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 2020-21 school year are shaded.
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Revisions to Administrative Policies for 2020-21 School Year

(below are the major substantive changes to the Administrative Policies)

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POLICY 1

APPORTIONMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECTIONS

1.1 Board of Director Apportionment Charge. Bylaw 3.11.1 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 the fall of 2020. Any reapportionment resulting from this review shall be in effect for the elections to be conducted beginning in February 2021.

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 Championship Series competitions in those sports. These guidelines establish the thresholds (minimum standards) that sports must meet for categorization and Florida High School
The Board of Directors may sanction a recognized sport as being eligible for administrative section. 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 which are geographically situated in at least two (2) of the four (4) administrative sections, have sponsored a program in, and competed official Florida High School State Championship Series competition, effective with the beginning of the following school year, upon

3.4.2 Requirements of Sanctioning.
require participants to adhere to a greater degree of regulation subject to terms and conditions established by the Board of Directors. Bylaw 8.5.1 states that sanctioned sports, in which an official Florida High School State Championship Series competition is implemented, may

time to warrant sanction of the sport as being eligible for official Florida High School State Championship Series competition. Bylaw

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 Championship Series competition. Bylaw 8.5.1 states that sanctioned sports, in which an official Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Championship Series competition, effective with the beginning of the following school year, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, when a minimum of 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series via Home Campus. A minimum of 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership, of which not more than three-fourths may be geographically located within 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 Championship Series for Recognized Sports. The Board of Directors may authorize the conduct of a Florida High School State Championship Series 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 a Florida High School State Championship Series. A minimum of 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership must have sponsored a program in, and competed in, the recognized sport for a minimum of two (2) years.

3.3.3.2 Commitment to Participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series. When the Board of Directors authorizes a Florida High School State Championship Series in a recognized sport, the FHSAA Office shall require all member senior high schools to record its intention with regard to participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series via Home Campus. A minimum of 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership, 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership that commit to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series have done so. In committing to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series, schools shall agree to abide by all season limitations, as well as all terms and conditions for the Florida High School State Championship Series, 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 Championship Series under these conditions, the Florida High School State Championship Series shall not be implemented at that time.

3.3.4 Current Sports Holding Recognition. None

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 10 percent (10%) of the total senior high school membership and 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 and shall not be under the jurisdiction of this Association. A school can offer an intramural program for a sport, recognized or sanctioned, provided the school does not participate in interscholastic athletic competition for that sport.

3.2 Club and Intramural 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.

3.2.2 Intramural Sports Defined. Athletic activities organized within a member school shall be considered an intramural sport and shall not be under the jurisdiction of this Association. A school can offer an intramural program for a sport, recognized or sanctioned, provided the school does not participate in interscholastic athletic competition for that sport.
3.4.3 Implementation of a Florida High School State Championship Series. When a sport is sanctioned by the Board of Directors as being eligible for official Florida High School State Championship Series competition, the FHSAA Office shall require all member senior high schools to record its intention with regard to participation in Florida High School State Championship Series in the sport via Home Campus. A minimum of 20 percent (20%) of the total senior high school membership, 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 20 percent (20%) of the total senior high school membership that commit to participate in the official Florida High School State Championship Series have done so. Otherwise, the official Florida High School State Championship Series shall not be implemented at that time. Any Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Championship Series is implemented, shall be regulated by the Association. All Association bylaws, policies, administrative procedures, 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 Championship Series 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 bowling, boys bowling, competitive cheerleading, girls cross country, boys cross country, girls flag football, boys 11-man football, girls golf, boys golf, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, 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 volleyball, girls water polo, boys water polo, girls weightlifting, 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 Championship Series 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 requesting that the status of the sport be revoked and/or the Florida High School State Championship Series in the sport be suspended or discontinued; or

3.5.1.3 Financially Unfeasible. If 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 Championship Series 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 offer 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 Association bylaws, policies, administrative procedures, rules and contest regulations for that sport and in general.

4.1.2 Contests Against Non-Member and Out of State Schools. Member schools competing against a non-member Florida school or a non-NFHS state association member out of state school must complete the AT1B, “Contract for Interscholastic Athletic Contest Against Non-Member Schools”. Member schools must assure that all non-member schools meet Bylaw 8.3.
4.1.3 Submission of Schedule

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

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

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

4.1.4 Officials

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

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

4.1.5 Reporting Scores

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.1.6 Prohibited Contests

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

4.1.7 Absence from School

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POLICY 5

MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Attendance at Compliance Seminar

5.1.1 Senior High Schools Required to Attend. Member senior high schools are required to attend, every two years, an association approved compliance seminar.

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

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

5.1.4 First Year Provisional Member Schools. A school in its application year of membership must be represented at the New Member School Compliance Seminar by its principal, athletic director and FHSAA representative.

5.1.5 Continuing Provisional Member Schools. A continuing provisional member senior high school must be represented at an association approved compliance seminar by its principal, 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 an association approved compliance seminar that year. Attending an association approved compliance seminar in an administrative section that is not the same as the school’s sectional rotation, as defined in Policy 5.1.2, will not alter the rotation for required attendance at future association approved compliance seminars. First time athletic directors who were appointed after the previously scheduled compliance seminars must attend the Mid-Year Compliance Seminar, if one is scheduled.

5.1.7 Mid-Year Compliance Seminar. A Mid-Year Compliance Seminar may be conducted each year for those athletic directors who were appointed after the previously scheduled compliance seminars or those athletic directors who have been directed to attend or need additional assistance.

5.1.8 Choice of Seminar Site. Continuing member schools attending a compliance seminar may choose from any association approved 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 may subject the school to a minimum $250 monetary penalty and/or other sanctions.

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. A school may opt for a 5-year, multi-year membership contract with the Association, at a reduced yearly rate, paid in advance (see Policy 9). Provisional and applying member schools are not eligible for multi-year membership.

5.2.2 First-Time Membership. A completed membership packet (reference Bylaw 3.6.1.1) must be on file at the FHSAA office on or before April 30 for the school to be considered for membership with the association. Upon submittal of the membership application packet and following the successful completion of an on campus administrative consultation and school site visit by the Executive Director or his/her designee(s), written correspondence of acceptance will be sent to the applying member school and a conditional three (3) year membership period (reference Bylaw 3.4) will begin.
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;
(p) Church of God Association of Christian Schools.

Suspension of Membership

5.4.1 Penalties Due to Suspension. Schools whose membership has been suspended for any reason, other than failure to pay membership dues, will lose all privileges listed in Bylaw 3.9.1 for the duration of the suspension and may incur a minimum financial penalty of $100 for each week the school remains on suspension (maximum $400). If after 30 days, the school has not corrected its deficiencies, the school’s membership status will be brought before the FHSAA Board of Directors for potential expulsion (reference Bylaw 3.10.2).

SPORT SEASON LIMITATIONS

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

General Principles

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

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

6.1.1.2 Restrictions for Football and Wrestling

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

(a) the first two (2) days of practice are restricted to helmets only,
(b) days 3-5 can introduce shoulder-pads with shorts,
(c) beginning day six (6) of practice, full gear can be utilized, and body-to-body contact is permitted.

Student-athletes who begin practice with a team after the start of official practice will be required to follow this same 6-day procedure. During the initial five (5) days, the use of arm shields, tackling and blocking dummies, sleds and other devices can be used for instructional purposes, however, deliberate body-to-body contact is prohibited.
6.1.1.2 Wrestling. Each student must participate in a minimum of 10 practice sessions on 10 separate days prior to first competition (Exception: a student who participates in a fall sport may compete after participating in 5 practice sessions on 5 separate days).

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

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

(a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo – 2 preseason and 25 regular season games/matches
(b) Bowling, Lacrosse and Tennis – 2 preseason and 18 regular season games/matches
(c) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field and Weightlifting – 1 preseason and 13 regular season meets
(d) Flag Football – 2 preseason and 15 regular season games
(e) Football and Competitive Cheerleading – 1 preseason and 10 regular season games/competitions, high school varsity level; 8 games, all other levels and 1 postseason bowl game per Administrative Procedure 4.7.1.2 (Football only)
(f) Golf – 1 preseason and 16 matches
(g) Wrestling – 1 preseason and 20 regular season matches, 2 of which may only be single dual matches

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

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

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

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

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

6.1.3.1.1 Exception. A member school may apply for approval to allow student-athletes to participate in six (6) quarters per week. Student-athletes are limited to six (6) quarters of in-game competition in the same school week Monday through Saturday (exclusive of the Florida High School State Championship Series) per Administrative Procedure 4.7.5.

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

**POLICY 7**

**SPECIAL AND SANCTIONED ATHLETIC EVENTS**

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

7.1 Definitions.

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

7.1.2 Host

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

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

7.2 Sanction Process.

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

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

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

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

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

7.6 Third Party Special Events

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

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

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

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

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

7.7 Nationally Televised Events

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

All member school principals must certify on the membership application that all of the coverage referenced below has been obtained. Member schools must keep current certificates of required coverage on file and provide proof of required coverage to the FHSAA upon request. 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 parents’ 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 **Accident Medical Expense and Catastrophe Cash Benefit Policy.** A minimum limit of $1,000,000 for accident medical expense benefit is required for each participant in interscholastic athletics sponsored, supervised and engaged in by the school. A minimum catastrophe cash benefit limit of $500,000 is required for total disability of any participant in interscholastic athletics sponsored, supervised and engaged in by the school. Structured pay-out benefits may vary. This coverage is to be in excess of the athletic medical base plan policy limits or the policy can include the athletic medical base plan coverage within the policy. The policy must provide no fault coverage.

8.3 **General Liability.** A general liability plan with minimum limits of $200,000 per person and $300,000 per occurrence is required (§ 768.28, F.S.).

8.4 **Status Change.** In the event the status of a member school’s insurance changes from what has been certified by the principal on the school’s membership application, the FHSAA Representative of the member school must notify the FHSAA and all schools with which it is contracted, in writing, within 24 hours of the status change.

8.5 **Suspension of Membership for Failure to Provide Insurance.** Upon request, a member school will have three (3) business days to furnish official documentation showing the school is in compliance with the above insurance requirements. Failing to provide the requested proof of insurance upon request will result in immediate suspension of membership (reference Policy 5.4.1).

POLICY 9

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.

9.1.5 **Operating Fund Balance.** To ensure the financial strength and stability of the general operations of the Association, the adopted budget shall include public acknowledgement of the planned ending fund balance, not classified as restricted, committed, or non-spendable, of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) and not more than one hundred and fifty percent (150%) of operating revenues. In the event the unreserved fund balance decreases to less than seventy-five percent (75%) or increases to more than one
hundred and fifty percent (150%) of the Association’s general fund budget, the Executive Director shall prepare for Board of Director approval, a financial plan and timeline to restore the ending fund balance to the amount set forth herein.

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. Multiple year membership dues are discounted to $100 for the five-year period, payable in the first year of the five year membership. Payment of dues must be received in the FHSAA Office by September 30. Per FHSAA Bylaw 3.10.1, schools will be suspended from membership after September 30, if dues have not been paid. In order for the suspended school to be reinstated, it must pay dues and an additional reactivation fee stated in 9.2.3 prior to December 31. Failure to pay late dues and reactivation fee by December 31 will result in termination from membership.

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. Payment of dues must be received in the FHSAA Office by September 30. Per FHSAA Bylaw 3.10.1, schools will be suspended from membership after September 30, if dues have not been paid. In order for the suspended school to be reinstated, it must pay dues and an additional reactivation fee stated in 9.2.3 prior to December 31. Failure to pay late dues and reactivation fee by December 31 will result in termination from membership.

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. A school applying for first-time middle school membership must pay a non-refundable $60 application fee.

9.2.3 Reactivation of Suspended and Re-admission of Former Member Schools. Reactivation fees for a member school that has been suspended based on failure to pay member dues by the deadline established in Policy 9.2.1 is $125 for high schools and $50 for middle schools. 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.

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

9.4 Florida Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Dues

Middle, junior 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 for Preseason Events (Classics, Jamborees, Tournaments)

9.5.1 A non-refundable administrative fee shall be assessed each member school making an application for approval to host a preseason event in the sports listed in Policy 9.5.1.1 - 9.5.1.3. The administrative fee is due to the FHSAA within 30 days following the event. If payment is received beyond this deadline, a late fee of $50 may be assessed. Refer to Policy 7 for the sanctioning process, application deadlines and late application fees. There are no financial reporting requirements for the events listed below. See Policy 9.9 for the administrative fee for football classics and bowl games.
9.5.1.1 The administrative fee in the sports of baseball, basketball, soccer and softball shall be $100.
9.5.1.2 The administrative fee in the sports of girls volleyball and wrestling shall be $75.
9.5.1.3 The administrative fee in the sports of boys weightlifting, track & field, cross country, swimming & diving shall be $50.
9.5.1.4 There is no FHSAA prior approval process or administrative fee or financial reporting requirements for school participation in preseason events in the sports of tennis, golf, bowling, competitive cheerleading, flag football, water polo, boys volleyball, lacrosse, and girls weightlifting. 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 Championship Events
The FHSAA reserves the right to establish ticket prices for all Florida High School State Championship Series 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 reserves the right to establish single day and/or full tournament ticket pricing, at a price not to exceed the value of the total number of single session events included in the single day or tournament pricing at Championship events. The Executive Director also reserves the right to establish premium seating ticket prices for a Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 reduce or not charge 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 Championship Series shall be as follows: district tournaments/meets, $6; regional tournaments/meets, $7; Florida High School State Championship Semifinals, general admission $9. Florida High School State Championship Finals, general admission $9.

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

9.7.3 Football. The admission price to games in the Florida High School State Championship Series shall be as follows: regional tournament games, $8 general admission, $9 reserved seating; state semifinal games, $9 general admission, $10 reserved seating; Florida High School State Championship Finals, 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 Championship Series shall be as follows: district tournaments/meets, $6; regional tournaments/meets, $7; Florida High School State Championship Semifinals, $9. Florida High School State Championship Finals, $9.

