-victory playoff will be determined by the tournament committee and will be part of the information provided at the pre-tournament coaches meeting.

(c) Florida High School State Championships. Two rounds, 36 holes. In the event of a tie for the individual or team championship, a sudden-victory playoff shall be used to determine the champion. The hole(s) to be used for the sudden-victory playoff will be determined by the tournament committee and will be announced at the pre-tournament coaches meeting.

In the event emergency situations, such as inclement weather, it is necessary to reduce the number of holes from 36, the Jury of Appeals shall determine the final number of holes to be counted for scoring. All leading players must have played the same holes up to the cut-off point established by the Jury of Appeals.
4.8.2.3.3  **Pairings & Tee Times**

(a)  District Tournaments. Each district shall establish a method for determining pairings and tee times at the district meeting.

(b)  Regional Tournaments. Pairings and tee times will be based on district tournament scores. The host school will determine and e-mail tee times to schools with qualifying teams and individual competitors by 9 a.m. Friday of Week 16.

(c)  Florida High School State Championships. Pairings and tee times for the first round will be based on regional tournament scores and will be listed on FHSAA.org. Pairings for the second round will be based on the first round. It is the responsibility of the coach to locate the pairings and tee times on the FHSAA golf website.

4.8.2.3.4  **Faculty Supervision.** A member of the faculty shall accompany a school’s team or individual contestant to all competition in the Florida High School State Championships.

4.8.2.3.5  **Jury of Appeals.** A Jury of Appeals consisting of five coaches and/or athletic directors from five different participating schools shall be appointed by the manager of each Florida High School State Championships event. A member of the Jury of Appeals whose team or individual contestant is a party to an appeal must recuse himself/herself and be replaced until the appeal is concluded. The decision of the Jury of Appeals shall be final. The Jury of Appeals shall not set aside any rule.

4.8.3  **Local Rules and Conditions of Competition**

The current Rules of the United States Golf Association govern play. Complete text of Rules and Appendix I may be found in the current “Rules of Golf.” Disregard Local Rules printed on club scorecards or posted at the course. Unless otherwise noted, the penalty for breach of a Local Rule or Condition is:

- Match play -- Loss of hole; Stroke play -- Two strokes.

4.8.3.1  **Local Rules**

4.8.3.1.1  **Out of Bounds.**

(a)  Defined by inside points, at ground level, of white stakes, lines and perimeter fence posts.

(b)  When the inside edge of a paved road or curb defines out of bounds, a ball that is on or beyond the road or curb is out of bounds even though it may lie on another part of the golf course.

4.8.3.1.2  **Water Hazards and Lateral Water Hazards.** When a water hazard or a lateral water hazard is bounded by out of bounds, the hazard margin extends to and coincides with the out of bounds line.

4.8.3.1.3  **Ground Under Repair.** Defined by white lines. Other areas of ground under repair, even when not marked, include:

(a)  French drains (trenches filled with stones or the like)

(b)  Fire ant hills (Note: For a player whose ball is in a water hazard and is affected by a fire ant hill, see Decision 1-4/10)

4.8.3.1.4  **Sod Seams.** Through the green, sod seams (not the sod itself) are deemed to be ground under repair, and relief is available under Rule 25-1 if the ball lies in or touches a sod seam or a sod seam interferes with the area of intended swing. All seams within the sodded area are considered the same seam.

4.8.3.1.5  **Obstructions And Integral Parts Of The Course**

(a)  When located within hazards; liners in bunkers and artificial walls and pilings are integral parts of the course unless otherwise provided for in Notice to Players.

(b)  White lined areas tying into obstructions are part of the obstruction.

(c)  When closely attached to trees, wrappings, electrical wire, and cables are integral parts of the course.

4.8.3.1.6  **Embedded Ball Through The Green.** Local Rule as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

4.8.3.1.7  **Loose Impediments.** Wood chips and mulch are loose impediments.

4.8.3.1.8  **Distance Measuring Devices.** Distance measuring devices may be used under the guidelines of the USGA rules of golf. Misuse will result in disqualification.

4.8.3.2  **Conditions Of Competitions.**

4.8.3.2.1  **List Of Conforming Driver Heads.** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

4.8.3.2.2  **List Of Conforming Golf Balls.** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

4.8.3.2.3  **Time Of Starting.** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect.

4.8.3.2.4  **Pace Of Play.** See separate memorandum to players for pace of play guidelines, when applicable.

4.8.3.2.5  **Suspension of Play Due to a Dangerous Situation.** Optional Condition as prescribed in Appendix I is in effect. All practice areas are closed during suspension for a dangerous situation until the Committee has declared them open. Players who practice on closed practice areas will be asked to cease doing so; failure to comply may result in revocation of entry.
4.8.3.2.6 **Signals For Suspension of Play.**

(a) Suspension for a dangerous situation: One prolonged siren or air-horn note.
(b) All other types of suspension: Three consecutive air-horn notes.
(c) Resumption of play: Two air-horn notes.

4.8.3.2.7 **Official Event.** In the Florida High School State Championships, an official event may be constituted by reverting to the results of an earlier round. In the event emergency situations, such as inclement weather, make it necessary to reduce the number of holes from 36, the Jury of Appeals shall determine the final number of holes to be counted for scoring. All leading players must have played the same holes up to the cut-off point established by the Jury of Appeals.

4.8.3.2.8 **Close Of Competition.** The competition is deemed to have closed when the winner has been announced, or, in the absence of a prize ceremony, when all scores have been approved by the Committee.
4.9 Lacrosse
Administrator: Robbie Lindeman, ext. 260, rlindeman@fhsaa.org

4.9.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.9.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.9.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules and U.S. Lacrosse Women’s Rules, as modified or amended by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all regular season games as well as FHSAA Lacrosse Florida High School State Championships games. The following modifications or amendments have been adopted by the FHSAA.

Girls Lacrosse

- Rule 2-5 The ball. Each home team shall supply a minimum of three (3) new yellow lacrosse balls bearing the NFHS approved authenticating mark: “Meets NOCSAE Standard. NFHS”.
- Rule 2 Ball Retrieval. If the home team chooses to provide ball retrievers on the end line, the ball retrievers shall (1) wear a lacrosse helmet, (2) be dressed so their uniform colors do not blend with those of participating teams and (3) not be permitted to stand directly behind the goal. In addition, the home team is required to train, protect, and provide for the safety of the ball retrievers.
- Rule 2-10. Mandatory Equipment. Starting with the 2015 sport season, all girls lacrosse players are required to wear protective headgear during all competitions. More information regarding the required headgear will be posted on the FHSAA website.
- Rule 2-10. Artificial Limbs are permitted which are no more dangerous to players than the corresponding human limb and do not place the opponent at a disadvantage. Written permission must be obtained from the FHSAA Office.
- Rule 2-10. A hearing instrument may be used to enhance the efficiency of a required aid prescribed by a licensed medical physician, provided it is not dangerous to the wearer or any other player. Written permission must be obtained from the FHSAA Office.
- Rule 4-1. The referee must call an uncharged, one-minute, timeout at a natural stoppage of play nearest to the half-way point of each half. Coaches may meet with their players during this timeout. This rule must be enforced in all games and levels up to and including the FHSAA Lacrosse Florida High School State Championships.
- Rule 4 Duration of Play. Sub-varsity games shall be forty (40) minutes divided into two halves unless otherwise stated in the game contract.
- Rule 4 Duration of Play. The length of games at the varsity level cannot be adjusted or changed, unless an emergency situation would cause both head coaches to mutually agree to shorten the game.
- Rule 4 Suspended/Interrupted Game. A regular season lacrosse 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 FHSAA Policy 32: Policy on Inclement Weather.)
- Rule 7-34 Issuance of Cards. Anyone receiving two yellow cards in the game will be suspended from further participation in that game but will not be prohibited from participating in the team’s next game. Anyone receiving a red card will be suspended from further participation in that game and will be prohibited from participating in the team’s next two games minimum, with possible further suspension to follow.

Boys Lacrosse

- 1-5. Each home team shall supply a minimum of thirteen (13) new white lacrosse balls bearing the approved NFHS authenticating mark: “Meets NOCSAE Standard. NFHS”.
- 3-1. Sub-varsity games shall be played in four (4) ten (10) minute quarters unless otherwise stated in the game contract.
- 3-5. A regular season lacrosse game that has completed two quarters or more of play is an official game. A game that has been called because of weather or darkness prior to the second quarter being completed is a suspended game and, if played, shall restart from the point of suspension. (See also FHSAA Policy 32: Policy on Inclement Weather.)
- 5-12 PEN; 7-12. delete “The ejected player … must be removed from the premises…If there is authorized school personnel present.”

4.9.1.1.2 Jewelry. Jewelry shall not be worn, except for religious or medical medals. A religious medal must be taped and worn under the uniform. A medical alert must be taped and may be visible.

4.9.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.9.2.1 District Meeting

4.9.2.1.1 Date. Monday through Friday of Week 14
4.9.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.9.2.2 Florida High School State Championships Structure and Time Schedule

4.9.2.2.1 District Tournaments. District tournaments shall be played Monday through Friday of Week 41.
The top four teams in district competition shall comprise the field. The championship game shall be played on either Thursday or Friday unless otherwise decided by those in attendance at the district planning meeting. The FHSAA representative of the host school shall be designated the tournament manager. The recommended time schedule is as follows:

**Tuesday**
- Semifinal, Game No. 1 (No. 2 vs. No. 3 seed), 6 p.m.
- Semifinal, Game No. 2 (No. 1 vs. No. 4 seed), 8 p.m.

**Thursday**
- Championship, Game 3 (semifinal winners), 7 p.m.

Once determined, no local manager is authorized to change the dates, times or order of games as determined by the FHSAA Office without written authorization.

### 4.9.2.2.1 Additional Hosting Requirements

(a) Scorer/timer. The district tournament host and play-in game host must provide an adult scorer and an adult timer for all games.
(b) Scorer/timer. The district tournament host and play-in game host must provide clocks and horns for each game.
(c) Ball Persons. Each boy’s team is responsible to provide two ball persons (who must wear protective equipment including a lacrosse helmet).

### 4.9.2.2 Florida High School State Championships State Tournament

The FHSAA Lacrosse Finals state championship tournament will be played on Friday and Saturday of Week 44. The following provisions will apply:

(a) The Florida High School State Championships bracket will be divided into districts. The district champions will play a first-round play-in game on Friday of Week 42. The winner of the first-round play-in games will play in a second-round play-in game on Tuesday of Week 43. The winner of the second-round play-in games will play in a third-round play-in game on Saturday of Week 43 to determine the teams advancing to the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals state tournament.

(b) The champion on the bottom line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the top line of the bracket in the first-round play-in game in each region.

(c) The champion on the bottom line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the top line of the bracket in the second-round play-in game in each region. If, however, the school on the bottom line of the bracket served as a host school in the first-round play-in game and the school on the top line of the bracket was a visitor in the first-round play-in game, the school on the top line of the bracket will be designated the host school for the second-round play-in game.

(d) The champion on the bottom line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the top line of the bracket in the third-round play-in game in each region. If, however, the school on the bottom line of the bracket served as a host school in the second-round play-in game and the school on the top line of the bracket was the visitor in the second-round play-in game, the school on the top line of the bracket will be designated the host school for the third-round play-in game.

(e) These play-in games shall begin at 7 p.m. If, however, a school is to serve as host for play-in games in both girls and boys divisions, the girls play-in game will begin at 6 p.m. and the boys play-in game will begin at 8 p.m. The FHSAA representative of the host school shall be designated the game manager.

(f) The time schedule for the Florida High School State Championships state championship tournament will be posted on the FHSAA Website.

### 4.9.2.3 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.

### 4.9.2.4 Advancement of Winners

The winners of the district tournaments shall advance to the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals first-round play-in games. The winners of the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals first-round play-in games shall advance to the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals second-round play-in games. The winners of the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals second-round play-in game shall advance to the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals third-round play-in game. The winners of the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals third-round play-in games shall advance to the FHSAA Lacrosse Finals state championship tournament.

### 4.9.2.3.1 Squad Size

A school participating in the FHSAA State Lacrosse Series may dress up to 25 players in uniform. Credentials, or complimentary admission, shall be provided to participating school personnel as follows:

- Eligible players in uniform – 25
- Team support (coaches, administration, managers, athletic trainers, etc.) – 8
### 4.9.2.3.2 Pre-game Warm-up and Procedures

(a) District Tournaments and First, Second and Third Round Play-In Games: This pre-game time schedule shall be followed in district tournament and play-in games:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 20 minutes and start; both teams permitted on game field for warm-up.</td>
<td>20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Sound horn alerting teams to 1 minute remaining in pre-game warm-up.</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sound horn; clear field; teams report to bench areas.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Public-address announcer begins pre-game script; teams lineup in front of their respective benches for introductions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Introduction of visiting team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30</td>
<td>Introduction of home team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Introduction of game officials.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30</td>
<td>National Anthem.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Final team huddle.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:00</td>
<td>Reset game clock to begin game.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No participating team, other than the host school’s team if it qualifies to participate, shall be permitted on the competition field for practice during the week of the district tournament or Florida High School State Championships first- and second-round play-in game outside of the 20-minute pre-game warm-up period.

(b) Florida High School State Championships State Tournament: This pre-game time schedule shall be followed in the Florida High School State Championships state championship tournament:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 20 minutes and start; both teams permitted on game field for warm-up.</td>
<td>20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Sound horn alerting teams to 1 minute remaining in pre-game warm-up.</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Sound horn; clear field; teams report to bench areas.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9:30  Public-address announcer begins pre-game script; teams lineup in front of their respective benches for introductions.

8:30  Introduction of visiting team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).

6:00  Introduction of home team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).

3:30  Introduction of game officials.

3:00  National Anthem.

1:00  Final team huddle.

0:00  Reset game clock to begin game.

**Subsequent Games of Session**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 20 minutes and start; both teams permitted on game field for warm up.</td>
<td>20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sound horn alerting teams to 1 minute remaining in pre-game warm-up.</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Sound horn; clear field; teams report to bench areas.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>Public-address announcer begins pre-game script; teams lineup in front of their respective benches for introductions.</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Introduction of visiting team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Introduction of home team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>Introduction of game officials.</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Final team huddle.</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:00</td>
<td>Reset game clock to begin game.</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No participating team, other than the host school’s team if it qualifies to participate, shall be permitted on the competition field for practice during the week of the Florida High School State Championships state championship tournament.
4.10 Soccer
Girls Administrator: Alex Ozuna, ext. 320, aozuna@fhsaa.org
Boys Administrator: Will Adams, ext. 479, wadams@fhsaa.org

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.
- 7-1-3. A regular season 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.
- 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.

(b) The following modifications to NFHS Rules HAVE NOT been adopted by the FHSAA Board of Directors:

- 7-1-2. Game-ending procedure or shortening game 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) 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) shall be issued a second caution (yellow card), shall be disqualified (ejected) from further participation in the game and shall not be replaced on the field with a substitute. The official will show the yellow card with one hand raised and indicate with the other hand that it is a second yellow card by forming a “V” with the index and middle fingers.

(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), or a first offense of NFHS Rules 12-8-1 (g), 12-8-1 (f) (12), or 12-8-2 (a-c, d[13], e-g) 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), and 12-8-2 (a-c, d[13], 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 12-8-1 (f) (12) shall be guilty of unsporting conduct, shall be issued a yellow/red card combination and disqualified (ejected) from further participation. The number of players on the field shall be reduced.

(f) 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.
4.10.1.1.4 **Overtime Procedure.** The overtime procedure to be used in the Florida High School State Championships, 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 a 10-minute sudden-victory overtime period. A coin toss as specified in NFHS Rule 5-2-2(d)(3) shall be held in advance of this sudden-victory overtime period. The first goal scored in the sudden-victory overtime period shall terminate the game. If there is no winner in the sudden-victory overtime period, the teams shall change ends of the field and a second 10-minute sudden-victory overtime period shall be played after a two-minute interval.

(b) If a tie still exists following the second sudden-victory 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 **Florida High School State Championships Procedures**

4.10.2 **District Meeting**

4.10.2.1 **Date.** Monday of Week 37 through Thursday of Week 41

4.10.2.1.2 **Meeting Agenda.** See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.10.2 **Tournament Structure and Time Schedules**

4.10.2.1.1 **District Tournament**

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.
   1. Dates.
      • Girls: Monday through Saturday of Week 29
      • Boys: Monday through Saturday of Week 30. It is recommended that no games take place on Thursday of Week 30 to avoid conflicts with the girls’ soccer regional quarterfinals.

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

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

4.10.2.1.2 **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 and runner-up from each district shall advance to the regional tournament in their respective regional complex. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.
(b) Dates and Time Schedule. Times for all regional tournament games must be 7 p.m. local time unless approved by the FHSAA Office. Regional tournaments shall be played during Weeks 30-31 (for girls) and 31-32 (for boys) on the following dates:

1. Quarterfinals
   - Girls – Thursday of Week 30
   - Boys – Thursday of Week 31

2. Semifinals
   - Girls – Tuesday of Week 31
   - Boys – Tuesday of Week 32

3. Championships
   - Girls – Friday of Week 31
   - Boys – Friday of Week 32

### 4.10.2.1.3 Florida High School State Championships

(a) Dates.
   - Girls – The FHSAA Girls Soccer Finals state tournament shall be played on Wednesday through Saturday of Week 32.
   - Boys – The FHSAA Boys Soccer Finals state tournament shall be played on Wednesday through Saturday of Week 33.

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

(d) Bracketing. See Administrative Procedure 3.3.3.

(e) 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.

### 4.10.2.1.4 Advancement of Winners

(a) District to Regional. The champion and runner-up from each of the 16 district tournaments shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned.

(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 Championships. The two champions of the State Semifinals will advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

### 4.10.2.2 Tournament Regulations

#### 4.10.2.2.1 Squads.

(a) Player Limit. Each participating school shall be allowed a maximum of 22 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.

(b) Florida High School State Championships. 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.

#### 4.10.2.2.2 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures. The following pregame time schedule shall be followed in all Florida High School State Championships games:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 20 minutes and start; both teams permitted on the game field for warm-up.</td>
<td>20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20:00</td>
<td>Captains and officials meet.</td>
<td>5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Teams report to sidelines.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Teams (Players and coaches) and officials proceed together in line to midfield.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
coaches, then head coach. Home team non-starters, then starters, then assistant coaches, then head coach.
Introduction of officials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>National Anthem</td>
<td>_ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Introductions end; final preparations.</td>
<td>_ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:00</td>
<td>Reset clock to 40:00; to begin game.</td>
<td>_ _ _</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subsequent Games of Session**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 20 minutes and start; both teams permitted on the game field for warm-up.</td>
<td>20:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17:00</td>
<td>Captains and officials meet.</td>
<td>5:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Teams report to sidelines.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Teams (Players and coaches) and officials proceed together in line to midfield.</td>
<td>_ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>_ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Introductions end; final preparations.</td>
<td>_ _ _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:00</td>
<td>Reset clock to 40:00; to begin game.</td>
<td>_ _ _</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Championships except for the 20-minute pregame warm-up period.

*4.10.2.2.3 Tie Games.* All Florida High School State Championships games must be played to completion. Tie games will be resolved in accordance with the procedure outlined in 4.10.1.1.4.

*4.10.2.2.4 Bands.* Bands will not be permitted to play at games in the Florida High School State Championships.
4.11 Softball
Administrator: Kellie Doucette, ext. 450, kdoucette@fhsaa.org

4.11.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.11.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.11.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Softball Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official playing rules for all softball games.

