

2022-2023



ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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Building Citizenship Through Activities Participation

FORWARD

The official handbook of the Arkansas Activities Association, hereafter referred to as the AAA, is compiled and distributed to all member schools of the state. It is for the specific use of all persons connected with the administration and supervision of the various activity programs in the member schools and for general use of parents, pupils, and fans who feel a need to understand the rules and regulations of the AAA. Handbooks may be downloaded from the web site or purchased upon request.

It is the desire of the AAA Board of Directors that this handbook containing the constitution and bylaws of the association and eligibility rules for the various activities be designed to clarify and interpret the numerous requirements and regulations pertaining to the administration of all interscholastic events.

In the rules that follow, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular as the context requires or permits. Where appropriate, pronouns refer to either gender.

If there is a question concerning any part of this handbook, the executive director should be contacted for an explanation. If there is a question concerning the eligibility of a participant in any interscholastic activity, the executive director should be contacted in writing for an official interpretation of the rule in question.

NOTE: *The only official interpretations are written responses to written requests.*

The members of the Governing Body, the officers of the association, the executive director, and staff desire to promote educational and cultural standards of sportsmanship and effective citizenship among all participants in interscholastic activities. School activities programs should provide opportunities for all students to participate and compete in a variety of sports and activities at their own level of ability and interest.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS ADOPTED BY THE AAA GOVERNING BODY

Proposal #2 – Volleyball, Soccer & Basketball Regular Season Game Limit - To allow flexibility in scheduling for teams from all classification. (91.88% Spring Survey)
Effective 2022-2023 school year.

Proposal #3 – Recruiting Rule - To provide clarity concerning the recruiting rule.
Effective 2022-2023 school year.

Proposal #4 – Penalties – To provide clarity on the penalties assessed with failing to comply with the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association.
Effective 2022-2023 school year.

Proposal #5 – School Board Actions Recognized – To mainstream eligibility guidelines for magnet, specialty, and competitive entry schools that do not have specific attendance zones.
Effective 2022-2023 school year.

Proposal #6 – Transfers - To clarify eligibility rules associated with transfers. (Athletic Release – 85.88% spring survey)
Effective 2022-2023 school year.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Academic Course Defined..... | 46 | End of Season..... | 47, 53-54, 61, 71, 75, 82 |
| Activity Districts..... | 10-11, 13-14, 29, 32 | Fees, Membership..... | 9, 18 |
| Administrative Responsibilities..... | 91 | Filming/Videotaping..... | 34 |
| Administrative Staff..... | 7 | Financial Aid..... | 43 |
| All-Star Events..... | 33 | Five-Quarter Rule (Basketball)..... | 52, 61 |
| Amendments (Also Referred to as Proposals)..... | 16 | Five-Quarter Rule (Football)..... | 67 |
| Appeals..... | 11, 24-25, 120 | Football..... | 18, 20-23, 27, 29, 33, 45, 47, 51, 53-57 |
| Arkansas Officials Association..... | 85 | | 60-62, 66-71, 88-89 |
| Athletic Release Form..... | 33, 36, 41, 105 | Foreign Students..... | 9, 38, 113 |
| Authority of AAA and the Board of Directors..... | 11 | Forfeits..... | 20-21, 23, 25-26, 29, 39-41, 53, 55 |
| Authority of School Administrators..... | 18-19 | | 59, 61, 67, 71, 74, 77, 83, 96, 118 |
| Awards..... | 25, 26, 32, 45, 70, 83, 119-123 | Forms..... | 92-113 |
| Ballots..... | 15-16, 30, 62, 64 | Golf..... | 21-22, 28, 48, 52-53, 55, 71-73, 88-89 |
| Baseball..... | 9, 21-22, 27, 33, 35, 45, 47, 51-55, 58-60, 77 | Governing Body..... | 10-11 |
| | 85, 88, 89 | Hardships..... | 48-49, 99, 100 |
| Basketball..... | 9, 18, 20-22, 27, 29, 33, 45, 47, 50, 52-55 | Hearings..... | 24-25 |
| | 60-63, 85, 88-89 | Heptathlon..... | 53, 66, 88-89 |
| Benefit Games..... | 52, 67, 88 | Home School..... | 9, 31, 37-38 |
| Board of Directors..... | 5-17, 21, 23-25, 27, 29-30, 33-34, 38 | Jurisdiction of AAA..... | 15, 29-32, 53 |
| | 51-55, 59, 62, 64-67, 70, 73, 75, 77-80, 82, 84 | Limitations & Restrictions..... | 53-54, 88 |
| Boarding School..... | 35-36, 39, 44, 102 | Loss of Class Time..... | 31, 45 |
| Bona Fide Student..... | 38-39, 43-44, 49, 51 | Married Students..... | 49 |
| Bowling..... | 21, 28, 48, 52-53, 55, 65, 88-89 | Meet of Champs..... | 73, 81, 89 |
| Broadcast Rights..... | 34 | Membership Fees..... | 9, 18 |
| Bylaws..... | 18-84 | Membership Requirements..... | 8-9 |
| Calendar of Events..... | 88-89 | Minimum Participation for State Championships..... | 54 |
| Calendar of Numbered Weeks..... | 88-89 | NASSP..... | 30, 32 |
| Camps, Athletic..... | 32, 33, 45, 52 | Non-athletic Competition..... | 49 |
| Cancellations..... | 23 | Non-competitive Spirit..... | 50-51 |
| Catastrophe Insurance Fund..... | 17-18, 54, 81, 88 | Non-school Participation..... | 9, 33, 36, 41-42, 45, 47-48, 58, 74, 76, 78, 105 |
| Classification of Schools..... | 17, 26-28, 58, 60, 65-66 | Nonpublic Schools..... | 20, 26-28, 35, 39, 40, 43 |
| | 71, 73, 76, 78-81, 84 | Number of Events/Tournaments..... | 88 |
| Classification of Students..... | 30, 44 | Officers..... | |
| Coaches (Also see All-Star and Registered Volunteer)..... | 19, 20, 23, 33 | AAA..... | 6-7, 11-12 |
| | 36, 42-43, 45, 48, 50, 52, 56 | Activity Districts..... | 13 |
| Coed Teams..... | 52-54 | Conference..... | 29 |
| Conferences..... | 16-17, 21, 28-30, 54, 58-60, 62, 64 | Officials (Also see Contracts)..... | 19, 23, 31, 53-55, 64, 70, 85 |
| | 66-68, 70-73, 76, 79-81 | Out of State Travel..... | 31 |
| Constitution..... | 8-17 | Penalties..... | 19, 23, 25-26, 37, 41, 43, 53, 105 |
| Contracts..... | 19, 22-23, 25, 64, 96-97 | Physicals..... | 48 |
| Cross Country..... | 21-22, 28, 48, 52-53, 55, 65-66, 88-89 | Play-offs..... | 29, 67, 71, 85, 89 |
| CSAP/CSAP JV Forms..... | 35-37, 39-40, 101-104 | Practice..... | 19-20, 33, 47-48, 50, 52-53, 55-58, 68-70 |
| Custody..... | 39 | | 74, 76, 87 |
| Dead Weeks..... | 52, 89 | Protests..... | 23, 63 |
| Decathlon..... | 53, 66, 88-89 | Purpose of AAA..... | 8 |
| Declaration for Sports..... | 21 | Recruitment..... | 40-43 |
| Definitions..... | 86-87 | Registered Volunteer Coaches..... | 19-20, 36, 50, 52, 55, 105 |
| Dropout Rule..... | 44, 49 | Round Robins..... | 30, 61, 63-64, 67-68, 75, 82-83 |
| Eligibility List..... | 22 | Rules Books..... | 54-55 |
| Eligibility Rules for Students (Athletic)..... | 34 | Rules Meetings..... | 21-22, 55 |
| Rule 1. Domicile..... | 34-38 | Sanction of Events..... | 30-33 |
| Rule 2. District Conversion Charter School..... | 38 | Scouting..... | 33 |
| Rule 3. Eligibility in Other Situations..... | 38-40 | Seasons (Beginning and End)..... | 88-89 |
| Rule 4. Penalty for Use of Ineligible Player..... | 40 | Soccer..... | 9, 21-22, 27, 33, 35, 45, 47, 52-55, 73-75, 88-89 |
| Rule 5. Recruitment..... | 40-43 | Softball..... | 9, 21-22, 27, 33, 35, 45, 47, 52-55, 60, 76-77, 88-89 |
| Rule 6. Bona Fide Student..... | 43-44 | Special Olympics..... | 9, 48 |
| Rule 7. Dropouts..... | 44 | Spirit..... | 21, 28, 47, 50-52, 55, 78, 88-89, 116-117 |
| Rule 8. Semesters..... | 44 | Sports Medicine..... | 55-58, 106-110 |
| Rule 9. Age..... | 44-45 | Sportsmanship..... | 114-118 |
| Rule 10. Amateurism..... | 45 | Sunday Interscholastic Contest..... | 33 |
| Rule 11. Tryouts-Team Sports..... | 45 | Swimming and Diving..... | 21-22, 28, 48, 52-53, 55, 78-79, 88-89 |
| Rule 12. Scholarship (Academics)..... | 45-47 | Teams (Definition)..... | 51-52 |
| Rule 13. Ineligible in Another State..... | 47 | Teams, Multiple Jr. High..... | 51-53 |
| Rule 14. Participation on Non-School Teams..... | 47-48 | Tennis..... | 21-22, 28, 48, 52-53, 55, 79, 88-89 |
| Rule 15. National Teams..... | 48 | Tiebreakers..... | 59, 61, 67, 74, 77, 79, 82 |
| Rule 16. Physical Examination..... | 48 | Track and Field..... | 20-22, 28, 48, 52-53, 55, 66, 73, 80-81, 88-89 |
| Rule 17. Hardship Exceptions..... | 48-49 | Transfers..... | 33, 36-37, 39-42, 47, 49, 87 |
| Eligibility Rules for Students (Non-Athletics)..... | 49 | Travel Restrictions..... | 32, 33 |
| Rule 1. Bona Fide Student..... | 49 | Varsity/Non Varsity..... | 52 |
| Rule 2. Scholarship..... | 49 | Violations..... | 24, 26 |
| Rule 3. Semesters..... | 49 | Volleyball..... | 9, 21-22, 27, 33, 45, 47, 52-55, 81-82, 88-89 |
| Rule 4. Age..... | 49 | Voting..... | 9-13, 15-16, 18, 22, 49, 64 |
| Rule 5. Vocational Education Youth Organizations..... | 49 | Website Requirements..... | 21-23 |
| Rule 6. Hardship Exceptions..... | 49 | Wrestling..... | 21-22, 28, 48, 52-53, 55, 84, 88-89 |

Board of Directors Code of Ethics

“I hereby affirm that I, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Activities Association, agree to uphold the rules and regulations of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Arkansas Activities Association.