9.7.5 Bowling, Flag Football, Lacrosse and Water Polo. The admission price to tournament sessions in the Florida High School State Championship Series shall be as follows: district tournaments/meets, $6; regional tournaments/meets, $7; Florida High School State Championship Semifinals, $8. Florida High School State Championship Finals, $8.

9.7.6 Golf and Tennis. No admission shall be charged for Florida High School State Championship Series events in these sports.

9.7.7 Cheerleading. The admission price to the Florida High School State Championship Series competitions shall be as follows: regional level competitions, $6; Florida High School State Championship Semifinals, $10. Florida High School State Championship Finals, $10.

9.8 Ticket Policy for Florida High School State Championship Series Events
9.8.1 Host school/organizations for all Florida High School State Championship Series contests shall adhere to the following guidelines with regard to the sale of tickets at such contests:
9.8.1.1 Numbered tickets or numbered arm bands and electronic tickets purchased through the Association’s designated electronic ticket provider, when required by the FHSAA, shall be sold at each Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Entry and Ticket Redemption

9.8.1.2.1 Tickets. Each ticket must be torn in half by ticket-takers so that they cannot be resold. Torn tickets cannot be accepted for re-entry.

9.8.1.2.2 Arm Bands. Numbered arm bands must be applied to each person at the time of purchase and cannot be removed for resale.

9.8.1.2.3 Electronic Tickets. Electronic tickets must be redeemed using the Association’s designated ticket provider’s redemption method to ensure cancellation of the electronic ticket upon entry.

9.8.1.2.4 FHSAA State Series Pass and FHSAA Lifetime Pass. Host schools must adhere to Policy 15.1.4 regarding acceptance of FHSAA State Series Passes and FHSAA Lifetime Passes in lieu of charging admission to any State Series event. The host must require a pass gate log to be signed by the pass holder.

9.8.1.3 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.

9.8.1.4 All tickets, arm bands and electronic tickets sold must be accounted for on the financial report form for sports that are required to share a percentage of sales with the FHSAA (see Policy 9.10).

9.8.1.5 Allocation of Tickets. The visiting school for a regional quarterfinal, regional semifinal, regional final or state semifinal 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 Football Special Events Financial Reporting and Revenue Sharing

9.9.1 Administrative Fee. A non-refundable administrative fee shall be assessed each member school making an application utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director. Electronic submittal of information on Form AT2 is required for approval to host a preseason or post season event in the sport of football. Refer to Policy 7 for filing deadlines, late filing financial penalties, nationally televised event fees and third-party fees.

9.9.1.1 Preseason, Spring Classics and Jamborees. In the sport of football, the FHSAA shall receive 20 percent of the gross receipts of all football classic and jamboree games or a flat fee as listed below, whichever is less:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Fall Fee</th>
<th>Spring 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 financial split between host and visitor should be stated in the game contract. Failure to state a financial split in the game contract shall default to: visiting school receives 35 percent of the net profit after the host pays expenses, including the FHSAA share. Financial Report information reported on Form FB3 shall be submitted utilizing the official Association process approved by the Executive Director. The financial report and payment must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee and/or late payment fee of $50 for each occurrence may be assessed. If a Classic or Jamboree is cancelled after scheduling the event, the host must notify FHSAA of the cancellation by the deadline for the payment of fees or the host may incur a $50 fee.

9.9.1.2 Postseason Football Bowl Games. The FHSAA shall receive eight (8) percent of the gross receipts of all postseason football bowl games. Refer to Policy 7.6 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 information reported on Form FB3 must be submitted utilizing the official Association process approved by the Executive Director. The financial report and payment must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee and/or late payment fee of $50 for each occurrence may be assessed.

9.10 Florida High School State Championship Series Games, Tournaments & Meets Financial Reporting and Revenue Sharing

9.10.1 Football. Each regional tournament game and state semifinal game shall be financially independent. The total gate receipts of each 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 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 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 the FHSAA with 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 regional tournament game or state semifinal game shows a net loss on the financial report, the FHSAA shall compensate the host school up to $350 for the loss, subject to the provisions of 9.10.4. Financial Report information reported on Form FN2 shall be submitted utilizing the official Association process approved by the Executive Director for regional and state semifinals. The financial report and payment must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee and/or late payment fee of $50 for each occurrence may be assessed.
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. Unless approved otherwise at a district planning meeting, 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 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, the FHSAA shall compensate the host school up to $350 for the loss, subject to the provisions of 9.10.4. Financial Report information reported on Form FN2 shall be submitted utilizing the official Association process approved by the Executive Director for district and regional tournaments. The financial report and payment must be received by the FHSAA within 30 calendar days of the completion of the event. A late filing fee and/or late payment fee of $50 for each occurrence may be assessed.

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 region tournaments or meets or any Florida High School State Championship Series play-in games. Host schools of district tournaments or Florida High School State Championship Series play-in games in these sports do not need to file a financial report. District planning meetings should determine how the host should distribute net profits or loss. In regional tournaments, the host school is fiscally responsible for all losses and must redistribute profits as stated in policy 9.10.2.

9.10.4 Net Loss Reimbursement. To be eligible to receive the $350 maximum compensation for a net loss shown on the financial report, 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, or numbered arm bands, and account for all tickets sold, including electronic tickets, 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 Provide supporting documentation for all expenses reported and follow expense limitations on the financial report regarding event manager, facility rental and trophies; and
9.10.4.5 Be in compliance with all policies for the event.

9.10.5 Hosting a Florida High School State Championship Series Tournament at Multiple Sites. Regardless of number of sites required to play a District or Regional Florida High School State Championship Series Tournament, there shall be one recognized host school that is responsible for filing the 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 a Florida High School State Championship Series. Entry fees may only be charged to participating teams in a Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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.
(c) In all sports, Regional Championship trophies may be purchased by the Champion school from the FHSAA authorized award vendor after the event. The cost of Regional Championship trophies may not be claimed by the Host as an expense on the financial report for the event.
9.10.8  Failure of Host to Meet Financial Reporting and Payment Requirements. Schools may be sanctioned including, but not limited to, loss of ability to host future Florida High School State Championship Series events if the school fails to complete financial reports and share revenue in a timely manner and in accordance with all items contained in Policy 9.

9.11 Compensation to Schools Participating in Florida High School State Championship Series Events

9.11.1 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series do not show a net profit after expenses.

9.11.2 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 Championship Series do not show a net profit after expenses.

9.11.3 Competitive Cheerleading, 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 Championship Series. 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 Athletic Events Not Held Due to Unusual Circumstances, Including Inclement Weather

9.12.1 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.

9.12.2 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.

9.12.3 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 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 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 Championship Series 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.

9.14 Failure of Host to Meet Financial Reporting and Payment Requirements. Schools may be penalized for failure to complete financial reports, pay invoices and/or share revenue in a timely manner and in accordance with all items contained in Policy 9. Penalties may include, but are not limited to, loss of ability to host future Florida High School State Championship Series events.
POLICY 10

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

10.1 Participation in the Florida High School State Championship Series

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

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

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

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

• All competitions to determine a champion(s) that are conducted by conferences or leagues whose members also are members of the FHSAA must be conducted in accordance with school contest limitations per Policy 6.1.2.

10.2 Sport Participation

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

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

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

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

1. Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo – 10 contests
2. Bowling, Lacrosse, Tennis and Wrestling – 7 contests
3. Golf - 6 contests
4. Cross Country, Swimming & Diving and Track & Field – 5 contests
5. Flag Football, Football, Competitive Cheerleading and Weightlifting – 4 contests

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

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

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

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

10.3 Individual Participation

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

10.3.1.1 Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo – 10 contests
10.3.1.2 Bowling, Lacrosse, Tennis and Wrestling – 7 contests
10.3.1.3 Golf – 6 contests
10.3.1.4 Cross Country, Swimming & Diving and Track & Field – 5 contests
10.3.1.5 Flag Football, Football, Competitive Cheerleading and Weightlifting – 4 contests

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

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

10.4.1 The school may be subject to a $250 administrative fee.
10.4.2 The school withdrawing its commitment shall be required to request to be released from its scheduled contests and may be subject to financial restitution to those schools.

10.5 Failure to Appear

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

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

10.6 Neutrality

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

10.7 Allegations and Protests

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

10.7.2 Withholding Information. Member schools (or persons defined in Bylaw 1.4.18) who intentionally withhold information impacting Florida High School State Championship Series participation shall be considered unethical and unsportsmanlike and addressed in accordance with Policy 46.
POLICY 11

ROSTERS

11.1 Sport Rosters

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

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

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

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

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

POLICY 12

CLASSIFICATION

12.1 General

12.1.1 Membership Classification. Membership classifications will be applied for administrative and Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Cycle. Schools shall be classified on a biennial basis.

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 traditional student population in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades as reported during the week in October designated by the Florida Department of Education for the fall semester FTE survey of public schools, combined with the total number of non-traditional students from the previous school year. 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 who are enrolled in and physically attend, except dual enrolled/admission students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.7, the school at which they participate.

12.2.1.2 Non-Traditional Students. Non-traditional Students are students who are not enrolled in nor physically 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 9.2.2.3, Non-Member Private School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.4 and FLVS-FT Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.5.

12.2.1.3 Population Count of Non-traditional Students. The count of non-traditional students will be the number of students in each category from the previous school year.

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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series in the lower classification.

12.2.5 Missing Grade Levels. In the event an existing full 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 the school is geographically isolated from other schools in the classification to which it would be assigned; and
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 cycle under the following circumstances:

12.2.8.1 A school classified as 1A, as identified in Policy 12.3.2.1 or Policy 12.4.2.1, which, during a classification cycle, no longer qualifies for the 1A class, as identified in Policy 12.3.2.1 or Policy 12.4.2.1, will be assigned to the classification for which they qualify (2A – 7A), based upon the student population for that classification.

12.2.8.2 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.

12.2.8.3 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.

12.2.8.4 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.

12.2.8.5 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 (8) 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 three (3) classifications (4A, 3A and 2A). 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/Regions. 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 four (4) regions, with the top six 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 Championship Series in the sports of baseball, girls basketball, boys basketball, softball and girls volleyball for the current classification cycle shall be conducted in seven (7) classifications. The seven classifications are 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

12.4.2 Division of Classifications.

12.4.2.1 For each sport, the total number of existing member senior high schools which commit to participate in each sport shall be ranked in order of student population. 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 cycle are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification cycle.

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 Championship Series 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 shall be assigned as evenly as practical 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 Championship Series in that sport.

12.5 Girls & Boys Soccer

12.5.1 Number of Classifications. The Florida High School State Championship Series in the sports of girls soccer and boys soccer for the current classification cycle shall be conducted in six (6) classifications. The six classifications are 7A, 6A, 5A, 4A, 3A and 2A.

12.5.2 Division of Classifications.

12.5.2.1 For each sport, the total number of existing member high schools which commit to participate in each sport shall be ranked in order of student population. 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 cycle are determined, they shall not be changed during that classification cycle.

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 shall be assigned as evenly as practical 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 two (2) 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 cycle are as follows: cross country, swimming & diving, tennis and track & field four (4) classifications (4A, 3A, 2A, 1A); golf and wrestling, three (3) classifications (3A, 2A, 1A); girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, boys weightlifting, girls weightlifting and flag football, two (2) classifications (2A, 1A); a single classification in the sports of bowling, boys volleyball, water polo 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series in a sport shall be assigned as evenly as practical on a geographical basis to a district in the appropriate classification. For 1A (Rural) classifications, a tournament/meet shall be conducted in each district following the conclusion of the regular season on the dates set by the Board of Directors to determine the two schools that shall represent that district in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championship Series. For the remaining 2A-7A classifications, the winner of the tournament shall represent that district in the remainder of the Florida High School State Championship Series. The remaining four (4) state series places in each region shall be determined by a power ranking system.

13.1.1 **District Coordinator.** One school in each district will 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 upon the conclusion of the meeting but no later than seven (7) days following the meeting. The tournament/meet manager is responsible for all aspects of the district tournament/meet, including the seeding of teams, upon conclusion of the district planning meeting and receipt of the meeting’s minutes.

13.2 **District Scheduling/Tournament Planning**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13.3 Seeding and Bracketing

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

13.3.1.1 For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, each school shall be seeded based on its win-loss record in the contests played against all district opponents during the regular season. The school with the best district record shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-best district record shall be seeded No. 2; etc. For the 2A-7A classifications in girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, boys soccer, girls soccer, baseball and softball, each school will be seeded based on their power ranking utilizing the Association’s approved ranking system. The seeding will use regular season contests played on or prior to the Saturday one week prior to the first allowable date for the district tournament.
13.3.1.2 For the sports of flag football, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys volleyball, boys water polo, girls water polo and the 1A (Rural) classification for girls volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball, in the event two or more schools within the district are unable to play the required district contests due to inclement weather or other unforeseen and unavoidable situations which are deemed acceptable by the Executive Director, all schools within that district shall be seeded according to the percentage of district contests won (average of points accumulated in soccer). The school with the highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 1; the school with the second-highest percentage of district contests won (average points in soccer) shall be seeded No. 2, etc.

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

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

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

(a) Total won-loss record (points in soccer) of district contests played among the tied schools;
(b) Won-loss record (points in soccer) in district competition of the tied schools versus the highest-seeded school (and proceeding through the lowest seeded school, if necessary);
(c) Number of district victories (points in soccer) on the road in district games/matches;
(d) Number of district victories (points in soccer) at home in district games/matches; and
(e) Blind draw by the district tournament/meet manager.

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

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

POLICY 14

MINIMUM FACILITY SPECIFICATIONS FOR FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES CONTESTS

14.1 General Principles. The FHSAA Board of Directors has established the following minimum specifications for facilities in which Florida High School State Championship Series contests for district and region events in basketball, football and girls volleyball are to be held, unless mutually agreed upon by all involved parties. For all other sports, the FHSAA will determine minimum facility requirements on a per event basis. When state semi-finals are hosted at a school, the FHSAA will determine minimum facility requirements on a per event basis that may exceed the requirements for district and region. For all other sports, the FHSAA will determine minimum facility requirements on a per event basis.