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

• 1-2-1. Note. A double first base is permitted.
• 1-3. Ball shall be optic yellow and must meet National Federation specifications in regards to COR .47, and shall not exceed 375 pounds in accordance with ASTM test methods. The Dudley Thunder Heat WT12FP is the official ball of the FHSAA Softball Finals and shall be used in all Florida High School State Championships contests.
• 3-5-2, 3. First base and/or third base coach’s boxes may be occupied by a player or coach in team uniform. Any time a coach is in live-ball area to confer with players or an umpire, or to occupy a coach’s box, the coach shall be attired in school uniform or jersey/coaching shirt with coaching shorts/slacks or warm-up suits (including fleece warm-ups) in school colors or colors of khaki, black, white or gray. Cotton t-shirts, cutoffs and/or any type of jeans are prohibited. All coaches must be dressed in the same apparel of the same color. Jackets are not considered part of the coach’s uniform.
• 3-5-2, 3 Penalties. A coach not dressed in appropriate attire shall not be permitted in the field of play following the pregame conference for the duration of the game or until the situation has been remedied.
• 4-2-3. The 10-run rule will be in effect after four-and-one-half or five complete innings.
• 4-2-3. The 15-run rule will be in effect after three complete innings.
• 4-2-3(2). When varsity and junior varsity teams are scheduled to play back-to-back on the same date, at the same site, and on the same field, no new inning may be started in a junior varsity game after one-and-one-half hours.
• 4-2-4. A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure or other conditions in which a winner cannot be determined will be treated as a suspended game. If the game is to be completed, it will be continued from the point of suspension, subject to the rules of the game. A game that has been called because of weather, mechanical failure or other conditions after four-and-one-half innings or five innings have been completed will be declared a completed game.
• 4-2-5. Tie games are not permitted. If a game is tied and is called at the completion of the fifth inning or any complete inning thereafter, it will be continued under the provisions of Rule 4-2-3 as a suspended game.
• 4-3-1. Suspended games procedure (see s.106.04).
• 4-5-1. The decisions of the game officials are final. No protests will be allowed.
• 6-1-1. Prior to starting the delivery (pitch), the pitcher shall take a position with the pivot foot on or partially on the top surface of the pitcher’s plate and the non-pivot foot in contact with the pitcher’s plate. Both feet must be on the ground within or partially within the 24-inch length of the pitcher’s plate.
• 6-1-2b. Once the hands are brought together and are in motion, the pitcher shall not take more than one step which must be forward, toward the batter and simultaneous with the delivery.

(b) The following modifications to National Federation Rules HAVE NOT been adopted by the FHSAA Board of Directors:

• 4-2-3 Note 2. Game-ending procedures.
• 4-2-6. Game-ending procedures (tie-breaker).

4.11.1.1.2 Pitching Warm-Up Areas. Warm-up areas inside the field are allowed provided the field has 25 feet or more from the foul line to the fence. All players (pitcher, catcher, protective player) must wear helmets, and an assistant coach or player must be present to protect the pitcher/catcher while the pitcher is warming up. Exception: A pitcher who is facing the field of play and can see all action may elect not to wear the helmet.

4.11.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.11.2.1 District Meeting

4.11.2.1.1 Date. Tuesday of Week 10 through Friday of Week 11

4.11.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.11.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.11.2.2.1 District Tournaments

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

(1) Dates. Monday through Friday of Week 42
(2) Time Schedule. The championship game shall be played on Thursday or Friday of each respective tournament week. Each district will determine its own dates of competition and time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting.

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

4.11.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments
(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. 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. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.
(b) Dates and Time Schedule. Regional tournaments shall be played during Weeks 43 through 45 on the following dates:
   • Quarterfinals – Wednesday of Week 43 for the odd classes and Thursday of Week 43 for the even classes
   • Semifinals – Tuesday of Week 44
   • Finals – Friday of Week 44
   Times for all regional tournament games must be 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. local time. If, however, a school is serving as host for both a baseball and softball Regional Tournament game, the game times may be staggered. Exceptions must be presented in writing and approved by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

4.11.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships
(a) Dates. The FHSAA Softball Finals shall be played Wednesday through Saturday of Week 45.
(b) Schedule. The Finals schedule will be posted on the FHSAA Website.
(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.

4.11.2.2.4 Advancement of Winners
(a) District to Regional. The champion and runner-up from each of the 16 district tournaments shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned.
(b) Regional to Florida High School State Championships. The champion from each of the four regional tournaments in each classification shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

4.11.2.3 Tournament Regulations
4.11.2.3.1 Squads
(a) Player Limit. Each participating school shall be allowed a maximum of 20 players in uniform for each tournament game. Uniformed players, coaches and team managers will be admitted to tournament games free of charge.
(b) Florida High School State Championships. The number of field passes for participating teams shall not exceed the number of uniformed players plus eight to be used by coaches, managers, statisticians, trainers, medical personnel, administrators, etc.

4.11.2.3.2 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures. A pregame warm-up period of 15 minutes will be permitted prior to each game in the FHSAA Softball Playoffs for infield practice. Infield practice may be reduced or eliminated due to existing field conditions. No batting practice will be permitted on the playing field.
4.12 Swimming & Diving

Administrator: Kellie Doucette, ext. 450, kdoucette@fhsaa.org

4.12.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.12.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.12.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Swimming & Diving Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all swimming & diving meets, including the Florida High School State Championships meets. The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- Whistles: The use of whistles as preparatory commands is the method for all starts at all levels of competition.
- 1-3-14, 3-2-3. Declared false starts: During Florida High School State Championships events, no declared false starts are permitted.
- 2-3-1, 2-7-2. Water depth: In pools with a water depth at the starting end of less than five (5) feet, the start for all swimming events for all contestants must begin in the water. There will be no variances. In pools with a water depth of five (5) feet or more, starting platforms may be used in accordance with NFHS rules.
- 3-1-2. Entries by team in dual meets: Each team will be allowed a maximum of two entries per individual event and two relay events in a pool with five lanes or less; a maximum of three entries per individual event and one relay event in a pool with six or seven lanes; and a maximum of four entries per individual event and two relay events in a pool with eight lanes or more. Only two relay teams may score for each team in each relay event.
- 3-2-1. Entries by individual: A competitor will be permitted to enter a maximum of four (4) events, no more than two (2) of which may be individual events. Prelims and finals are considered the same event. If, however, a swimmer competes in only three (3) events in prelims, he/she could compete in those three events as well as an additional relay in finals provided he/she was designated on that relay entry card.
- 3-2-1(a). Exhibitions: Exhibition swimming & diving and/or practice diving during a meet is allowed if all head coaches involved in the meet agree, and determine which events will be exhibition swims. The athletes must be eligible and compliant with FHSAA rules and regulations.
- 3-2-3. Relay card procedures: Relay athletes are to be listed left to right in the order that they will swim. Relay teams are to present completed card to the lane timer at the time of the swim. Names may not be added after preliminary heats have been completed. Only the names listed on the prelim card (up to 8) are eligible to swim in the finals.
- 3-3-1. Uniforms: Any uniform that is used by a swimmer must cover ALL of the buttocks and must be made of a material that does not become transparent when wet. Any competitor in violation of this rule will not be allowed to enter into competition until the offending attire is replaced. If a competitor is found in violation of this rule after entering an event, the competitor will be disqualified from that event and will not be allowed to participate further until the offending attire is replaced.
- 3-3-3. Swimmers with Disabilities: A competitor with a disability may request specific accommodation(s) in the start, strokes, turns etc. which does not require equipment, providing the accommodation(s) does not fundamentally alter the sport and/or no advantage is gained. Disability is defined as a permanent physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The Referee has the authority to modify the rules for the competitor. Requests for accommodations that are not provided for in this section shall be requested through the FHSAA Office per NFHS Rule 3-3-3.

(a) Responsibilities.

- Swimmer — The swimmer (or the swimmer’s coach) is responsible for notifying the Referee, prior to the competition, of any disability of the swimmer. The swimmer/coach shall provide any assistant(s) or equipment (tappers, deck mats, etc.) if required.
- Referee — The Referee’s responsibilities include:
- Inquiring with regard to the swimmer’s needs and determining what modifications will be utilized.
- Instructing the Starter and Stroke & Turn officials as to the accommodations to be made for that swimmer.

(b) Modifications. Some of the modifications which the Referee may make to accommodate the swimmer with a disability are:

- A change in starting position.
- Reassignment of lanes within a heat, e.g., exchanging Lanes 2 and 7.
- Allowing the swimmer’s assistant(s) on the deck or in the water to assist with a start. Other allowable modifications are further described in this section under the type of disability.

(c) Use of ID card for swimmers with a disability. All swimmers with a disability, who have an International Paralympics Committee authorized classification, will be issued an ID card listing their specific International Paralympics Committee swimming rule exceptions on the reverse of the card. Swimmers shall be judged under these specific exceptions, when documentation is presented.
(d) Blind and visually impaired.

- Start — With an audible starting system, no modification is usually required for a blind or visually-impaired swimmer. They may, however, require assistance getting to and on the block. Should they feel insecure starting from the block or deck, an in-the-water start may be allowed.

- Turns and Finishes — A blind or visually-impaired swimmer is permitted to have a “tapper”, which is a pole with a soft-tipped end. The swimmer is tapped with the “tapper” as notification of turns and the finish. Sound devices shall not be used. It is the swimmer’s responsibility to provide the tapper(s) and operator(s), who shall be positioned within the confines of the swimmer’s lane at the ends of the pool.

- Relay Take-Offs — A physical touch may be required to signal the relay swimmer when his/her teammate has touched the wall. The specific method may be tailored to the swimmer’s preference so long as it does not aid the swimmer’s take-off or interfere with the timing.

(e) Deaf and hard of hearing.

- Deaf and hard of hearing swimmers may require a visual starting signal, i.e., a strobe light (when available) and/or Starter’s arm signals. The Referee may reassign lanes within the swimmer’s heat, i.e., exchanging one lane for another, so that the strobe light or Starter’s arm signal can more readily be seen by the deaf or hard of hearing swimmer. Standard Starter’s arm signals are shown in Figure 1. A recall rope is required in the event of a heat being recalled.

- Strobe light location (when available) — The Starter shall advise the swimmers about the location of the strobe light and the light shall be located where the swimmers can clearly see it for the start. For backstroke starts, the light should be positioned so that the swimmers don’t have to turn their heads to look backwards.

(f) Mentally impaired. A deck or in-the-water start is allowable and the swimmer may be permitted to have an assistant on the deck when necessary. No other specific rule modifications are required other than patience and clarity in communicating instructions.

(g) Physical disabilities.

- Start — Swimmers with physical disabilities: May take longer to assume their starting position;
- May not be able to hold onto the starting grips or gutter for a start;
- May need assistance on the deck or from in the water to maintain a starting position;
- May need to assume a modified starting position on the blocks, deck, gutter or in the water in order to maintain their balance.

- For freestyle, breaststroke and butterfly, a forward start (facing the course) shall be used. The Referee, however, may allow modifications such as the following:
  - The swimmer may start from a sitting position on the block or on the deck;
  - The swimmer may assume a starting position in the water, with or without assistance;
  - If the swimmer cannot use a hand and/or foot to maintain contact with the wall, some other part of the body may be used.

- For breaststroke and butterfly, after the start and after each turn, a swimmer who is unable to push off with the leg(s) may perform one asymmetrical stroke to attain the breast position.

- Stroke/Kick — In judging the stroke or kick of a swimmer with a physical disability, the Referee and Stroke &Turn Judge should follow the general rule that: if a part of the body is absent or cannot be used, it is not judged; if it is used during the stroke or kick, it should be judged in accordance with the NFHS rules and Regulations. Judgments should be based on the actual rule — not on the swimmer’s technique. For example, the breaststroke swimmer with one arm or leg shorter than the other, may have a non-symmetrical stroke or kick, but as long as the arm or leg action is simultaneous, it would meet that portion of the rule. No flotation devices should be permitted.

- Turn/Finishes — Touches shall be judged in the same manner as strokes and kicks, i.e., on the basis of the arm(s) and/or hand(s) that the swimmer can use. In breaststroke and butterfly events, the swimmer must reach forward as if attempting a simultaneous two-hand touch. When a swimmer has a different arm length, only the longer arm must touch the wall, but both arms must be stretched forward simultaneously. Swimmers with no arms or with upper limbs too short to stretch above the head may touch the wall with any part of the upper body.

- Relays — Relay swimmers who cannot exit the water immediately may be allowed to remain in the lane until all relays have finished so long as they do not interfere with the other swimmers or the timing equipment.

- 5-4-5. Alternate Qualifiers: The next two highest non-qualifiers shall be named in order to guarantee a full complement of finalists. Alternate qualifiers shall be used provided there is no delay in the meet. During the Florida High School State Championships, these alternates may be moved into the consolation finals. The final heats may be reseeded if the meet referee is notified prior to a lane vacancy and if time permits. Alternate qualifiers are not considered for advancement between the different levels of the Florida High School State Championships.
• 8-1-1.2. Starts: All FHSAA events will utilize the NFHS Suggested Guidelines for Starters’ Protocol for whistle starts.
• 8-1-6. No Recall Procedures: No Recall Start Procedures will be conducted during all FHSAA swimming events. Meets are to be conducted according to the following protocol:

(a) One Official.

The official shall:

• Upon observing a false start, raise a hand with open palm as soon as possible after the start, but before the swimmers have completed their first length, indicating the violation.
• At the completion of the race, s/he shall notify the swimmer(s) and/or coach(es) of the disqualification.

(b) Dual Confirmation.

The referee shall:

• Upon observing a false start, record in writing the lane or lanes that have committed a false start.
• Compare written records with the starter and, upon confirming that both have observed the same violation, will disqualify the swimmer(s). S/he will also notify the swimmer(s) and/or coach(es) of the violation.
• The starter shall:
• Upon observing a false start, record in writing the lane or lanes that have committed a false start.
• Compare written records with the referee to confirm/not confirm the potential violation(s).

(c) Recalling the Entire Heat. The starter/referee may recall the entire heat:

• When the start is such that the starter/referee is not satisfied that the race was properly begun, it is always permissible for the starter/referee to recall the entire heat.
• It is not necessary to charge any swimmer with a false start under these conditions, although that may also occur.
• Things that negatively affect the start (such as a loud noise just as the starting signal is given that affects one or more swimmers) should be part of any starter’s awareness when commencing a race.

4.12.1.1.2 Order of Events. The order of events for all meets shall be the 200-yard medley relay, 200-yard freestyle, 200-yard individual medley, 50-yard freestyle, One-meter Diving, 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard freestyle, 500-yard freestyle, 200-yard freestyle relay, 100-yard backstroke, 100-yard breaststroke, 400-yard freestyle relay.

The Diving event may be the first event in the competition by prior mutual consent of competing teams.

4.12.1.1.3 Diving Competition. There shall be no minimum total degree of difficulty for optional dives. The degree of difficulty for all dives is listed in the NFHS Swimming & Diving Rules Book.

• NFHS Rule 9-4-6: Voluntary Dive Groups. The voluntary dive groups and the corresponding calendar week for the FHSAA Regular Season are as follows: Week 1 Forward; Week 2 Back; Week 3 Inward; Week 4 Twisting; Week 5 Reverse. In the case of a regular season meet that is postponed and subsequently rescheduled, the voluntary dive group that is required for the calendar week that the meet is rescheduled will be used. If additional meets occur after Week 5, please revert back to Week 1.

4.12.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.12.2.1 District Meeting

4.12.2.1.1 Date. Monday through Friday of Week 8

4.12.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting and reflected in the minutes:

• Select host school, site and determine time schedule. (Note: If using alternate sites, one school must be selected as the host and be responsible for submitting all required reports at the conclusion of the district tournament with FHSAA policies.) The host school must be willing and able to use the scoring system approved by the Executive Director to conduct the district meet. The host must also submit the “District Home Information Sheet” within 48 hours of the meeting.
• Determine deadline for seeding report form if different from the recommended FHSAA deadline.

4.12.2.2 Meet Structure and Time Schedules

4.12.2.2.1 District Meets

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

(1) Dates. 1A & 2A - Week 18; 3A & 4A - Week 17
(2) Time Schedule. Each district will determine the time schedule for its meet at the district meeting. No district may begin preliminary competition earlier than 9 a.m. All district meets are timed finals.
(3) Site. Each district will determine a site for its meet at the district planning meeting.
(4) Seeding. Seeding information is due to the district host Monday of Week 16 for 3A/4A and Week 17 for 1A/2A unless determined otherwise at the district planning meeting. Use the “District Meet Seeding Report Form” (Form SW3 on the FHSAA Swimming & Diving page) for this purpose, or submit entries through the scoring system approved by the Executive Director via e-mail. All entries must be typed. No hand-written entries will be accepted.

(b) Coaches Meeting. A pre-meet coaches meeting shall be held prior to the start of the district meet to cover items of information or rulings that are necessary for the administration of the meet. This meeting is not a seeding meeting, and no entries shall be accepted at this time. Contestants may be withdrawn (scratched) from the meet by their coaches at this time by notifying the meet manager. Contestants scratched at this time shall be disqualified from participating in the meet. No substitutions are permitted. Coaches must make every effort to review the listing of contestants in each event to ensure that each of their contestants is properly entered and that each name is correct.

(c) Officials. The FHSAA requires the meet referee to be an FHSAA registered official at District competitions.

4.12.2.2.2 Regional Meets

(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. Districts 1 through 3 will comprise the Region 1 complex, Districts 4 through 6 will comprise the Region 2 complex, Districts 7 through 9 will comprise the Region 3 complex, and Districts 10 through 12 will comprise the Region 4 complex.

(b) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

1. Dates. 1A & 2A - Week 19; 3A & 4A - Week 18

2. Time Schedule. Each region host has predetermined the time schedule for its meet. Please visit FHSAA.org for the most current information. All region meets are timed finals.


4. Invitations to Host. Preference shall be given to those prospective hosts who have access to and ability to use the scoring system approved by the Executive Director.

(c) Officials. The FHSAA requires the meet referee to be an FHSAA registered official at Regional competitions.

(d) In the event a region meet does not occur, times from the district meets will be used to advance the swimmers to the state finals.

4.12.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships

(a) Dates. The FHSAA Swimming & Diving Finals state meet shall be held on Thursday through Saturday of Weeks 19 and 20.

The order of state championship competition shall rotate according to classification each year as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 4A</td>
<td>Class 1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3A</td>
<td>Class 2A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class 2A</td>
<td>Class 3A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 1A</td>
<td>Class 4A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Time Schedule. The Florida High School State Championships time schedule will be posted on the FHSAA Website:

(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 the event.

4.12.2.2.4 Advancement of Teams and Individuals

(a) District to Regional.

1. Swimming Events. Twenty-four (24) contestants shall advance from district meets to the correlating regional meets in each individual event in swimming competition as follows: the top two (2) finishers in each swimming event from each district meet as well as the next overall best times at large for a field of 24 from the remaining best times among top sixteen (16) finishers in the district meets comprising the region. In the event of a tie for the last at-large qualifying place to the regional meet, all of the competitors tied shall be allowed to advance to the regional meet.

2. Relay Events. Sixteen (16) teams shall advance from district meets to the correlating regional meets in each relay event in swimming competition as follows: the top finisher in each relay event from each district meet as well as the next overall best times at large for a field of 16 from the remaining best times among top eight finishers in the district meets comprising the region.

3. Diving Competition. Twenty-four (24) contestants may advance from district meets to the correlating regional meets in diving competition as follows: the first two (2) places in diving competition from each district meet, provided the diver has a minimum qualifying score of 280.0 points in district competition. Any remaining available spaces shall be filled on an at-large basis from all competing divers who placed in the top sixteen (16) in their
unless Championships meet as an individual is expected to compete on successive levels of the Florida High School State Championships in that region have reported their results.

(4) Qualifying times/scores for at-large entries into the regional meet will be posted on FHSAA.org after all districts
injured,

(5) Relay teams qualify from the district meet to the regional meet as a team, not as individuals.

(6) Any eligible swimmer whose name appears on an official entry list may swim on a relay team provided the
swimmer’s name also is entered on the relay card.

(b) Regional to Florida High School State Championships.

(1) Swimming Events. Twenty-four (24) contestants shall advance from regional meets to the Florida High School
State Championships in each individual event in swimming competition as follows: the top two (2) finishers
in each swimming event from each regional meet as well as the next overall best times at large for a field of 24
from the remaining best times among top sixteen (16) finishers in the four regional meets. In the event of a tie
for the last at-large qualifying place to the Florida High School State Championships, all of the competitors tied
shall be allowed to advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

(2) Relay Events. Sixteen (16) teams shall advance from regional meets to the Florida High School State Championships
in each relay event in swimming competition as follows: the top finisher in each relay event from each regional
meet as well as the next overall best times at large for a field of 16 from the remaining best times among top
eight finishers in the regional meets.