“I also state that I believe that this organization should serve the interests of the students of the state as a whole and these interests should have precedence over the interest of students in a particular school or district. If the school of which I am an employee is involved in a dispute or an infraction of the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association, I will refrain from participation in the deliberations of the Board of Directors relative to the evaluation and actions pertaining to the accusation or dispute.

“Furthermore, I realize that my authority as a Board of Directors member is in effect only at those times the board is actually in session, and to divulge information pertaining to the actions of the board or its individual members is unethical; therefore, I will refrain from giving such information or giving interpretations of rules, regulations, and precedents and will refer all such questions to the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association for proper answers.”

Arkansas Activities Association Board of Directors

Officers

| | | FB Class | Dist. | Term Expires | Consecutive Term Number |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| President..... | John Ward, Superintendent, Magnolia | 5A | 7 | 2024..... | 3 |
| 1st Vice President | Steve Straessle, Principal, Catholic High School | 6A | 5 | 2025..... | 3 |
| 2nd Vice President..... | Kelvin Hudson, Superintendent, Flippin | 3A | 1E | 2025..... | 2 |
| Secretary..... | Billy Adams*, Superintendent, Lakeside, Lake Village | 3A | 8 | 2024..... | 2 |
| Treasurer | John L Colbert*, Superintendent, Fayetteville | 7A | 1W | 2023..... | 3 |
| Parliamentarian | Kim Wilbanks*, Superintendent, Jonesboro | 7A | 3 | 2025..... | 2 |

Other Executive Committee Members

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|----------|----------|-----------|---|
| Jared Cleveland | Superintendent, Springdale | 7A | 1W | 2023..... | 1 |
| Scott Embrey | Asst. Superintendent, Beebe..... | 5A | 2 | 2023..... | 3 |
| Jon Estes | Superintendent, Palestine-Wheatley | 3A | 6 | 2025..... | 3 |
| Jim Ford | Superintendent, Ozark | 4A | 4 | 2023..... | 0 |
| Brian Golden | Superintendent, Malvern | 4A | 5 | 2024..... | 3 |
| Shawn Halbrook..... | Superintendent, Morrilton | 5A | 5 | 2023..... | 1 |
| Kevin Hesslen | Superintendent, Greenwood..... | 6A | 4 | 2025..... | 2 |
| Brent Howard | Superintendent, Mountain View..... | 4A | 2 | 2024..... | 1 |
| Hugh Inman | Deputy Superintendent, Marion..... | 6A | 3 | 2023..... | 0 |
| Ronnie Kissire..... | Superintendent, Poyen | 2A | 5 | 2025..... | 2 |
| Jeremy Mangrum | Superintendent, Elkins | 4A | 1W | 2024..... | 1 |
| Robert Poole | Superintendent, Prescott..... | 3A | 7 | 2025..... | 1 |
| Jeff Priest | Superintendent, Riverside | 2A | 3 | 2025..... | 1 |
| Gary Williams | Superintendent, Crossett..... | 4A | 8 | 2024..... | 1 |

***AT-LARGE**

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North Little Rock, AR 72117
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Office Hours August - May
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Office Hours June - July
Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Friday Closed

Administrative Staff

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Lance W. Taylor..... | Executive Director |
| Joey Walters | Deputy Executive Director |
| Nick Lasker | Associate Executive Director |
| Don Brodell | Associate Executive Director |
| Steve Roberts | Associate Executive Director |
| Bobby Swofford..... | Assistant Executive Director |
| Amber Balboa | Assistant Executive Director |
| Christyl Parker | Assistant Executive Director |

Support Staff

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Gabriel Foreman | Administrative Assistant to Nick Lasker/AHSAAA Secretary |
| Nicole Cunningham..... | Administrative Assistant to Derek Walter/Media Secretary |
| Michelle Langley | Receptionist |
| Julia Harvey | Administrative Assistant to Joey Walters/AHSCA Secretary |
| Jennifer Mays..... | Administrative Assistant to Amber Balboa/Accounting Secretary |
| Kristy Clark..... | Administrative Assistant to Don Brodell and Steve Roberts/AOA Secretary |

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors



John Ward
Superintendent
Magnolia
President



Steve Straessle
Principal
Catholic
1st Vice President



Kelvin Hudson
Superintendent
Flippin
2nd Vice President



Billy Adams
Superintendent
Lakeside, LV
Secretary



John L. Colbert
Superintendent
Fayetteville
Treasurer



Kim Wilbanks
Superintendent
Jonesboro
Parliamentarian



Jared Cleveland
Superintendent
Springdale



Scott Embrey
Asst. Supt.
Beebe



Jon Estes
Superintendent
Palestine-Wheatley



Jim Ford
Superintendent
Ozark



Brian Golden
Superintendent
Malvern



Shawn Halbrook
Superintendent
Morrilton



Kevin Hession
Asst. Supt.
Greenwood



Brent Howard
Superintendent
Mountain View



Hugh Inman
Deputy Supt.
Marion



Ronnie Kissire
Superintendent
Poyen



Jeremy Mangrum
Superintendent
Elkins



Robert Poole
Superintendent
Prescott



Jeff Priest
Superintendent
Riverside



Gary Williams
Superintendent
Crossett

The members of the Governing Body and staff of the association desire to promote educational and cultural values among its 490 member schools. These schools are junior and senior high, both public and private. A positive attitude and appreciation for higher standards of sportsmanship and effective citizenship among all participants is a goal. Encouraging activity programs that will provide additional opportunities for all students to participate and compete in a variety of sports and activities is a mission.

Since 1912 when the AAA was organized as an athletic association, and since 1969 when the scope was broadened to include all activities, the association has expressed its commitment to promoting and encouraging other school activities beneficial to the development of students in addition to athletics. The AAA now conducts 108 state championships in twenty-three sports as well as providing cooperative assistance with the state events for numerous student activity organizations.

The AAA administers the eligibility records for over 100,000 students annually, helps organize and train over 3,000 game officials and serves as the administrative office for the Arkansas Officials Association, Arkansas High School Coaches Association, and the Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association. In addition, the association's special services include coordination and administration of a nationally-based coaches education program, the annual coaching clinic and All-Star games, the Sportsmanship Award selection process, and the Academic Champions program.

The AAA is dedicated to promoting school activities as a valuable part of a student's total educational program.

Administrative Staff



Lance W. Taylor
Executive
Director



Joey Walters
Deputy Executive
Director



Don Brodell
Assoc. Executive
Director



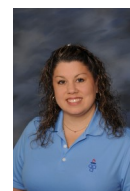
Nick Lasker
Assoc. Executive
Director



Steve Roberts
Assoc. Executive
Director



Bobby Swofford
Asst. Executive
Director



Amber L. Balboa
Asst. Executive
Director



Christyal Parker
Asst. Executive
Director



Supporting Good Sportsmanship

for Tomorrow's Leaders.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Arkansas Activities Association.

ARTICLE II MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

SECTION 1. MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Arkansas Activities Association is to promote the value of participation in interscholastic activities in the AAA member schools and to provide services to the schools in a fair and impartial manner while assisting and supporting their efforts to develop thinking, productive, and prepared individuals as they become positive, contributing citizens modeling the democratic principles of our state and nation.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

More specifically the main purposes of the association shall be to:

- A. Promote the educational values inherent in interscholastic activities that contribute to the accepted aims of education while avoiding interference with the educational goals of the school.
- B. Ensure that interscholastic activities shall remain an integral part of the educational program as they provide opportunities for youth to acquire worthwhile knowledge, skills, and attitudes.
- C. Promote an understanding that participation in interscholastic activities is a privilege accorded to those who meet the adopted criteria.
- D. Foster a cooperative spirit of good sportsmanship on the part of the school representatives, school patrons, and students.
- E. Support opportunities for students to experience the benefits that are derived from teamwork, developing a sense of fair play and accomplishment. Promote an understanding and appreciation that rules, consistently applied, create order and discipline.
- F. Provide standard and consistent interpretations of the rules of the association as adopted by the member schools or authorized by the Board of Directors.
- G. Conduct championship events by the procedures adopted by the schools in a thorough and impartial manner.
- H. Prevent exploitation of youth by special interest groups.
- I. Develop standards of officiating and adjudicating to ensure greater statewide consistency and quality.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP

Any middle, junior, or senior high school accredited by the Arkansas Department of Education or the Arkansas Nonpublic School Accrediting Association may become a member of the association upon approval of the Board of Directors.

The chief administrative officer of the school must agree in the name of the school board to abide by the rules of the association as set forth in its constitution and bylaws and as interpreted by the AAA Governing Body, Board of Directors, and the Executive Director. AAA rules shall govern interscholastic activities for grades seven through twelve.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

The superintendent shall be the authorized representative of the member school. The superintendent may designate an assistant/deputy superintendent or the principal/assistant principal of the member school as the school's voting representative.