14.1.1 Options to Remedy Inadequate Facilities. These specifications do not preclude a school with inadequate facilities from hosting a Florida High School State Championship Series contest. Schools that cannot meet the specifications can
appeal to the Executive Director or his/her designee for relief by following one of the options below.

14.1.1.1 **Deferring Host Responsibility.** 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.

14.1.1.2 **Hosting at a Neutral Site.** A school with inadequate facilities may choose to host the contest in a neutral facility which meets the necessary specifications. Rental expenses involved in securing an adequate facility 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 & Diving, the host may offset a maximum of $2,500 facility cost with entry fees from participants without approval of the Executive Director.

14.1.1.3 **Improving Existing Facilities to Meet Minimum Requirements.** A facility with seating capacities less than the minimums may set up portable seating at its own expense in order to satisfy minimum requirements. Rental, delivery, set up and take down expenses involved in securing portable seating cannot be claimed as a host expense on the FHSAA financial report for the event.

14.1.1.4 **Basketball Districts Lacking Adequate Facilities.** 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 Championship Series 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.

14.1.2 **Increasing Capacity Beyond Minimum Requirements.** Any expense incurred by a host school to increase the capacity of facilities beyond the minimum required specifications cannot be claimed as a host expense on financial reports when determining share of gate for the visiting school or the FHSAA unless prior approval is given by all parties involved.

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 **Minimum Facility Requirements for District and Region Events.**

14.3.1 **Basketball.**

14.3.1.1 The facility must be adequately constructed to control the entry and exit of spectators for the purpose of charging admission.

14.3.1.2 The facility must have a minimum of two restrooms (one male and one female) for public use.

14.3.1.3 The facility must have an electronic clock and scoreboard clearly visible to both team bench areas and spectators.

14.3.1.4 The facility must have a public address system.

14.3.1.5 The facility must have separate dressing rooms for both home and visiting teams, with access to restroom and shower facilities.

14.3.1.6 The facility must have a separate dressing area for officials, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.

14.3.1.7 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.

14.3.1.8 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.

14.3.1.9 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 7A – 1,000 seats;
(b) Class 6A – 900 seats;
(c) Class 5A – 700 seats;
(d) Class 4A – 700 seats;
(e) Class 3A – 500 seats;
(f) Class 2A – 300 seats;
(g) Class 1A – 300 seats.

14.3.2 **Football.**

14.3.2.1 The facility must be adequately constructed to control the entry and exit of spectators for the purpose of charging admission.
14.3.2.2 The facility must have a minimum of two restrooms (one male and one female) for public use.
14.3.2.3 The facility must have adequate artificial lighting to accommodate night games.
14.3.2.4 The facility must have an electronic clock and scoreboard clearly visible to both team bench areas and spectators.
14.3.2.5 The facility must have a public address system.
14.3.2.6 The facility must have separate dressing rooms for both home and visiting teams, with access to restroom and shower facilities.
14.3.2.7 The facility must have a separate dressing area for officials, with access to restroom and shower facilities as per Policy 27.
14.3.2.8 The facility should have a minimum of five yards of unobstructed space outside the playing field along each sideline and end line.
14.3.2.9 The facility must have restraining cables, fences, walls, etc., from goal line to goal line to separate spectators from each team box along the sideline.
14.3.2.10 The facility must have bleachers having masonry or metal understructure with footboards and seating properly maintained for both visitor and home fans.
14.3.2.11 It is recommended, but not required, that the facility have equal or near equal spectator seating on both sides of the field. In any case, however, the facility must meet the following minimum seating capacities:
   (a) Class 8A – 2,500 seats;
   (b) Class 7A – 2,000 seats;
   (c) Class 6A – 1,500 seats;
   (d) Class 5A – 1,000 seats;
   (e) Class 4A – 1,000 seats;
   (f) Class 3A – 750 seats;
   (g) Class 2A – 500 seats;
   (h) Class 1A – 500 seats.

14.3.3 Girls Volleyball.
   14.3.3.1 The facility must have a minimum seating capacity of 300 seats.

14.3.4 Inadequate Facilities. In the event a facility does not meet the minimum specifications, the host and visiting school must work together to find a solution. If greater seating is being requested, the requesting team must prove the need using ticket manifests from games during the regular season.

14.4 Penalties Assessed to Schools.
   14.4.1 If a school fails to adhere to any of the requirements in Policy 14, the school may lose the ability to host state series contest(s) in that sport.

POLICY 15

FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES PASSES

15.1 Florida High School State Championship Series Pass. Florida High School State Championship Series passes may be used at district, regional and state Florida High School State Championship Series events. Each full 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 member school has the option to purchase additional as follows:
   15.1.1 Individual passes purchased – must be issued in the name of a specific individuals;
   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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series pass.
   15.1.4 The following restrictions shall apply to all Florida High School State Championship Series 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 may be required by the Host Site to sign a pass gate log to record his/her name, school name and position with member school, type of pass and Florida High School State Championship Series pass number.

15.1.4.7 If the manager of a Florida High School State Championship Series event determines the event is sold out, Florida High School State Championship Series 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 and/or other sanctions 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 Championship Series 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 Championship Series events. 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 may be required to provide a signature on a pass gate log.

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.
16.1.5 Academic Performance Contract

16.1.5.1 Students. Students who qualify for an academic performance contract must have sat out of competition the full semester immediately following becoming academically ineligible, regardless of the level of participation (i.e. varsity, sub-varsity, middle school, etc.); during which time, or thereafter, the student must have entered into and fulfilled the requirements of the contract before participating in interscholastic competition the subsequent semester.

16.1.5.2 Schools

16.1.5.2.1 Reporting. Schools must report to the association, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, those students who have entered into a contract with the school or a previous school (where applicable).

16.1.5.2.2 New and Transferring Students. It is the responsibility of the school to obtain a copy of the Academic Performance Contract from the previous school (where applicable) of those students who are new to or transferred to the school and entered into a contract with the previous school.

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)(a)1, 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 enrolls 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 must meet the provisions of Bylaw 9.3.2.

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 Championship Series 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 1.4.32, are eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school attendance area policies or the public school which the student could choose to attend according to the controlled open enrollment provisions, pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S. (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 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. (See Bylaw 9.2.2.1)

16.6.1.2 Charter School Students. The student must attend a charter school that does not sponsor an interscholastic athletic program and transfer to a different home education cooperative must meet the provisions of Bylaw 9.3.2.

16.6.1.3 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. (See Bylaw 9.2.2.3)

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 attending the private school in the equivalent grade levels (i.e. 6-12, 7-12, 9-12, etc.) of the public school at which the student wishes to participate and does not offer the sport(s) in which the student wishes to participate. Completion of an EL12 Form (Registration Form for Non-Member Private School Students) is required. (See Bylaw 9.2.2.4)

16.6.1.5 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). (See Bylaw 9.2.2.5)

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 or as pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S.; 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 before participation (note, for the purposes of registering intent ONLY, the beginning of the sport season shall be the first day the student participates in the sport); 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 must not have been recruited to participate for 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, and as outlined in Policy 36. The student must complete and submit a GA4 Form with the school before the student added to a roster and allowed to participate in an interscholastic contest; and

(f) 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

(g) the student provides his/her own transportation to and from the school; and

(h) 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 is considered a transfer student and must meet the provisions of Bylaw 9.3.2 if, after the beginning of the school year (see Bylaw 1.4.5) he/she:

(a) Transfers from any school and establishes school residence as a “Non-Traditional” student (as referenced in 16.6.1 and 16.6.2); or
(b) Transfers school residence as a “Non-Traditional” student (as referenced in 16.6.1 and 16.6.2) to any member school; or
(c) Transfers school residence as one type of “Non-Traditional” student (as referenced in 16.6.1 and 16.6.2) and establishes school residence as “Non-Traditional” student of the same or different type (as referenced in 16.6.1 and 16.6.2).

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, including the completion and submission required forms, if applicable (i.e. EL7 Form, EL12 Form, EL14 Form, etc.).

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 9.2.2.3, Non-Member Private School Students as per Bylaw 9.2.2.4 and Florida Virtual School-Full Time Public Program Students (FLVS-FT) as per Bylaw 9.2.2.5.

16.7.2 Student Registration Process. The student must register with the school by completing and submitting the EL2, EL3, GA4, EL7 (if applicable, including the EL7V), EL12 (if applicable, including the EL12V) 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 and EL3 forms, as well as an official transcript or grade report, whichever is applicable, 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.

16.7.2.1.2 Non-Member Private School Student Exception. A non-member private school student must provide the school each year with a completed and signed EL12V 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 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 a 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:

16.8.1 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.

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

16.8.2.1 Current transcript and school registration information;
16.8.2.2 All information required for participation and eligibility in FHSAA athletics (i.e. birth certificate, proof of residency, EL2 and EL3);
16.8.2.3 A written statement from the student affirming the consistent identity and expression to which the student self-relates;
16.8.2.4 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;
16.8.2.5 A complete list of all the student’s prescribed, non-prescribed or over the counter, treatments or medications;
16.8.2.6 Written verification from an appropriate health-care professional (doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist) of the student’s consistent gender identification and expression; and
16.8.2.7 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.

16.8.3 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”.

16.8.4 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.

16.8.4.1 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 section
(d) Athletic Director from outside the member school’s FHSAA administrative section
(e) An athletic coach, of the sport in which participation is desired, from outside the member school’s FHSAA administrative section
(f) An Individual selected by the FHSAA familiar with Gender Identity and Expression issues

16.8.5 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 of the Gender Identity Eligibility Committee. The Executive Director shall schedule a Second Level of Review hearing to commence on or before the fifteenth (15th) school/business day following the date of receipt of the written notice, or within a reasonable time thereafter in cases of emergencies or extenuating circumstances. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered to petitioner’s school, for personal delivery to the student-athlete and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction. 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.

16.8.6 Final Determination of Review. When there is sufficient documentation and confirmation of a student’s consistent gender identity and expression, the eligibility committee will affirm the student’s eligibility to participate in FHSAA athletics consistent with the student’s gender identification and expression. Once the student has been granted eligibility consistent with his/her gender identity and expression, the eligibility is granted and binding for the duration of the student’s participation in every sport season of every school year. All discussion and documentation will be kept confidential, and the proceedings will be sealed unless the student and family make a specific request.

NOTE: The Florida High School Athletic Association will assist and facilitate the provision of resources and training for any member school seeking assistance regarding gender identity and expression procedures and requirements.

16.8.7 Exemption. This policy shall not apply to a private school member of the Association which, because of its strongly held religious beliefs, would be entitled to the exemption provided to educational institutions of religious organizations by USCA Title 20, Section 1681(a)(3). Any school claiming this exemption shall notify the Executive Director, or his/her designee, of such claim on the proper form provided by the Association. The school shall make the claim of exemption at its own risk of litigation and shall hold the Association harmless from any and all actions that may be taken against the Association by a student of the school, or his/her behalf or in his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), who sues the Association over his/her school’s right to claim an exemption.

16.9 Online Electronic Forms

16.9.1 Use of Online Electronic Forms. Member schools may opt to use an online format for the EL2 (Pre-Participation Physical Examination) and EL3 (Consent and Release from Liability Certificate) to obtain digital signatures. The information contained on the online versions of the EL2 and EL3 must contain all the exact wording of the form versions of the EL2 and EL3.

16.10 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.
16.10.1 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.

16.10.2 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

16.11 Penalties Assessed to Schools.
16.11.1 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) 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 and/or other sanctions.
16.11.2 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) 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 and/or other sanctions.
16.11.3 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed GA4 form (Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting and Non-Traditional Student Participation) may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per student and/or other sanctions.
16.11.4 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without properly registering a non-traditional student (see Policy 16.7.3) may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum $100 per student and/or other sanctions.
16.11.5 Use of an ineligible student when not self-reported, may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $2,500 per contest and/or other sanctions.
16.11.6 Use of an ineligible student when self-reported, may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per contest and/or other sanctions.

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, B2 or B1/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 (F-1 and J-1 U.S. Visas)

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 family 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 Restrictions.

(a) A host family that wishes to host more than two youth exchange students per school each year, for the same gender and sport, must have approval of the Executive Director.

(b) A host family that wishes to house more than four (4) youth exchange students in the same home, must have approval of the Executive Director.

(c) Unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director, each youth exchange student must be roomed in a self-contained bedroom, with no more than one other occupant.

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.

17.1.4.1 The J-1 youth exchange 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.

17.1.4.1.1 Exception. A student who arrives within ten (10) schools days after the start of the second semester of the FHSAA member school, after having completed the full school year in their home country coinciding with the end of the first semester of the FHSAA member school and provided the student has not completed the terminal grade in the home country, may be eligible.

17.1.4.2 The F-1 youth exchange student must attend classes within the first ten (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.

17.1.5 Transfer. Any subsequent transfer by the student to a different school during the school year must meet 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, as outlined in Policy 36. The student must complete and submit a GA4 Form with the school, in addition to the requirements in Policy 17.3, before the student can be 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. The high school limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5.1) is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student’s former country. The ninth (9th) year of compulsory education begins the eight (8) consecutive semester eligibility period. The fact that a student’s former country may have a terminal grade beyond the twelfth (12th) year of compulsory education does not alter the eight (8) consecutive semester eligibility period in Bylaw 9.5.1.

17.2 **Other International and Immigrant Students**

A “nonimmigrant” student who does not possess an F-1 or a J-1 visa, however does possess a “dependent” form of the same temporary work visa (except for B1/B2 visas) as their parent(s)/legal guardian(s), an United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) approved immigrant student and other immigrant or un-documented students may be eligible to represent an FHSAA member school in interscholastic athletic competition under the following conditions:

17.2.1 **Attendance.** The student must attend classes within the first ten (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.

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, as outlined in Policy 36. 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 **Student Must be an Undergraduate.** The international student must not have completed the terminal grade in either the U.S. or the country the student last attended school. 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 graduation requirements of the country the student last attended school, including the completion of the GED or its similar equivalent.