(3) Diving Competition. Twenty-four (24) contestants may advance from regional meets to the Florida High School
State Championships in diving competition as follows: the first two (2) places in diving competition from each
regional meet, provided the diver has a minimum qualifying score of 280.0 points in regional competition. Any
remaining available spaces shall be filled on an at-large basis from all competing divers who placed in the top
sixteen (16) in their respective regional meets and met the minimum qualifying score of 280.0 points for a field
of 24. In the event of a tie for the last at-large qualifying place to the Florida High School State Championships,
all of the competitors tied shall be allowed to advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

(4) Qualifying times/scores for at-large entries into the Florida High School State Championships will be posted on
FHSAA.org.

(5) Relay teams qualify from the regional meet to the Florida High School State Championships as a team, not as
individuals.

(6) Any eligible swimmer whose name appears on an official entry list may swim on a relay team provided the
swimmer’s name also is entered on the relay card.

4.12.2.3 Meet Regulations

4.12.2.3.1 General

(a) Pools. An eight (8)-lane pool, with adequate warm-up and warm-down lanes, is preferred for all Florida High School
State Championships meets.

(b) Athletic Trainers. The presence of a certified athletic trainer or medical staff is recommended for all Florida High School
State Championships meets.

(c) Squads.

(1) Scratched Contestant. A contestant who is entered into an individual event in the FHSAA State Swimming &
Diving Series on any level and is later scratched from that event will be disqualified from participating in all
remaining events in that meet and as an individual on succeeding levels in that event.

(2) Substitutions. No substitution may be made for any individual in any event, once entered, who qualifies to
participate in an event but is unable to compete. This applies to individuals who qualify from the district meet
to the regional meet and from the regional meet to the Florida High School State Championships, and between
the prelims and the finals on any level.

(3) Relay Personnel. Relay personnel may be changed between the district and regional meets, between the regional
meet and the Florida High School State Championships, and between the prelims and finals on any level as long
as such change is made in compliance with procedures established by the FHSAA and does not result in an over
entry.

(4) Ties. In swimming events, all ties in preliminaries which would result in more than eight qualifiers to the
consolation or championship finals must be broken by a swim-off.

4.12.2.3.2 Failure to Appear and Compete. A student-athlete who qualifies in a Florida High School State
Championships meet as an individual is expected to compete on successive levels of the Florida High School State Championships
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 Championships in that sport. Personnel on relay teams may be changed in accordance with the rules governing those sports. A school must submit in writing to the FHSAA Office the name of the student-athlete and an explanation for the inability to compete in advance of the competition whenever situations make it possible to do so. Failure to participate in the district/regional meet by an individual or relay team is a violation of FHSAA policy and shall subject the school to a $50 penalty unless the reason for failure to participate is approved by the FHSAA Office. A student-athlete who qualifies in a Florida High School State Championships meet is expected to compete on successive levels of the Florida High School State Championships unless ill, injured, suspended due to disciplinary action, or for any other reason acceptable to the Executive Director. 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.

4.12.2.3.3 Meet Committee. A meet committee will be appointed by the meet manager in accordance with NFHS Rule 4-1-1 at each district and regional meet and the Florida High School State Championships. The meet committee will consist of five coaches and/or athletic directors from five different participating schools. This committee will serve as a jury of appeals. When acting as a jury of appeals, a member of this committee whose team or individual contestant is a party to an appeal must recuse himself/herself and be replaced until the appeal is concluded. The request for an appeal shall be directed to the meet committee through the meet manager. The decision of the meet committee shall be final. The meet committee may not set aside any rule.

4.12.2.3.4 Meet Management Software. Each district shall use the scoring system approved by the Executive Director to score its meet and transmit results to the FHSAA Office. The school names and abbreviations developed by the FHSAA Office (see 4.12.4) shall be used when entering competitors into the computer. Hy-Tek School Abbreviations for Swimming & Diving can be found on the FHSAA Website.

4.12.2.3.5 Order of Events. The order of events as listed in s.4.12.1.3 shall be followed in all Florida High School State Championships meets. Girls events will precede the corresponding boys events, with the exception of diving competitions at the Florida High School State Championships, which shall be rotated annually.

4.12.2.3.6 Participant Passes
(a) Each participant will be stamped with a waterproof stamp upon arrival to the facility. In addition, for those schools that have qualifiers for the Florida High School State Championships, coaches will be issued wristbands separately for girls and boys competition as follows:
   • One to five participants – one head coach
   • Six or more participants – one head coach and one assistant coach

In addition, schools that qualify diving competitors will be provided one additional wristband for a diving coach.
(b) No managers will receive participant passes.
(c) Participant and coach wristbands will not be transferable and will entitle those persons who receive such passes to sit only in the participant seating area. Coaches will not have access to the locker rooms at any time.

4.12.2.3.7 Scoring. Florida High School State Championships meets shall be scored in accordance with NFHS Rule 7. Sixteen (16) places shall be scored at district meets, regional meets and the Florida High School State Championships. Places 1-8 shall come from the championship finals and places 9-16 from the consolation finals.

4.12.2.3.8 Timing Devices.
(a) District/Regional Meets. Electronic timing devices must be used in District/Regional Meets.
(b) Florida High School State Championships. The use of an electronic timing device at the Florida High School State Championships is mandatory.

4.12.2.3.9 Podium Attire. Any student-athlete who receives a medal at the state finals must wear attire representing his/her school while on the podium (warm-up suit, t-shirt and shorts, sweatshirt, etc.).
4.13 Tennis
Administrator: Will Adams, ext. 470, wadams@fhsaa.org

4.13.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.13.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.13.1.1.1 Competition Rules. United States Tennis Association (USTA) Amateur Tennis Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all tennis matches, except where it may be necessary to apply local rules due to circumstances or unforeseen conditions. To download a USTA “Friend at Court” rules book, see the link online at: http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/Officials/Officials/.

4.13.1.1.2 Match Format

(a) A team match must consist of five (5) singles matches and two (2) doubles matches. Singles matches must be listed as Divisions 1 through 5. Doubles matches must be listed as Divisions 1 and 2. Doubles matches may be played before singles if mutually agreed upon by the head coaches. The first team to win four (4) matches is declared the winner.

(b) Each singles match and doubles match will be determined by the best two-of-three (2-of-3) sets. The advantage point system will be used to determine matches. An individual or doubles team that wins six games and is leading by two games will be declared the winner of the set. A traditional (not Conan) 7-point set tie-break will be used when individuals or doubles teams wins six games in any set. The first individual or doubles team to reach seven points and is leading by two points will be declared the winner of the set. A 10-minute rest period is mandatory between the second and third sets in all matches that require a third set to be played. Players requesting new balls for a third set must furnish the new balls.

(c) If facilities are inadequate or time is a factor, a pro set may be substituted by mutual agreement of both coaches. The winner will be required to win by two or more games (i.e. 8-6, 9-7, etc.). Schools may agree prior to the start of the pro-set match to use a deciding Match Tie-Break (10 points, win by two) when games are tied at eight-all.

(d) Each school must enter its players in matches according to their established rank and position on the team. Stacking is not permitted. If the No. 1 singles player participates in doubles, he/she must play on the No. 1 doubles team. Players who participate in doubles only will be permitted to compete during regular season matches and invitational tournaments. A written singles lineup (Form TN1) must be exchanged between coaches prior to the start of the match. Players must play in order of ability. The line-up must always be based on order of ability. “Matching up” is prohibited. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing at the No. 1 position, the second best at No. 2 and so on through all positions. In case of injury, sickness, or absence, all players must move up. This rule will apply to doubles play with the strongest doubles team at No. 1, etc. No changes shall be made after the lineups have been exchanged and the first ball has been played, including warm-ups.

(e) When a school does not have five singles players, it shall forfeit singles matches beginning with Division 5 and proceeding upward to Division 1. (Example: If a school has only four singles players, it shall forfeit the Division 5 singles match; if a school has only three singles players, it shall forfeit the Division 4 and 5 singles matches; if a school has only two singles players, it shall forfeit the Division 3, 4 and 5 singles matches; if a school has only one singles player, it shall forfeit the Division 2, 3, 4 and 5 singles matches.) When a school does not have two doubles teams, it shall forfeit doubles matches beginning with Division 2 and proceeding upward to Division 1. (Example: If a school has only one doubles team, it shall forfeit the Division 2 doubles match).

(f) Exhibition or practice play during a match is strictly prohibited. Only those students who are properly entered shall participate in a match. This does not prohibit the playing of junior varsity matches in conjunction with a varsity match.

4.13.1.1.3 Coaching & Advice During Competition. The head coach may communicate with his/her player(s) through the fence but must not enter the court. Communication must not delay or interfere with the continuation of play. Coaching by other players, assistant coaches, parents or spectators during play and between games or sets during a match is prohibited. In circumstances where two sites are simultaneously used for competition, the head coach may designate an assistant coach to serve as the “acting head coach” at one of the sites. The head coach must identify this individual to the tournament manager or host school.

4.13.1.1.4 Code of Conduct. A player who is defaulted from a match due to unsporting conduct must be reported by the event manager to the FHSAA Office using the “Unsporting Conduct Incident Report” (Form AT6). The provisions of the FHSAA “Policy on Unsporting Conduct” will apply. The home or host school will be in charge of the match or tournament and the administration of the Code of Conduct. Both coaches in each match must monitor the match for violations of this Code of Conduct, and must ensure the proper conduct of his/her players. Players leaving the court area for an unauthorized reason is not permitted. If a USTA official is present, the player may not leave the playing area without the official’s permission. In matches without an official, the player must secure the permission of the coach to leave the playing area. Only a coach or USTA-certified official should be used to officiate a disputed match. Parents should never be placed in this capacity. If neither coach witnesses the unsporting behavior of a player, it will be reported to the offending player’s coach and a warning will be issued. The following acts constitute improper conduct and will be penalized as indicated:
(a) Any of the following offenses (1 - 5), either singly or collectively, results in a penalty point; a second offense results in a game penalty; a third offense results in a default:
   (1) Visible or audible profanity;
   (2) Racket abuse;
   (3) Ball abuse;
   (4) Coaching by parents or spectators.
   (5) Leaving the playing area for an unauthorized reason.
(b) Any of the following offenses (1 - 4) results in an automatic default:
   (1) Throwing racket at opponent;
   (2) Profanity directed at opponent;
   (3) Ball hit at opponent;
   (4) Physical abuse of opponent.

Carry-over of code violations occurring after a match is over to player’s next match:
(c) If a player commits a code violation after his singles match is over, the penalty shall be assessed:
   (1) at the start of his next singles match; but
   (2) if he has been eliminated from all singles competitions, then the penalty will be assessed at the start of his next doubles match.
(d) If a player commits a code violation after his doubles match is over, the penalty shall be assessed:
   (1) at the start of his next doubles match; but
   (2) if he has been eliminated from all doubles competitions, then the penalty will be assessed at the start of his next singles match. (Note that in this case the penalty will be assessed against only the player who committed the violation and not against both team members.)

4.13.1.4.5 Attire
(a) Players and coaches must be in proper attire at all times at the match site. Players must wear appropriate tennis apparel. During regular season competition only, all members of a team shall begin their respective matches dressed in shirts (i.e. collared tennis shirts, T-shirts, etc.), or one-piece outfits for girls, which are similar in color and style, so as to identify them as members of their school’s team. Boys are permitted to wear sleeveless “Nadal-style” tennis shirts. Players may change shirts between games and at the end of a match. Otherwise, shirts must be worn at all times while at the match site.
(b) Caps, hats or visors may be worn. Headbands made of cloth, elastic fiber or rubber are also permissible provided they are unadorned and no wider than two (2) inches. Bandannas worn as head coverings are not permitted.
(c) Prohibited apparel includes compression shorts worn as the uniform bottom, tank tops for boys and shirts which leave the midriff exposed. Also prohibited is any item of clothing, including headwear, on which profane or otherwise vulgar slogans or artwork is displayed, or on which slogans or artwork promoting or condoning the use of drugs or alcohol is displayed. Commercial advertising, with the exception of the manufacturer’s logo as permitted by USTA rules, is prohibited on all athletic uniforms.
(d) A player whose attire is in violation of these provisions will cause his/her school to be assessed a financial penalty by the FHSAA Office.

4.13.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures
4.13.2.1 District Meeting
4.13.2.1.1 Date. Monday through Friday of Week 28
4.13.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:
   • Establish date and time for pre-tournament coaches meeting at which brackets will be drawn and tournament draw will be made.
   • Determine playoff site if a tie for the district championship exists at the conclusion of the tournament.
   • Determine if USTA-certified officials should be used and set their compensation. It is recommended, but not required, that districts secure USTA-certified officials for their tournaments. Please contact USTA-certified officials well in advance to allow for planning. Contact information can be found in 4.13.4
   • Review all new FHSAA regulations pertaining to regular season and FHSAA State Tennis Series competition.
4.13.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules
4.13.2.2.1 District Tournaments
(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.
(1) Dates. Monday through Friday of Week 40.
(2) Time Schedule. To be determined at district meeting.
(3) Site. To be selected at the district meeting.

(b) Sub-District Tournaments. Sub-district tournaments are part of the district tournament and are subject to all regulations pertaining to district tournaments. Sub-district tournaments may be played during the dates of the district tournament. If a sub-district tournament is to be played, the team winner, Division 1 singles winner and Division 1 doubles winner from each sub-district will advance to the district tournament finals to compete for the district championship in the respective categories. Division 1 Singles winners and Division 1 Doubles winners will compete for individual championships unless those championships are determined during the team championship match.

(c) Seeding and Bracketing. See district tournament bracket online at FHSAA.org. Each district will seed and bracket its district tournament at a pre-tournament meeting of coaches in accordance with the procedure approved at the district tournament planning meeting. Players will be seeded in all divisions. Criteria for seeding will include a player’s record in regular season team and tournament play, and his/her position in the most current Tennisrecruiting.net rankings. Documentation such as current USTA Florida sectional/state rankings, USA national rankings and international (ITF) rankings must be provided by the coach to validate credentials of players for seeding. Other rankings to be considered are:
1. International (ITF)
2. National (USA)
3. Sectional/State (Florida)
The results of head-to-head matches, with the second match taking precedence in cases of a split, and dual-team match records will be used. When all listed criteria for seeding has been exhausted, a vote of the coaches present will determine seeding. Schools must enter their players in divisions according to their established rank on the team and position played in team matches during the regular season. Stacking is not permitted. Players must play in order of ability. The line-up must always be based on order of ability. “Matching up” is prohibited. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing at the No. 1 position, the second best at No. 2 and so on through all positions. In case of injury, sickness, or absence, all players must move up. This rule will apply to doubles play with the strongest doubles team at No. 1, etc. Each participating school must be represented at the meeting so that seeding can be accomplished. The only exception will be in case of an emergency which prevents the representative of a school from being present. The local director will determine the seriousness of the emergency, if possible. If he/she cannot arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, the matter will be referred to the FHSAA Office.

(d) Officials. USTA-certified officials are recommended, but not required, for all district tournaments. Contact information can be found in 4.13.4. Only a coach or USTA-certified official should be used to officiate a disputed match. Parents should never be placed in this capacity.

4.13.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments
(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in two rounds of one-day, dual team regional matches in each classification. Districts 1 and 2 will comprise the Region 1 complex, Districts 3 and 4 the Region 2 complex, Districts 5 and 6 the Region 3 complex, and Districts 7 and 8 the Region 4 complex, Districts 9 and 10 the Region 5 complex, Districts 11 and 12 the Region 6 complex, Districts 13 and 14 the Region 7 complex, and Districts 15 and 16 the Region 8 complex. Two regional matches will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Dates. The regional semifinal match will be Tuesday of Week 41 and the regional final match will be Thursday of Week 41. All regional matches will begin at 3 p.m. local time unless a time change is approved by the Executive Director or his/her designee.

(c) Sites. One of the two competing schools will serve as the host school for each regional match. In the regional semifinal match, the champion of odd-numbered districts will host the runners-up from their neighboring even-numbered districts, and vice versa. In the regional final match, the champion of the even-numbered district will serve as host to the champion of the odd-numbered district, except that when a district champion plays a district runner-up, the district champion always shall be designated the host school. If two district runners-up advance, the district runner-up of the even-numbered district will serve as host to the champion of the odd-numbered district. Hard surface or clay courts may be used to host a region match. The visiting school should be notified which playing surface will be used.

(d) Format. The match will be played as a dual-team match in accordance with the provisions of 4.13.1.1.2. Prior to the start of the match, the head coaches must discuss the conclusion of the remaining matches once the winning school is decided. If an agreement cannot be reached on the remaining matches then the match is concluded. The head coaches of the two schools involved will exchange copies of their Official Entry Lists prior to the start of the match. The host school will be responsible for providing cans of balls for the match, unless otherwise agreed upon by both schools.

(e) Officials. A USTA-certified official is recommended for all regional matches. Contact information can be found in 4.13.4. Only a coach or USTA-certified official should be used to officiate a disputed match. Parents should never be placed in this capacity.
4.13.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships

(a) Dates. The FHSAA Tennis Finals will be held during the week of Monday through Friday of Week 42. Tournament information will be announced on FHSAA.org.

(b) Time Schedule. The Florida High School State Championships in each classification will be run according to the following general time schedule (all times listed are tentative and subject to change due to inclement weather or facility adjustments). Check FHSAA.org for specific time schedules for each classification.
   - Day 1 – Seeding meetings: girls team, 5:30 p.m.; boys team, 6:15 p.m.; girls individual, 7 p.m.; boys individual, 7:30 p.m.
   - Day 2 – Team coaches check in, 8 a.m.; first round team singles matches begin, 8 a.m.; individual singles contestants check in, 8 a.m.; first round individual singles matches begin when courts become available; individual doubles teams check in, 11 a.m.; first round individual doubles matches begin when courts become available.
   - Day 3 – Team singles finals begin, 8 a.m.; followed by team doubles semifinals and finals, individual singles finals, and individual doubles semifinals and finals.
   - Day 4 – Overall singles championship (Division 1 team winner vs. individual bracket winner) begins, 8 a.m.; followed by overall doubles championship (Division 1 team winner vs. individual bracket winner).

(c) Seeding and Bracketing. A tournament committee will meet prior to the start of the Florida High School State Championships in each classification to seed and conduct the draw for its respective tournament. The head coach of each participating team or individual player is required to attend the appropriate meeting. Each school with an entry in the Florida High School State Championships will be entitled to one representative on the committee.

(1) Players will be seeded in all divisions in the team bracket, as well as in the individual singles and doubles bracket. Criteria for seeding will include a player’s record in regular season team and tournament play, and his/her position in the most current Tennisrecruiting.net rankings and the USTA Florida Tennis state rankings. The results of head-to-head matches, with the second match taking precedence in cases of a split, and dual-team match records will be used. The committee will also have the option to review any USA National ranking worthy of consideration. When all listed criteria for seeding has been exhausted, a vote of the coaches present will determine seeding. Documentation such as current USTA Florida Tennis rankings, USA national rankings and international rankings must be provided to validate credentials of players for seeding (see FHSAA.org for a sample bracket).

(2) Team competition will be set up on an eight-line bracket. Seeding and bracketing for individual singles and doubles competition will be based on the number of participants in the individual portion of the tournament (see FHSAA.org for a sample bracket).

(3) The winners of the Division 1 singles bracket and Division 1 doubles bracket in team competition, and the winners of the singles bracket and doubles bracket in individual competition, in each classification, will play following the conclusion of the team tournament for the overall individual singles and doubles championship in that classification.

4.13.2.2.4 Advancement of Teams and Individuals

(a) Teams.

(1) District Tournament to Regional Tournament. The team champion and runner-up from each of the 16 district tournaments in each classification will advance to one of the 16 regional semifinal matches to which they are assigned. When a tie for a district championship or runner-up position occurs between two or more teams which would result in more than two teams qualifying for the first regional match from that district, the tie must be broken by a playoff to be held by Friday of Week 40, at a site to be determined at the district tournament planning meeting. When two teams tie, the playoff must consist of five (5) singles matches and two (2) doubles matches. The playoff match is a continuation of the district tournament and the match line-up must remain the same. When three or more teams tie for the championship, a round-robin team tournament must be held to break the tie. Each player must play in his/her assigned position according to the Official Entry List. The winner of each match will earn one point for his/her team. Pro-sets must be used in any playoff. The winner will be required to win by two or more games (8-6, 9-7, etc.). No-adj scoring may be used if agreed upon by all coaches involved in the tie. A tie-break cannot be used.