SECTION 3. INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

- A. Member schools are NOT permitted to participate with:
 - 1. Arkansas schools that are not members of the AAA; or
 - 2. Schools outside of Arkansas that are not members of a state association affiliated with the National Federation; or,
 - 3. Schools that are not approved by National Federation state associations; or,
 - 4. Schools that are under suspension or expulsion from the AAA or other approved associations.
- B. Member schools may not participate in athletic competition (including scrimmage) with teams or individuals of any non-school groups, organizations, etc., except for charitable purposes, when such events are under school sponsorship.
- C. The Board of Directors may make exceptions to the AAA participation requirements for schools whose entire enrollments are composed of handicapped students and for students involved in contests sponsored by the state chapter of the Arkansas Special Olympics.
- D. Home School Teams. In accordance with Act 562 of the 2015 Arkansas General Assembly, the Arkansas Activities Association shall allow an AAA member school to play a home school team if the home school team complies with the AAA rules for student athletes, including rules concerning age, school semesters, scholarship, physical exams, foreign student eligibility, and amateurs.

A coach of a home school team shall comply with AAA rules concerning the certification of home school coaches.

A home school team is not allowed to participate in an AAA sanctioned conference, conference tournament, district tournament, regional tournament, or state tournament or event.

A home school team is not allowed eligibility for a recognition award of championship.

A home school team may participate in the following team sports: basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, and volleyball.

SECTION 4. FISCAL YEAR - VOTING ELIGIBILITY

The fiscal year of the association shall end on June 30 of each year. Annual membership fees are due by October 1. No school shall be eligible to vote in the annual meeting unless a membership application has been approved.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

SECTION 1. ANNUAL

- A. The annual meeting of the association for the authorized representatives of all member schools shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Directors. One hundred members shall constitute a quorum for the regular meeting.
- B. The authorized representative shall represent only one school at any one meeting.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL

Special meetings of the Governing Body may be called by the president when deemed necessary. One hundred members shall constitute a quorum for a special meeting.

ARTICLE V GOVERNING BODY

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION

The sovereign body of the association shall be known as the Governing Body and shall be composed of one voting representative from each member school. The superintendent, assistant/deputy superintendent, principal, or assistant principal shall represent the member school as the voting representative.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY

The Governing Body shall have full legislative authority on all matters pertaining to those activities herein or hereafter mentioned and shall adopt a constitution and bylaws to govern its procedures.

SECTION 3. NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS

Notice of each meeting of the Governing Body shall be sent to each member at least fifteen days before the time of the meeting.

SECTION 4. VOTING

All motions and voting shall be limited to authorized voting representatives. Directors of various activities are invited to attend and may be called upon for information or advice.

SECTION 5. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall govern all parliamentary matters of the Arkansas Activities Association.

ARTICLE VI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

- A. The number of AAA Board of Directors members elected by each district shall be based upon the number of school memberships in an activity district as compared to the total school memberships of the entire association. The total number of board members elected shall not exceed 16. Each activity district shall elect at least one member. The board members shall assume office July 1 following election. In the event a district qualifies for additional board members, they shall be elected from schools of different classifications. The number of additional board members a district shall elect will be determined by dividing the number of district memberships by the number of state memberships, multiplying the result by 16, then subtracting one.
- B. Minor fractions shall not qualify a district for additional board members. Major fractions shall qualify districts for additional board members except when the total exceeds 16, in which event the smallest major fraction(s) shall be disallowed to the extent necessary to reduce such additional members to a total of 16.
- C. The number of board members elected by activity districts shall be computed each nine years.

SECTION 2. MEETINGS

The Board of Directors shall meet at least once each quarter with the organizational meeting being the last meeting held before July 1 each year. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

SECTION 3. ELECTION

- A. Board of Directors members shall be elected at a regularly scheduled meeting in their respective

activity districts by the authorized representatives of member schools. Said election shall take place prior to May 1 of the year in which the member's term will expire.

- B. Voting representatives must be present and may represent only one member school.
- C. A member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to be elected for not more than three consecutive terms of three years each and must be an authorized voting representative.
- D. All members of the AAA Board of Directors must be a superintendent, assistant/deputy superintendent, principal, or assistant principal of a member school.
- E. Candidates for a position as a member of the AAA Board of Directors must notify the AAA office and/or Activity District President at least two weeks prior to the Activity District meeting where their election will be held of their intention to seek election.

SECTION 4. VACANCY

When a vacancy occurs on the AAA Board of Directors, the Activity District Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy until the next regular spring meeting of that district.

SECTION 5. AT-LARGE MEMBERS

- A. There shall be four at-large board members.
- B. At-large members shall represent the female gender, ethnic minorities, and one non-public school.
- C. At-large members shall be appointed for a three-year term and shall not serve more than three consecutive three-year terms.
- D. Two full time administrators should be nominated by each activity district, preferably one female and one ethnic minority.
- E. The at-large members shall then be appointed by the AAA Board of Directors from the activity district nominations taking into consideration the need for geographical representation, classification, ethnic, and gender representation.
- F. Vacancies. Same as E. above.

SECTION 6. AUTHORITY

- A. The Governing Body, when in session, shall be the sovereign body of this association. At all other times the Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the Governing Body provided the Board of Directors does not change, omit, or nullify by manner of administration any rules or policies regularly approved by the Governing Body except in extraordinary situations.
- B. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to set policies, to plan and carry out all activities of the Arkansas Activities Association, to have all accounts audited, and to serve as a working board where other provisions are not made. It shall at all times govern the association in accordance with rules adopted by the Governing Body.
- C. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to amend any rules declared invalid by a court and to amend any rules invalidated by laws that may be adopted by the state and/or federal government, subject to the approval of the Governing Body at its next annual meeting.

SECTION 7. APPEALS OF BOARD DECISIONS

- A. The Governing Body, when in session, shall have the right to review the decisions of the Board of Directors and may alter or set aside such decisions if, in the judgment of the Governing Body, such decisions are in violation of the constitution or bylaws of the association.
- B. When an appeal is made to the Governing Body, a statement of the case giving the reason for the action of the Board of Directors must be sent to the members of the Governing Body along with the appeal seeking to overrule the action taken by the Board of Directors of the AAA.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

SECTION 1. OFFICERS DEFINED

The officers of this association shall be a president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary,

treasurer, and parliamentarian.

SECTION 2. ELECTION

- A. All officers except the parliamentarian shall be elected by the Board of Directors from its membership each year at its organizational meeting as stated in Article VI, Section 2. New officers shall assume their duties on being elected.
- B. The parliamentarian shall be appointed by the president. The parliamentarian may be a member of the Board of Directors or may be selected from outside its membership.
- C. A majority of votes cast with a quorum of the Board of Directors present shall be necessary for the election of any officer.

SECTION 3. VOTING

All members of the Board of Directors, including officers, shall be eligible to vote on all matters considered by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. PRESIDENT

- A. The president shall:
 - 1. Preside at all meetings of the Governing Body and the Board of Directors;
 - 2. Call special meetings of the Governing Body or Board of Directors when deemed necessary or requested to do so by a majority of the board or Governing Body;
 - 3. Appoint all committees not otherwise provided for.
- B. In case of a dispute between schools that cannot be settled by a conference between the administrative officials of the schools or procedures otherwise specified in the constitution and bylaws, the proper method of procedure shall be to set forth clearly all facts to the president who shall in turn make the decision.
- C. The president shall have the authority to take whatever action is deemed necessary in settling disputes or any other matter not specifically provided for in the handbook.

SECTION 5. VICE PRESIDENTS

The first vice president shall, in the absence of the president, perform the duties of the president; the second vice president shall, in the absence of both the president and the first vice president, perform the duties of the president.

SECTION 6. SECRETARY

The secretary shall be responsible for the recording of minutes of all meetings and other official acts of the Governing Body and the Board of Directors.

Minutes taken by a staff member shall be approved by the secretary before they are submitted to the Governing Body or the Board of Directors or entered in official records of the association.

SECTION 7. TREASURER

The treasurer or a person designated by the Board of Directors shall countersign all checks drawn on any account of the association. The treasurer shall report at each annual meeting of the Governing Body and at such other times as requested by the Board of Directors the financial condition of the association.

SECTION 8. PARLIAMENTARIAN

The parliamentarian shall advise and assist the president in conducting all meetings. Unless specific exceptions are provided in the constitution and bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall be the accepted authority in all questions of parliamentary procedure.

SECTION 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- A. The Board of Directors of the Arkansas Activities Association shall select and employ an Executive Director to give full time to the affairs of the association at an annual salary to be paid monthly. The Board of Directors shall not contract with the Executive Director for a term of longer than three years. Other personnel necessary to carry out the functions of this association shall be employed by the Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.
- B. The Executive Director shall manage all the affairs of the association delegated by the Board of Directors. Among the duties that are delegated, are the following:
 - 1. Shall interpret the rules and regulations of the association when asked to do so by the superintendent or principal of any member school.
 - 2. Shall be custodian of all association properties not otherwise provided for.
 - 3. Shall enforce the rules of the association and make any investigations necessary.
 - 4. Shall have custody of the official minutes and records of the Governing Body, the Board of Directors, and other committee meetings and make proper reports at respective meetings. All written committee reports received shall be a matter of record.
 - 5. Shall be the executive officer of all school interscholastic activities.
 - 6. Shall be bonded and be the custodian of all funds due the association.
 - 7. Shall make such expenditures as are necessary and keep an itemized record of all receipts and expenditures which shall be audited annually.

ARTICLE VIII ACTIVITY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP

Member schools shall be assigned geographically to Activity Districts for administrative purposes. The superintendent or his/her authorized representative (see Article III, Section 2) shall be the voting representative at Activity District meetings.

Voting representatives must be present and may represent only one member school.