17.2.6 **FHSAA Eligibility.** The student must meet all other eligibility standards of the FHSAA Bylaws while a student at a member school. The high school limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5.1) is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student’s former country. The ninth (9th) year of compulsory education begins the eight (8) consecutive semester eligibility period. The fact that a student’s former country may have a terminal grade beyond the twelfth (12th) year of compulsory education does not alter the eight (8) consecutive semester eligibility period in Bylaw 9.5.1.

17.3 **Registration Procedures**

All youth exchange students (J-1 and F-1) and all other international students must be registered with this association each year, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, prior to participation at a member school. In addition to the completed EL4 Form (Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Students), each of the following, but not limited to, must be electronically submitted to the association:

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 “Certificate of Eligibility...” (Form I-20 A-B or Form DS-2019, respectively).

17.3.2.2 **Other International Students.** A copy of a valid, unexpired “Arrival-Departure Record” (Form I-94, which may be attached to the student’s passport or U.S. Visa) or a copy of an appropriate USCIS “I-797, Notice of Action” form, showing an approved status or a valid, unexpired “Employment Authorization Document” (EAD card).
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.** The school, with the assistance of the student, the host family or the student’s parent(s)/
legal guardian(s), must complete and submit a translation of the original language transcripts on a form provided by the association
or an equivalent form provided by the 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. This may require the completion and submission of a form provided by the association.

17.3.5 **Returning Students.** Returning, previously approved, youth exchange and any other international or immigrant
students that do not meet any Registration Exceptions listed in Policy 17.3.6, must submit electronically, the EL4 Form, a scanned copy
of their I-20-A-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. This may require the completion and submission of a form provided by the association.

17.3.6 **Registration Exceptions.**

17.3.6.1 Students with an unexpired “Permanent Resident” status do not have to be registered with this Association.

17.3.6.2 Students holding a valid, unexpired “Temporary Work Visa” (i.e. dependent form of the same U.S. Visa class as
their parents/legal guardians; this does not include the B1/B2 Visa) and students with USCIS approved refugee or asylum status (i.e.
must have an I-797 Form showing approved refugee or asylum status) do not have to be registered with the Association, provided the
following two (2) criteria are met:

17.3.6.2.1 **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; and

17.3.6.2.2 **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.

Note: It is incumbent on the school to verify that the student’s status to be in the U.S. has not expired (i.e. check expiration
date on the I-94 Form, the EAD card, the Permanent Resident card, etc.).

17.4 **Penalties Assessed to Schools**

17.4.1 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) 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 and/or other sanctions.

17.4.2 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) 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 and/or other
sanctions.

17.4.3 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed GA4 form (Affidavit of Compliance
with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting and Non-Traditional Student Participation) may subject the school to a monetary penalty
of a minimum of $100 per student and/or other sanctions.

17.4.4 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed and approved EL4 form (Registration
of Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Student, see Policy 17) may subject the school to a monetary penalty of a
minimum of $100 per student and/or other sanctions.

17.5 **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 non-traditional students, as defined in Policy
12.2.1.2, registered with a member school, may participate in the practice of an athletic team which represents that member school.

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

18.1.3 Violation of this policy could result in a monetary penalty of a minimum of $250 per occurrence and/or other sanctions.
18.2 Spring Football Practice
18.2.1 Spring Football practice is a continuation of the regular fall football season. Consequently, a student who transfers schools must meet the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.
18.2.2 Spring practice is confined to a maximum of 20 sessions commencing with the Monday of Week 44 or the last 20 days of the school year, whichever comes first, inclusive of the spring jamboree or classic.
18.2.3 Students who are seniors may not participate in spring football practice.
18.2.4 Only those students who are enrolled and in attendance in a school may participate in spring football practice at that school.
18.2.5 Eighth grade students may participate in spring football practice at the public high school for which the students are zoned to attend or could choose to attend pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S. or § 1002.33, F.S. or at the private school at which the student has been accepted and will attend in the ninth grade the following school year under the following conditions:

18.2.5.1 The students may practice on or in the high school facility only if such practice is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.
18.2.5.2 The students may be instructed in practice by high school coaches only if such instruction is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.
18.2.5.3 The principal/head of school of both schools must give their permission in writing to the FHSAA Office for the students to participate in such practice.
18.2.5.4 The students must have catastrophic insurance coverage for such practice.
18.2.5.5 The students must have the written permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in such practice on file in the school office.
18.2.5.6 The students must have undergone a physical examination within the last calendar year.
18.2.5.7 The students must not suffer any loss of time from school.
18.2.5.8 The students may not participate in a spring football jamboree or spring classic game.
18.2.5.9 The students may not participate in practice or have physical contact in any manner with student-athletes in the 9th, 10th or 11th grades who are members of the high school team.
18.2.6 Participation or non-participation in spring football shall not be used as a prerequisite for participation in football the following school year.

18.3 Spring Competitive Cheerleading Practice
18.3.1 Spring Competitive Cheerleading practice is a continuation of the regular winter competitive cheerleading season. Consequently, a student who transfers schools must meet the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.
18.3.2 Spring practice is confined to a maximum of 20 sessions commencing with the Monday of Week 44 or the last 20 days of the school year, whichever comes first.
18.3.3 Students who are seniors may not participate in spring practice.
18.3.4 Only those students who are enrolled and in attendance in a school may participate in spring competitive cheerleading practice at that school.
18.3.5 Eighth grade students may participate in spring competitive cheerleading practice at the public high school for which the students are zoned to attend or could choose to attend pursuant to § 1002.31, F.S. or § 1002.33, F.S. or at the private school at which the student has been accepted and will attend in the ninth-grade the following school year under the following conditions:

18.3.5.1 The students may practice on or in the high school facility only if such practice is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.
18.3.5.2 The students may be instructed in practice by high school coaches only if such instruction is approved in writing to the FHSAA Office by the district school superintendent or head of school for private schools.
18.3.5.3 The principal/head of school of both schools must give their permission in writing to the FHSAA Office for the students to participate in such practice.
18.3.5.4 The students must have catastrophic insurance coverage for such practice.
18.3.5.5 The students must have the written permission of their parents or legal guardians to participate in such practice on file in the school office.
18.3.5.6 The students must have undergone a physical examination within the last calendar year.
18.3.5.7 The students must not suffer any loss of time from school.
18.3.6 Participation or non-participation in spring competitive cheerleading shall not be used as a prerequisite for participation in competitive cheerleading the following school year.
18.4 Scrimmages

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

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

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

POLICY 19

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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

19.2 Purpose, Authority and Compensation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19.2.8 An individual can serve on only one advisory committee.

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

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

19.3 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) District 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.

19.3.3 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, at a minimum, once annually following the conclusion of its respective Florida High School State Championship Series competition. Currently, these sports are baseball, basketball, bowling, competitive cheerleading, cross country, football, flag football, golf, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, water polo, weightlifting and wrestling.

19.3.5 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 Championship Series competition. Currently, these sports are baseball, basketball, bowling, competitive cheerleading, cross country, football, flag football, golf, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, volleyball, water polo, weightlifting and wrestling.

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

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

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

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

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

19.5 Officials Advisory Committees

19.5.1 Committees and 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, swimming and diving and 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, flag football, girls lacrosse, boys lacrosse, softball, track and field and water polo. Each committee will be comprised of four officials from each sport, one official from each of the four administrative sections.

19.5.2 Committee Representation. Each sport shall have representation based on the number of officials registered during the previous year in the sport. Sports with officials totaling 800 or more shall have one official per administrative section with a maximum of four on the committee. Sports with officials totaling between the range of 799-250 shall have one official per administrative sections 1 and 2 and one official per administrative sections 3 and 4. Sports with officials totaling less than 250 shall have one official on the committee.

19.5.3 Elections. All committee members shall be elected by those officials who are registered and in good standing in that sport.

19.5.4 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.

19.5.5 Meetings. The Officials Advisory Committee shall meet, at a minimum, once annually to evaluate the FHSAA officials program.

19.5.6 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 each of the four (4) administrative sections.

19.6.3 **Nominations.** Each member school shall be allowed to nominate one (1) male and one (1) 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 (1) 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 continue to meet 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 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee will meet, at a minimum, once 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 § 1006.20(2)(m), F.S., the Association shall establish, sustain, fund and provide staff support to a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee appointed annually by the Executive Director and comprised of:

- Eight physicians licensed under § 458, F.S. or § 459, F.S., with at least one member licensed under § 459, F.S.; and
- One chiropractor licensed under § 460, F.S.;
- One podiatrist licensed under § 461, F.S.;
- One dentist licensed under § 466, F.S.;
- Three athletic trainers licensed under part XIII of § 468, F.S.; 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 a minimum, 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 § 1006.20(6), F.S., the Association shall establish, sustain, fund and provide staff support to a Public Liaison Advisory Committee appointed annually 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 (4) 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 Commissioner 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, at a minimum, four (4) 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.

19.9 Media Advisory Committee

19.9.1 Charge. The purpose of the Media Advisory Committee is to monitor and assist the organization in all media-related areas. In addition, the committee serves as a liaison between all media members in the state of Florida and the Association. In achieving its purpose, the MAC shall review FHSAA media-related policies, offer to the FHSAA recommendations for change to such policies as it deems appropriate and offer advice and guidance to the FHSAA staff.

19.9.2 Composition. The Media Advisory Committee will be comprised of 12 members representing each of the four (4) FHSAA Administrative Sections.

19.9.3 Selection. Committee members will be selected by the FHSAA staff. The selection process will take into consideration gender, race and media type (print, digital, TV, radio, student, other) to ensure a well-rounded committee.

19.9.4 Meetings. The committee will meet, at a minimum, once annually.

19.9.5 Quorum. Six (6) of the voting members of the Media Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum.

POLICY 20

SUMMER ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

20.1 Policy

20.1.1 Not Regulated in Summer. The FHSAA does not regulate the athletic activities of member schools held with their own students during the summer as defined herein with the exception of football. The individual member school principal, district school superintendent, district school board, charter or private school governing board are responsible for adopting regulations governing the activities of their respective schools during this period of time. All member schools are required to follow policies 40, 41, 42 and 43 during the summer (§ 1006.165, F.S.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21.5 Supervision by school personnel is required.

21.6 Schools shall provide information in the following areas:

21.6.1 Proper use of weight room equipment;

21.6.2 Proper weight training techniques;

21.6.3 Proper nutrition;

21.6.4 Proper cardiovascular conditioning techniques;

21.6.5 Ergogenics.

21.7 Hydration and Rest

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

21.8 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness

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

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

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

21.9.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

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

21.9.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.

21.9.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.
POLICY 22

NON-SCHOOL TEAM AND/OR OFF-SEASON PARTICIPATION

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

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

- the last permissible date for a regular season contest (if not participating in Florida High School State Championship Series competition) in that sport; or
- the date of the team’s elimination from Florida High School State Championship Series 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 “Off-Season Conditioning” as per Policy 21.

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

22.3.1 The team must be affiliated with an outside agency promoting athletic participation opportunities such as, but not limited to:
- Baseball – Babe Ruth, American Legion, city/county leagues
- Basketball – AAU, USA, USOC
- Football – USA Football
- Golf – USGA, AJGA
- Lacrosse – US Lacrosse
- Soccer – FIFA, Youth leagues
- Softball – ASA, USSSA
- Swimming & Diving – USS, NISCA, ASCA, CSCAA, AAU
- Tennis – FTA, USTA, USOC, ITF
- Track & Field – USA, AAU
- Volleyball – USVBA, USOC, USA, AVA
- Wrestling – USA, AAU

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

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

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

22.3.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team.
22.3.6 Member schools may make their gymnasiums and other athletic facilities available to outside groups or organizations provided a fully executed usage agreement is provided and available upon request.

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

22.4.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.
22.4.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
22.4.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.
22.4.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.
22.4.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 23

OPEN FACILITIES PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.
23.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
23.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.
23.2.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.
23.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

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” or as a fund raiser for the school or school programs during the school year provided:
(a) An appropriate properly executed facility usage agreement is provided and made available upon request; and
(b) All fees or assessments, collected or paid must be documented and be made to or from the school’s internal accounts; and
(c) Member schools are subject to the provisions in Policy 37.2.

24.1.1 Exception. Coaches may participate in camps, clinics, workshops provided the following criteria are met:
24.1.1.1 The event is hosted by a third party (not-for-profit organization), of which the coach is not an organizer, supervisor, owner, etc.; and
24.1.1.2 The coach participates in an instructional capacity only; and
24.1.1.3 The coach does not wear any school paraphernalia which identifies the school with which the coach is affiliated; and
24.1.1.4 The coach and student are subject to the provisions of Policy 36; and
24.1.1.5 The event is not held on the coach’s school campus.

24.1.2 Exception. Representatives of member schools’ athletic interests may provide personal instruction provided:
24.1.2.1 The individual providing instruction owns or is employed by a company which provides instruction of athletic skills; and
24.1.2.1.1 Instruction provided to students who attend the school with which the representative of the school’s athletic interests is affiliated may not exceed more than two students during the time of instruction, if the instruction takes place on that school’s campus.
24.1.2.2 The company which the individual owns or is employed by is a licensed business, containing a current tax identification number; and
24.1.2.3 Properly executed facility usage agreement, if instruction is provided on a member school’s campus, is provided and made available upon request; and
24.1.2.4 All fees or assessment for participation must be documented; and
24.1.2.5 Participation shall be voluntary and shall not be required, either directly or indirectly, for membership on an interscholastic team; and
24.1.2.6 The representative of the school’s athletic interests is subject to the provisions of Policy 36.

24.2 Failure to comply with this policy may result in the assessment of penalties including, but not limited to, the following as per Policy 46:
24.2.1 Assessment of a minimum monetary penalty of $2,500 per violation and/or other sanctions.
24.2.2 Loss of permissible practice time.
24.2.3 Loss of privilege to participate in a preseason jamboree or preseason classic with reimbursement of a minimum of $500 to each affected school and the FHSAA.
24.2.4 Reduced number of regular season home contests.
24.2.5 Loss of privileges to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series.