The winner of the regional semifinal match shall advance to the regional final match.

(2) Regional Tournament to Florida High School State Championships. The winner of each of the eight regional final matches will advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

(b) Individuals. The Division 1 singles champion and the Division 1 doubles champion from each of the 16 district tournaments in each classification whose team does not advance to the Florida High School State Championships will advance to the individual bracket at the Florida High School State Championships in their respective classifications. There are no substitutions for the individual competition. There will be no individual competition at the regional level. Winners of the No. 1 singles and No. 1 doubles divisions in the Florida High School State Championships team
tournament will advance to play the winners of the individual singles and doubles brackets for the overall individual singles and doubles championships in the respective classifications.

To be eligible for individual honors on the state level, a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on the district level.

4.13.2.3 Tournament Regulations

4.13.2.3.1 Teams

(a) Player Limit. A team consists of five competing players. Each school will be permitted to enter a maximum of twelve (12) players—five players for singles competition and four players for doubles competition. If the No. 1 singles player participates in doubles competition he/she must compete as a member of the No. 1 doubles team. A school may enter individual participants in the singles and doubles competitions as per Section 4.13.1.1.2 in the divisions in which the participants competed in the regular season when the school cannot enter a team of five players; such players who are entered into singles and doubles division below Division 1, however, shall not be eligible to advance beyond the district tournament. Schools with less than five-member teams shall not be eligible for the team title.

(b) Line-up Changes. A player may not be substituted for after that player begins play (including warm-ups) in his/her first round singles or doubles match. Once play begins, the player must continue through the tournament or he/she will default. Stacking is not permitted. Players must play in order of ability. The line-up must always be based on order of ability. “Matching up” is prohibited. In singles, players must compete in order of ability with the best player on the team playing at the No. 1 position, the second best at No. 2 and so on through all positions. In case of injury, sickness, or absence, all players must move up. If a player is replaced due to injury, sickness, or absence, that player will be permitted to return to the line-up if the team advances to the next round of the Florida High School State Championships. Singles and doubles are treated separately with regard to the substitution regulation. To be eligible for individual honors on the state level, a student-athlete shall compete for individual honors on the district level.

(c) Match Limitations. A player will be allowed to play a per-day maximum of two (2) singles matches and one (1) doubles match; or two (2) doubles matches and one (1) singles match during competition in the FHSAA State Tennis Series.

4.13.2.3.2 Failure to Report. A player who fails to report to the tournament headquarters at the required time will default. Once times are posted for matches, the 15-minute rule for default shall be enforced.

4.13.2.3.3 Scoring. A player or doubles team will score one (1) point for his/her/their team for each match he/she/they win in the tournament. Players or doubles teams receiving first-round byes will score two (2) points upon winning a second-round match. Players or doubles teams with first-round byes who lose in the second round will score no points. In the event a player or doubles team is forced to default a match, the player or team winning by default will be awarded the point or points.

A 12-point tie-break will be used in matches in the FHSAA State Tennis Series. The first player to reach seven points and who is leading by two points during the tie-break will be declared the winner of the set.

4.13.2.3.4 Jury of Appeals. A Jury of Appeals consisting of three coaches and/or athletic directors from three different participating schools shall be appointed by the manager of each Florida High School State Championships event. A member of the Jury of Appeals whose team or individual contestant is a party to an appeal must recuse himself/herself and be replaced until the appeal is concluded. The decision of the Jury of Appeals shall be final. The Jury of Appeals shall not set aside any rule.

4.13.3 USTA Officials. The following is the regional director’s contact information for USTA-certified officials in Florida:

- **Region 1** (Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Hamilton, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Suwannee, Taylor, Wakulla, Walton, Washington): Paul Dirks Jr., Tallahassee; (850) 322-5689 (cell); bigbopper03@comcast.net.
- **Region 2** (Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Union): Bob Booth, Jacksonville; rgbooth@juno.com; (904) 514-5289 (cell).
- **Region 3** (Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Sumter): Kim Bonk, Lutz; kbonkem@msn.com; (813) 416-4176 (cell).
- **Region 4** (Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Volusia): Tammy Childs, Winter Springs; (407) 484-6199 (cell); tclove40@aol.com.
- **Region 5** (DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee, Sarasota): Tom Flint, Bradenton; (941) 727-4257 (business); dtflint@aol.com.
- **Region 6** (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie): Debra Dreker, Boca Raton; (561) 391-2987 (home); vdreker@aol.com.
- **Region 7** (Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee): Cathy Kennan (SWFLTOA) Fort Myers; (239) 233-9955 (cell); cathykennan@gmail.com. Collier contact: Joe Balavage, Naples; (239) 821-2296 (cell); joebal123@aol.com.com.
- **Region 8** (Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe): Agatha Taglienti, Coral Springs; (954) 755-2314 (home); fondi24@aol.com.
4.14 Track & Field
Administrator: Craig Damon, ext. 250, cdamon@fhsaa.org

4.14.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.14.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.14.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Track & Field Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all track and field meets. The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- 1-2-1 ORDER OF RUNNING EVENTS All meets will be limited to the following running events to be contested in order as listed: Girls – 4x800m relay, 100m high hurdles, 100m dash, 1600m run, 4x100m relay, 400m dash, 300m low hurdles, 800m run, 800 wheelchair race, 200m dash 200 wheelchair race, 3200m run, 4x400m relay; Boys – 4x800m relay, 110m high hurdles, 100m dash, 1600m run, 4x100m relay, 400m dash, 300m intermediate hurdles, 800m run, 800 wheelchair race, 200m dash, 200 wheelchair race, 3200m run, 4x400m relay. The 4x800m relay must be run during field event competition. The 4x200m relay may be run as an optional race during the regular season only.

- 1-2-2 Girls and boys track and field meets will be held concurrently. Girls running events must precede boys running events and must be run alternately.

- 1-2-3 ORDER OF FIELD EVENTS: All meets will be limited to the following field events: Girls – pole vault, shot put, wheelchair shot put class 1, wheelchair shot put class 2, high jump, long jump, triple jump, discus. Boys – discus, long jump, triple jump, shot put, wheelchair shot put class 1, wheelchair shot put class 2, pole vault and high jump.

- 4-2-1, 2 PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY LIMITATIONS: No student may enter or participate in more than four (4) events in any one meet. A relay event is a running event. Participation in the preliminaries of any event will count as an entry regardless of whether the student qualified for the finals in that event. If a student exceeds this limitation, the school which he/she represents must forfeit all points and places earned by the student in the meet, both individual points and places as well as those earned by any relay team on which the student was a member. No student may engage in exhibition or practice performances during a track and field meet. Only those students who are properly entered and eligible may participate in a track and field meet.

- 4-3-1 UNIFORMS: Competitors may wear a one-piece (singlet) or two-piece track & field uniform issued by the school. A male competitor must wear his jersey inside his shorts at all times. A female competitor must wear her jersey inside her shorts at all times, unless her jersey is designed to be worn outside the shorts. Jerseys designed to be worn outside the shorts must hang below the waistband of the shorts when standing erect. Competitors in violation of this rule will not be permitted to compete. The enforcement of this rule is the responsibility of the starter or event judge, but the ultimate responsibility for wearing the proper uniform rests with the team coach. Each contestant must have a permanently affixed number on the back of his/her jersey with numerals of color that contrast with the color of the jersey and is not less than three-quarters (3/4) inch wide. The number must be at least six inches high. Contestants on the same team may not wear identical numbers. However, athletes from the same school participating in the same event must wear identical uniforms. Headbands which are no more than two (2) inches wide and made of non-abrasive, unadorned cloth, elastic, fiber, soft leather, or rubber are permissible. Hair-restraining devices no more than two (2) inches made of soft material are legal. Decorative headwear is prohibited. A single color ribbon or similar items used to control the hair are legal as long as it is securely affixed to the hair and is not of an excessive length and size. Commercial advertising, with the exception of the manufacturer’s logo, is prohibited on all athletic uniforms. All jewelry, with the exception of wristwatches, is prohibited.

- 4-3-3(c) All jewelry, with the exception of wristwatches, is prohibited. Watches which can be used as Global Positioning Systems are prohibited.

- 3-2-4(a) SHOES: The Games Committee has the authority to determine the length of spikes used on all-weather surfaces. Track spikes may not exceed one-half (1/2) inch in length when measured from the sole to the tip of the spike.

4.14.1.1.2 Event Regulations. Events in all track meets will be run as follows.

(a) Lane assignments in all races will be made according to the spearhead method. On a nine-lane track, the lane assignments will be 5-6, 4-7, 3-8, 2-9, and 1. On an eight-lane track, the lane assignments will be 4-5, 3-6, 2-7, and 1-8. On a six-lane track, the lane assignments will be 3-4, 2-5 and 1-6. When assigning lanes to qualifiers from preliminary heats to finals; the heat winners will be assigned to lanes 5 and 6 on a nine-lane track, lanes 4 and 5 on an eight-lane track, and lanes 3 and 4 on a six-lane track. The remaining contestants will be seeded and assigned lanes by time.

(b) The 400m Dash will be run in two or more sections. Each contestant must remain in his/her starting lane the entire distance.

(c) The 800m Run will be run in two sections with a staggered start around the first turn, followed by a break for the pole on the back straight-away.

(d) The 1600m Run and 3200m Run each will be conducted in one section with a staggered start around the first turn, followed by a break for the pole on the back straight-away.
(e) The 4x400m Relay will be run from a staggered start. The first runner must stay in his/her lane the entire distance with the first exchange being made in the assigned lane. The second runner must remain in the assigned lane through the first curve, after which he/she may break for the pole on the back straight-away.

(f) For running events consisting of preliminaries and finals, the final must be run in one race.

(g) Protests will not be allowed. In the organization and administration of meets, the decisions of the judges or the Jury of Appeals will be final. The referee must not be included as a member of the Jury of Appeals.

(h) An athlete who is disqualified from an event due to unsporting conduct shall be disqualified from further competition in the meet as well as a minimum of the next seven days and two meets.

(i) National Federation Rule 2 shall be followed in scoring all meets.

(j) National Federation Rule 5-7-1, -2 and -3 verbal starting commands shall be followed in all meets.

4.14.1.2 FHSAA Adapted Track & Field Division

4.14.1.2.1 Overview

(a) Each of the current four classes (4A, 3A, 2A, and 1A) will be divided into the following classifications; Boys Division, Girls Division, and Girls Adapted Division.

(b) Each division will score points for its class, gender and division only.

(c) No scores from separate divisions will be combined.

(d) An athlete cannot compete in multiple divisions.

(e) Adapted participants shall compete against each other only.

4.14.1.2.2 FHSAA Adapted Track and Field Division Eligibility

(a) All high school students with a permanent physical disability may be eligible to participate on their school’s track & field team.

(b) Each athlete’s physical eligibility must be verified by a licensed physician and maintained on permanent file at the school.

(c) Students who participate must meet all FHSAA eligibility requirements. Students shall be members of the school’s track & field team and shall have the opportunity to compete at the school’s regular season meets (regardless of the number of adapted competitors).

(d) The athletes must compete in their school’s team uniform.

(e) Students must compete in a minimum of four (4) meets to qualify for the Florida High School State Championships.

(f) Each school must complete and submit an FHSAA Adapted Track District Meet Seeding Report Form (TR6)

(1) Must be filed by 5 p.m. Monday of Week 40 for Class 1A and 2A schools, and by 5 p.m. Monday of Week 41 for Class 3A and 4A schools.

(2) All student-athletes listed must have had previously reported results to the FHSAA Office.

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

(g) A school whose FHSAA Adapted Track District Meet Seeding Report Form (TR6) is not received by the stated deadline may be permitted to participate only with the approval of the FHSAA Office; however, that school shall be assessed a minimum administrative fee of $250. This penalty will increase if it is later determined that a student-athlete(s) representing the school was ineligible to do so.

4.14.1.2.3 FHSAA Adapted Track and Field Division Events

(a) Each student will have the opportunity to compete in the following events by gender: Wheelchair 200-meter race, Wheelchair 800-meter race, and Wheelchair Shot Put.

(b) Wheelchair Shot Put will be divided into two (2) classifications for both boys and girls based on type of disability.

(1) Class 1 will be for athletes with disability of the lower extremities.

(2) Class 2 will be for athletes with disability that affect lower and upper extremities.

(c) A meet’s order of events shall be determined by meet management.

(d) All adapted track and field participants shall be required to compete on the same day of the meet as their classification.

4.14.1.2.4 Scoring

(a) An adapted track & field athlete will compete for adapted division individual and adapted division team honors in the school classification and gender in which his/her school competes.

(b) Points will be awarded per NFHS Rule 2-1.

4.14.1.2.5 Results Submission

(a) All regular season results (times and distances) should be submitted to “adaptedtrackresults@fhsaa.org”.

(b) Results must be submitted within 48 hours of the conclusion of the meet. Results are subject to verification by the meet referee.
(c) All results will be posted and made public on the FHSAA Adapted Sports Results website.

4.14.1.2.6 Florida High School State Championships Qualifying
(a) The top 16 times/distances submitted prior to the Florida High School State Championships in each event by classification and gender will advance to compete at the Florida High School State Championships.

(b) A student-athlete who declares to compete in the Adaptive Division is expected to compete on successive levels of the Florida High School State Championships unless ill, injured, suspended due to disciplinary action, or for any other reason acceptable to the Executive Director.

4.14.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures
4.14.2.1 District Meeting
4.14.2.1.1 Date. Please refer to the FHSAA Website

4.14.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:
- Select host school, site and determine time schedule. (Note: An actual host school must be selected at this meeting and may be subsequently changed only with the permission of the Executive Director.) The host school must be willing and able to use Hy-Tek Meet Manager for Windows software to conduct the District Meet, and should have a track with a synthetic or rubber surface.
- Set date and time for seeding meeting.
- Establish date and time for pre-meet coaches meeting at which heats and flights will be finalized. This meeting is not to be in lieu of the seeding meeting.
- Determine procedure for disseminating results to participating schools.
- Determine a Jury of Appeals

4.14.2.2 Meet Structure and Time Schedules
4.14.2.2.1 District Meets
(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.
   (1) Dates.
   (2) Time Schedule. Each district will determine the time schedule for its meet at the district meeting.
   (3) Site. Each district will determine a site for its meet at the district meeting.

The date and site of each district meet will be posted on FHSAA.org.

4.14.2.2.2 Regional Meets
(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. Districts 1 through 4 will comprise the Region 1 complex, Districts 5 through 8 the Region 2 complex, Districts 9 through 12 the Region 3 complex, and Districts 13 through 16 the Region 4 complex. One meet will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Dates and Time Schedule.
   (1) Dates.
   (2) Time Schedule. Wednesday-Friday of Week 43 for all classes.

The date of each regional meet will be posted on FHSAA.org.

(c) Sites. A listing of regional meet sites is available at FHSAA.org.

(d) Invitations to Host. The deadline date for extending an invitation to serve as host for a regional meet is Friday of Week 12. Preference shall be given to those prospective hosts who have access to and ability to use Hy-Tek Meet Manager computer software, and who have tracks with synthetic or rubber surfaces.

4.14.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships
(a) Dates. The FHSAA Track & Field Finals state meet shall be held at a site and date to be announced.

(b) Time Schedule. The Florida High School State Championships schedule shall be posted on the FHSAA Website:

(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 the meet.

4.14.2.2.4 Advancement of Teams and Individuals
(a) District Meet to Regional Meet. The first four placing individuals or relay teams in each district meet shall advance to the regional meet to which they are assigned. All ties which would result in more than four qualifiers in an event advancing to the regional meet must be broken by a run-off, throw-off or jump-off, or appropriate National Federation tie-breaker procedure.
Regional Meet to Florida High School State Championships. The first four placing individuals or relay teams in each regional meet shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships. All ties which would result in more than four qualifiers in an event advancing to the Florida High School State Championships must be broken by a run-off, throw-off or jump-off, or appropriate National Federation tie-breaker procedure.

4.14.2.3 Meet Regulations

4.14.2.3.1 General

(a) Track Surface. A rubber or synthetic surface is preferred for all Florida High School State Championships meets.
(b) Athletic Trainers. The presence of a certified athletic trainer or medical staff is recommended for all Florida High School State Championships meets.
(c) Squads.

1. Scratched Contestant. A contestant who is entered into an event in the FHSAA State Track & Field Series on any level and is later scratched from that event will be disqualified from participating in all remaining events in the meet and on succeeding levels.
2. Substitutions. No substitution may be made for any individual in any event, other than relay events, who qualifies to participate in an event but is unable to compete. This applies to individuals who qualify from the district meet to the regional meet and from the regional meet to the Florida High School State Championships, and between the prelims and the finals on any level.
3. Relay Personnel. Relay personnel may be changed between the district and regional meets, between the regional meet and the Florida High School State Championships. Relay personnel may be changed between the prelims and finals on any level as long as such change is made in compliance with procedures established by the meet director or games committee. Changes between prelims and finals are limited to the contestants/competitors listed on the relay card in the relay event for the duration of the meet once the relay card has been submitted to the Clerk of the Course. Once relay personnel report to the Clerk of the Course for a race, no change in personnel for that race is permissible.
(d) Ties. In field and running events, all ties in preliminaries which would result in more than eight qualifiers (nine qualifiers on nine-lane tracks in running events and nine qualifiers in field events at the state meet only) to the finals must be broken by a run-off, jump-off, throw-off, or appropriate National Federation rule tie-breaker procedure.

4.14.2.3.2 District Meets

(a) Number of Contestants. The maximum number of contestants which a school may enter in a district meet is limited to four (4) contestants in each individual event and one (1) team in each relay event.
(b) Running Event Regulations.

1. Two contestants from the same school should not be placed in the same heat if at all possible.
2. In events where heats are run against time, the fastest heat must be run last.
3. Each of the 1600m run and 3200m run must be conducted in one section with a staggered start around the first turn followed by a break for the pole.
4. Contestants in excess of the number of places to be awarded who are lapped will be permitted to finish the race, but must move to the outer lanes of the track (lane 3 or beyond).
(c) Field Event Regulations.

1. The three (3) best efforts of each contestant will be recorded in the shot put, discus, triple jump and long jump. One more competitor than there are scoring places shall qualify for the finals. Ties for the final place shall also advance to finals. The finals shall be competed in one flight.
2. Contestants will be given a maximum of three (3) warm-ups prior to the trials in their flights. The three (3) preliminary trials will be taken in groups of eight in the order in which the contestants are listed for competition.
3. Competitors in the pole vault will be assigned in order as they appear on the event card to continuing flights of three until the field is cut to six or fewer competitors. A single rotation then will be followed for the balance of competition.
4. Scales must be provided for the purpose of weighing all shot put and discus implements.
5. Pole vault competitors are subject to verification of body weight to confirm the proper calibration of their vaulting poles.
6. Discus and shot put competitors must be supervised during warm-ups as well as competition.
7. Use of a discus cage is mandatory.
8. After an initial check out (timed excuse), the athlete must complete a competitive attempt before being allowed to check out for another field event (i.e. after the first timed excuse, the athlete must take an attempt before they are allowed to check out of the event).
**4.14.2.3.3 Regional Meets**

(a) Contestants. Only those individuals and relay teams which qualify from their respective district meets are eligible to participate in the regional meets. Relay team personnel may be changed as stipulated in 4.14.2.3.1(C).

(b) Running Event Regulations.

1. Preliminaries consisting of two heats each will be run in the 100m High Hurdles, the 110m High Hurdles, the 100m Dash, the 4x100m Relay, the 400m Dash (Classes 4A and 3A only), the 300m Low Hurdles, the 300m Intermediate Hurdles and the 200m Dash. Contestants in these events will be seeded 1 through 16 according to their performances in their respective district meet finals, and will be assigned to heats as follows: seeds 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 will be assigned to the first heat; seeds 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 will be assigned to the second heat. Contestants in each heat will be given lane assignments according to the spearhead method. Two contestants from the same school will not be placed in the same heat if possible. When F.A.T. is used, advancement from prelims to finals: three (3) from each heat and then the next two (2) fastest times. Please refer to 4.14.1.1.2 for seeding finals in events with preliminaries.

2. The 800m Run, the 4x400m Relay and the 4x800m Relay will be contested in two heats run against time. The faster heat will be run last. The four first-place finishers and the next four fastest times in district competition will be assigned to the faster heat. Once the heats are determined, contestants will be assigned lanes according to the spearhead method.