NOTE: *Voting representatives are listed in the AAA Directory and need no additional authorization. Another eligible administrator could be designated in writing if the superintendent is not present to designate in person.*

SECTION 2. OFFICERS AND TERMS

Each Activity District shall elect a president, vice president, secretary, and a member(s) of the Board of Directors. These officers shall be elected for a term of one year, except the member(s) of the AAA Board of Directors who shall take office on July 1 following the election. Election of officers shall be held at a regular meeting of the district.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The officers of the district shall constitute the district executive committee. The function and duties of this committee shall be to conduct the business of the district in regards to interscholastic events of the Arkansas Activities Association as authorized by the regulations of the Governing Body. It shall be responsible at all times to the AAA Board of Directors. This committee shall not have the power to nullify or modify any rules of the constitution and bylaws of the Arkansas Activities Association or to change any decisions of the AAA.

SECTION 4. MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be held by the district membership. These meetings shall be scheduled in the spring with the time and place to be determined by the district executive committee.

SECTION 5. ACTIVITY DISTRICTS

The state shall be divided into nine geographical activity districts by county groupings as follows.

District 1 West - Benton, Carroll, Madison, Washington.

District 1 East - Baxter, Boone, Marion, Newton, Searcy.

District 2 - Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Lawrence, Randolph, Sharp, Stone, White, Woodruff.

District 3 - Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Greene, Mississippi, Poinsett.

District 4 - Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Logan, Montgomery, Pope, Scott, Sebastian, Yell.

District 5 - Conway, Faulkner, Garland, Grant, Hot Spring, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, Saline, Van Buren.

District 6 - Arkansas, Cross, Lee, Monroe, Phillips, Prairie, St. Francis.

District 7 - Calhoun, Clark, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, Union.

District 8 - Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Jefferson, Lincoln.

ARTICLE IX ADVISORY COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

- A. There shall be an advisory committee for areas of non-athletic student activities approved by the AAA. The purpose of such advisory committees shall be to plan and direct the activities of the students it serves and to advise with the AAA Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association in regard to scheduling and regulating such activities.
- B. Each student organization of non-athletics shall be assigned to one of the following area committees:
 - 1. Fine Arts and Performance
 - 2. Vocational
 - 3. Honorary and Service
 - 4. Curriculum Oriented

SECTION 2. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- A. Each advisory committee shall consist of one member from each individual student organization or activity approved by the AAA, one principal, one superintendent and one member from the Arkansas Department of Education.
- B. The member from each student organization or activity shall be the president, executive secretary, or a sponsor of that activity; and the selection or appointment and term of office shall be determined by the student organization or activity.
- C. The principal and superintendent shall be appointed by the president of the AAA and shall serve a three-year term. The Arkansas Department of Education member shall be appointed by the ADE and shall serve until replaced by the director.

SECTION 3. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

Each advisory committee shall have the following duties and functions:

- A. To make plans in cooperation with the AAA Executive Director for the holding of all contests, festivals, meetings, and other activities that come under its sponsorship.

- B. To recommend rules and regulations for the governing of all contests, festivals, and other activities that come under its jurisdiction. All matters of a technical nature or matters unique to an activity shall be considered by the advisory committee for that activity before recommendations are submitted to the Board of Directors. Changes recommended are also subject to the provisions of the Bylaws, Art. II, Sec. 1, Rule 3.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. ORIGIN

Proposed amendments to the constitution or to the bylaws, commonly referred to as proposals, shall originate in one of three ways.

- A. Proposals may be originated by one or more member schools or a conference/district at an Activity District meeting. All proposals for amendments to the constitution or bylaws submitted at the activity district meetings must first be presented in proper written form to the AAA office at least 72 hours prior to the meeting at which it will be presented. Such proposals, if approved by a majority vote at an activity district meeting, shall be placed on the governing body agenda for a vote by member schools.
- B. Proposals may be originated by the AAA-approved state organization of a student activity or other sub organization. The state organization's secretary shall certify the proposal to the Executive Director of the AAA stating the date passed by the organization.

NOTE: AAA Board of Directors shall have the authority to approve a proposal submitted as originated in B above.

- C. Proposals may be originated by the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Activities Association.

SECTION 2. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- A. A proposal to amend the constitution shall be sent to the Executive Director no fewer than thirty days before the next regular meeting. At least fifteen days prior to the meeting a copy of the proposal shall be mailed to each member of the Governing Body, and this proposal shall be presented to the Governing Body for discussion and consideration at the next regular meeting.
- B. To be adopted a proposal shall receive a two-thirds majority of those voting.

SECTION 3. BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

An approved proposal to amend the bylaws shall meet the same requirements as a proposal to amend the constitution except that it shall be adopted by a majority of those voting.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

A proposal that is adopted shall be effective immediately unless the proposal contains a clause specifying an exact date or time to become effective.

SECTION 5. VOTING BY MAIL

The Board of Directors may, if in their opinion the interest of the association would be best served by a mail vote, delay a proposal(s) for a vote by mail.

SECTION 6. TIME REQUIREMENTS

The Governing Body shall be informed when and how voting will occur when proposals are mailed or e-mailed to the Governing Body. Mail votes authorized by the Board of Directors shall be presented to the membership no later than forty-five (45) days following the regular meeting. Ballots shall be mailed to the superintendent or to the designated voting representative. Ten (10) days shall be allowed from the date of mailing for members of the Governing Body to mark their ballot and post them for return to the AAA office.

SECTION 7. PROVISION FOR SPECIAL BALLOTS

When a proposal is presented to the Executive Director in the three quarters of the year following a regular meeting of the Governing Body, the board may authorize a mail vote at their next regular meeting or delay the proposal for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Governing Body. In the event the board authorizes an early mail vote on such a proposal, the board shall extend the deadline for returning such a ballot to twenty (20) days from the date of mailing.

SECTION 8. EDITING

The Board of Directors shall review all proposals to amend the constitution or bylaws, shall combine germane proposals into one proposal, and shall submit only one proposal when identical proposals are submitted. However, in no case shall subject matter be deleted as a result of combining, selecting, or editing of proposals.

SECTION 9. BALLOT REQUIREMENTS

- A. Any proposal for change submitted to member schools for a vote by mail shall be accompanied by the following information:
 - 1. Identity of the sponsor of the proposal.
 - 2. A statement of purpose for the proposal.
 - 3. A recommendation by the Board of Directors concerning the effect of the proposal on the association, its districts, and its student organizations or activities.
- B. The same information shall be sent to members of the advisory committee for each student organization or activity. Only schools participating in a given activity or a specific classification may vote on the involved issue(s) unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 10. TELLERS

The president shall appoint a teller committee to count the votes and certify the results. The Board of Directors may adopt additional regulations that are necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 11. RECONSIDERATION FOR TABLED PROPOSALS

Items that have been tabled in previous meetings of the Governing Body cannot be called up for reconsideration unless the Board of Directors has been notified in writing in time to place the item on the agenda and the proposal mailed to each member of the Governing Body.

SECTION 12. AMENDING PROPOSALS

The Governing Body may consider amendments to proposals previously mailed to member schools as part of the Governing Body meeting agenda under any of the following conditions:

- A. If the amendment to a proposal is submitted to the Executive Director at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Governing Body, the Board of Directors shall study the amendment and furnish the Governing Body with a written interpretation of its effect on the original proposal and on the association's student organizations, conferences, and member schools. The Governing Body may then consider amendments to the proposal and after their consideration may consider the original proposal following the parliamentary procedure outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised. An amendment to a proposal may be approved by a simple majority of those voting.
- B. If an amendment to a proposal is submitted fewer than fifteen (15) days before the meeting of the Governing Body, it can be considered at that meeting only by a two-thirds majority vote of the Governing Body members present. Such amendment to a proposal must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing with sufficient copies for all voting representatives and must be approved by the parliamentarian as being in proper form. A member school may initiate this action.
- C. Amendments to proposals shall be voted on at the Governing Body meeting. Proposals that may be authorized for mail vote in the three quarters of a year after the Governing Body meeting shall not be amendable until the next regular meeting.

- D. All proposals regarding state championships, classification and conferencing will be voted on by senior high member schools only.

ARTICLE XI PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING ATHLETIC SEASONS

Proposed changes in athletic seasons (beginning and end) shall conform to the requirements for amending the constitution as outlined in Article X of the constitution. Two-thirds of votes cast shall be required for approval.

ARTICLE XII CHANGING CLASSIFICATION AND/OR CONFERENCE

SECTION 1. CLASSIFICATION

Proposed changes in student enrollment for the classification of schools shall conform to the procedures and requirements for amending the constitution as outlined in Article X.

Constitutional changes shall require two-thirds of the votes cast to be adopted except in the event a classification's membership becomes less than four schools, the Board of Directors is authorized to assign such school(s) to the classification whose enrollment level is nearest the enrollments of the school(s) being assigned.

SECTION 2. CONFERENCES

- A. Any activity district, conference, etc., may petition the Board of Directors for a revision of the member schools in one or more conferences with a definite plan for such revision. The Board of Directors shall consider such a plan and if approved submit the plan to all schools of the state in the classification concerned for approval either by mail vote or a meeting called by the AAA president for this purpose.
- B. If such a plan is approved by two-thirds of the schools in the classification, the new conferencing plan shall be considered adopted.
- C. The Board of Directors shall review the membership of conferences when reclassifying schools and is authorized to submit plans for revisions to improve the travel required for participation in athletic conference events for the majority of member schools being reassigned.

ARTICLE XIII CATASTROPHE INSURANCE FUND

SECTION 1. INSURANCE FUND ESTABLISHED

The AAA Board of Directors is authorized to establish and administer a Catastrophe Insurance Fund. Member schools may participate in one interscholastic contest (benefit game) more than provided by limitations of the bylaws in sports for every varsity team, provided the school agrees to give the proceeds of permitted games to the AAA Catastrophe Insurance Fund.