POLICY 25

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

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

25.1 Individuals. Students from FHSAA member schools may participate as individuals in coaching schools, camps, clinics, combines or workshops at any time of the school year without jeopardizing their interscholastic athletic eligibility, provided:
25.1.1 Students participating in the event do not, in any way, represent their school.
25.1.2 Fees for the students who participate in the event are not paid by the school, coach or school district.
25.1.3 Students provide their own transportation or are provided transportation by their own school. No student may be transported to or from the event by an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of any school other than the school that the student currently attends.

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

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

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

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

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

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

25.3.2 Loss of permissible practice time.

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

25.3.4 Reduced number of regular season “home” contests.

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

**POLICY 26**

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

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

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

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

- **26.1.1.1** The all-star game, or tryouts or practices for the all-star game, may not be conducted during the regular season in the sport in which the all-star game is to be conducted; and
- **26.1.1.1.1** Exception. An all-star game shall not be played on any date on which an FHSAA State Championship Series contest in that sport is scheduled.
- **26.1.1.2** The student-athlete has exhausted his/her eligibility in the sport in which the all-star contest is to be conducted; and
- **26.1.1.2.1** Exception. This does not apply if the contest is held out-side of the state of Florida.

26.1.2 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.

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

26.2 Showcases. Showcases are events comprised of athletes who are selected or invited to participate as a result of the athletes’ performance as an athlete and must be compliant with Policy 24 and Policy 25. Any student athlete who participates in, but not limited to, combines and showcases do so at his/her own peril as it relates to Policy 36.
POLICY 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 Championship Series contests beyond the district level shall provide contest officials with a secure and adequate dressing room (one each for mixed gender crews) with properly operating bathroom facilities including showers with warm water at the site of the contest. If the site does not have such facilities, the host school shall obtain and provide at its expense an appropriate hotel/motel room(s) reasonably close to the site. The host school is required to complete dressing room arrangements and have the information available to the head referee at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest. It is the responsibility of the head referee or umpire-in-chief to contact the school administration at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the contest to verify the arrangements for the contest. The referee or umpire-in-chief shall report to the FHSAA Office the failure of any host school to provide dressing facilities as required.

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 where any of the following situations have occurred within the last four (4) years:

28.7.1 his/her child or immediate relative attend or attended;
28.7.2 the official himself/herself and/or a relative works or worked;
28.7.3 the official attended, graduated or coached;

28.7.4 Exception. A waiver of Conflict of Interest may be provided in accordance with 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 may officiate a varsity district contest in which the official currently serves as a coach at a school in that particular district.

28.9 No FHSAA official shall arrive or appear at the contest site with the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his/her breath.

28.10 No FHSAA official shall use tobacco or tobacco-like products during the contest or in the vicinity of the athletic field.

28.11 No FHSAA official shall engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.

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.

28.14 All officials must immediately leave the visual confines of the contest at the conclusion of officiating duties, as required by the NFHS rules of the applicable sport.

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 in writing not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time of the event.

29.3 Florida High School State Championship Series. 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 and the official does not believe the contest can be safely continued, the official must declare the contest ended at that point. Under no circumstance should an official ever confront, challenge, rebuke or threaten a spectator, or make gestures of any kind toward a spectator before, during or after a contest.

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, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, 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 and/or other sanctions.

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

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

30.2 Unsportsmanlike Act by a Student-Athlete

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

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

30.2.1.2 Level 2 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives a second Level 1 Suspension or commits an unsportsmanlike act, as defined in Bylaw 7.2.1, will be ineligible to compete, at a minimum, in the next interscholastic athletic contest, at any level, for a period of up to a maximum of the following:
(a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo - 12 contests
(b) Bowling, Lacrosse and Tennis - 9 contests
(c) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Flag Football and Weightlifting - 6 contests
(d) Football and Competitive Cheerleading - 5 contests
(e) Golf - 8 contests
(f) Wrestling - 10 contests; or

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

30.2.1.4 Level 4 Suspension. A student-athlete who receives three (3) or more Level 2 Suspensions or commits an egregious unsportsmanlike act, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, will be ineligible to compete in any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for the duration of the student-athlete’s high school career.
30.2.1.5 It is the responsibility of the local school authorities to ensure this policy is enforced. When an ineligible student is allowed to participate, forfeiture of the contest is mandatory. This policy applies to all regular season and Florida High School State Championship Series contests.

30.2.2 Penalties Assessed the School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Water Polo - 12 contests
(b) Bowling, Lacrosse and Tennis - 9 contests
(c) Cross Country, Swimming & Diving, Track & Field, Flag Football and Weightlifting - 6 contests
(d) Football and Competitive Cheerleading - 5 contests
(e) Golf - 8 contests
(f) Wrestling - 10 contests; or

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

30.3.1.4 When a coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests is disqualified (ejected) from a contest, the coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests shall immediately leave the premises or facility (i.e. gymnasium in basketball, volleyball and wrestling; stadium/field in baseball, football, soccer and softball, etc.) to a place where the coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests is not visible to either student-athletes, officials, spectators or other coaches; and to where the contest itself is not visible to the coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests. A disqualified (ejected) coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests shall not have any further contact with or give instruction to athletes or other members of the coaching staff for the remainder of the contest, including halftime intermission, breaks between quarters, periods or innings and post-contest activities.

30.3.1.5 A coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests who is suspended from the next contest or number of contests after having been disqualified (ejected) from a previous contest shall not attend the contest(s) from which he/she has been suspended in any capacity and shall not be present at the site(s) of such contest(s). A suspended coach or other representative of the school’s athletic interests also shall be prohibited from accompanying his/her team to the site(s) of such contest(s).
30.3.1.6 All coaches or other representatives of the school’s athletic interests who have been disqualified (ejected) from a contest must complete the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) “Teaching and Modeling Behavior” course prior to the completion of the suspension or within thirty (30) calendar days, whichever comes first. A copy of the certificate of completion must be sent to the FHSAA at time of completion. This course is accessible from the NFHS Learning Center online.

30.3.2 Penalties Assessed the School.

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

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

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

30.5 Appeals

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

POLICY 31

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

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

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

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

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

**POLICY 32**

**INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SUSPENDED CONTESTS**

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

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

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

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

**POLICY 33**

**SIDELINE CHEERLEADING**

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

33.1 **General Regulations**

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

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

33.2 **Indoor Contests**

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

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

33.3 **Florida High School State Championship Series.** Sideline cheerleading squads will be permitted to cheer at Florida High School State Championship Series contests provided the cheerleading squads cheered at regular season contests for that sport.
POLICY 34

PHOTOGRAPHING, FILMING AND VIDEOTAPING ATHLETIC CONTESTS

34.1 Regular Season Contests

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

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

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

34.2 Florida High School State Championship Series Contests

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

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

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

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

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

34.4 Penalty

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

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

POLICY 35

BOARDING SCHOOLS, HOMESTAY PROGRAMS AND SPORTS ACADEMIES

35.1 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.
35.1.1 **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.

35.1.2 **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.

35.1.3 **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).

35.1.4 **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.

35.1.5 **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 Championship Series in that sport. In individual sports, schools with rosters consisting of more than 50 percent students who are boarding students shall not be eligible to participate in the Florida High School State Championship Series in that sport.

35.1.5.1 **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.

35.1.5.2 **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 35.1.5 and 35.1.5.1.

35.1.6 **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.

35.1.7 **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.

35.1.8 **Compliance Issues.** A school that satisfies the requirements of sections 35.1.2 – 35.1.7 above, but cannot satisfy the requirements of section 35.1.1 above, shall comply with the following additional requirements:

- 35.1.8.1 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;
- 35.1.8.2 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;
- 35.1.8.3 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
- 35.1.8.4 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.

### 35.2 Homestay Programs

35.2.1 **Homestay Program Defined.** Homestay is a program whereby students from other parts of the United States reside with local families in order to enhance their cultural and/or religious experiences. Homestay arrangements can be made through independent homestay agencies, through local religious institutions or privately by the student’s family.

35.2.2 **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 student, may serve as the host family.

35.2.3 **Host Family Restrictions**

- (a) A host family that wishes to host more than two students per school each year, of the same gender and sport, must have approval of the Executive Director.
(b) A host family that wishes to house more than four (4) students in the same home, must have approval of the Executive Director.
(c) Unless otherwise approved by the Executive Director, each student must be roomed in a self-contained bedroom, with no more than one other occupant.

35.2.4 Attendance. The student must be in attendance at the school within the first ten (10) 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.

35.2.5 Transfer. Any subsequent transfer by the student to a different school during the school year must meet the provisions in Bylaw 9.3.2.

35.2.6 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.

35.2.7 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, as outlined in Policy 36. The student must complete and submit a GA4 Form with the school.

35.2.8 Financial Assistance. No individual or agency associated with the school’s athletic interest may provide financial assistance to the student.

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

35.2.10 FHSAA Eligibility. The student must meet all other eligibility standards of the FHSAA Bylaws while a student at a member school. The high school limit of eligibility (Bylaw 9.5.1) is based on the compulsory education requirements of the student’s former state/country. The ninth (9th) year of compulsory education begins the eight (8) consecutive semester eligibility period. The fact that a student’s former state/country may have a terminal grade beyond the twelfth (12th) year of compulsory education does not alter the eight (8) consecutive semester eligibility period in Bylaw 9.5.1.

35.2.11 Registration Procedures. All home stay students must be registered with this association, utilizing the official Association process as approved by the Executive Director, prior to participation at a member school.

35.2.11.1 Penalties Assessed to Schools
35.2.11.1.1 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) 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 and/or other sanctions.
35.2.11.1.2 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) 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 and/or other sanctions.
35.2.11.1.3 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed GA4 form (Affidavit of Compliance with the FHSAA Policy on Athletic Recruiting and Non-Traditional Student Participation) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per student and/or other sanctions.
35.2.11.1.4 Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed and submitted EL15 form (Registration of Home Stay Student) will subject the school to a monetary penalty of a minimum of $100 per student and/or other sanctions.

35.3 Sport Academies
35.3.1 Sport Academy Defined. A sport academy is defined as, but not limited to, a facility, center or school that exists for the purpose of providing instruction to athletes in specific sport(s).
35.3.2 Student Athlete Eligibility. A student who resides at or attends school at a sport academy and receives instruction in a sport at the sports academy, during the sport season, more than five (5) hours per academic week, is not permitted to participate in the state series in that sport.

POLICY 36

ATHLETIC RECRUITING

36.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES
36.1.1 Athletic Recruiting Forbidden. Athletic recruiting is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of educational athletics. Athletic recruiting is unethical and unsporting conduct and is forbidden by FHSAA Bylaws (FHSAA Bylaw 6.3).
36.1.2 **Scope of School’s Responsibility.** A school’s responsibility for the conduct of its interscholastic athletic program includes responsibility for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36.2 **GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36.3 **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

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

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

36.5 PENALTIES

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

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

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

36.5.3.1 Public reprimand;
36.5.3.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of $2,500 and/or other sanctions;
36.5.3.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;
36.5.3.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including Florida High School State Championship Series competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
36.5.3.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
36.5.3.6 Participation in interscholastic competition at a higher classification for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
36.5.3.7 Restricted membership for one or more years during which time some or all of the school’s membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and
36.5.3.8 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.
36.5.4 Penalties to School Employees or Contractors. Any recruitment by a school employee or contractor in violation of FHSAA bylaws results in escalating punishments as follows (§ 1006.20(2)(b)2, F.S.):

36.5.4.1 for a first offense, a $5,000 forfeiture of pay for the school employee or contractor who committed the violation.
36.5.4.2 for a second offense, suspension without pay for 12 months from coaching, directing, or advertising an extracurricular activity and a $5,000 forfeiture of pay for the school employee or contractor who committed the violation.
36.5.4.3 for a third offense, a $5,000 forfeiture of pay for the school employee or contractor who committed the violation. If the individual who committed the violation holds an educator certificate, the FHSAA shall also refer the violation to the department for review pursuant to § 1012.796, F.S. to determine whether probable cause exists, and, if there is a finding of probable cause, the commissioner shall file a formal complaint against the individual. If the complaint is upheld, the individual’s educator certificate shall be revoked for 3 years, in addition to any penalties available under § 1012.796, F.S. Additionally, the department shall revoke any adjunct teaching certificates issued pursuant to § 1012.57, F.S. and all permissions under § 1012.39, F.S. and § 1012.43, F.S., and the educator is ineligible for such certificates or permissions for a period of time equal to the period of revocation of his or her state-issued certificate.

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

**POLICY 37**

**IMPROPER CONTACT AND IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFITS**

37.1 IMPROPER CONTACT

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

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

- 37.1.2.1 Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic communication to the student or any member of his/her family, in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- 37.1.2.2 Visiting or entertaining the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- 37.1.2.3 Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively a school’s athletic program or implies a school’s athletic program is better than the athletic program of any other school or suggests that the student’s athletic career would be better served by attending a different school.
- 37.1.2.4 Answering an inquiry by the student or any member of his/her family about athletic participation opportunities at a school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend a different school. The student or family member instead should be immediately referred to the school employee responsible for registrations or admissions.
- 37.1.2.5 Providing transportation to the student or any member of his/her family to visit a school, to take an entrance examination for a school, to participate in an athletic tryout at a school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member, other representative of the school’s athletic interests or third parties, as part of an effort to pressure, urge or facilitate the student’s attendance at a different school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
- 37.1.2.6 Attending an elementary school, a junior high school, a middle school or a non-school athletic contest to identify prospective student-athletes who might be recruited to attend a school.
- 37.1.2.7 Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee, other representative of the school’s athletic interests or any other person, such as an alumnus of a school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g. AAU team, club team, travel team, recreation league team, etc.), a coach of or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, a scout for a professional team or other third parties, to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- 37.1.2.8 Making or arranging any other contact with the student or any member of his/her family in an attempt to pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

37.1.3 Contact Initiated by Prospective Student. When a school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of a school’s athletic interests is contacted by a student who does not attend that school and/or any other member of his/her family, about the school’s interscholastic athletic program or attending the school, the school employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the school’s athletic interests must immediately refer the student and/or his/her family member to the
appropriate school personnel who have the responsibility of registering and admitting prospective students. Only during the summer period, as defined in Policy 20, and once the student has registered, been accepted and no longer attends the previous school may the student have contact with athletic department staff members or representatives of a school’s athletic interests.