3. The 1600m Run and the 3200m Run each will be contested in one section. Contestants in excess of the number of places to be awarded who are lapped will be permitted to finish the race, but must move to the outer lanes of the track (lane 3 or beyond).

4. Runners must start in the lanes to which they are assigned regardless of lanes vacated because of scratches.

(c) Field Event Regulations.

1. Preliminaries consisting of two flights each will be conducted in the Long Jump, Triple Jump, Discus Throw and Shot Put. Contestants in these events will be seeded 1 through 16 according to their performances in their respective district meet finals, and will be assigned to flights as follows: seeds 9 through 16 will be assigned to the first flight and seeds 1 through 8 will be assigned to the second flight. The No. 16 seed will jump or throw first, followed by the No. 15 seed and continuing in numerical order through the No. 1 seed. Contestants will be given a maximum of three warm-up jumps or throws prior to competition in their flights. Competition in each flight will consist of three (3) preliminary trials. The three (3) efforts of each contestant will be recorded. One more competitor than there are scoring places shall qualify for the finals. Ties for the final place shall also advance to finals. The finals shall be competed in one flight. The contestants with the best performances in the prelims will advance to the finals where they will compete in one flight, with the last best preliminary performer jumping or throwing first, followed in reverse numerical order by the remaining finalists with the best preliminary performer jumping or throwing last.

2. Contestants in the Pole Vault and High Jump will be seeded 1 through 16 according to their performances in their respective district meet finals. The No. 16 seed will vault or jump first, followed by the No. 15 seed and continuing in reverse numerical order with the No. 1 seed vaulting or jumping last. Competitors in the pole vault will be assigned to continuing flights of three until the field is cut to six or fewer competitors. A single rotation then will be followed for the balance of competition. The lowest qualifying height in the Pole Vault and High Jump from the district meets will be the starting height for competition in these events in the regional meet.

3. Scales must be provided for the purpose of weighing all shot put and discus implements.

4. Pole vault competitors are subject to verification of body weight to confirm the proper calibration of their vaulting poles.

5. Discus and shot put competitors must be supervised during warm-ups as well as competition.

6. Use of a discus cage is mandatory.

7. After an initial check out (timed excuse), the athlete must complete a competitive attempt before being allowed to check out for another field event (i.e. after the first timed excuse, the athlete must take an attempt before they are allowed to check out of the event).

**4.14.2.3.4 Florida High School State Championships**

(a) Contestants. Only those individuals and relay teams which qualify from their respective regional meets in each of the four classifications are eligible to participate in the Florida High School State Championships. Relay team personnel may be changed as stipulated in 4.14.2.3.1(c).

(b) Practice. Practice by any participating school at the site of the Florida High School State Championships during the week of the Florida High School State Championships is prohibited.
(c) Participant Passes. Schools will be issued participant passes only for coaches and student-athletes who qualify for participation in the Florida High School State Championships. Schools with one (1) to three (3) participants will be issued one (1) pass for use by coaches; schools with four (4) to nine (9) participants will be issued two (2) passes for use by coaches; and schools with ten (10) or more participants will be issued three (3) passes for use by coaches. Schools that abuse the pass procedure will subject themselves to a monetary penalty.

(d) Access to Track. Contestants and officials only will be permitted within the track oval.

(e) Running Event Regulations.

1. Preliminaries consisting of two heats each will be run in the 100m High Hurdles, the 110m High Hurdles, the 100m Dash, the 4x100m Relay, the 400m Dash (Classes 4A and 3A only), the 300m Low Hurdles, the 300m Intermediate Hurdles and the 200m Dash. Contestants in these events will be seeded 1 through 16 according to their performances in their respective regional meet finals, and will be assigned to heats for an eight-lane track as follows: seeds 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 16 will be assigned to the first heat; seeds 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 15 will be assigned to the second heat. Contestants in each heat will be given lane assignments according to the spearhead method. The top three finishers in each preliminary heat as well as the next three (on a nine-lane track) or the next two (on an eight-lane track) fastest times will advance to the finals. Only eight places will score and be awarded medallions. When assigning lanes for the finals, preliminary round place will be used to assign athletes into preferred lanes. (i.e. Heat winners in 4 & 5 of an eight lane track, and 5 and 6 on a nine lane track.)

2. The 800m Run, the 400m Dash (Classes 2A and 1A only), the 4x400m Relay and the 4x800m Relay will be contested in two heats against time. On an eight-lane track; eight places will be placed in the fast heat and eight in the slow heat. On a nine-lane track; nine places will be placed in the fast heat and seven in the slow heat. The faster heat will be run last. The four first-place finishers and the next four (on an eight-lane track) or five (on a nine-lane track) fastest times in regional competition will be assigned to the faster heat. Once the heats are determined, contestants will be assigned lanes according to the spearhead method.

3. The 1600m Run and the 3200m Run each will be contested in one section from a staggered start. Two runners will be assigned to each lane. Contestants must remain in their starting lanes through the first curve, after which they may break for the pole on the back straight-away. The break point must be marked by flags or cones. Contestants in excess of the number of places to be awarded who are lapped will be permitted to finish the race, but must move to the outer lanes of the track (lane 3 or beyond).

4. The 4x100m Relay will be run the entire distance in the assigned lanes from a staggered start.

5. The 4x400m Relay will be run from a staggered start. The first runner must stay in his/her lane the entire distance with the first exchange being made in the assigned lane. The second runner must remain in the assigned lane through the first curve, after which he/she may break for the pole on the back straight-away.

6. Runners must start in the lanes to which they are assigned regardless of lanes vacated because of scratches.

7. Official FHSAA State Track & Field Records may be set only at the Florida High School State Championships. Fully Automatic Timing (FAT) will be used for the official timing for all running events. Hand-held watches will be used as a backup. FAT systems that generate photos may be used to determine place winners.

(f) Field Event Regulations.

1. Preliminaries consisting of two flights each will be conducted in the Long Jump, Triple Jump, Discus Throw and Shot Put. Contestants in these events will be seeded 1 through 16 according to their performances in their respective regional meet finals, and will be assigned to flights as follows: seeds 9-16 will be assigned to the first flight and seeds 8 through 1 will be assigned to the second flight. Regional champions will receive preferred positions when entry performances are tied among contestants. The No. 16 seed will jump or throw first, followed by the No. 15 seed and continuing in numerical order through the No. 1 seed. Contestants will be given a maximum of three warm-up jumps or throws prior to competition in their flights. Competition in each flight will consist of three (3) preliminary trials. The three (3) efforts of each contestant will be recorded. One more competitor than there are scoring places shall qualify for the finals. Ties for the final place shall also advance to finals. The finals shall be competed in one flight. The contestants with the best performances in the prelims will advance to the finals where they will compete in one flight, with the last best preliminary performer jumping or throwing first, followed in reverse numerical order by the remaining finalists with the best preliminary performer jumping or throwing last. Only eight places will score and be awarded medallions.

2. Contestants in the Pole Vault and High Jump will be seeded 1 through 16 according to their performances in their respective regional meet finals. Regional champions will receive preferred positions when entry performances are tied among contestants. The No. 16 seed will vault or jump first, followed by the No. 15 seed and continuing in reverse numerical order with the No. 1 seed vaulting or jumping last. Competitors in the pole vault will be assigned to continuing flights of three until the field is cut to six or fewer competitors. A single rotation then will be followed for the balance of competition. The lowest qualifying height in the Pole Vault and High Jump from the regional meets will be the starting height for competition in these events in the Florida High School State Championships.
Scales must be provided for the purpose of weighing all shot put and discus implements.

Pole vault competitors are subject to verification of body weight to confirm the proper calibration of their vaulting poles.

Discus and shot put competitors must be supervised during warm-ups as well as competition.

Use of a discus cage is mandatory.

After an initial check out (timed excuse), the athlete must complete a competitive attempt before being allowed to check out for another field event (i.e. after the first timed excuse, the athlete must take an attempt before they are allowed to check out of the event).

4.14.2.3.5 Jury of Appeals

(a) A Jury of Appeals consisting of five coaches from five different participating schools shall be appointed by the meet manager for each meet in the Florida High School State Championships. A maximum of five alternate jurors shall also be appointed. A Jury of Appeals consisting of five members is mandatory. There can be no decision rendered without five jurors.

(b) Jurors for the Florida High School State Championships shall be chosen as follows:

(1) A list of recommended jurors will be compiled by the FHSAA and/or the FACA State Track & Field chairperson and submitted to the FHSAA for approval. Any coach not on the “approved” list cannot serve on a Jury of Appeals at the Florida High School State Championships.

(2) Diversity in school classification, gender and geography, as well as knowledge and experience, must be taken into consideration when a Jury of Appeals is selected.

(c) A member of the Jury of Appeals whose team or individual contestant is a party to an appeal must recuse himself/herself and be replaced until the appeal is concluded.

(d) The head coach of a team who wishes to file an appeal must do so in writing. The appeals process will adhere to NFHS Case Book guidelines.

(e) The decision of the Jury of Appeals shall be final. The Jury of Appeals cannot set aside any rule.

4.14.3 Hy-Tek Abbreviations and Event Numbers. Hy-Tek School Abbreviations for Track & Field and Event Abbreviations and Numberscan be found on the FHSAA Website.
4.15 Volleyball

Girls Administrator: Robbie Lindeman, ext. 260, rlindeman@fhsaa.org
Boys Administrator: Alex Ozuna, ext. 320, aozuna@fhsaa.org

4.15.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.15.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.15.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Volleyball Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all regular season matches involving teams participating in the Florida High School State Championships as well as FHSAA State Volleyball Series matches.

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

- 12-2-2 through 9. Card System for Misconduct (see 4.15.1.1.4)

4.15.1.1.2 Scoring. All matches shall utilize rally scoring as follows:

(a) Varsity matches (regular season and Florida High School State Championships). Best 3-of-5 games; each game shall be to 25 points with the exception of the fifth game, if necessary, which shall be to 15 points. A game must be won by a two-point margin with no cap.

(b) Sub-varsity matches (junior varsity, freshman, middle school, etc.). Best 2-of-3 games; each game shall be to 25 points with the exception of the third game, if necessary, which shall be to 15 points. A game must be won by a two-point margin with no cap.

(c) Invitational tournaments. Best 2-of-3 games; each game shall be to 25 points with the exception of the third game, if necessary, which shall be to 15 points. A game must be won by a two-point margin with no cap. The host school, however, may request to play best 3-of-5 games in its tournament.

4.15.1.1.3 Taping of Fingers and Hands. Taping, at a minimum, is permitted on individual finger(s) and/or across the palm of the hand. It may not be excessive, give an advantage to a player, have any special surface, or include hard objects, plastic or splints around the fingers. No more than two fingers may be taped together at any time. “Skids” are permitted, but no other wrap around the hand or across the palm may be used.

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

(a) Players, substitutes, team attendants.

- First minor offense – yellow card.
- Second minor offense – second yellow card, player disqualified (but not ejected) for the remainder of the match, point awarded to opponent.
- Single serious/flagrant offense – red card, player disqualified (ejected) from contest for unsporting conduct, point awarded to opponent.

(b) Coaches.

- First minor offense – yellow card.
- Second minor offense (yellow card) or single/serious flagrant offense – red card, coach disqualified (ejected) from contest for unsporting conduct, point awarded to opponent.

4.15.1.1.5 Suspended Contest. A suspended contest shall be resumed from the point of interruption. Otherwise, NFHS rules regarding the resumption of suspended contests shall apply.

4.15.1.1.6 Pre-match Warm-up. A 15-minute warm-up period (6-6-3) shall precede all matches as follows:

- First six minutes – Visiting team practices on the full court; the home team may practice ball-handling outside of the six-foot area from the volleyball court sideline on a side court area with volleyballs if the facility permits (this provision does not apply to auxiliary gyms);
- Next six minutes – Home team practices on the full court; the visiting team may practice ball-handling outside of the six-foot area from the volleyball court sideline on a side court area with volleyballs if the facility permits (this provision does not apply to auxiliary gyms);
- Last three minutes – Both teams on the playing court practicing serving over the net and receiving (opponent’s serves only).

Prior to the match officials arrival on the court for the required officials-coaches-captains meeting 20 minutes before the start of the match, teams may warm up on the court with volleyballs. Ball handling and warm-up by both teams on their respective sides of the net will be permitted provided no balls go over the net and the court is ready and supervised by the host.

4.15.1.1.7 Jamborees and Classics Format

(a) Jamborees. Must include four or more varsity teams; each varsity team may play a maximum of two games (not matches), each game against a different opponent. To be held Monday through Saturday of Week 8.
4.15.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.15.2.1 District Meeting

4.15.2.1.1 Date

- Girls: Monday of Week 37 through Thursday of Week 41
- Boys: Monday through Friday of Week 11

4.15.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.15.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.15.2.2.1 District Tournaments

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site

(1) Dates.
- Girls: Monday through Friday of Week 17
- Boys: Monday through Saturday of Week 44

(2) Time Schedule.
- Girls: The championship match shall be played on either Thursday or Friday of Week 17. Each district will determine the time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting.
- Boys: Each district will determine the time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting. No more than two (2) days may be utilized to complete the tournament.

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

(b) Participants

- Girls: To be determined at the district meeting
- Boys: The top four teams in district competition shall comprise the field.

No local manager is authorized to change the dates, times or order of matches as determined by the district planning meeting without written permission from the FHSAA Office.

4.15.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments. (Girls Only)

(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. 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. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Dates and Time Schedule. Regional tournaments shall be played during Weeks 18-19 on the following dates:

- Quarterfinals – Tuesday of Week 18 for Class 3A, 5A and 7A; Wednesday of Week 18 for Class 2A, 4A, 6A and 8A
- Semifinals – Tuesday of Week 19; and
- Championship – Saturday of Week 19.

Times for regional quarterfinals and regional semifinals must be 7 p.m. local time. The regional final matches on shall be held at 2 p.m. Exceptions must be approved in writing by the FHSAA Office.

4.15.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships State Tournament

(a) Girls.

(1) Dates. The FHSAA Girls Volleyball Finals state tournament shall be played on Tuesday through Saturday of Week 20.

(2) 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 match.

(b) Boys.

(1) Date. The FHSAA Boys Volleyball Finals state championship tournament shall be played Friday and Saturday of Week 45.

(2) 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 quarterfinal match.

(3) Schedule

(a) First-round play-in matches will be played at 7 p.m. Tuesday of Week 45 at eight sites to determine the eight quarterfinal teams advancing to the Florida High School State Championships state tournament. The
champion of each even-numbered district complex shall serve as host to the neighboring higher odd-numbered district complex. The FHSAA representative of the host school shall be designated the match manager.

(b) The following time schedule shall be followed in the Florida High School State Championships state championship tournament:

**Friday**
- Session 1
- Quarterfinal Match 1, 2 p.m.
- Quarterfinal Match 2, 3:30 p.m.
- Quarterfinal Match 3, 5:30 p.m.
- Quarterfinal Match 4, 7 p.m.

**Saturday**
- Session 2
- Semifinal Match 5 (winners of matches 1 & 2), 10 a.m.
- Semifinal Match 6 (winners of matches 3 & 4), 11:30 a.m.
- Championship Match (semifinal winners), 4 p.m.

4.15.2.2.4 **Advancement of Winners**

(a) Girls.

(1) District to Regional. The champion and runner-up from each of the 16 district tournaments shall advance to one of the four regional tournaments in each classification to which they are assigned.

(2) Regional to Florida High School State Championships. The champion from each of the four regional tournaments in each classification shall advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

(b) Boys. The winners of the 16 district tournaments shall advance to eight (8) FHSAA Boys Volleyball Finals first-round play-in matches. The winners of the eight Florida High School State Championships first-round play-in matches shall advance to the FHSAA Boys Volleyball Finals state championship tournament.

4.15.2.3 **Tournament Regulations**

4.15.2.3.1 **Squad Size**

(a) Player Limit. Each participating school shall be allowed a maximum of 15 players in uniform for each tournament match. Uniformed players, coaches and team managers will be admitted to tournament matches free of charge.

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

4.15.2.3.2 **Pre-match Warm-up and Procedures.** The following pre-match time schedule shall be followed in all Florida High School State Championships matches:

**First Match of Session**

- 15:00 on game clock (23:00 before match time) – Visiting team begins warm-up on full court (6 minutes).
- 9:00 – Home team begins warm-up on full court (6 minutes).
- 3:00 – Both teams on their respective sides of the net serving to opponents and receiving opponents’ serves (3 minutes).
- 0:00 – Teams report to sidelines for team huddles.
- (-1:00) – National Anthem.
- (-3:00) – Introduction of teams. As player’s name is called, he/she runs to end line in front of his/her team bench. Visiting team non-starters, then starters. Home team non-starters, then starters. Head coaches, visitor followed by home; they shake hands in front of official table.
- (-7:00) – Referee whistles for captains and remaining starters to go to center court to shake hands. Players proceed to starting positions.
- (-8:00) – Match begins.

**Second and Subsequent Match(es) of Session**

- 15:00 on game clock (21:00 before match time) – Visiting team begins warm-up on full court (6 minutes).
- 9:00 – Home team begins warm-up on full court (6 minutes).
- 3:00 – Both teams on their respective sides of the net serving to opponents and receiving opponents’ serves (3 minutes).
- 0:00 – Teams report to sidelines for team huddles.
- (-1:00) – Introduction of teams. As player’s name is called, he/she runs to end line in front of his/her team bench. Visiting team non-starters, then starters. Home team non-starters, then starters. Head coaches, visitor followed by home; they shake hands in front of official table.
- (-5:00) – Referee whistles for captains and remaining starters to go to center court to shake hands. Players proceed to starting positions.
- (-6:00) – Match begins.

No participating team, other than the host school’s team, shall be permitted onto a tournament floor for practice during the week of the district, regional (for girls), or play-in (for boys) tournaments. Prior to the match officials arrival on the court for the required officials-coaches-captains meeting 20 minutes before the start of the match, teams may warm up on the court with volleyballs. Ball handling and warm-up by both teams on their respective sides of the net will be permitted provided no balls go over the net and the court is ready and supervised by the host. Teams that advance to the Florida High School State Championships shall not be allowed practice time on the competition court at State Finals venue other than the 15-minute pre-match warm-up.

4.15.2.3.3 Bands. Bands will not be permitted to play at matches in the Florida High School State Championships.
4.15.2.3.4 Cheerleaders. Cheerleaders in uniform, along with their adult sponsors, will be admitted free of charge to Florida High School State Championships events (i.e., contests or sessions) in which their school’s team participates. The number of cheerleaders permitted will be the same as the number who cheered during varsity contests during the regular season.
4.16 Water Polo
Administrator: Dale Klaus, ext. 390, dklaus@fhsaa.org

4.16.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.16.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.16.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Water Polo Rules, as modified or amended by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all regular season games involving teams participating in the Florida High School State Championships as well as FHSAA State Water Polo Series matches.

(a) The following modifications or amendments have been adopted by the FHSAA.
   - Exhibition Games. Exhibition games, practice games, non-contract games and scrimmage games with other schools, groups, alumni, or league teams are strictly prohibited.
   - Pool Entrance. All players shall always enter the water feet first.
   - Rule 11. Duration of the Game. Once a ten (10) goal differential attained at the end of the third period or secured at any point during the fourth period, a running clock shall become mandatory. Once the running clock is initiated, it shall run continuously, with the exceptions of the period between quarters and any timeout taken by a team or officials, injuries, unsporting conduct penalties, or a score by either team.
   - 5-4-3 INT. 2. Competitors shall not wear or use any device that could potentially aid their speed or buoyancy.

(b) The following modifications have not been adopted by the FHSAA.
   - Rule 11-6. Tournament Variations.

4.16.1.2 Game Regulations

- Roster and Lineup. No later than 10 minutes prior to the competition’s start, a coach from each team shall submit in writing to the secretary an accurate roster giving names and cap numbers of all players. Head coach and assistant coach(es) names shall also be submitted.

4.16.1.3 Athletic Uniforms

- 5-4-1. Uniforms. Players shall wear non-transparent one-piece swim suits. Suits shall completely cover the buttocks and breasts. The women’s suit must have a solid high back with broad straps. The goalkeeper may wear either this type of suit or a competitive one-piece suit with straps at least one inch in width (the straps may not be spaghetti straps).
- 5-4-3. Before taking part in a game, the players shall remove any articles likely to cause injury, including, but not limited to, the following: jewelry, medical or religious medals, watches, swim goggles, protective helmets and sharp fingernails or toenails.