SECTION 2. CATASTROPHE INSURANCE AUTHORIZED

The AAA Board of Directors is authorized to purchase catastrophe insurance for member schools using the funds available in the Catastrophe Insurance Fund. If sufficient funds are not available to pay 100% of the cost, schools may be billed on a pro-rata share for the balance.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP FEES

Each school shall be assessed fees as determined by their football classification status and as outlined below:

| CLASSIFICATION | SENIOR HS | JUNIOR HS |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| 7A | \$1500.00 | \$400.00 |
| 6A | \$1350.00 | \$350.00 |
| 5A | \$1200.00 | \$300.00 |
| 4A | \$1000.00 | \$250.00 |
| 3A | \$700.00 | \$200.00 |
| 2A | \$500.00 | \$150.00 |
| 1A | \$350.00 | \$100.00 |

Separate membership is required for junior highs and middle schools having a separate administration from the member high school(s) in the district.

Junior high and middle schools having at least two grades of 7 through 9 shall pay junior high fees. Schools having only one grade of 7 through 9 shall pay one-half junior high fees.

Separate membership is required to have membership privileges including catastrophe insurance coverage and voting privilege.

Schools having multiple junior high varsity teams shall have separate memberships for each team.

Schools with enrollments all of one gender shall pay one-half the membership fee of this classification plus \$100 for additional administrative costs.

\$50 per senior high school shall be applied to state basketball tournament reimbursements. The AAA shall pay to the final eight teams in each classification reimbursement for participation in the quarterfinals through the finals of state basketball tournaments. The amount of reimbursement shall be \$50 multiplied by the number of high school memberships and shall be prorated to schools on the basis of one-way mileage from the school to the tournament site for each game played.

ARTICLE II ADMINISTRATION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS

SECTION 1. SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR PRINCIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY

Rule 1. AUTHORITY AND ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. The superintendent and/or principal shall:

- In all matters pertaining to the activity relations of their schools are responsible for enforcing the rules of this association. They may delegate some of these powers, but such delegation shall not relieve them of responsibility for any infraction by their school.
- Have general local control over all interscholastic activities and contests in which the school participates.
- Be responsible for the education of all students, representing the school as participants or spectators, of their school district regarding AAA rules and regulations. Be responsible for the education of all parents of such students of their school district regarding AAA rules and regulations.
- Be responsible for the conduct of all students representing the school as participants or spectators at any interscholastic activity, and exclude any contestant who because of bad habits or improper

conduct will not represent the school in a becoming manner.

- E. Any contestant who has suffered serious illness or injury should be excluded until the school physician or the attending physician pronounces that contestant physically fit.
- F. Be responsible for the treatment of all visitors and officials attending activities conducted by the school. Penalties may be imposed upon a member school whose principal or superintendent fails to provide reasonable protection for officials and visitors at home contests.

Although the administrator of a host school is responsible for the treatment of visitors and officials as specified above, the principal, superintendent, or school representative of a visiting school shall have the responsibility of helping the authorities of a host school in the control of the fans, students, and players from the visiting school and shall make a reasonable effort to assist in controlling fans, students, and players as soon as potential crowd control problems become evident.

If a game or contest is held at a neutral place, the principal or superintendent of the participating schools shall be held jointly responsible for this protection. In such case, penalties may be imposed upon either or both of the schools.

- G. See that all contracts for athletic contests in which the school participates are in writing and signed by the superintendent, principal, or athletic director.
- H. Authorize a full time faculty member or credentialed registered volunteer of the school to be the school representative of any organization representing the school unless the administrator serves as the school representative.

However, for activities, other than team sports, involving FEWER THAN SIX STUDENTS, a responsible adult may be authorized IN WRITING as the school representative. Such individual shall not represent more than one member school.

Such authorization or delegation of responsibility shall not relieve the school and the superintendent or principal of responsibility to the association.

- I. Assign personnel that meet AAA interscholastic coaching and/or advisor requirements.
- J. Be responsible for certifying on DragonFly the eligibility of all contestants, grades 7-12, in accordance with the bylaws of the association.
- K. Have such other powers concerning interscholastic contests and activities in the school in keeping with the growth and needs of the school and which are consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Arkansas Activities Association.
- L. In accordance with Act 1214 of 2011, each member school must develop emergency action plans for each individual athletic venue and procedures for hot weather practices. The emergency action plans should be reviewed each year with staff and the local EMS provider.

Rule 2. SPORTSMANSHIP. Refer to the Sportsmanship Manual.

SECTION 2. COACHES OF COMPETITIVE SPORTS

Rule 1. QUALIFICATIONS. All coaches shall be licensed teachers or teachers granted a written waiver through ADE licensure who meet the employment criteria stated in Rule 2 as required by the Arkansas Department of Education or a credentialed Registered Volunteer as authorized by Act 1012 of the 1997 Arkansas General Assembly.

In accordance with state law (A.C.A. § 6-18-708), every three years all coaches of member schools are required to receive training on concussion, heat illness, sudden cardiac arrest, and communicable disease. The training may include a component on best practices for a coach to educate parents of students involved in athletics on sports safety. Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, a person employed by a school district as an athletics coach who fails to meet the training requirements shall not be eligible to coach an athletic activity until the training requirements are met. If a person fails to meet the training requirements and continues to coach an athletic activity, the school district shall:

- A. For the first violation, suspend the person from coaching an athletic activity until training requirements are met;
- B. For the second violation, suspend the person from coaching an athletic activity for the remainder of the athletic season and the next athletic season; and

- C. For the third violation, permanently suspend the person from coaching an athletic activity.

The use of any ineligible coach in any interscholastic contest will result in one or more of the following actions based upon facts and findings:

- A. Forfeiture of the contest
- B. The specific sport during which the ineligible coach was used will be placed on probation status for up to one (1) calendar year.
- C. The ineligible coach may be suspended from further competition and any activity as determined by the Executive Director
- D. The school may be fined up to \$500.00

Rule 2. EMPLOYMENT.

- A. Teacher-Coaches shall be regularly employed and paid by the local board of education for professional duties. Assignment of professional duties shall be for a minimum of three regular class periods or equivalent time each day.
- B. Assignment to a professional education duty other than a classroom teaching assignment all or part of the required three periods is permissible, but such assignment does not excuse a coach from the licensure required as a teacher unless granted a written waiver through ADE licensure..
- C. Licensed teacher-coaches who do not have the ADE coaching endorsement and teachers granted a written waiver through ADE licensure must successfully complete the AAA's required coaches education program prior to practice or interscholastic coaching.
- D. The coach's duties as an employee shall require licensure or written waiver through ADE licensure that will qualify him/her to be paid legally from a public school teachers salary fund.
- E. A coach may receive money for directing recreational activities outside his regular coaching duties, during off-hours including summer months or from an outside agency.
- F. Payment from federal program funds is permissible if the contract of the coach is eligible to be paid from teacher salary funds. However, the AAA does not approve a vocational permit as licensure for coaching even though such an individual can be contracted and paid from salary funds.
- G. The specified AAA required documents must be ON FILE AT THE SCHOOL and submitted through the DragonFly digital platform each year for each teacher-coach who does not have a coaching endorsement through ADE.
- H. Each cheerleading coach must be currently safety certified by the USA Cheer Spirit. A school's safety certified cheer coach must be present at any practice, game, or performance where any members of the team will be learning, practicing, or performing partner stunts or tumbling.
- I. All coaches who perform any coaching duties in football must complete an approved tackling certification course prior to performing any football coaching duties.

Rule 3. REGISTERED VOLUNTEER COACHES.

- A. Registered volunteers may act as a head coach in all varsity junior and senior high sports administered by the Arkansas Activities Association except in the sports of football, basketball, and track and field.
- B. All registered volunteers MUST be 22 years of age or older.
- C. Registered volunteer coaches are not permitted to receive any financial compensation for their services.
- D. Registered volunteers must submit to a background check with the submission of their initial verification form. All registered volunteers must submit to a background check (fingerprinting) every five years.
- E. Registered volunteer coaches must successfully complete the AAA's required coaches education program prior to practice or interscholastic coaching.
- F. The specified AAA required documents must be ON FILE AT THE SCHOOL and submitted through the DragonFly digital platform each year for each registered volunteer coach.
- G. Registered volunteer cheer coaches, competitive and non-competitive, must be USA Cheer (formerly AACCA) safety certified.
- H. All coaches who perform any coaching duties in football must complete an approved tackling certification course prior to performing any football coaching duties.

Rule 4. NONPUBLIC SCHOOL COACHES. A nonpublic school coach must meet the same requirements as a public school coach in a comparable assignment.

Rule 5. STUDENT TEACHERS. A teaching intern (student teacher) may assist with coaching duties during the intern period at the assigned school. The intern may not assume the responsibilities of head coach nor be paid for service.

SECTION 3. SCHOOL PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Rule 1. DECLARATION FOR SPORTS.

A. **Admission to Conference.** Schools shall only be admitted to a conference, district, or region in team sports at the beginning of a classification cycle before the AAA Board of Directors finalizes approved conferences for the new classification cycle.

B. **Deadlines.**

1. Member schools shall declare each year the sports in which they plan to participate interscholastically.
2. Declarations for fall/winter sports and other designated activities are due by June 1. Fall and winter sports are tennis, golf, bowling, football, girls' volleyball, cross country, swimming and diving, basketball, competitive cheer/dance, and wrestling.
3. Declarations for spring sports are due by December 1. Spring sports are track and field, baseball, girls fast pitch softball, and soccer.
4. Declarations for fall and winter sports may be amended to add or delete a sport without penalty through Friday of Week #13.
5. During Weeks #14 through #16 a school may amend its original declaration to add or delete a fall or winter sport upon payment of a \$25 late fee.
6. However, sports qualifying or entering directly to the state event (cross country, swimming, competitive cheer, and competitive dance) shall be allowed to declare no later than the deadline for entries.
7. Any school failing to declare track, baseball, softball or soccer by Week #22 shall not be permitted to participate in conference, district, region, or state events.
8. Failure to make or amend a declaration by the times specified above shall cause a school to forfeit the right of participation for its students in the conference, district, or state events involved.