37.1.4 Casual Contact with Students in Normal Community Settings. It is not considered a violation of this policy for an employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of a high school to have casual contact with a student who does not attend that school or any member of the student’s family in a normal community setting. At no time during such contact, however, may the employee, athletic department staff member or representative of the athletic interests of the high school pressure, urge or entice the student to attend a high school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.

37.2 IMPERMISSIBLE BENEFIT

37.2.1 General Regulation. No school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school’s athletic interests or third parties, such as an independent person, business or organization, may be involved, directly or indirectly, in giving an impermissible benefit to any student or any member of his/her family for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics, or to any student-athlete who already attends a school.

37.2.2 Specific Prohibitions. Specifically prohibited arrangements, assistance or benefits include, but are not limited to, the following:

37.2.2.1 School-based financial assistance of any kind that exceeds the amount for which a student has been approved by an independent financial needs assessment company that is recognized by the FHSAA or otherwise is in excess of any supplemental assistance provided by a school to each and every student who qualifies for financial assistance.

37.2.2.2 Cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates, coupons or vouchers.

37.2.2.3 Gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items.

37.2.2.4 Loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind.

37.2.2.5 Payment for any work or service that is not performed or that is in excess of the amount normally paid for such work or service.

37.2.2.6 Free or reduced-cost transportation.

37.2.2.7 Living on a full- or part-time basis, regardless of whether rent is paid, with any school employee, athletic department staff member, representative of the school’s athletic interests, unless legal guardianship appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction has been obtained.

37.2.2.8 Free or reduced-cost rent for housing, vehicles or other items.

37.2.2.9 Full or partial payment of moving expenses or assistance of any kind with an actual physical move.

37.2.2.10 Employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid.

37.2.2.11 Free or reduced costs to attend a sport or skills camp.

37.2.2.12 Any other form of arrangement, assistance, discount or benefit that is not generally available to other students in the school or their families or that is based in any way on athletic ability.

POLICY 38

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

38.1 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

38.1.1 School-Administered Financial Assistance. Financial assistance provided by a school must be administered by the school; meaning that the school, through an established process that conforms to this policy, makes the final determination of the student who is to receive the assistance and the amount of assistance to be given. No student-athlete may accept financial assistance from any other person, business or organization unless it is received from one upon whom the student-athlete is naturally or legally dependent or is received through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida.

38.1.1.1 Criteria for Providing Financial Assistance. School-based financial assistance must be based entirely on financial need as determined by an independent financial needs assessment company that is approved by the FHSAA. A school may supplement the amount of financial assistance for which a student is determined to qualify provided the same form of supplemental assistance is provided to each and every student who qualifies for any amount of financial assistance. Financial assistance must be totally unrelated to a student’s athletic interest, potential or performance. Financial assistance based even partially on a student’s athletic interest, potential or performance is not permitted.

38.1.1.2 Assistance with Room or Meals. School-based financial assistance for costs associated with room or meals, other than those meals made available during the school day to all students, may be provided only to students who board at FHSAA-recognized boarding schools, and then only if such financial assistance is based on financial need.
38.1.1.3 Work-Study Programs. A work-study program in which students receive financial assistance from a school in exchange for labor performed by the student for the school may be operated as follows:

(a) The school must limit participation in the work-study program to those students who have been independently determined to have a need for financial assistance.

(b) The school must submit to the FHSAA Office each school year a complete description of the work-study program and the process for determining the students who are chosen for participation.

(c) The school must maintain detailed records regarding each student who participates in the work-study program. These records must include a description of the job(s) performed by the student, a documentation of the hours worked by the student, and the amount of financial assistance given the student in exchange for his/her labor.

(d) A student-athlete must not receive financial assistance through a work-study program during the season of the sport(s) in which the student-athlete participates.

(e) Athletic department staff members and other representatives of the school’s athletic interests cannot supervise student-athletes in work-study programs.

38.1.1.4 Approved Financial Needs Assessment Companies. The FHSAA approved independent financial needs assessment companies are as follows:

(a) FACTS Management www.factsmgt.com
(b) FAST www.ismfast.com
(c) Financial Aid Independent Review www.fairtuition.com
(d) Smart Tuition (Blackbaud Tuition Management) www.smarttuition.com
(e) SSS (School & Student Services) www.sssbynais.org
(f) TADS www.tads.com

38.1.1.5 Records Relating to Financial Assistance. The school must keep detailed records of school-based financial assistance provided to each student. This includes the report of the student’s financial need as determined by the independent assessment company as well as the actual amount of financial assistance provided to the student by the school, and how that actual amount was determined. The school must make all records available to the Executive Director or his/her designee for inspection upon request.

38.1.1.6 Persons Who May Discuss Financial Assistance Opportunities. The only persons who may discuss financial assistance opportunities with a prospective student or any member of his/her family are those school employees who administer the school’s registration, admission and financial assistance programs. No other school employee, any athletic department staff member or representative of the school’s athletic interests may suggest to or promise a prospective student or any member of his/her family that any part of the student’s costs of attending the school may be reduced, waived or paid for, or that financial assistance may be granted for any reason, including financial need.

38.1.1.7 Involvement of Athletic Personnel in Administration of Assistance Program. Athletic department staff members, other than those persons who have as their major responsibility an official leadership role in the academic leadership or admission programs of the school, are prohibited from sitting on the school’s financial assistance committee or otherwise playing any role in the process of deciding which students receive financial assistance or the types or amount of assistance they will be given.

38.1.2 Financial Assistance Not Administered by School. Students may apply for and receive financial assistance through established and continuing programs to assist students that are administered by the State of Florida. These programs are:

38.1.2.1 The Opportunity Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a student in a failing public school may request and receive an Opportunity Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

38.1.2.2 The McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, through which the parent of a public-school student with a disability who is dissatisfied with the student’s progress may request and receive a McKay Scholarship for the student to attend an eligible private school.

38.1.2.3 The Corporate Income Tax Credit Scholarship Program, through which the parent of a public-school student who qualifies for free or reduced-price school lunch may seek a scholarship to attend an eligible private school from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization.

38.1.3 Contributions by Donor. Funds that are donated to schools by persons, businesses and organizations may be given as financial assistance to students provided the decision as to how the funds are allocated rests exclusively with the school. It is not permissible for a donor to contribute funds to provide financial assistance for a particular student-athlete.

38.2 PENALTIES
38.2.1 Disciplinary Measures. Any one or more of the penalties described in Article 10 of the FHSAA Bylaws may be imposed against a school for violating any provisions of this policy. These include:
38.2.1.1 Public reprimand;
38.2.1.2 Financial penalty of a minimum of $2,500 and/or other sanctions;
38.2.1.3 A form or combination of forms of probation (administrative, restrictive and/or suspension) for one or more years;
38.2.1.4 Prohibition against participating in certain interscholastic competitions, including Florida High School State Championship Series competitions, for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
38.2.1.5 Prohibition against participating in any interscholastic competition for one or more years in the sport(s) in which the violation(s) occurred;
38.2.1.6 Restricted membership for one or more years during which time some or all of the school’s membership privileges may be restricted or denied; and
38.2.1.7 Expulsion from membership in the Association for one or more years.

POLICY 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 (§ 1006.20(2)(e), F.S.).

39.2 Investigators. The approved FHSAA Investigative Consultant will (§ 1006.20(2)(e), F.S.):
(a) meet Level 2 screening standards as per § 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. (§ 1006.20(2)(e), F.S.)

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 (§ 1006.20(2)(e & g), F.S.).
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.

39.4.3 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.

39.4.4 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 on preventing, recognizing, and responding to a concussion.

40.1 Education on Management of Concussions

40.1.1 Requirement for Coaches and Student Athletes. All FHSAA member school head coaches, paid/supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the most current FREE online education course. This NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.1.1.1 Coaches in all sports are strongly recommended to teach proper techniques to avoid concussion injuries.

40.1.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, parents and media are encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the most current FREE online education concussion course. This free NFHS concussion course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

40.1.3 Additional Information. Current and up-to-date information on concussion can be found on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at:

- http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/youth.html; and
40.2 Concussions. A concussion is a brain injury caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Concussions can also result from a fall or from collisions between with one or more individuals or with obstacles. As brain injury, concussions are serious.

40.2.1 Any student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion including, but not limited to, loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or balance problems, shall be immediately removed from the contest or practice and shall not return to play until cleared by an appropriate health-care professional.

40.2.2 When you suspect that a player has a concussion, follow the “Heads Up” 4-step Action Plan:
  • Remove the athlete from play.
  • Ensure that the athlete is evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional.
  • Inform the athlete’s parents or guardians about the possible concussion and give them information on concussion.
  • Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury and until an appropriate health-care professional says he or she is symptom-free and gives the okay to return to activity.

The signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion are not always apparent immediately after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and may develop over a few hours. An athlete should be observed following a suspected concussion and should never be left alone until the student-athlete is under the care of a parent/guardian or is evaluated by an appropriate health care provider.

40.3 Appropriate Health-Care Professional (AHCP). An appropriate health-care professional (AHCP) is an individual who is trained in the diagnosis, evaluation and management of concussions. Such individuals will be a licensed physician (MD, as per § 458, F.S.) or a licensed osteopathic physician (DO, as per § 459, F.S.). Consistent with the American Academy of Neurology and other organizations, it is strongly recommended that an AHCP as defined in Policy 40.2 above or an athletic trainer (ATC, as per § 468, F.S.) is present at all sporting events, including practices, where athletes are at risk for concussion or for those classified as a collision sport, whenever possible.

40.4 Mechanics for Removal from Athletic Contest. The FHSAA concussion rule calls for the immediate removal of the participant from the contest or practice. Players, coaches and contest officials should be cognizant of athletes who display signs, symptoms or behaviors of a concussion and immediately stop play for injury evaluation within the rules of the game (the responsibility of the contest official is limited to activities that occur on the field, court, mat, etc.).

40.4.1 Symptoms Reported by the Athlete
  • Headache
  • Nausea
  • Balance problems or dizziness
  • Double or fuzzy vision
  • Sensitivity to light or noise
  • Feeling sluggish
  • Feeling foggy or groggy
  • Concentration or memory problems
  • Confusion

40.4.2 Signs Observed by Other Individuals
  • Appears dazed or stunned
  • Is confused about what to do
  • Forgets plays
  • Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
  • Moves clumsily
  • Numbness in the arms or legs
  • Pupils becoming unequal in size
  • Answers questions slowly
  • Loses consciousness
  • Shows behavior or personality changes
  • Can’t recall events prior to hit
  • Can’t recall events after hit
• Repeated vomiting
• Seizures
• Slurred speech or inability to speak

40.4.3 Removal. Once the participant has been removed from a contest due to a suspected concussion, the coach, school and AHCP(s) assumes full responsibility for that athlete’s further evaluation and safety. If available, a certified athletic trainer (ATC) under the direct supervision of a MD/DO can assist with the sideline evaluation of a student-athlete when a student-athlete is sent out of a competition or practice but cannot provide written clearance to return to play (refer to above). If after sideline evaluation, it is determined the athlete does not demonstrate symptoms consistent with a concussion the ATC will follow procedures within a written operational protocol created and signed by a supervising physician to determine return to play. In this situation, the athlete should continue to be monitored for any delayed onset of concussion symptoms and must be removed from activity immediately if signs or symptoms return.

40.5 Return to Play (RTP) Criteria – Recommended Concussion Management

40.5.1 No athlete should return to play (RTP) or practice on the same day of a suspected concussion. “When in doubt, sit them out!”

40.5.2 Any athlete suspected of having a concussion must be evaluated by an ACHP (as defined above) as soon as possible and practical.

40.5.3 Any athlete who has sustained a concussion must be medically cleared by an AHCP (as defined above) prior to resuming participation in any practice or competition.

40.5.4 After evaluation and examination by an AHCP (as defined above), return to play must follow a step-wise protocol as defined by the “Graded Return to Play Protocol” form and under the supervision of an AHCP, athletic trainer, coach or other health care professional (Post Head Injury/Concussion Form).

40.5.5 A written medical clearance from an AHCP (as defined above) is required for return to competition (Post Head Injury/Concussion – RTP Form, AT18).

40.6 Concussion Release Form. Each student-athlete and their parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit a release form provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate).

40.7 Sanctions on Coaches

40.7.1 Level 1 Suspension. A head coach who commits a violation of any condition listed in Policy 40 will be ineligible to coach or attend the next contest, at any level, for a minimum of the next two (2) contests during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) football game; or

40.7.2 Level 2 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 1 Suspension due to a violation of any condition listed in Policy 40, or commits multiple violations in Policy 40 will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or

40.7.3 Level 3 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 2 Suspension for violating any condition of Policy 40 or commits an egregious violation of Policy 40, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

POLICY 41

EXERTIONAL HEAT ILLNESS

Heat illness is a cause for concern for high school student-athletes beginning pre-season practices in the warm, summer months and other times of extreme heat. The most serious heat illness, exertional heat stroke, is one of the leading causes of preventable death in these athletes. Heat production during intense exercise is 15 to 20 times greater than at rest and can raise body core temperature one to two degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes unless heat is dissipated. The following policy provides guidelines and procedures for conducting preseason practices and activities to insure the well-being of student-athletes.