4.16.1.4 Card System for Misconduct. The Card System for Misconduct as published in the NFHS Water Polo Rules Book shall be used. Any act of flagrant misconduct shall be submitted to the FHSAA Office on an Unsportsmanlike Conduct Report Form and will be reviewed according to FHSAA Policy 30.

4.16.1.5 Overtime Procedure

(a) Duration of the Game.

   (1) Following a five-minute interval, there shall be a maximum of two sudden-death periods of three minutes with an interval of two minutes to change ends. There shall be a coin toss to determine ends for the first sudden-death period.

   (2) If at the end of the second sudden-death period the score remains tied, then the captain(s) and head coach of each team will meet with the officials at the score table to review the procedure for penalty shots as follows:
      (a) The referee will choose the goal at which all of the shots from the 5-yard/m line will be taken.
      (b) 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 shots. An order must be specified prior to beginning the penalty shots.
      (c) A coin toss will be held in which the winner will have the choice of shooting first or second.
      (d) Teams will alternate shooters. There is no follow-up on shots.
      (e) The defending team may change the goalkeeper prior to each penalty shot.
      (f) Following five shots for each team, the team scoring the greatest number of goals will be declared the winner.
      (g) Add one goal to the winning team’s score prior to the penalty shots and credit the team with the victory. An asterisk (*) may placed by the score to denote the overtime procedure.

   (3) If the score remains tied after each team has five penalty shots, then each coach must choose an additional five players that have not shot in the previous round to take the next round of penalty shots.
      (a) If a team has fewer than 10 available players at the end of the first round of penalty shots due to injury or
disqualification, then the coach must use all players who did not participate in the first round.

(b) The coach must choose additional players from the first five shots to fill the remainder of the second round and to ensure a different set of five players. If the score remains tied, continue the penalty shots with the coach selecting any five players to take the next set of alternating shots. If a tie remains, repeat 4.16.1.5(3) (a).

4.16.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.16.2.1 District Meeting

4.16.2.1.1 Date. Monday through Thursday of Week 11

4.16.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. See Administrative Procedure 3.4.1

4.16.2.1 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

4.16.2.1.1 District Tournaments. District tournaments shall be played Monday through Wednesday of Week 41. The top four teams in district competition shall comprise the field. The tournament may be conducted over a maximum two (2)-day period. The FHSAA representative at the host school shall be designated the tournament manager. The recommended time schedule for the tournament is as follows:

- Girls Semifinal, Game No. 1 (No. 2 vs. No. 3 seed), 10 a.m.
- Girls Semifinal, Game No. 2 (No. 1 vs. No. 4 seed), 11:30 a.m.
- Boys Semifinal, Game No. 3 (No. 2 vs. No. 3 seed), 1 p.m.
- Boys Semifinal, Game No. 4 (No. 1 vs. No. 4 seed), 2:30 p.m.
- Girls Championship, Game 5 (semifinal winners), 6:30 p.m.
- Boys Championship, Game 6 (semifinal winners), 8 p.m.

Once determined, no local manager is authorized to change the dates, times or order of matches as determined by the FHSAA Office without written permission.

4.16.2.1.2 Florida High School State Championships State Tournament. The FHSAA Water Polo Finals state championship tournament shall be played on Friday and Saturday of Week 42. A video presentation of the coaches meeting for the Florida High School State Championships will be available online no later than Saturday of Week 42. 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. The following provisions will apply:

(a) The Florida High School State Championships bracket will be divided into four quadrants. The champion on the lower line of the bracket shall serve as host to the champion on the upper line of the bracket in this play-in game in each quadrant. These first-round play-in games shall begin at 7 p.m. If, however, a school is to serve as host for play-in games in both girls and boys divisions, the girls play-in game will begin at 6 p.m. and the boys play-in game will begin at 7:30 p.m. The FHSAA representative of the host school shall be designated the game manager.

(b) Schedule: The finals schedule will be posted on the FHSAA website.

4.16.2.1.3 Advancement of Winners. The winners of the sixteen (16) district tournaments shall advance to eight (8) FHSAA Water Polo Finals first-round play-in games. The winners of these eight (8) Florida High School State Championships first-round play-in games shall advance to the FHSAA Water Polo Finals state championship tournament.

4.16.2.2 Tournament Regulations

4.16.2.2.1 Squad Size. A school participating in the FHSAA State Water Polo Series may dress up to 18 players in uniform. Credentials, or complimentary admission, shall be provided to participating school personnel as follows:

- Eligible players in uniform – 18
- Team support (coaches, administration, managers, trainers, etc.) – 5

4.16.2.2.2 Pool Size. A 25-yard pool shall be used for all Florida High School State Championships contests.

4.16.2.2.3 Pregame Warm-up and Procedures. This pregame time schedule shall be followed in the district tournament, Florida High School State Championships first-round play-in games, and Florida High School State Championships state championship tournament games:

First Game of Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 15 minutes and start; competition pool and game balls available for warm up.</td>
<td>15:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Sound horn alerting teams to 1 minute remaining in pregame warm-up.</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Sound horn; clear pool; teams report to bench areas.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9:00  Public-address announcer begins pregame script; teams lineup in front of their respective benches for introductions.

8:00  Introduction of visiting team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).

6:00  Introduction of home team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).

4:00  Introduction of game officials.

3:30  National Anthem.

1:30  Final team huddle.

0:00  Reset game clock to 7:00; begin game.

7:00

Subsequent Games of Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time to Start</th>
<th>Protocol</th>
<th>Game Clock</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23:00</td>
<td>Set game clock to 15 minutes and start; competition pool and game balls available for warm up.</td>
<td>15:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Sound horn alerting teams to 1 minute remaining in pregame warm-up.</td>
<td>1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Sound horn; clear pool; teams report to bench areas.</td>
<td>0:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Public-address announcer begins pregame script; teams lineup in front of their respective benches for introductions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Introduction of visiting team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>Introduction of home team (non-starters, starters, assistant coaches, head coach).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>Introduction of game officials.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30</td>
<td>Final team huddle.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:00</td>
<td>Reset game clock to 7:00; begin game.</td>
<td>7:00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No participating team, other than the host school’s team if it qualifies to participate, shall be permitted into the competition pool for practice during the week of the district tournament, Florida High School State Championships first-round play-in game, or Florida High School State Championships state championship tournament outside of the 15 minute pregame warm-up period.

Teams may conduct a pre-game warm-up in the warm-up pool beginning 90 minutes prior to the scheduled starting time for their game (i.e., teams playing a 3 p.m. game may enter the warm-up pool as early as 1:30 p.m.). Teams will not be permitted in the warm-up pool prior to this time. Teams will not be permitted any warm-up time in the competition pool.
4.17 Weightlifting

Administrator: Shanell Young, ext. 310, syoung@fhsaa.org

4.17.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.17.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.17.1.1.1 Squads. A team will be composed of not more than twenty (20) lifters. A maximum of two (2) lifters may be entered in any one weight classification. Each lifter must meet the required weight limits of the weight classification in which he/she is entered, unless lifting up as per 4.17.1.1.2 (c). Each individual lifter or team must be accompanied by a faculty member when competing in interscholastic meets.

4.17.1.1.2 Weight Classifications. Competition in all interscholastic weightlifting meets is limited to the following weight classifications:

(a) Girls: 101 pounds (maximum 101 pounds), 110 pounds (101.1 to 110.0 pounds), 119 pounds (110.1 to 119.0 pounds), 129 pounds (119.1 to 129.0 pounds), 139 pounds (129.1 to 139 pounds), 154 pounds (139.1 to 154.0 pounds), 169 pounds (154.1 to 169.0 pounds), 183 pounds (169.1 to 183.0 pounds), 199 pounds (183.1 to 199.0 pounds), unlimited (199.1 or more pounds).


(c) During the regular season only, a lifter may lift up one weight class from the weight class he/she weighs in at.

4.17.1.1.3 Weigh-Ins.

(a) Lifters must be weighed one at a time with only the weight officials, the lifter and his/her gender appropriate coach present. Lifters must be weighed in under garments or singlets.

(b) A lifter who weighs in within his/her weight classification may not be weighed again.

(c) A lifter who suspects he/she might have a weight problem may be weighed first at the request of his/her coach.

(d) A lifter with a weight problem will be given a maximum of one hour to make weight, or until the designated weigh-in time has expired, not to exceed one hour from the initial weigh-in. A lifter may be weighed a maximum of three (3) times during the time allotted.

4.17.1.1.4 Weight Loss. The use of sweat boxes, hot showers, whirlpools, rubber suits, vinyl suits, plastic suits or similar artificial heating devices, diuretics and/or weight loss drugs are prohibited. The use of such devices and substances will disqualify an individual from competition.

4.17.1.1.5 Scoring

(a) All weightlifting meets will be scored as follows:

- Two Teams – Score three places 5-3-1
- Three Teams – Score four places 5-3-2-1
- Four Teams – Score five places 6-4-3-2-1
- Five or More Teams – Score six places 7-5-4-3-2-1.

(b) A lifter must have a successful attempt in both the bench press and the clean and jerk for a total weight lifted in order to place or score.

(c) Any corrections in meet scoring must be made within 48 hours of the conclusion of the meet.

4.17.1.1.6 Uniforms

(a) Each lifter must wear a school-issued uniform. This uniform must be a one-piece uniform (singlet). The singlet must be close-fitting and must have a minimum four-inch inseam and maximum length which does not extend beyond the top of the knee. The top must not be cut lower in the front or back than the armpits and under the armpits no lower than half the distance between the armpit and the beltline, and shall not extend beyond the top of the knee. Proper undergarments, support and shoes with laces are required. All bench shirts, squat suits or any rubberized uniforms that aid the lifter are prohibited. Undergarments covering the legs may not extend below the top of the knee and may not be visible below the hem of the singlet, and undergarments covering the torso may not extend beyond or cover the elbow.

(b) Uniforms must not be removed while in the competition area. Penalties for violations are as follows:

- First offense – verbal warning to both the lifter and the coach by the Meet Director or Judge.
- Second offense – one point deducted from team total, coach notified and lifter disqualified.

(c) Jewelry is prohibited.
4.17.1.1.7 Equipment.

(a) Platforms. The lifting platforms must be 8-feet by 8-feet.

(b) Bench. The width of the bench must be not less than 10 inches and not more than 12 inches. The height of the bench must be not less than 14 inches and not more than 18 inches. The distance between the upright supports must be not less than 40 inches and not more than 42 inches.

(c) Bandages. Bandages may be worn on the wrists, knees, hands, fingers and thumbs. Bandages, tape or substitutes for bandages are not permitted on the elbows. Bandages are defined as a strip of fabric used especially to cover, dress and bind up wounds, or may be a flexible strip or band used to cover, strengthen, or compress something. The following regulations pertain to bandages:
   (1) The maximum width of skin that can be covered by a bandage at the wrist is four inches. The maximum width of skin that can be covered by a bandage at the knee is 12 inches. There is no limit to the length of bandages.
   (2) The use of plasters and bandages on both the inner and outer surface of the hands is permitted. These plasters or bandages must not be fastened to the wrists or to the barbell.
   (3) The use of plasters on the fingers is permitted provided the plasters do not cover the tips of the fingers.

(d) Gloves. In order to protect the palm of the hands, wearing fingerless gloves is permitted (example: cyclist’s gloves, gymnastic palm guards). These gloves can cover only the first phalanx of the fingers. If plasters are worn on the fingers, there has to be visible separation between the plasters and the glove. Gloves with built-in supports are prohibited.

(e) Belts. A lifter may not wear a belt which exceeds 4 1/4 inches in width. A belt may not be worn underneath the uniform.

(f) Braces. Braces on the knee(s) containing plastic, metal or hard and unyielding material may be worn only with a written statement from a licensed physician.

4.17.1.1.8 General Provisions.

(a) A lifter or coach must report to the scorer’s table before each attempt, giving the lifter’s name, weight classification and weight to be attempted immediately prior to assuming the lifting position on the platform. Failure to follow this procedure will result in the disqualification of the results of the attempt although the attempt itself will be counted as one of the lifter’s attempts.

(b) A lifter will be permitted a maximum of three (3) lifts on the bench press and three (3) lifts on the clean and jerk. A lifter may take any one of his/her three lifts at anytime during the weight progression whether he/she is successful or unsuccessful at a chosen weight. The progression of weights during competition once the first lift has been attempted will be a minimum of five (5) pounds.

(c) The barbell must be loaded progressively with a lifter taking the lowest weight first. Under no circumstance can the barbell be reduced to a lighter weight once the weight has been announced and the bar has been tightened or loaded. Lifters, or their coaches, must observe the progress of the loading and be ready to make their attempt at the weight they have chosen.

(d) A lifter’s first attempt must precede another lifter’s second attempt at the same weight on the bar. This order must be followed continuously.

(e) A delay of two minutes must be allowed each lifter from the time the loaded weight is called by the Chief Referee until he/she attempts a lift. If this two-minute limit is violated, the lift must be disallowed. When the lifter attempts two lifts in succession, he/she will be allowed three (3) minutes for the succeeding attempt once the bar is loaded.

(f) When the lifter attempts two lifts in succession, he/she will be afforded the opportunity to use the first 30 seconds of his/her allotted three (3) minutes to declare their weight for the succeeding attempt.

(g) The use of grease, oil, water, talcum or any similar lubricant on the thighs is forbidden.

(h) The discs (weights) must be loaded with the largest disc inside the smaller discs in descending weights to the outside, arranged so that the Chief Referee can read the number on each disc. Discs must be locked on the bar by collars or clamps.

(i) A lifter who is found using illegal equipment must be disqualified from the remainder of the meet.

4.17.1.1.9 Bench Press.

(a) Procedure.
   (1) The head of the bench must be placed on the platform facing the Chief Referee. The two Side Referees must station themselves at the foot of the platform facing the athlete.
   (2) The lifter must lie on his/her back with head, shoulders and buttocks in contact with the flat bench surface. His/her shoes must be flat on the floor.
   (3) To achieve firm footing, the lifter may use plates to build up the surface of the platform. The entire foot must be flat on this surface.
4.17.1.1.10 Clean and Jerk.

(a) Procedure for the Clean

1. The bar must be placed horizontally in front of the lifter’s legs. It must be gripped, palms downward and pulled in a continuous single movement from the ground to the shoulders while either “splitting” or bending the legs. Once the bar passes the height of the knee, it is considered an attempt. During this continuous movement, the bar may contact the thighs and lap. The bar, however, must not touch the chest before the final position; it must then rest on the clavicles or the chest above the nipples or on the arms fully bent. The feet must be returned to the same line, legs straight, before performing the Jerk. The lifter may make this recovery in his/her own time and have his/her feet on the same line, parallel to the plane of his/her trunk and the barbell. If the lifter cannot stretch his/her arm due to an anatomical defect of his/her elbow, he/she must report this fact to the three referees before the beginning of the competition.

2. The technique known as “hooking” is permitted. It consists of covering the last joint of the thumb with the other fingers of the same hand at the moment of gripping.

3. When cleaning in the “squat” or “split” position, the lifter may help his/her recovery by a swinging or rocking movement of his/her body. More than one recovery attempt is allowed.

4. Touching the bar against the legs below the knees is permissible.

(b) Disqualification or “No Lift” in the Clean. Actions that will result in the disqualification of a lifter’s attempt are:

1. The referee must count as “no lift” any unfinished attempt at pulling in which the bar has reached at least the height of the knees.

2. Pulling from the “hang” is not permitted.

3. Touching the ground with the knee or buttocks or any part of the body other than the feet is not permitted.

4. While cleaning in the “squat” position, touching of the knees or thighs with the elbows or upper arms is not permitted and results in a “no lift.”

5. In cleaning, if the bar touches the thighs with a visible stop, the attempt will be declared “no lift.” If, however, during the pull the bar contacts the thighs without stopping, the attempt will be legal.

6. Any clean in which the bar is placed on the chest before turning over the elbows will render the attempt “no lift.”

7. Leaving the in-bounds platform area during the execution of the lift is not permitted. A lifter who steps on any part of the boundary line is considered out-of-bounds.
(c) Procedures for the Jerk

1. The lifter must bend the legs and extend them as well as the arms so as to bring the bar to the full stretch of the arms vertically extended. The feet must be returned to the same line; arms and legs extended, and await the Chief Referee’s signal to replace the bar on the platform. The Chief Referee must give the signal as soon as the lifter becomes absolutely motionless in all parts of the body. After the Clean and before the Jerk, the lifter may assure the position of the bar. This does not grant a second movement to the lifter, but allows him/her (i) either to withdraw his/her thumbs or to “unhook” if he/she has used this method; (ii) or if the bar is placed too high and impedes his/her breathing or causes a pain, to lower it in order to rest it on his/her shoulders; or (iii) to change the width of his/her grip. If the lifter cannot fully stretch his/her arm due to an anatomical defect of his/her elbow, he/she must report this fact to the three referees before the beginning of the competition.

2. After the Chief Referee’s signal to replace the bar, the lifter must lower the bar in front of his/her body and not let it drop either deliberately or accidentally. He/she may release his/her grip on the barbell when it has passed the level of the waist.

3. In the second phase of the Clean and Jerk, the second movement must be a Jerk. A jerk press must not be permitted.

(d) Disqualification or “No Lift” in the Jerk. Actions that will result in the disqualification of a lifter’s attempt are:

1. Any effort of jerking which is not completed will render the attempt “no lift.”

2. Any deliberate oscillation of the bar to gain advantage or extending to the toes before the dip will render the attempt “no lift.” The lifter must become completely motionless before starting the jerk.

3. Uneven or incomplete extension of the arms at the finish of the lift will render the attempt “no lift.”

4. A pause during the extension of the arms will render the attempt “no lift.”

5. Finishing with a press out will render the attempt “no lift.”

6. Bending and extending the arms during the recovery will render the attempt “no lift.”

7. Leaving the in-bounds platform area during the execution of the lift will render the attempt “no lift.” A lifter who steps on any part of the boundary line is considered out-of-bounds.

8. Replacing the bar on the platform before the referee’s signal will render the attempt “no lift.”

9. Dropping the bar from above the waist after the Chief Referee’s signal to replace the bar will render the attempt “no lift.”

10. Failing to finish with the feet and the barbell in line and parallel to the plane of the trunk will render the attempt “no lift.”

11. Failing to finish with the feet and the barbell within the boundaries of the platform at initial contact (e.g. the complete barbell has to touch the platform first) will render the attempt “no lift.”

12. After a successful jerk, a lifter, if injured during the lift, may have two spotters assist him/her in lowering the bar to his/her shoulders. Spotters may then take control of the bar and lower it to the platform. This becomes a “no-lift.”

4.17.1.1.11 Resolving Ties. In case two or more competitors should record the same total weight lifted at the end of competition, an official will refer to the scorer sheet to determine the lighter or lightest of those involved. If the tied competitors weighed the same at weigh-in, those lifters will immediately be taken from the lifting area to the nearest scales, by an official to be reweighed. The lighter or lightest competitor will be awarded the higher place and points. This procedure will be followed until all ties are resolved. If the weight is the same, those lifters’ places and points will be divided.

4.17.1.1.12 Regular Season Competition. Competition between schools assigned to a district, other than in qualifying meets, is not required during the regular season.

4.17.1.1.13 Officials.

(a) Number. Three (3) officials must be in attendance at each platform. The officials must include a Chief Referee and two Side Referees.

(b) Responsibilities

1. The Chief Referee is responsible for reporting sportsmanship issues on his/her platform.

2. The Chief Referee must give an audible and visible signal at the start and completion of each lift. He/she must be seated in front of the platform.

3. Before the meet, the Chief Referee must verify:

   (a) That platforms and equipment meet specifications;

   (b) Scales are accurate;

   (c) Lifters weigh in during the time specified for their weight category;

   (d) That uniforms, belts and bandages are legal.
(4) During the competition, the Referees must ascertain that:
   (a) The weight of the barbell agrees with the weight announced by the Chief Referee;
   (b) Nobody but the lifter handles the barbell during the execution of the lift; and
   (c) Only the lifter or the loaders move the barbell to a new position on the platform.
(5) All signals by the officials (lights, hands, board, etc.) for a good or bad attempt must be given simultaneously on the Chief Referee’s command “Signal.” In the event safety of the lifter becomes a concern, the Chief Referee has the authority to stop the attempt.