C. **Failure to Participate.** A school failing to participate in a sport (including no shows) after declaring for the sport shall forfeit the right for its students to participate in other conference, district, region, or state events until a \$25.00 penalty fee has been paid to the AAA office.

The Executive Director has the authority to suspend the fee if the school's failure to appear for the event was unavoidable. An administrator must submit a written request stating the extenuating circumstance.

D. **Dropping a Program.** Schools dropping junior or senior high athletic programs shall notify the Arkansas Activities Association and schools of their conferences within a reasonable time (approximately ten days) after such decisions are made.

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS. Failure to meet the following requirements may result in your school being fined:

- **Baseball pitch count** results must be entered no later than noon of the day following completion of a contest. Required for all schools. **ScoreBook Live** (\$50 penalty)
- **Declarations**-Member schools shall declare each year the sports in which they plan to participate. Reference Bylaws, Article II, Section 3 in the AAA Handbook for specifics. (\$25 penalty) **DragonFly**
- **Failure to Participate.** A school failing to participate in a sport (including no shows) after declaring for the sport shall forfeit the right for its students to participate in other conference, district, region, or state events until a \$25 penalty fee has been paid to the AAA office.
- **Graduation date and time** required for all high schools. (\$50 penalty) **DragonFly**
- **Rules presentation** required for all schools. (\$50 penalty) **DragonFly**
- **Schedules** must be submitted online for all high schools declared for football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer. (\$50 penalty) **DragonFly**
- **Scores** must be submitted online for all high schools declared for football, volleyball, basketball, softball and soccer within 24 hours of the completion of each contest. Baseball scores must be submitted online within 12 hours of the completion of each contest. (\$50 penalty) **DragonFly/ScoreBook Live**

- **SIP rules presentation** required for all schools with a Supplemental Instruction Program. (\$50 penalty) **DragonFly**
- **SIP** students must be entered online. (\$50 penalty) **DragonFly**
- **Team rosters** required for high schools. (\$50 penalty) **DragonFly**
- **Voting Representative Meetings** are required for all member schools. These meetings shall take place around the state every fall. The AAA will send meeting information out to all member schools and place it on the AAAAA calendar. (\$50 penalty) **In Person**

| Date | Sport/Type | Requirement |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 1 | Football/Volleyball | Schedule |
| June 1 | Fall/Winter Sports | Declare |
| June 1 | Basketball | Schedule |
| August 2 | Golf | Rules Presentation |
| August 16 | Competitive Cheer/Dance | Rules Presentation and Roster |
| August 16 | Tennis/Sideline Cheer/Dance | Rules Presentation |
| August 23 | Volleyball | Rules Presentation and Roster |
| August 23 | Cross Country | Rules Presentation |
| August 30 | Football | Rules Presentation and Roster |
| September 5 | SIP | Rules Presentation/ Students Entered |
| October 1 | Graduation | Date and Time |
| October 18 | Basketball (Non FB schools) | Rules Presentation and Roster |
| November 1 | Swimming/Diving | Rules Presentation |
| November 8 | Basketball (FB schools) | Rules Presentation and Roster |
| November 15 | Wrestling | Rules Presentation and Roster |
| November 15 | Swimming/Diving | Roster |
| December 1 | Spring Sports | Declare |
| January 20 | SIP | Students Entered |
| February 1 | Baseball/Softball/Soccer | Schedule |
| February 21 | Track and Field | Rules Presentation |
| February 28 | Baseball/Softball/Soccer | Rules Presentation and Roster |

Rule 3. ELIGIBILITY LISTS.

- A. **Student Registration - Athletics.** A member school must enter each eligible athlete on DragonFly prior to interscholastic participation.

Non-Athletics. The school administrator shall sign a statement to be attached to any entry form or list of participating students indicating these students meet all AAA non-athletic eligibility rules. This must be submitted with the registration or entry form and **NOT TO THE AAA OFFICE.**

- B. **Exchange of Lists - Athletics.** Schools may obtain an opponent's eligibility list through DragonFly.

Rule 4. CONTRACTS BETWEEN SCHOOLS.

- A. Scheduled contests among members of the association shall be covered by contracts drawn up on regular AAA contract forms. Contracts may be cancelled only upon mutual agreement in writing between the two schools involved.

NOTE: *An exception to this requirement may be made by the Executive Director when it is determined that a schedule change is necessary for a school to be in compliance with a change of rules and regulations adopted by the Governing Body. Contractual agreements exceeding one year shall be limited to and shall coincide with reclassification cycles.*

- B. A school canceling a game or contest without mutual consent shall:
1. forfeit the game,
 2. pay the stipulated forfeiture fee of the contract,
 3. reimburse the other involved school for all reasonable financial obligations incurred in their preparation for the scheduled contest.

The school canceling a contract without mutual agreement may not schedule another contest during the week prescribed in the contract that was canceled. All forfeitures and reimbursements shall be made within thirty (30) days following the designated contract date canceled. Failure to make such payment may cause the school to be penalized by suspension.

Rule 5. CONTRACT WITH OFFICIALS.

- A. Contracts between schools and officials shall be made on AAA-approved contract forms. Contracts will not be canceled except upon mutual agreement in writing between the schools and officials involved.

NOTE: *An exception to this requirement can be made by the Executive Director when it is determined that a schedule change is necessary for a school to be in compliance with change of rules and regulations adopted by the Governing Body.*

- B. Schools or officials breaking the contract without mutual consent shall pay to the offended party the sum stipulated in the contract.
- C. All game officials for regular season events in those sports for which the Board of Directors specifies that registered officials are required shall be selected by mutual agreement of the competing schools.

If the official(s) approved notifies the host school that the contract cannot be fulfilled fewer than forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled event is to begin, the host school shall not be required to get approval of the visiting school for a replacement official of an equal or higher classification. However, if the host school's conference establishes a list of approved officials, the host school may employ a replacement from that list regardless of the official's classification.

Rule 6. ENFORCEMENT OF CONTRACTS.

- A. **Oral Contracts.** The association will not enforce oral contracts or contracts not drawn up on AAA contract forms.
- B. **Breach of Contract.** A breach of contract may be declared if a coach orders the team to cease play before an interscholastic event is completed.
- C. **Cancellations.** The Executive Director may also authorize cancellation of games due to epidemics, accidents, or other hazards ordinarily judged to be of natural causes.
- D. **Two-Year Contracts.** Football contracts and other two-year contracts shall be drawn up with the date to be played based upon the numbered week of the AAA calendar rather than upon the month and day of the month and shall coincide with classification cycles.

NOTE: *This regulation is designed to eliminate misunderstandings that sometimes arise when contracts are drawn up on a home-and-home basis and the second game is to be played on the corresponding week number. (Exception: out-of-state games.)*

Rule 7. PROTESTS ON GAMES AND OFFICIALS.

- A. **Basis for Protest.** No protest concerning scheduled games will be considered unless the protest is based upon a violation of contract shown by the contract made and signed upon AAA contract forms.
1. Games may be played under protest, provided the protest is made in writing, one copy being given to the coach of the protested team and a copy mailed to the AAA office. Verbal notification to the opposing coach and game officials must also be made prior to the start of the contest.
 2. A protest must be made in writing to the Executive Director who must investigate and render a decision.
 3. If a game is protested and the protest is allowed, the innocent team shall win by forfeit.

NOTE: Officials' Judgment Calls. *The association has no authority to reverse a judgment decision made by an official regarding interpretation and application of playing rules.*

- B. **Review of Game Film.** The Arkansas Activities Association has the authority to review game film to rule on unsportsmanlike actions by coaches, players, administrators, students, and fans that occur prior to, during, or after an event. Penalties for such actions will follow the rules and regulations of the AAA Handbook and Sportsmanship Manual.

SECTION 4. VIOLATIONS, APPEALS, AND PENALTIES

Rule 1. REPORTING VIOLATIONS. Any authorized representative of a member school or involved game official may file a complaint against any school or school representative for a violation of the rules and regulations of this association. Such complaint shall be filed with the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association in writing within five working days after the discovery of the violation.

Upon receipt of a complaint, the Executive Director shall make an investigation of the charges contained in the complaint within a reasonable time which may include asking for assistance or investigation by the alleged violators.

Rule 2. NOTIFICATION AND INVESTIGATION.

- A. During the investigation of the complaint, the Executive Director shall notify the school's authorized representative of the alleged charges of violations of the rules and regulations in writing, fax, email, or by telephone in such language that the charged party (school or representative) shall have disclosure of the alleged acts of misconduct or impropriety constituting the alleged violation of the rules and regulations of the association.
- B. When a written notice is given by the Executive Director, it shall be mailed, faxed, or emailed to the school of the charged party(ies). Such notice shall contain the time and place set for a hearing of the charges, if charges are denied.
- C. The Executive Director shall hear the evidence presented at the hearing and at the conclusion issue a written finding and recommended order.
- D. Any oral or documentary evidence not privileged may be received if it is of a type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs.
- E. The findings and recommended order of the Executive Director shall be served upon the charged party(ies) in the same manner required for notice of a hearing. Unless the Executive Director receives a written objection and request for appeal within 10 working days of the mailing of said recommended order, the recommended order shall be final. If time is of the essence, a written objection and request for appeal may be required in fewer than the allotted 10 working days.
- F. If a school accepts in writing a suggested penalty after receiving the notice of alleged charges of violations, no further hearing shall be necessary.

Rule 3. PROCEDURE FOR APPEALS. Any authorized representative of a member school or student/parent may appeal a decision, opinion or recommended order given by the Executive Director, either oral or written. Such appeal shall be made in writing.

An appeal on behalf of a student by the parents shall be filed through the school's authorized representative. After receiving the written appeal, the Executive Director shall:

- A. Notify the president of the AAA of said appeal.
- B. And,
1. If time is of the essence, the president shall within a reasonable time appoint a hearing subcommittee of the Board of Directors of not fewer than five (5) members which shall convene for the purpose of conducting a hearing of the appeal with reasonable notice to the party(ies) involved.
 2. If time is not of the essence, the Board of Directors shall hear the appeal at a regular meeting. The procedure for notice of such hearing shall be the same as for a subcommittee hearing.
- C. Notice of the time and place of such a hearing shall be served upon the appealing party(ies) by mail, fax, or email. An administrator of the involved school should be present at the hearing. Legal counsel may represent the appealing parties provided the AAA Executive Director is notified at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.