41.1 Education of Management of Heat Illness

41.1.1 Requirement for Coaches and Student Athletes. All FHSAA member school head coaches and paid/supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the FREE NFHS online education course “Heat Illness Prevention”. This free NFHS heat illness course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.
41.1.2 **Recommendation.** All member school personnel, contest officials, student-athletes, parents and media are strongly encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE NFHS online education course “Heat Illness Prevention”. This free NFHS heat illness course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

41.2 **Intent.** The intent of this policy is to require FHSAA member schools to follow a preseason acclimatization and recovery model for all sports that enhances student-athlete well-being. The policy also requires individual schools, or districts, to select and promote a method of environmental monitoring to be used outside the acclimatization period and comply with standard recommendations for practice modifications, for the safety of the student-athlete.

41.2.1 These policies provide general regulations for conducting preseason practices for secondary school-age student athletes and to provide recommendations for voluntary conditioning workouts.

41.2.2 These policies should be applied before and during the academic year to ensure the athletes arrive with and maintain adequate sport-specific conditioning.

41.2.3 Application of these regulations should not be based solely on the information contained here within; but, should represent the minimal safety precautions promoted through the FHSAA. Coaches and Schools are encouraged to review published recommendations through the NFHS or the National Athletic Trainers Association to further protect student-athletes from the harmful effects of the heat.

41.2.4 Individuals using these guidelines are responsible for prudent judgment with respect to each practice, athlete and facility and each athlete is responsible for exercising caution when following these general requirements.

41.3 **Rationale.** The recommendation of the National Federation of High School Association’s (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) and the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s (NATA) Secondary School Committee, that all sports use acclimatization and recovery principles to develop their preseason practice schedules for the purpose of enhancing the student athlete well-being, is based on the following: The primary focus of the preseason period should be to provide an adjustment period to the intensity and duration of exercise and environmental conditions. These procedures are based upon medical literature. Careful consideration should be given to the various levels of fitness in the high school student-athlete.

41.4 **Definitions.**

41.4.1 **Voluntary Conditioning.** Voluntary conditioning is defined as any conditioning (i.e. running, weight lifting, warm-up, stretching, or cool-down) that occurs outside the season as defined in Policies 20 and 21.

41.4.2 **Official Practice.** An official practice is defined as one continuous period of time in which a participant engages in physical activity. It is required that each practice be no more than three hours (3 hours) in length and consist of no more than 90 minutes of intense exercise. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are to be included as part of the official practice time. All conditioning and/ or weight room activities shall be considered part of the official practice beginning on the first calendar day of official sport season.

41.4.3 **Acclimatization Period.** The acclimatization period is defined as the first 14 calendar days of a student-athletes’ participation, beginning with the first allowable date of practice in that sport or the first day an athlete begins official practice, whichever is later. All student-athletes, including those who arrive to preseason practice after the first official day of practice, must adhere to the safety precautions afforded by this acclimatization policy. This period does not restrict an athletes’ availability to participate in a contest but does restrict the amount of total hours an athlete can participate on a daily and weekly basis.

41.4.4 **Walk-Through.** A walk-through shall be defined as an additional teaching/learning opportunity for student-athletes and coaches with no protective equipment (i.e. helmets, shoulder pads, shin guards) or equipment related to a given sport (i.e. footballs, blocking sleds, pitching machine, soccer balls, etc.). The duration of any walk-through must not exceed one hour in length. A walk-through shall not include conditioning or weight room activities.

41.4.5 **Recovery Period.** A recovery period is defined as the time between the end of one practice or walk-through and the beginning of the next practice or walk-through. Physical activity is restricted during this time period (i.e. speed, strength, conditioning, or agility drills). Walk-throughs are prohibited during this recovery period.

41.5 **Procedures**

41.5.1 Prior to participation in any preseason practice activities, all student-athletes are required to undergo a Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation (see Bylaw 9.7, Form EL 2) administered as required by state law.

41.5.2 The student and parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit release forms provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate).

41.5.3 During the first seven days of an athlete’s participation, it is required that participants not engage in more than one practice per day.
41.5.4 If a practice session is interrupted by inclement weather or heat restrictions, it is required the session be divided for the good of the student-athlete’s welfare as long as the combined total practice time for that session does not exceed three (3) hours. The addition of a walk-through session in this situation is acceptable provided it is added because of a weather-related disruption and occurs inside an air-conditioned facility.

41.5.5 Competition is counted as three (3) hours. An official practice is not permitted on the same day of a competition.

41.5.6 A walk-through is permitted during Days 1 – 6 of the acclimatization period. However, a one-hour recovery period is required between the end of practice and the start of the walk-through or vice-versa.

41.5.7 Football only (including spring): Due to the protective equipment required in football, these additional procedures apply: the first two (2) days of practice are restricted to helmets only, days 3-5 can introduce shoulder-pads with shorts and then beginning day six (6) of practice, full gear can be utilized and body-to-body contact is permitted. Student-athletes who begin practice with a team after the start of official practice will be required to follow this same 6-day procedure. During the initial five (5) days, the use of arm shields, tackling and blocking dummies, sleds and other devices can be used for instructional purposes, however, deliberate body-to-body contact is prohibited.

41.5.8 For football athletes, the first availability for a contest would be after completion of the 6 practice sessions as listed above in 41.5.6.

41.5.9 Beginning Day 8, it is required that the practice schedule not exceed a 2-1-2-1 format. This means that a day consisting of two practices should be followed by a day with only one practice. On a day consisting of two practices, the two practices must be separated by at least three (3) hours of continuous rest. One walk-through session may be added to a day with a single practice session, with a minimum of three (3) hours of continuous rest time between the practice and walk-through. If a two-practice day were followed by a day off, a two-practice day would be permitted on the next day.

41.5.10 On days when two practices are conducted, it is required that either practice not exceed three (3) hours in length and student-athletes not participate in more than five (5) total hours of practice activities on these days. Warm-up, stretching, and cool-down activities are included as part of the official practice time. Practices must be separated with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between the end of the first practice and the beginning of the very next practice. A walk-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.

41.5.11 On days when a single practice is conducted, it is required that practices not exceed three hours (3) hours in length. A walk-through is permitted after a minimum one-hour recovery period between the end of the first practice and the walk-through, or vice-versa.

41.5.12 It is recommended that any voluntary conditioning session is limited to three (3) hours maximum per session and these sessions should include the safeguards listed within 41.6 below.

41.5.13 Cross Country: Individuals must participate in a minimum of 10 practice sessions on 10 separate days prior to the first contest.

41.6 Monitoring Heat Stress. The following governs procedures for monitoring heat stress (§ 1006.165, F.S.):

41.6.1 Each member school must monitor heat stress. Heat stress is determined by measuring the ambient temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover at the site of the athletic activity. The following guidelines are to be adhered for the following heat stress readings (as suggested by the SMAC):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Permitted Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 82.0</td>
<td>Normal activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.1 - 87.0</td>
<td>Three (3) separate four (4) minute rest breaks per hour of activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87.1 - 90.0</td>
<td>Maximum two (2) hour activity time. Four (4) separate four (4) minute rest breaks per hour of activity. For football, student-athletes are restricted to helmet, shoulder pads and shorts during activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90.1 - 92.0</td>
<td>Maximum one (1) hour activity time. Five (5) separate four (4) minute rest breaks. No protective equipment permitted. No conditioning activities permitted;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 92.1</td>
<td>No outdoor activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

41.6.2 Cooling zones must be available for each outdoor athletic contest, practice, workout or conditioning session. Cooling zones must include the immediate availability of cold-water immersion tubs or equivalent and can also include the following: ice sponges and towels or tarps that can be filled with ice and wrapped around individuals to rapidly cool internal body temperature. The presence of an employee or volunteer trained to administer cold-water immersion is required.

41.6.2.1 Each member school’s emergency action plan must include a procedure for onsite cooling using cold-water immersion or equivalent means before a student-athlete is transported to a hospital for exertional heatstroke.

41.6.3 Coaches must adopt a heat injury prevention philosophy by promoting unrestricted access to water at all times and a student-athlete should never be denied access to water.

41.6.3.1 Student-athletes who participate in activities that last for an extended amount of time or multiple activities in a day should be provided electrolytes to assist in rehydration.
41.6.4 Rest breaks must involve unlimited hydration intake and rest without any activity involved.
41.6.5 Each athletic coach involving outdoor practices or events shall annually complete training in exertional heat illness identification, prevention and response, including the effective administration of cooling zones.

41.7 It is strongly recommended that all member schools use methods of monitoring the environment using devices like a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature device.

41.8 Sanctions on Coaches
41.8.1 Level 1 Suspension. A head coach who commits a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any contest, at any level, for a minimum of the next two (2) contests during the period of suspension, in all sports except football. For football, the coach will be ineligible for a minimum of one (1) football game; or
41.8.2 Level 2 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 1 Suspension due to a violation of any condition listed in Policy 41, or commits multiple violations in Policy 41 will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport, at any level, for a period of up to six (6) weeks; or
41.8.3 Level 3 Suspension. A head coach who receives a second Level 2 Suspension for violating any condition of Policy 41 or commits an egregious violation of Policy 41, as determined in the sole discretion of the Executive Director, will be ineligible to coach or attend any interscholastic athletic contest in any sport for a period of up to one (1) year.

POLICY 42

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of sports-related death. This policy provides procedures for educational requirements of all paid coaches and recommends added training.

42.1 Education of Management of Sudden Cardiac Arrest
42.1.1 Requirement for Coaches and Student Athletes. All FHSAA member school head coaches and paid/supplemented coaches and student athletes are required to annually view the FREE NFHS online education course “Sudden Cardiac Arrest”. This free NFHS cardiac arrest course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.
42.1.2 Recommendation. All member school personnel, contest officials, parents and media are strongly encouraged to educate themselves by viewing the FREE NFHS online education course “Sudden Cardiac Arrest”. This free NFHS cardiac arrest course may be viewed online at www.nfhslearn.com.

42.2 Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA can cause death if it’s not treated within minutes.

42.2.1 Symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest include:
    42.2.1.1 Sudden Collapse
    42.2.1.2 No Pulse
    42.2.1.3 No breathing

42.2.2 Warning Signs associated with sudden cardiac arrest include
    42.2.2.1 Fainting during exercise or activity
    42.2.2.2 Shortness of breath
    42.2.2.3 Racing heart rate
    42.2.2.4 Dizziness
    42.2.2.5 Chest pains
    42.2.2.6 Extreme fatigue

42.2.3 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). It is strongly recommended that all coaches, whether paid or volunteer, are regularly trained in CPR. Training is encouraged through agencies that provide hands-on training and offer certificates that include an expiration date. In accordance with § 1006.165, F.S., each member school must adhere to the following requirements for Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs):
42.2.3.1 **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED).** Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) must be available in a clearly marked and publicized location for any athletic contest, practice, workout or conditioning session, including those conducted outside of the school year.

42.2.3.1.1 Beginning June 1, 2021, a school employee or volunteer with current training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and use of a defibrillator must be present at each athletic event during and outside of the school year, including practices, workouts and conditioning sessions. All employees or volunteers who may be reasonably expected to use a defibrillator must complete training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation or a basic first aid course that includes cardiopulmonary resuscitation training.

42.2.3.1.1.1 Each individual required to complete the training in 42.2.3.1.1 must be notified annually of the location of each defibrillator on the school grounds.

42.2.4 **What to do if your student-athlete collapses**

- 42.2.4.1 Call 911
- 42.2.4.2 Send for an AED
- 42.2.4.3 Begin compressions
- 42.2.4.4 Use AED when it becomes accessible

42.2.5 **Sudden Cardiac Arrest Release Form.** The student and parent or legal guardian, duly appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, must submit the release form provided by the association (Form EL3 – Consent and Release from Liability Certificate).

**POLICY 43**

**EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN**

43.1 All member schools are to develop a site-specific Emergency Action Plan (EAP) for managing serious and/or potentially life threatening injuries for all home contest venues.

43.2 The EAP should be developed, coordinated, reviewed and rehearsed at least once annually with local Emergency Medical Services (EMS), school public safety officials, on-site medical personnel or school medical staff (team physicians or athletic trainers) and school administrators.

43.3 A written copy of the EAP should be on file with the Principal or Athletic Director, shared with all athletic staff and key steps of the EAP should be posted at each athletic venue. Each EAP shall be specific to the venue.

43.4 All emergency equipment, including Auto External Defibrillators (AED), which is available on-site should be listed on the EAP.

43.5 The EAP should identify key personnel and their responsibilities to carry out the plan of action with a designated chain of command.

43.6 The EAP should contain appropriate contact information for the local and/or responding EMS personnel.

43.7 The EAP shall contain the facility address, location and contact information.

**POLICY 44**

**LICENSING AND ROYALTIES**

44.1 **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,” “FHSAA Finals,” “FHSAA Florida Finals,” “Florida Finals,” “FHSAA Championships,” “FHSAA State Series,” “Florida High School State Championship...
shall be required to purchase such souvenir merchandise from the exclusive vendor(s). Should the exclusive vendor(s) of the FHSAA host for any Florida High School State Championship Series event and wishes to sell souvenir merchandise specific to that event, to the Terms and Conditions of the contract between the FHSAA and the vendor. A member school or organization that serves as including t-shirts, for all Florida High School State Championship Series events on the district, regional, state semifinal and state levels. Merchandise includes, but not limited to, caps, hats, golf shirts, rugby shirts, sweat shirts, muscle shirts, key chains, car tags, bumper stickers, pennants, banners, cups, mugs, posters and similar items. The Florida High School State Championship Series Logo must be conspicuously displayed on all t-shirts, other merchandise, and/or printed materials or otherwise produced and/or distributed in connection with any Florida High School State Championship Series event. Florida High School State Championship Series 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, state semifinal and FHSAA State Championship levels. Merchandise includes, but not limited to, 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, but not limited to, programs, heat sheets, bracket sheets, scorecards, placards, promotional posters, flyers, advertisements, billboards and similar items.

44.2  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.”

44.3  Licensing

44.3.1  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 owed to 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 Championship Series events is set forth separately in this policy.

44.3.2  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.