(6) The referees must indicate their judgment of the lift by giving signals. A “good lift” is signified by one of three ways – white lights, a thumbs up or a green board. A “no lift” is signified by red lights, a thumbs down or a red board.
(7) After the completion of each lift, the Chief Referee must make known the referees’ decision, if there is no system of lights. He/she consults with the other two referees and announces the decision resulting from his/her own and from those of his/her colleagues by announcing “good lift” or “no lift.” He/she does not have an over-riding vote.
(8) When the Chief Referee gives an audible signal “press” in the bench press, the bar is pressed vertically to straight arm’s length and held motionless until the Chief Referee’s audible signal “rack” to replace the bar.
(9) After the completion of the clean and jerk, the Chief Referee must say “down” while at the same time motioning downward with an extended arm. However, the lift isn’t complete until the bar is returned under control to the platform.
(10) A referee must not attempt to influence the decision of another referee.
(11) The decisions of the officials are final. No protests will be allowed. However, when there is a referee’s decision contrary to the technical rules, the Jury of Appeals, by unanimous vote, has the right to grant another attempt to the lifter. This attempt will be executed by the lifter before the attempt of the following lifter.

4.17.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

4.17.2.1 District Meeting.

4.17.2.1.1 Date
   (a) Girls. Monday-Friday of Week 16
   (b) Boys. Monday-Friday of Week 28

4.17.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda. In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the section meeting:
   • Determine dates and sites of qualifying meets. Sub-districts can be used to determine who qualifies to lift at districts. If sub-district meets are being used, qualifying and advancing terms must be defined clearly and listed in the minutes.
   • Determine the number of platforms to be used at each qualifying meet.
   • Determine teams that will compete at each qualifying meet site.
   • Selection and compensation of officials for qualifying meets.

4.17.2.2 Meet Structure and Time Schedules

4.17.2.2.1 Qualifying Meets
   (a) Format. Each district shall follow the structured qualifying format. The district may conduct a number of preliminary qualifying meets. The top lifters in each of these preliminary qualifying meets then will advance to a “lift-off meet(s)” to determine the qualifiers to the Florida High School State Championships state meet.
   (b) Structure. All qualifying meets shall be conducted according to the following provisions:
      (1) Qualifying meets shall be held during the weeks of:
         • Girls: Week 28 or Week 30
         • Boys: Week 38 or Week 40
      (2) The rules of competition as set forth in this procedure, with the exception of 4.17.1.1.1 and 4.17.1.1.3, shall apply to all qualifying meets unless modified in these terms & conditions.
      (3) Each qualifying meet shall have a minimum of four (4) competing schools.
      (4) A maximum of twenty (20) lifters may represent a school in Florida High School State Championships competition, with no more than two (2) lifters entered in a given weight classification.
      (5) A school may enter lifters in a maximum of three (3) qualifying meets.
(6) A school may qualify lifters to the Florida High School State Championships state meet only through a qualifying meet(s) held in the section to which it is assigned.

(7) Conference, county or other invitational meets shall not serve as qualifying meets.

(8) The qualifying meet director shall forward to the appropriate FHSAA administrator the results of the qualifying meet for which his/her school served as host using Form WT2 for girls or Form WT4 for boys. The results must be certified by the signature of the head coach for each participating school to be valid.

(c) Weigh-in Procedures. Weigh-in procedures as stated in the general regulations section will apply except that:
(1) When a lifter weighs in he/she must lift in the weight category in which he/she is listed on the Official State Entry List;
(2) Changes to an Official State Entry List must be made on the Official State Entry List within C2C schools and resubmitted to the district host.
(3) Changes to an Official State Entry List may not be made after the start of the published time for weigh-ins to begin at the first Florida High School State Championships meet the school is lifting in.
(4) Only those lifters who do not make weight may return to the scales a maximum of three (3) times to make weight during the time allocated for the weigh-in; and
(5) After the allocated time has elapsed, a lifter who has not made weight will be disqualified from the meet and may not lift in any other weight classification. A lifter must weigh within the limits of his/her weight class.
(6) During weigh-ins, lifters must provide their opening attempts. Opening attempts may be changed at any time.
(7) Reporting Results. Sub-district qualifying meet managers must report complete results to the lift-off meet manager upon the conclusion of the meet. The lift-off meet manager must forward the compiled results (Form WT2 or WT4) to the FHSAA Office within 24 hours of the completion of the lift-off qualifying meet.

4.17.2.2.2 Determination of Qualifiers
(a) Qualifiers.
   (1) Girls. The three (3) lifters in each weight class who lift the greatest total weight (bench press and clean & jerk combined) overall in the “lift-off meet” held within the section shall qualify for and advance to the Florida High School State Championships state meet.
   (2) Boys.
      (a) The top lifter in each weight class who lifts the greatest total weight (bench press and clean & jerk combined) overall in the “lift-off meet” held within the section shall qualify for and advance to the Florida High School State Championships state meet.
      (b) After the top lifter for each weight classification in each section has been determined, nine remaining at-large qualifiers statewide will be determined by the FHSAA Office from results reported by the lift-off meet director. All qualifiers will be posted on FHSAA.org.
   (b) Breaking Ties (Boys only). In the event that a tie occurs between any two or more lifters that would result in more than 18 lifters per weight classification qualifying for the state meet, the tie shall be broken as follows:
      (1) The lifter(s) whose body weight(s) was/were the lighter/lightest on the date(s) the total weight was lifted shall be awarded the berth(s) in the state meet. This procedure will be followed until all ties are resolved.
      (2) Should two or more tied lifters have the same body weight on the date(s) the total weight was lifted, the lifter(s) who recorded the total weight lifted on the earliest date shall be awarded the berth(s) in the state meet. This procedure will be followed until all ties are resolved.
      (3) If a tie cannot be resolved using the procedures set forth in (1) or (2) above, a lift-off between the tied lifters to break the tie shall be held not later than Saturday of Week 4.

4.17.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships
(a) Dates.
   • Girls – Saturday of Week 32.
   • Boys – Friday-Saturday of Week 42
(b) Time Schedule. The time schedule will be posted on the FHSAA Website.

4.17.2.3 Meet Regulations
4.17.2.3.1 Participant Credentials. Each qualifying athlete shall be admitted without charge to the Florida High School State Championships. Coaches credentials will be issued using the following formula: 1 to 2 qualifiers – one (1) coach credential; 3 to 10 qualifiers – two (2) coach credentials; 11 to 15 qualifiers – three (3) coach credentials. Note: Chaperones who are not coaches will need a Florida High School State Championships pass for complimentary entry.
4.17.2.3.2  Weight and Weigh-Ins.

(a) A lifter shall be eligible to compete in the Florida High School State Championships state meet ONLY in the weight classification in which he/she qualifies from his/her respective district. At the close of weigh-ins, a lifter whose body weight is under the limit of the weight category in which he/she qualified shall not compete. A lifter whose body weight is over the limit of the weight category in which he/she qualified shall not be allowed to compete.

(b) A lifter with a weight problem will be given a maximum of one hour to make weight, or until the designated weigh-in time has expired, not to exceed one hour from the initial weigh-in. A lifter may be weighed a maximum of three (3) times during the time allotted.

4.17.2.3.3  Order of Events. Groups will be divided by weight classification as follows:


The order in which the groups lift will be rotated each year. At the FHSAA Weightlifting Finals, Group B will lift first.

4.17.2.3.4  Platform Size. The platform at the Florida High School State Championships will be eight feet by eight feet.

4.17.2.3.5  State Records. FHSAA Weightlifting Records may be set only during competition in the Florida High School State Championships.

4.17.2.3.6  Jury of Appeals. A Jury of Appeals consisting of a minimum of three members must be appointed by the Meet Director. The duty of the Jury of Appeals is to ensure that the technical rules of competition are being applied and followed. A member of the Jury of Appeals whose team or individual lifter is a party to an appeal must step down and be replaced until the appeal is concluded. The decision of the Jury of Appeals will be final. The Jury of Appeals may not set aside any rule. When the decision of a referee is contrary to the technical rules of competition, the Jury of Appeals by unanimous vote may grant the lifter another attempt. The lifter must make this attempt before the attempt of the next lifter.

If a ruling by the Jury of Appeals is requested, the Jury of Appeals must report their ruling to the Technical Controller. It is then the responsibility of the Technical Controller to notify the Head Coach of the student-athlete(s) involved the official ruling of the Jury of Appeals. The decision of the Jury of Appeals is final. No protests will be allowed.

4.17.2.3.7  Technical Controller. A technical controller must be appointed to assist the meet director in the supervision and conduct of the competition. The technical controller’s duties will be:

(a) To inspect and certify the competition platforms, the barbells, the electronic referee light systems, the warm-up room and other facilities before competition; and

(b) To inspect the uniforms and equipment of lifters, and enforce the technical rules of competition when necessary.

4.17.2.3.8  Competition Area. Only those lifters who are engaged in actual competition may be in the competition area. All other lifters must remain in the designated seating area. Coaches, faculty representatives and spectators must also remain in the designated seating area.
4.18 Wrestling
Administrator: Robbie Lindeman, ext. 260, rlindeman@fhsaa.org

4.18.1 Regular Season Procedures

4.18.1.1 Rules of Competition

4.18.1.1.1 Competition Rules. NFHS Wrestling Rules, as modified by the FHSAA, are the official rules for all wrestling matches and tournaments. The following modifications to those rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors.

- 3-2-1. Use assistant referee during competition.
- 4-3-2. The use of artificial limbs.
- 4-4-4. 2-pound growth allowance.
- 8-1-5c and Penalty Chart. Ejection of coach: the coach is suspended from the remainder of the match or tournament day and must leave the premises. Additionally, the coach is suspended for the next seven days and a minimum of two matches.
- 10-1-2. Videotaping guidelines: A visiting school may film or videotape its team’s or contestants’ performances in a contest when permission is secured from and arrangements are made with the host school principal. 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. (See Section 4.18.3 for regulations pertaining to Florida High School State Championships contests.)

4.18.1.1.2 Weight Classifications

(a) All tournaments and meets will be limited to competition in the following 14 weight classifications:

- 106 pounds and under
- 113 pounds and under
- 120 pounds and under
- 126 pounds and under
- 132 pounds and under
- 138 pounds and under
- 145 pounds and under
- 152 pounds and under
- 160 pounds and under
- 170 pounds and under
- 182 pounds and under
- 195 pounds and under
- 220 pounds and under
- 285 pounds and under

(b) A student cannot wrestle more than one weight class above the weight class in which his actual weight places him, and must never wrestle in a weight class below his/her minimum certified weight class. The growth allowance and consecutive-days rule both apply to the 285-pound division.

(c) A school will be limited to two contestants in two weight classifications with a maximum of 16 wrestlers for varsity tournaments. This does not apply to our state series tournaments. In sub-varsity tournaments, however, a school may enter multiple contestants per weight class with one of the contestants in the weight class designated as the team scorer.

(d) A student cannot wrestle in more than one weight class in any match.

4.18.1.1.3 NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in and Match Results. All coaches are required to submit the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) online “Pre-Match Weigh-in Form” with the exact weight of each wrestler prior to each regular season or tournament match and must submit online the “Dual Meet & Tournament Reporting Form” before the next competition.

4.18.1.1.4 Growth Allowance. The FHSAA Board of Directors has adopted use of the 2-pound growth allowance as permitted in National Federation Rule 4-4-4. Beginning on and including December 26, each weight class will be permitted a 2-pound growth allowance. This regulation is intended to encourage wrestlers to increase their strength, and thereby their muscle mass; and to discourage wrestlers from crash dieting to reduce weight so as to remain eligible in a lower weight class. Coaches and athletes are encouraged to use this provision accordingly.

Q: If a wrestler is certified for a minimum weight of 107.5, would he qualify for the 106 weight class when the two-pound growth allowance comes into effect?
A: No. The growth allowance may not be used to achieve a lower minimum certified minimum wrestling weight for a wrestler. In order to utilize the growth allowance, a wrestler shall compete at “scratch weight” in the desired weight class at least once prior to the district tournament.

Q: If a wrestler is assessed, and the lowest he can go is 156, can he go 152 for districts?
A: No. The growth allowance may not be utilized to achieve a lower certified minimum wrestling weight.

4.18.1.1.5 Certification of Minimum Weight. Each individual wrestler must have his/her minimum weight class certified by using the NWCA internet-based Optimal Performance Calculator not earlier than the first day of wrestling practice, Monday of Week 20. To register, go to www.nwcaonline.com. [Note: See 4.18.3 for further information.] NWCA membership has been processed for each school with a wrestling program. No further action is required.

4.18.1.1.6 Weigh-Ins.

(a) Wrestlers must weigh in not more than one (1) hour prior to the scheduled starting time of the dual match in which they will compete or a maximum of two hours before the first session of each day for an individually bracketed tournament.
(IBT) event in accordance with National Federation Rule 4-5. These rule permits, for example, the weigh-in to begin at 7 p.m. for a dual wrestling meet which is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. This rule, however, DOES NOT require a 30-minute waiting period between the end of the weigh-in and the scheduled starting time of the meet.

(b) An FHSAA-registered contest official shall conduct all weigh-ins.

(c) All scales must be certified annually. Digital scales are required for all multi-school events to ensure the actual weight of the wrestler. This includes dual-team events (DTE) and individually bracketed tournaments (IBT). Female wrestlers shall be called into the weigh-in area together, as the first group to weigh in for duals or tournaments. The host school or tournament director shall have a female person or persons available to weigh in any female wrestlers. The head official should provide instructions to the female persons conducting the weigh-in as to the process of weighing in the female wrestlers. Female wrestlers are required to complete the weigh-in process the same as the male wrestlers.

(d) Each team may weigh in a maximum of two (2) wrestlers for each weight classification for a dual meet. A school may weigh-in multiple wrestlers at each weight class for a dual team tournament. A maximum of two contestants must be declared in each weight class at the time the lineup is presented at the head table for a dual team tournament.

(e) The head coach of each school must have with him/her two (2) photocopies of the school’s current NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in form at each dual meet. The exact weight of each wrestler who weighs in must be recorded in the appropriate blank on these forms in ink. For duals, it is suggested a coach from the opposing team record the weights for a team as the official reads the weights from the scales. Both head coaches and the meet referee must sign the NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in form at the conclusion of the weigh-in. Head coaches must exchange NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in forms prior to the final match of a dual meet. For tournaments, NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in forms must be submitted to the tournament director prior to the start of the first day’s weigh-ins. The tournament director will ensure the actual weights for each wrestler recorded during the first day weigh-ins are recorded on the NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in form and a copy for all teams forms entered in the tournament be presented to each coach for their records. The copies are to be available to each coach within a week following the tournament.

Q: If a school does not produce the Pre-Match Weigh-in form and cannot get a copy that day, should we allow the team to compete?

A: No. The coach can get a copy of his school’s Pre-Match Weigh-in form from any computer with Internet access. The NWCA is a web-based database system. The coach can print his school’s Pre-Match Weigh-in form from a computer at the host school; find a nearby copy center with Internet access, etc.

Q: If for any reason a wrestler is left off the Pre-Match Weigh-in form, what is the result?

A: The wrestler does NOT compete. If the wrestler is not on the Pre-Match Weigh-in form, that means he/she was not assessed.

(f) A coach may alter his/her lineup for dual-team competitions within the guidelines of NFHS Rule 4-4-2.

(g) Once the weight class for a wrestler competing in an individually bracketed tournament is established, the wrestler shall be required to compete in the same one weight class for the duration of a tournament.

(h) Any challenge of a wrestler’s minimum certified weight class must be made before the last wrestler has been weighed. A wrestler who has his/her minimum certified weight class challenged must be allowed to compete. The head coach issuing the challenge must notify the FHSAA Office of the challenge upon conclusion of the meet.

(i) The provisions of National Federation Rule 4-5 cannot be revised or modified by conference rule, mutual consent or otherwise.

(j) Any challenge of the wrestler’s minimum certified weight class must be made before the last wrestler has been weighed for dual meets or during the seeding/scratch meeting for tournaments. A wrestler who has his/her minimum weight challenged must be allowed to compete. The head coach issuing the challenge must notify the head official who will then ensure the FHSAA Office is notified of the challenge upon conclusion of the meet by using the miscellaneous section of the AT16 and sending it o wrestling@fhsaa.org.

4.18.1.1.7 Multi-School/Tournament Weigh-In Procedures.

(a) The FHSAA requires a minimum of three officials (five is preferred) be present at all tournament weigh-ins. In addition, the host schools shall provide necessary adult personnel to serve as assistants to the head official. The head official will ensure that all NFHS and FHSAA rules and regulations are followed.

(b) All wrestlers must be in the staging area at the time the weigh-in is scheduled (monitored by an adult volunteer or 4th official)

(c) Wrestlers are required to be dressed in their school issued singlet. Wrestlers must also have a suitable undergarment, as defined by the NFHS rule 4.5.7 for the purpose of weighing-in (wrestling, gym or other type shorts are not considered a “suitable undergarment”). Each wrestler will wear a pair of slip on/off shoes or wrestling shoes for reporting to the scales. Wrestlers are required to have their hair and “Wrestler Skin Condition Examination Report Form (WR2) if required with them.
(d) The caller will call each weight class in order, beginning with the 106 pound class unless the weigh-ins are being conducted by team, in which case the order of teams will be determined by the tournament director. (usually in order by time of arrival)

(e) Line-up area: Each weight class or team will move to the line-up area where the arranger will place the contestants in bracket order or weight class order if the weigh-ins is being conducted by team.

(f) Scale Room (registered officials only): each weight class or team will move to the scale room. The wrestlers will put their gear on the chairs and remove their singlet and shoes. No taping, pads, or braces are allowed during the weigh-in. The first official will check for nails, skin, hair, etc. according to NFHS rule 4.2. The WR2 if necessary, will be presented to the official at this time for review. Any deficiencies should be documented. The second official will monitor the scale, recording the exact weight of all of the wrestlers. At the regional or state tournaments the exact weights will be recorded on the official tournament bracket sheets. For all tournaments, the official will be responsible for writing the weight/weight class of the wrestler on his/her wrist or shoulder, as designated by the head official with a marker.

(g) Second or third day weigh-ins will follow the same procedure as defined above. A different color marker will be used each day.

4.18.1.1.8 Skin Conditions.

(a) A member school wrestler who exhibits a skin condition(s) of a potentially infectious nature must be examined by a physician before he/she is permitted to participate in competition.

(b) A wrestler with a questionable skin condition must secure from his/her head coach the “Wrestler Skin Condition Examination Report Form” (Form WR2) to present to the physician at the time of the examination. This form must be used by the physician to document that he/she has examined the wrestler’s skin condition(s) and determined that it is not infectious. The wrestler must return the form signed by the physician to the head coach following the examination. The original form which is marked and signed by the physician must be presented by the head coach to the official at the weigh-in for his/her inspection. A photocopy of the form must also be given to the official for his/her records. The original form, however, must be retained by the head coach.

(c) A “Wrestler Skin Condition Examination Report Form” (Form WR2) signed by a physician is valid for a maximum of seven (7) days from the date of the examination unless otherwise indicated by the physician. After that time, the wrestler must obtain a new form from the physician if his/her skin condition is still present. The form is valid only for those areas of the wrestler’s body marked on the form by the physician. If the official observes any questionable area(s) not marked by the physician on the form, the wrestler will not be allowed to participate.

4.18.1.1.9 Disinfection of Wrestling Shoes. Home team management is required to provide a bottle of disinfecting product so that wrestlers and referee’s spray the bottom of their shoes, wipe them off with a towel, and then step onto the mat. Disinfecting product will be located at the Scorer’s Table of each mat.

4.18.1.1.10 Injury. During an injury timeout, both wrestlers must remain on the mat. The referee will position himself/herself at the scorer’s table.

4.18.1.1.11 Biting. The Board of Directors has defined the biting of an opponent by a wrestler during a meet, as judged by the official, as unsportsmanlike conduct.

4.18.1.1.12 Medical Personnel. The FHSAA Board of Directors recommends that each host member school have an athletic trainer and a physician present or readily available for each match and tournament.