- D. Within ten (10) working days after the conclusion of any hearing, the Executive Director shall notify all parties of the committee's or hearing officer's decision.
- E. Then,
1. In the event the appealing parties are dissatisfied with the decision of the hearing subcommittee, an appeal to an independent hearing officer may be had by serving written notice of appeal to the Executive Director.
 2. The Executive Director shall contact a hearing officer and set a date, time, and place for the hearing. Notice of the time and place shall follow the procedures established for the first appeal.
 3. After the hearing the hearing officer shall render an expeditious written opinion as to whether the Executive Director, hearing subcommittee, or the Board of Directors followed the rules of the association and the law in making a determination about the alleged violation or other basis for appeal.
 4. In the event the appealing parties are dissatisfied with the decision of the subcommittee and hearing officer, an appeal to the Board of Directors may be had by serving a written notice of appeal to the Executive Director. Notice of the time and place of such a hearing shall follow the procedures established for the earlier appeals.
 5. In the event a majority of the original hearing subcommittee is dissatisfied with the opinion of the hearing officer and if the Board of Directors has not previously heard the matter, the subcommittee may request a hearing before the Board of Directors to review the opinion of the hearing officer. A 75% majority agreement of the Board of Directors present at the hearing is required to reject an opinion of the hearing officer. Notice of the time and place of such a hearing shall follow the procedures established for the earlier appeals.
- F. Upon receipt of the notice of appeal to the Board of Directors by the appealing parties or by request from the subcommittee, the Executive Director shall set the appeal for hearing, de novo, at its next meeting. The rules as set out above for a hearing before the Executive Director shall apply to hearings before the Board of Directors.
- G. The procedure for notifications of the appealing party(ies) shall be the same as for the previous appeal.
- H. The filing of a written objection and appeal from the decision of the Executive Director of an appeal from the decision of the hearing subcommittee or the opinion of the hearing officer shall not stay the order of the Executive Director. Such order may be stayed by the Board of Directors if, in the exercise of its judgment, the interest of justice would be served. A hearing subcommittee may stay the order of the Executive Director when acting instead of the Board of Directors, and such action shall be considered at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.
- I. If the appeal to the Board of Directors as a whole requires a special called meeting, the appealing party(ies) shall be required to make such arrangements as are satisfactory to the Executive Director to secure the payment of the costs of the appeal including travel expenses of the Board of Directors and the cost of taking and transcribing a record thereof to be paid by the appealing party(ies) in the event the appeal to the Board of Directors is not successful.

Rule 4. PENALTIES. Except for fines authorized in other sections of the bylaws, a violation of any rule or regulation, mandatory or prohibitory, contained in either the bylaws or the constitution of the Arkansas Activities Association, or any amendment enacted by any member school or a representative of such school shall subject the school or the representative, through action against the school, to one of the following penalties, depending upon the severity of the violation: Warning, Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion. Any further violation(s) during a penalty period shall subject the school or individual to a more severe penalty. If a violation occurs during a non-participating time period, other penalties may be imposed.

A. **Warning.** A school may be forced to forfeit all games played or awards received during the period of violation. The school may compete for a championship, rating, or award during this period (See note on Bylaws Article II, Section 3, Rule 6—Enforcement of Contracts). Such penalty may extend up to a year (365 days) from the date of violation, but the school may participate in regular season events.

B. **Probation.**

1. A school shall forfeit all games played or awards received during the period of violation. The school may not compete for a championship, rating, or award in the sport or activity involved during the time period it is placed or continues on probation.

Such penalty may extend up to a year (365 days) from the date of violation but the school may participate in regular season events.

2. As an alternative, the school may reduce the penalty of probation to a warning by suspending a school employee or student causing the violation for a length of time accepted by the AAA and from duties or privileges of attendance, supervision, coaching, practicing, or playing in the activity or sport involved.

Suspension of such individuals shall not exceed the time prescribed for the probation or warning period.

- C. **Suspension.** A school shall forfeit all games played or awards received during the period of violation. The school may not participate in a regular season schedule nor participate in any invitational, district, regional, or state events during the suspension period.

Such penalty may extend up to a year (365 days) from the date of violation.

- D. **Expulsion.** A school shall forfeit all games played or awards received during the period of violation. The school or individual may not participate in any interscholastic activities after being expelled.

NOTE: *The Governing Body shall have exclusive power to expel a school from the association by a two-thirds vote.*

- E. In the event a penalty specified in paragraphs A-D above requires forfeiture, the offended participant or team shall receive the same forfeit as defined by the approved rules book for the forfeit of events or games due to violations of rules in the sport involved.
- F. If a violation requiring a penalty of forfeiture is discovered after an event has occurred, any award received by the offender shall be awarded to the next finisher in individual sports or to the last team offended in team sports.
- G. If a student is ineligible according to AAA rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such AAA rules but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order of injunction against that student's school and/or AAA, and that injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed, or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified or expires without further judicial determination, those penalties stipulated in Rule 4A, B, C, D, E, or F may be imposed.

SECTION 5. CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS

Rule 1. SENIOR HIGH CLASSIFICATION CYCLE. The classification cycle shall recur in each two-year period in which schools are assigned to a conference. The cycle begins with an even school year (2016-2018, etc.). The classification of schools for sports in the senior high division shall be based upon the October 1 enrollment report to the ADE in grades 9-11.

The enrollment from public schools shall be taken from the school's report filed with the ADE and shall be a three-year average of the October 1 enrollment.

Rule 2. The ADM of schools with students all of one gender shall be doubled for classification purposes. The nonpublic school enrollment figures shall be taken from a school's report to ANSAA and shall be a three-year average of the October 1 enrollment. Nonpublic schools having 80 or more students in grades 9-11 shall be moved up one class when classifying schools. Furthermore, all nonpublic school sport specific classification will be adjusted based on the Competitive Equity Factor. Calculations for the Competitive Equity Factor will take place after the conclusion of each specific sport during the final year of the previous cycle. Adjustments made in classification due to Competitive Equity Factor are effective for the **next two, 2 year** cycles.

In determining the classification and alignment of a non-public school, the non-public school may petition to move to a higher classification than assigned. Non-public schools petitioning to move to a higher classification must petition each cycle. All sports will be included in the petition. Non-public schools petitioning to move to a higher classification may consider:

- Geographic factors
- Population density

- Competitive factors relating to the petitioning school

The petition must be filed with the Executive Director of the AAA in writing within 20 working days after the release of the new classification numbers.

Rule 3. CLASSIFICATIONS. Refer to each sport.

All classifications are a statewide organization not assigned to an activity district, but supervised directly by the AAA Board of Directors. Schools shall be assigned to the activity district compatible with each school's geographic location by county.

Football Classification - Classification of schools for football shall be as follows:

Class 7A — The largest 16 football playing public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 6A — The next largest 16 football playing public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 5A — The next largest 32 football playing public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 4A — The next largest 48 football playing public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 3A — The next largest 48 football playing public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 2A — The remainder of football playing public schools plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Other Sports Classification - Classification for other sports shall be as follows:

Class 6A — The largest 16 public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 5A — The next largest 32 public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 4A — The next largest 48 public schools by ADM plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Class 3A — Class 2A — Class 1A — Take remaining public schools and divide by three with the greatest number of schools assigned to Class 1A if not divisible by 3 plus nonpublic schools assigned by Competitive Equity Factor.

Point System for Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball

Nonpublic schools of 80 or more students grades 9-11 currently participate in one classification higher than the school's enrollment numbers indicate. The following point system would allow for all nonpublic schools in these specific sports to:

- Continue to participate in the classification the school currently participates in if they are **competitive** or
- Move down a classification if the school is **non-competitive** or
- Move up another classification if the school is **dominant**.

Points will be awarded for the **4 years** previous to the classification cycle. Schools will only be awarded points for the highest point category achieved. For example, if a school is a state finalist, the school would earn 3 points total for that year. The school would not earn points for a winning record or playoff wins for that season.

Winning Conference Record – 1 point

State Playoff/Tournament Win – 2 points

State Finalist – 3 points

State Champion – 4 points

Placement

0-2 points – **Non-Competitive** -School moves down one classification for the next cycle.

3-9 points – **Competitive** -School remains in classification determined by AAA classification rules.

10+ points – **Dominant** -School moves up one classification for the next cycle.

If a specific sport moves up in classification due to application of the Competitive Equity Factor, the specific sport may move back down at the completion of two 2 year cycles if the specific sport earns 2 points or less during the previous four years.

Nonpublic schools cannot be moved to a classification below what their actual enrollment numbers indicate.

NOTE: *Competitive equity calculations will be applied to any nonpublic AAA member school that has previously declared for a specific sport. Competitive equity calculations will not be considered in classification placement for new nonpublic AAA member schools or for existing nonpublic AAA member schools who declare for a specific sport for the first time. Therefore, if they have 80 or more students in grades 9-11, they will participate one classification higher than their enrollment numbers. Four years of data from the four years prior to the classification cycle as a AAA member school in each specific sport is used to apply the competitive equity factor.*

Point system for Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Spirit, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Wrestling.

Nonpublic schools having 80 or more students in grades 9-11 shall move up one class when classifying schools. The following point system would allow for nonpublic schools in these specific sports to;

A. Continue to participate in the classification as assigned.

B. Move up another classification if the school is **dominant**.

Points will be awarded for the **4 years** previous to the classification cycle.

State Runner Up - 3 Points

State Champion - 4 Points

Placement

8+ points - **Dominant** - School moves up one classification for the next cycle.