44.3.3  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 are displayed. It will be the responsibility of the member schools to refer outside vendors wishing to become licensed to the FHSAA. The FHSAA 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.

44.3.4  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 outside vendor doing business with the member school, to remit to the FHSAA, a royalty fee determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

44.3.5  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.

44.3.6  Print, radio and television media may use the FHSAA name, emblem and logos as part of their coverage of FHSAA events and/or in any publication, slide, videotape, brochure, pamphlet, advertisement, commercial, etc., relating to coverage of the FHSAA. Permission from the FHSAA 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/on 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.”

44.3.7  The enforcement of this policy will be the responsibility of each member school in conjunction with the FHSAA. The collection of the revenue required pursuant to this policy will be the responsibility of the FHSAA 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.

44.3.8  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 minimum monetary penalty of $250 and/or other sanctions plus additional monetary damages for lost royalties, to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

44.4  Florida High School State Championship Series Events

44.4.1  The Florida High School State Championship Series Logo must be conspicuously displayed on all t-shirts, other merchandise, and/or printed materials or otherwise produced and/or distributed in connection with any Florida High School State Championship Series event. Florida High School State Championship Series 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, state semifinal and FHSAA State Championship levels. Merchandise includes, but not limited to, 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, but not limited to, programs, heat sheets, bracket sheets, scorecards, placards, promotional posters, flyers, advertisements, billboards and similar items.

44.4.2  The FHSAA will enter into an agreement with one (1) or more vendor(s) to exclusively produce the official merchandise, including t-shirts, for all Florida High School State Championship Series events on the district, regional, state semifinal and state championship levels. The exclusive vendor(s) of Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Championship Series 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) of the FHSAA...
elect to come to the site of any Florida High School State Championship Series 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 Florida High School State Championship Series events. In either case, the minimum royalty fee to be paid to the FHSAA is at the discretion of the Executive Director.

**44.4.3** 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 Championship Series event is being conducted, any items (including, but not limited to, t-shirts, caps, posters, bumper stickers, etc.) to be sold or otherwise distributed on the property to student-athletes, coaches or spectators, without the written approval of the FHSAA. An individual(s) found in violation of this provision shall surrender the items for confiscation, shall be expelled from the property and may be subject to legal action. A member school found in violation of this provision shall be assessed a minimum monetary penalty of $250 and/or other sanctions and additional monetary damages for lost royalties to be determined at the discretion of the Executive Director.

**POLICY 45**

**MEDIA CREDENTIALS FOR FLORIDA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES EVENTS**

The FHSAA only issues credentials for the Florida High School State Championships. Host schools are responsible for issuing credentials at the district, regional and applicable state semifinal levels when not held in conjunction with the FHSAA State Championships. Media outlets must be vetted in advance by the host before being issued credentials and must provide credible media identification upon arrival at the venue.

Authorized working personnel employed by an outlet which has been approved to broadcast a Florida High School State Championship Series contest must be admitted to the facility without charge upon presentation of proper identification and a signed AT11 Form (FHSAA approved media rights agreement). State series hosts must notify the FHSAA seven (7) days before the start of postseason play if they have banned any broadcasting outlets from their campus.

**45.1 Making a Request.** Requests for media credentials for each Florida High School State Championship Series state championship event must be made 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, submitted by the requestor and approved by the FHSAA for admittance to Florida High School State Championship events, in all sports except, tennis and golf. It is the responsibility of the individual to confirm that his or her request has been received and approved by the FHSAA. Requests may only be made by an editor/manager of a news outlet or publication, or an owner/operator of an Internet site.

**45.2 School-based Media.** Credential requests from a member school for the Florida High School State Championships must be submitted by the Athletic Director. Credentials will be limited to three (3). One (1) for an active student reporter, one (1) for an active student photographer and one (1) for a school faculty member to serve in a supervisory capacity over the students. Credentials will be issued for yearbook and reporting purposes only.

**45.2.1** Member school photographers will not be permitted. The official photographer of the FHSAA will provide a maximum of five (5) complimentary professional photographs to any requesting school from the Florida High School State Championship event in which the member school is competing. All photo requests must be submitted to the official photographer of the FHSAA, in writing, not less than 72 hours prior to the start of the event. These photos are only to be used in the member school’s publications (yearbook, newspaper, newsletters) and corresponding internet platforms (websites, social media). Use of the provided images must include photo credit to the official photographer of the FHSAA.

**45.2.2** A school’s videographer will not be credentialed and should be placed on the team pass list should the head coach and/or administration deem their role necessary.
# Monetary Penalty Schedule

The following monetary penalties are generally assessed member schools for the most common rules violations. This schedule is not all inclusive and does require the Executive Director to determine monetary penalties for violations not specifically covered herein. In all cases, these amounts are minimums and may be increased relative to the severity of the violation. 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>46.1.1</td>
<td>General failure to comply with FHSAA Policies or Administrative Procedures (Policies and Administrative Procedures Preambles)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.2</td>
<td>Permitting a student-athlete to compete in an interscholastic contest prior to his/her name being submitted to the FHSAA on a sport eligibility roster (Policy 4.1.1.1(a))</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.3</td>
<td>Failure to contract with sanctioned local officials associations for registered officials at all interscholastic home contests (Policy 4.1.1.1(b))</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.4</td>
<td>Actions which may not be regarded as unsportsmanlike which result in a contest being prematurely concluded (Policy 4.1.1.1(c))</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.5</td>
<td>Failure to attend a required Compliance Seminar (Policy 5.1.10)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.6</td>
<td>Violation of the Sanctioning Policy (Policy 7.5)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.7</td>
<td>Failure of a team or student-athlete who has qualified to advance in the Florida High School State Championship Series to participate at the next level (Policy 10.5.1 and 10.5.2)</td>
<td>$250.00/$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.8</td>
<td>Failure to submit an Official Roster (Policy 11.1)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.9</td>
<td>Improper use of a Florida High School State Championship Series Pass (Policy 15.1.4.9)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.10</td>
<td>Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed EL2 form (Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form, see Bylaw 9.7), per student (Policy 16.9.1, 17.3.6.1, 35.2.11.1.1)</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.11</td>
<td>Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed EL3 form (Consent and Release from Liability Certificate, see Bylaw 9.8), per student (Policy 16.9.2, 17.3.6.2, 35.2.11.1.2)</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.12</td>
<td>Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed GA4 form (Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting), per student (Policy 16.9.3, 17.3.6.3, 35.2.11.1.3)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.13</td>
<td>Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without registering a Non-Traditional Student (see Bylaw 16.7), per student (Policy 16.9.4)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.14</td>
<td>Use of an ineligible student when not self-reported, per contest (Policy 16.9.5)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.15</td>
<td>Use of an ineligible student when self-reported, per contest (Policy 16.9.6)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.16</td>
<td>Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.2.1.2) without a completed and approved EL4 form (Registration Form for Youth Exchange, Other International or Immigrant Student), per student (Policy 16.9.6)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.17</td>
<td>Conduct of an illegal practice session or illegal practice contest (Policy 6.1.1.3 and 18.1.4)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.18</td>
<td>Conduct of an illegal scrimmage (Policy 18.4.3)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.19</td>
<td>Violation of the Off-Season Conditioning Policy, per violation (Policy 21.7.1)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.20</td>
<td>Violation of the Non-School Teams and Off-Season Participation Policy, per violation (Policy 22.4.1)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.21</td>
<td>Violation of the Open Facilities Policy, per violation (Policy 23.2.1)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.22</td>
<td>Violation of the Coaching School, Camps, Clinics, Workshops by Member Schools Policy, per violation (Policy 24.2.1)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.23</td>
<td>Violation of the participation by student-athletes and teams in Coaching School, Camps, Clinics, Workshops Policy, per violation (Policy 25.3.1)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.24</td>
<td>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)</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.25</td>
<td>Storming the playing field, court, or pool by spectators and students at the conclusion of an athletic contest, indoor events (Policy 30.1.1.1)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.26</td>
<td>Storming the playing field, court, or pool by spectators and students at the conclusion of an athletic contest, outdoor events (Policy 30.1.1.1)</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.27</td>
<td>Removal by coach or school personnel of a team or individual from an athletic contest prior to its normal conclusion (Policy 30.1.1.2)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.28</td>
<td>Vandalism by a team, student-athlete, or school personnel (Policy 30.1.1.3)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.29</td>
<td>Suspension of a student-athlete for unsportsmanlike conduct, beginning with fourth incident during a sports season, per suspension (Policy 30.2.2.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.30</td>
<td>Suspension of a student-athlete at the Level 2 Suspension level for unsportsmanlike conduct, beginning with second incident during a school year, per occurrence (Policy 30.2.2.2)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.31</td>
<td>Participation by one or more student-athletes in an altercation by leaving the bench in and entering the court or playing field (i.e., bench-emptying) or by leaving their designated position on the court or playing field, per student (Policy 30.2.2.3)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.32</td>
<td>Suspension of a coach for unsportsmanlike conduct (Policy 30.3.2.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.33</td>
<td>Use or profanity or other such gutter language or gestures by a coach, per occurrence (Policy 30.3.2.1)</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.34</td>
<td>Coach continuing to give instruction to his/her student-athletes or other members of the coaching staff after having been ejected from a contest (Policy 30.3.2.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.35</td>
<td>Pursuit of officials with intent following a contest by coach or other school personnel (Policy 30.3.2.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.36</td>
<td>Refusal of an ejected coach to leave the court, playing field or team area (Policy 30.3.2.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.37</td>
<td>Physical contact by coach or other school personnel with an official (Policy 30.3.2.1)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.38</td>
<td>Premature termination of a contest by an official due to unsportsmanlike conduct by student-athletes, coaches, other school personnel spectators in attendance (Policy 30.3.2.1)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.39</td>
<td>Statements of criticism or other derogatory remarks concerning officials which are made by coaches or other school personnel and appear in the news media (Policy 30.4)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.40</td>
<td>Use of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products (Policy 31.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.41</td>
<td>Violation of the photographing, filming and videotaping policy during the Florida High School State Championships (Policy 34.4.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.42</td>
<td>Allowing students to participate (see Bylaw 9.10.1) without a submitted GA4 form (Affidavit of Compliance with Policy on Athletic Recruiting), per student (Policy 36.4.2)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.43</td>
<td>Violation of the Policy on “Athletic Recruiting” which results in the successful recruitment of a student-athlete (Policy 36.5.3.2)</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.44</td>
<td>Violation of the Policy on “Financial Assistance” (Policy 38.2.1.2)</td>
<td>$2500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.45</td>
<td>Violation of the Licensing Policy during the regular season (Policy 44.3.8)</td>
<td>$250.00 plus damages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.46</td>
<td>Violation of the Licensing Policy during the Florida High School State Championship Series (Policy 44.4.3)</td>
<td>$250.00 plus damages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.47</td>
<td>Unauthorized broadcast of a Florida High School State Championship Series event (Administrative Procedure 3.11.1.9)</td>
<td>$50.00 per broadcast plus rights fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.48</td>
<td>Failure to upload required media information form for the Florida High School State Championship Series by specified deadline (Administrative Procedure 3.9.1)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.49</td>
<td>Failure to submit team photo by specified deadline, if team advances to Florida High School State Championship Series (Administrative Procedure 3.9.1)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.50</td>
<td>Failure to upload up-to-date stats and roster (jersey numbers included) to the FHSAA’s official scores and statistics provider by specified deadline (Administrative Procedure 3.9.2)</td>
<td>$100.00 per round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.1.51</td>
<td>Violation of the “Exchange of Game Films” Administrative Procedure during the football Florida High School State Championships (Administrative Procedure 4.7.5.2)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
46.2 ADMINISTRATIVE FEE SCHEDULE

The following administrative fees are generally assessed member schools for failure to file necessary forms or other paperwork by the appropriate deadline, or 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>46.2.1</td>
<td>Late filing of an Application for Sanction (Form AT2) (Policy 7.2.1)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.2</td>
<td>Application fee for first time membership (Policy 9.2.2.1)</td>
<td>$60.00 (MS) $150.00 (HS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.3</td>
<td>Re-admission of former members school (Policy 9.2.3)</td>
<td>$75.00 (MS) $250.00 (HS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.4</td>
<td>Reactivation fee for suspended member school (Policy 9.2.3)</td>
<td>$50.00 (MS) $125.00 (HS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.5</td>
<td>Administrative fee for preseason events and preseason jamborees and/or classic tournaments in baseball, basketball, soccer and softball (Policy 9.5.1.1)</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.6</td>
<td>Administrative fee for preseason events and preseason jamborees and/or classic tournaments in girls volleyball and wrestling (Policy 9.5.1.2)</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.7</td>
<td>Administrative fee for preseason events and preseason jamborees and/or classic tournaments in boys weightlifting, cross country, swimming &amp; diving and track &amp; field (Policy 9.5.1.3)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.8</td>
<td>Administrative fee for Spring Football Jamborees (Policy 9.9.1.1)</td>
<td>$200.00-$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.9</td>
<td>Administrative fee for Preseason Football Jamborees (Policy 9.9.1.1)</td>
<td>$450.00-$1,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.10</td>
<td>Late filing or payment of Form FB3 or FN2 (Policy 9.9.1.1-9.10.2)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.11</td>
<td>Late filing fee for cancelled sanctioned event without notification to FHSAA (Policy 9.9.1.1 and 9.12.4)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.12</td>
<td>Withdrawal from Florida High School State Championship Series Commitment after the district planning meeting (Policy 10.4)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.13</td>
<td>Late submittal of the Member School Athletic Personnel List/FHSAA Identification Card Order Form by the deadline on form (Administrative Procedure 2.9.1)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.14</td>
<td>Failure to report the results of a Florida High School State Championship Series event (Administrative Procedure 3.5)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.15</td>
<td>Failure to report the results arrangements for the next level Florida High School State Championship Series event (Administrative Procedure 3.5)</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46.2.16</td>
<td>Failure to submit Adapted Track and Field Athlete Declaration Form by deadline (Administrative Procedure 4.14.1.2.2 (g))</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>