4.18.1.1.13 Athletic Uniforms. Uniforms must be in compliance with National Federation Rule 4-1. A wrestler competing in a dual meet or tournament must be in proper uniform at all times while he/she is in public view. The penalty for violation of this regulation is the deduction of one (1) team point.

4.18.1.2 Regular Season Tournaments

4.18.1.2.1 May be categorized as either dual-team tournaments (competition is team vs. team) or individually bracketed tournaments (competition is bracketed by weight class);

4.18.1.2.2 May have a maximum of 32 teams (invitational tournaments exceeding 32 teams are subject to conditional approval by the Executive Director);

4.18.1.2.3 May have single-elimination, double-elimination, team round-robin or team pool-play formats;

4.18.1.2.4 Must not allow any match to begin later than 10 p.m. on any day;

4.18.1.2.5 Must allow a minimum of 10 hours to elapse between the end of the last match of one day and the beginning of weigh-ins the following day; and

4.18.1.2.6 Must begin and end within the same one week (Monday-Saturday) unless held during a holiday period.

The following additional minimum requirements have been established for individually bracketed tournaments:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournaments with:</th>
<th>up to 8 teams</th>
<th>9-16 teams</th>
<th>17-24 teams</th>
<th>24-32 teams</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of matches</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Requirements**

- Minimum number of mats* 2 3 4 5
- Minimum number of officials* 4 5 6 8

*Note: These are minimums. The tournament will run more efficiently if more mats and officials are used.

### 4.18.2 Florida High School State Championships Procedures

#### 4.18.2.1 District Meeting

**4.18.2.1.1 Date.** Monday through Friday of Week 16

**4.18.2.1.2 Meeting Agenda.** In addition to section 3.4.2, the following items of business must be addressed at the district meeting:

- Select officials.
- Determine allocation of tickets to participating schools on an equitable basis if seating is limited.

#### 4.18.2.2 Tournament Structure and Time Schedules

**4.18.2.2.1 District Tournaments**

(a) Dates, Time Schedule and Site.

1. Dates. Monday through Saturday of Week 34.
2. Time Schedule. Each district will determine the time schedule for its tournament at the district meeting. The following time schedule is recommended for all one-day district tournaments:
   - Weigh-ins, 8 a.m.
   - Seeding Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
   - First Round Competition, 10 a.m.
   - Consolation Competition, 5 p.m.
   - Championship Finals, 6 p.m.

A district with five (5) or more schools must conduct its tournament in two sessions. A district with four (4) or less schools must conduct its tournament in one session.

3. Site. Each district will determine a site for its tournament at the district meeting. The date and site of each district tournament will be posted on FHSAA.org.

4. Track wrestling is the preferred program for scoring.

**4.18.2.2.2 Regional Tournaments**

(a) Complexes. Competition will be conducted in four regional complexes in each classification. 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. One tournament will be conducted in each regional complex.

(b) Dates and Time Schedule. Regional tournaments shall be held on Friday and Saturday of Week 35. The following time schedule shall be used:

- **Friday**
  - Weigh-ins, 10 a.m.

  **Session 1**
  - Preliminaries, Wrestlebacks (1st & 2nd rounds), Noon

- **Saturday**
  - Weigh-ins, 8 a.m.

  **Session 2**
  - Semifinals, 10 a.m.
  - Wrestlebacks (3rd & 4th rounds), 12:30 p.m.

  **Session 3**
  - Consolation/Championship Finals (2 mats), 5 p.m.

(c) Sites. The FHSAA will determine the 12 sites for the region wrestling tournaments and post the sites on FHSAA.org

(d) Electronic Clocks. Visual electronic clocks are required at each Florida High School State Championships tournament. It is strongly recommended that adults work the table at each mat in all Florida High School State Championships tournaments.
(e) Invitations to Host. The deadline date for extending an invitation to serve as host for a regional tournament is Friday of Week 50.

(f) Trackwrestling is the preferred program for scoring.

4.18.2.2.3 Florida High School State Championships.

(a) Dates. The FHSAA Wrestling Finals state tournament shall be held on Friday and Saturday of Week 36.

(b) Time Schedule. The Florida High School State Championships will be run according to the following time schedule:

**Thursday**
- Scales available, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Roll-a-rounds, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Coaches Packet Pick-Up (Arena), 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Friday**
- Weigh-ins, 8 a.m.
- Coaches Packet Pick-Up (Weigh-In Area), 8 a.m.
- Wrestling will be on 12 mats unless otherwise noted.

**Session 1**
- Arena opens, 9 a.m.
- First round of competition, 10 a.m.
- Second round of competition following
- First round of wrestlebacks following
- Second round of wrestlebacks following

**Saturday**
- Weigh-ins, 8 a.m.

**Session 2**
- Arena opens, 8:30 a.m.
- Semi-finals (6 mats), 9:30 a.m.
- Third round of wrestlebacks, 11:15 a.m.
- Fourth round of wrestlebacks, Following
- Fifth & sixth place finals (9 mats), Following
- Third & fourth place finals (9 mats), Following

**Session 3**
- Arena opens, 5:00 p.m.
- Introduction of finalists, 5:30 p.m.
- Russ Mauger Award, 5:40 p.m.
- Championship finals (3 mats), 6:00 p.m.

(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 the event.

4.18.2.2.4 Advancement of Teams and Individuals

(a) District Tournament to Regional Tournament. The top four (4) individual wrestlers in each weight classification from each district tournament in each school classification will advance to the regional tournament to which they are assigned.

(b) Regional Tournament to Florida High School State Championships. The top four (4) individual wrestlers in each weight classification from each of the four regional tournaments in each school classification will advance to the Florida High School State Championships.

4.18.2.3 Tournament Regulations

4.18.2.3.1 Squads. At the regional tournaments and Florida High School State Championships, a participant pass will be issued to each athlete who qualifies to the tournament. In addition, for those schools that have qualifiers for the regional tournament and/or Florida High School State Championships, coaches will be issued passes as follows:

- One to three participants – One head coach and one assistant coach.
- Four to seven participants – One head coach and two assistant coaches.
- Eight or more participants – One head coach and three assistant coaches.
No team student managers or student athletic trainers will receive participant passes. Participant and coach passes will not be transferable and will entitle those persons who receive such passes access to the mat areas.

4.18.2.3.2 Warm-up Uniforms. All wrestlers must wear school-issued warm-ups while on the arena floor, during the national anthem and during their participation in awards presentations and photograph sessions. Wrestlers must not wear hats, sunglasses, cutoffs, altered clothing, clothing displaying advertisements, jewelry and cosmetic paraphernalia on the arena floor or during awards presentations.

4.18.2.3.3 Seeding and Bracketing
(a) District Tournaments. Each district will seed and bracket its district tournament in accordance with the procedure as outlined in NFHS Rule 10 after the weigh-in has been completed. Brackets will be crossed in the quarterfinal round or semifinal round (8 teams or less) to better ensure that the best four wrestlers in each district tournament advance to the regional tournament. See the wrestling page on the FHSAA Website for a sample bracket.

(b) Regional Tournaments and Florida High School State Championships. All regional tournaments and the Florida High School State Championships will be seeded according to the formula developed by the FHSAA Office. The wrestleback will be used. A consolation match for fifth place and sixth place in each weight class will be contested at the Florida High School State Championships only. Brackets will be crossed in the quarterfinal round in each regional tournament to better ensure that the best four wrestlers advance to the Florida High School State Championships; and in the Florida High School State Championships to better ensure that the best six wrestlers in each weight class medal. See the wrestling page on the FHSAA Website for a sample bracket.

4.18.2.3.4 Verification of Weight Class. The head coach of each entrant in a district tournament and regional tournament must make available his/her school’s NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in forms, with actual weights recorded for each of his/her school’s entrants in the event of a challenge to an entrant’s weight class. An entrant whose weight class is questioned and whose head coach does not have available his/her school’s NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in forms shall be subject to disqualification. Any challenge to an entrant’s weight class in a district tournament must occur during the district tournament seeding meeting. Any challenge to an entrant’s weight class in a regional tournament must occur during the regional tournament scratch meeting.

4.18.2.3.5 Failure to Appear
(a) District Tournaments. If a school has an individual wrestler weigh in for a weight class and then fails to enter that individual wrestler in the appropriate weight class, the match in which the individual wrestler was scheduled to compete will be declared a forfeit and will be scored accordingly. Any weight class that does not have an entry will be declared a forfeit. Points will be awarded in accordance with the NFHS rules.

(b) Regional Tournaments and Florida High School State Championships. If a wrestler qualifies for a regional tournament and/or the Florida High School State Championships and fails to compete, his/her opponent will be declared the winner by forfeit and will advance to the next round. Points will be awarded in accordance with NFHS Rules. Any weight class that does not have an entry will be declared a forfeit. Points will be awarded in accordance of the NFHS rules.

(c) A school that permits a wrestler to qualify from the district tournament to the regional tournament and/or from the regional tournament to the Florida High School State Championships who fails to participate for reasons other than illness, injury, suspension due to disciplinary action or for any other reason acceptable to the Executive Director will be considered in violation of FHSAA Rules and Regulations.

4.18.2.4 Russell A. “Russ” Mauger Award. The Russell A. “Russ” Mauger Jr. Mental Attitude Award will be presented to the one wrestler who, in the opinion of his fellow wrestlers, their coaches and tournament officials – displays the most outstanding sportsmanship, leadership and integrity during state tournament competition.

4.18.3 Florida Weight Management Plan Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC)

The establishment of a certified minimum wrestling weight based on seven percent body fat for males and 12 percent for females is required for all high schools. The FHSAA does not advocate that a wrestler’s established certified minimum wrestling weight is the athlete’s best weight, but simply the minimum weight at which the athlete will be allowed to compete.

The FHSAA will utilize the NWCA Optimal Performance Calculator (OPC) as the mechanism to calculate the certified minimum weight for each wrestler and as the data reporting and retrieval tool for all member schools sponsoring wrestling. Each FHSAA member school with a wrestling program is required to join NWCA no later than the first day of wrestling practice (Monday of Week 20). The NWCA website may be located at www.nwcaonline.com. The NWCA will bill each school a $30 NWCA membership fee for use of this online database.

4.18.3.1 Establishing Certified Minimum Weights
(a) Bioelectrical Impedance or skinfold measurements will be utilized to determine each wrestler’s body fat percentage. Only measurements taken by persons who are certified FHSAA Assessors will be accepted. Schools can access a list of FHSAA certified assessors at FHSAA.org. It is the responsibility of the school to contact an assessor from this list and arrange a time to have the wrestling squad measured. No wrestler may compete until the athlete has had a certified minimum wrestling weight determined by the NWCA Optimal Performance Calculator and he/she appears on the school’s Pre-Match Weigh-in form. Once a wrestler competes at a weight class allowed by the weight loss plan, the option to appeal is voided.
The lowest weight class a wrestler may compete at will be determined as follows:

1. If the certified minimum weight, at seven percent or 12 percent body fat, is exactly that of one of the adopted NFHS weight classes, that weight shall be the wrestler’s minimum weight class.

2. If the certified minimum weight, at seven percent or 12 percent body fat, is less than one pound from one of the adopted weight classes, that weight class shall become the wrestler’s minimum weight class.

3. If the certified minimum weight, at seven percent or 12 percent body fat, is greater than or equal to one pound from one of the adopted weight classes, the next higher weight class shall be the wrestler’s minimum weight class.

Note: The allowance referenced Part I(b) (2 and 3) applies only to the calculation of the certified minimum weight class for a wrestler. The allowance is not applicable to the weights referenced in the weekly weight loss plan.

4.18.3.2 Time Period For Measurements

(a) No wrestler may compete until they have participated in an initial assessment and their name and data are included on the school NWCA Pre-Match Weigh-in Form.

(b) A wrestler who competes at a weight class allowed by his/her weight loss plan before or during an appeal has accepted his most recent assessment and voids all appeal options allowed within this policy.

(c) Assessments may begin on the first practice date allowed by the FHSAA (Monday of Week 20). Wrestlers may be measured any time on or following this date to establish a minimum wrestling weight. All wrestlers, including those coming out late, must have their minimum wrestling weight established prior to competing.

(d) The specific gravity of the urine will determine whether a candidate may participate in an assessment on any date. A specific gravity result of less than 1.025 is required in order to participate in the body fat assessment. Any wrestler not passing the urine specific gravity test must wait a minimum of 48 hours in order to be retested.

(e) The Wednesday before the District Tournament is the deadline to establish a certified minimum wrestling weight.

(f) Unusual situations must be arranged with the FHSAA in writing before deadline or due dates.

4.18.3.3 School Responsibilities For The Measurement Process

(a) It is the school’s responsibility to contact and contract with an FHSAA Certified Assessor from the list provided by the FHSAA.

(b) Schools contracting with an FHSAA Certified Assessor will be required to have available at the time of assessment:

1. Bioelectrical Impedance/skinfold measurement assessment data forms.

2. Plastic collection cups to conduct urine specific gravity test.

3. Reagent strips or refractometer for urinalysis (i.e. Ames Multistix, 8SG or 10SG, 2304A or equal)

4. Four adults (coach, teacher, AD, parent, etc.) who will:
   (a) Assist with measuring height (in cm)
   (b) Assist with the recording of data.
   (c) Assist with urine specific gravity testing (specimen collection).

(c) Bioelectrical Impedance or skinfold measurement assessments shall not be conducted by any active wrestling coach at any level.

4.18.3.4 Wrestlers Below Seven Percent Or 12 Percent Body Fat. Prior to competition, any male wrestler whose body fat percentage at the time of his initial assessment is below seven percent must obtain in writing a licensed physician’s (M.D. or D.O.) clearance stating that the athlete is naturally at this sub-seven percent body fat level. This written clearance shall be attached to the student’s physical exam form. In the case of a female wrestler, written physician’s clearance must be obtained for an athlete who is sub-12 percent body fat. A physician’s clearance is for one season duration and expires March 15 of each year. The sub-seven percent male or sub-12 percent female, who receives clearance, may not wrestle below their actual weight class at the time of assessment by the FHSAA wrestling assessor.

4.18.3.5 Growth Allowance

(a) The Florida Weight Monitoring Program awards a two pound growth allowance on December 26.

(b) The growth allowance may not be utilized to achieve a lower certified minimum wrestling weight for a wrestler.

(c) In order to utilize the growth allowance, for the district tournament, a wrestler shall compete at “scratch weight” in the desired weight class at least once prior to the District Meet.

SCRATCH WEIGHT: References within the Florida Wrestling Weight Monitoring Program to the term “scratch weight” refer to the weight achieved which qualifies an athlete to wrestle at one of the National Federation established weight classes less growth allowance and/or any consecutive day allowance awarded under NFHS Wrestling Rules.

Q: If a wrestler is assessed, and the lowest he can go is 153, can he go 154 for districts?

A: No. The growth allowance may not be utilized to achieve a lower certified minimum wrestling weight.

4.18.3.6 Weight Loss Per Week
4.18.3.6 Weight Loss Per Week

(a) An average weight loss limit of 1.5 percent of body weight at the time of initial assessment per week has been set. A season long weight loss plan will guide his/her weight loss during the season.

(b) If a wrestler weighs-in and wrestles up a weight class, the OPC 1.5% loss limit may prevent a wrestler from going back down to his desired weight for the next contest.

(c) The weight loss plan will determine which weight class(es) a wrestler may participate at each week.

Q: A wrestler’s lowest minimum certified weight class is 120 with a minimum certified weight of 114.5. He weighed 134 at assessment and weighs 131.3 at the first week of competition. May he wrestle 138 during the first week of competition?
A: Yes. He is eligible by the Optimal Performance Calculator for both 132 and 138.

(d) A wrestler, through his/her school, may petition to raise his/her minimum wrestling weight class by completing the appropriate form and submitting it to the FHSAA Office. The deadline to petition is the last regular season competition date.

Q: If a wrestler certifies at 113 and makes scratch weight early in the season (113) and weighs in at 119.6 later for another match, but bumps to 125 (not weighs in at 125, but weighs in at 120 and wrestles 126 in a tournament halfway through the season), is he still certified at 113?
A: Yes.

(e) If a student-athlete weighs in and participates in any weight class above the eligible weight classes defined by the weight loss plan, the wrestler has recertified at that weight class. The wrestler is required to compete at this weight class, or any greater weight class for which they qualify, for the remainder of the season.

(f) PENALTY—A wrestler who participates at a weight class, below the eligible weight class(es) defined by the weight loss plan, before the proper amount of time has passed to achieve the weight class will be considered an ineligible wrestler.

Example:

| Weight at Initial Assessment = 163 lbs | 1.5% loss per week = 2.45 lbs (2.445 rounded) |
| BF% = 16% | Minimum Wrestling Weight = 147.23 lbs |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projected Weight with 1.5% loss per week</th>
<th>Eligible Weight Class(es)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 160.56</td>
<td>170, 182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 158.11</td>
<td>160,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 155.67</td>
<td>160,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 153.22</td>
<td>160,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 150.78</td>
<td>152, 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6 148.3</td>
<td>152, 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 147.23 (By “Plan”, not 145.89 by calculation)</td>
<td>152, 160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note 1: The wrestler in this example would not be allowed to compete below the 152 lbs weight class during the year.

Note 2: In the above example, a wrestler who weighs-in at 151.80 lbs. during Week 4 is only eligible to compete at 160 lbs. – he/she would not be eligible to compete at 152 lbs. even though the weigh-in qualifies him/her for that weight as per Section VI (d).

4.18.3.7 Appeal Process

Note: In order to utilize the results of an appeal the school must receive notification from the FHSAA Office prior to allowing the appealing athlete to compete.

Parental permission is not a valid means to establish a lower minimum wrestling weight. Any athlete may appeal his/her assessment results one (1) time by reassessment. Step 1 may be bypassed and only Step 2 performed. The steps of the appeal process are as follows:

Step 1: The athlete shall repeat the assessment as described in the regulation. EXCEPTION: Skinfold measurement assessment may not be used for the appeal process.

(a) The reassessment shall occur within 14 calendar days of the initial assessment date unless a written extension is granted by the FHSAA before the expiration of the 14-day period. The 14-day appeal period shall start on the day following the date of initial assessment. Day one through seven does not permit any loss of weight for an appeal to be valid. During the second week, days 8-14, a wrestler may weigh no less than 1.5 percent (rounded down) of the body weight measured at the initial assessment. Failure to meet these conditions or timelines is cause for denial.

(b) Data shall be recorded on the Bioelectrical Impedance Assessment Data Form.

(c) Reassessment includes hydration and Bioelectrical Impedance assessment.
Step 2: If dissatisfaction with the results remains, the wrestler may choose Hydrostatic weighing or Bod Pod assessment to determine body fat percentage. Results obtained at this step are automatically accepted; the athlete, family, school or coach may not appeal further.

(a) The hydrostatic weighing or Bod Pod assessment shall occur within 30 calendar days of the initial assessment date unless a written extension is granted by the FHSAA before the expiration of the 30-day period. The 30-day appeal period shall start on the day following the date of initial assessment.

(b) The school shall file a “Hydrostatic Weighing Proposal” or “Bod Pod Assessment Proposal” before a hydrostatic weighing or Bod Pod assessment is approved.

(c) Hydrostatic weighing and Bod Pod facilities must be approved by the FHSAA; the proper form shall be filed with the FHSAA.

4.18.3.8 Costs

(a) All costs incurred for initial assessment, appeal process, any nutrition education program, and NWCA Optimal Performance Calculator are the responsibility of the school or parent.

(b) Charges for bioelectrical impedance or skinfold measurement assessment may not exceed $5 per person when schools contract with an FHSAA Certified Assessor.

(c) FHSAA Certified Assessors are permitted to charge mileage at the FHSAA adopted (same as contest officials) rate of 30 cents/mile round trip or a service fee of $30 or less whenever travel is required to a location at which fewer than six subjects are to be assessed on any given date.
Directions to Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Bldg.

The Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building is located in west Gainesville at 1801 NW 80th Blvd, which runs parallel to the west side of Interstate 75. Take exit 387, SR 26 (Newberry Rd), west to Fort Clarke Blvd, turn right. Proceed north approximately 1/2 mile to NW 15th Pl, turn right. Follow NW 15 Pl 1/4 mile where it will curve sharply left and become NW 80th Blvd. Continue on NW 80th Blvd. It will dead end into the entrance to the FHSAA drive.
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