If a specific sport moves up in classification due to application of the Competitive Equity Factor, the specific sport may move back down at the completion of two 2 year cycles if the specific sport earns 3 points or less during the previous four years.

Nonpublic schools cannot be moved to a classification below what their actual enrollment numbers indicate.

NOTE: *Competitive equity calculations will be applied to any nonpublic AAA member school that has previously declared for a specific sport. Competitive equity calculations will not be considered in classification placement for new nonpublic AAA member schools or for existing nonpublic AAA member schools who declare for a specific sport for the first time. Therefore, if they have 80 or more students in grades 9-11, they will participate one classification higher than their enrollment numbers. Four years of data from the four years prior to the classification cycle as a AAA member school in each specific sport is used to apply the competitive equity factor.*

Rule 4. Schools whose enrollment is made up entirely of students selected on the basis of academic excellence shall participate with schools of the largest state classification in academic contests.

Rule 5. JUNIOR HIGH. Junior high schools shall be classified the same as their parent school except that schools not located within the principal population area (wing schools) may classify according to ADM of grades 7-9 instead of 10-12.

Rule 6. ISOLATED SCHOOLS. An isolated school may request to move up in classification to alleviate excessive travel. If allowed to move up, adjustments must be made to maintain classification numbers. An isolated school shall be defined as any school whose conference one way travel averages 200 miles or more.

Rule 7. CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS. When two districts have been annexed and keep two high schools and one high school does not offer a particular sport and the two schools combine to

participate in that sport, the schools must play at the higher classification of the two schools.

NOTE: *When schools consolidate, enrollment numbers from each school will be combined for classification purposes.*

SECTION 6. ATHLETIC CONFERENCES

Rule 1. ASSIGNMENT TO CONFERENCES. The AAA Board of Directors assigns schools geographically to conferences for each two-year cycle. Schools may be in a conference other than indicated by the location of their county in an activity district.

- A. In the event a conference has fewer than four schools declaring and participating in any sport, the Board of Directors of the AAA shall assign such schools to adjacent conferences for participation in meets, tournaments, play-offs, etc. The Board of Directors may assign schools from adjacent conferences to such a conference if approved by the school(s) being reassigned. Such assignments will be for one sport only, and the term shall coincide with the two-year classification cycle. In making these assignments, the committee shall attempt to keep the size of the conferences equalized and at the same time avoid excessive travel.

NOTE: *When such assignments are made, the schools participating shall be responsible for determining fees necessary for conducting the meet, purchasing awards, etc., and fees as agreed upon by the majority shall be paid to the director of the event before a school is eligible to compete in the activity.*

- B. Classification groups, when approved by the AAA Board of Directors, may organize on a statewide basis for selected athletic activities, and such groups shall not be assigned to activity districts for administrative purposes in these sports, but shall be responsible directly to the AAA Board of Directors.
- C. A member school shall be permitted to change from one conference to another if it does not exceed the limitation on numbers, upon consent of each of the conferences involved by a two-thirds majority vote. A school shall make a written request for the AAA to conduct such a ballot. This shall apply to all sports in which the school participates that are under the jurisdiction of the conference.
- D. Any school choosing to participate independently from their conference assignment in any sport shall be required to participate independently in ALL sports offered by their school.

Rule 2. CONFERENCE ADMITTANCE. Schools shall only be admitted to a conference, district, or region in team sports at the beginning of a classification cycle before the AAA Board of Directors finalizes approved conferences for the new classification cycle.

Rule 3. CONFERENCE AUTHORITY.

- A. Conferences shall organize, elect officers, and adopt rules and regulations to conduct conference interscholastic events as provided by the AAA Handbook. Such rules and regulations may be more restrictive, but not less restrictive than and not in conflict with the rules and regulations of the AAA constitution and bylaws.
- B. Each conference shall be responsible for furnishing awards.
- C. Each conference shall make regular financial reports, at least annually, to its member schools.
- D. Conferences shall have the responsibility of working with schools to see that schedules are arranged prior to June 1 in football and October 1 in basketball so that each new school may have the opportunity of playing the required number of games. The conferences shall have the responsibility to set the date of the first game to be counted for the championship.

Rule 4. DETERMINING ROUND-ROBIN CHAMPIONS.

- A. Conferences may use round-robin scheduling for determining conference champions, certifying teams to state events, or seeding of tournaments on a percent basis of games won and lost if two-thirds of the conference schools approve.
- B. Any school failing to schedule a conference opponent or refusing to play a conference opponent during the regular season or in district tournament play without just cause shall forfeit the contest and shall not be eligible to compete for a championship in the sport. Any school refusing to play in a regional tournament without just cause shall forfeit the contest and will not be allowed to advance to the next round of championship play.

The AAA director may approve a substitute game with a school of equal or higher classification prior

- to the beginning of the season for a school that establishes just cause for failure to schedule.
- C. In the event a game that is a part of the conference round-robin schedule to be used for certification of teams or seeding of a tournament is unavoidably postponed and cannot be rescheduled before the date the schedule is to be completed, the placement of the teams who failed to play the required game(s) in the final order of standings shall be accomplished by two computations. First, the teams shall be placed in order on the basis of round-robin games actually played. Then each team shall be charged a loss of each game not played and the standings order adjusted accordingly. In the event the latter adjustment causes the team(s) involved to tie with another team(s) in the order, the procedure for breaking ties shall be applied to choose the team to receive the higher placement.
 - D. Conferences may also use round robins to certify the winner to a state event and may require a tournament for certification of the other team(s).

SECTION 7. CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Rule 1. Ninth grade students may participate in all high school activities regardless of their grade placement or where they are housed provided they are in the same attendance zone and the principals of both involved schools agree.

Rule 2. A ninth grade student may be promoted to the senior level in any sport and may be moved back to the junior high level in a different sport. However, once engaging in interscholastic competition in senior high the student is ineligible for junior high competition in that sport.

Rule 3. A student ineligible for junior high athletics due only to the age rule or the semester rule may be allowed to participate on the senior high team. Seventh or eighth grade students may not participate on a senior high team except when they are in violation of the junior high semester or age rule.

SECTION 8. EVENTS

Rule 1. RULES. All organized interscholastic student activities shall have rules and regulations approved by the AAA Board of Directors.

Rule 2. CHANGING RULES. All changes in rules and regulations relative to the participation of students of member schools in interscholastic activities on the district, conference, region, and state level shall be referred to the superintendent, principal, or the authorized representative (with written authorization) for approval. Any change affecting fees or dates shall be voted on by mail. Such ballots shall be mailed to the superintendent or principal and shall be provided with a signature space for the sponsor, coach, advisor, director, etc., as well as the administrator.

Rule 3. AAA BOARD AUTHORITY. The Board of Directors has authority to revoke approval of any activity at any time it does not conform to the criteria upon which approval was based for an educational program or if irregularities occur. The Board of Directors may reconsider approval of any activity at any time and it shall do so upon receipt of a written request by a school superintendent or principal.

Rule 4. AAA CALENDAR. A permanent calendar of events sponsored by the AAA shall be established by numbering the weeks of the calendar. The week containing Thanksgiving Day shall be week #21 with preceding and succeeding weeks numbered consecutively.

NOTE: *The AAA calendar will always contain 52 numbered weeks. A calendar showing the dates of the numbered weeks for at least seven years is available in this handbook.*

Rule 5. SCHEDULING EVENTS.

- A. Athletic events sponsored by the AAA are scheduled according to the calendar of athletic events located in this handbook.
- B. **AAA Passes Accepted** - All athletic and activity events that are AAA approved and under the jurisdiction of the AAA must accept AAA passes for admission.

Rule 6. SANCTION (APPROVAL) OF EVENTS.

A. General Principles.

1. Events on the NASSP approved list are allowed regardless of location, time or duration with approval from the school's administration. Sanctioning is not required. See Rule 9.
2. AAA member schools may not participate with an out-of-state school that is not in good standing with their state association. The member school is responsible for ascertaining the status of such school.
3. School groups may not spend more than two (2) school days out of state Monday – Friday.
4. Participation is allowed in contiguous states, non-contiguous states within a 300 mile radius from the individual school and for one athletic event per sport outside of contiguous states during any one season provided all criteria of Rule 6 are met.
5. The AAA Executive Director may make an exception to the sanctioning regulations based on the educational merits of the activity.
6. Penalty for Sanctioning Infraction. The member school shall be placed on probation in the specific activity committing the violation. Additional restrictions may be placed on the specific activity for up to 365 days.

B. The AAA has jurisdiction over the following events that **DO NOT REQUIRE AAA SANCTION FORMS to be submitted:**

1. Regularly scheduled events between two schools beginning after 3:30 on school days, anytime on Saturday or during an extended holiday period including out-of-state athletic and non-athletic trips to contiguous states or trips within a 300 mile radius of the individual school.
2. Invitational events sponsored by AAA member schools AND involving only AAA member schools, in-state NFHS affiliated schools or Home School teams that begin after 3:30 p.m. on school days or anytime on Saturday or extended holiday periods. Invitational tournaments shall meet the criteria in Rule 7A.
3. Non-athletic events regularly scheduled on a numbered week of the AAA calendar by the constitution and bylaws or rules of statewide affiliated organizations or activities that begin after 3:30 p.m. on school days or anytime on holidays or weekends.

C. The AAA allows and has jurisdiction over the following events that **DO REQUIRE AAA SANCTION FORMS to be submitted and approved prior to participation. Sanction forms must be submitted 30 days prior to the event.**

1. Events involving more than two schools occurring in contiguous states or non-contiguous states within 300 miles one way.
2. One athletic event per sport outside of contiguous states or more than 300 miles one way from the individual school during any one season provided the event has been approved by the National Federation (NFHS).
3. Events that are not sponsored by NFHS member schools.
4. Events involving more than two schools that involve out-of-state schools.
5. Events that are postponed due to weather conditions or unavoidable circumstances that previously required sanctions or would cause loss of class time.
6. Schools participating out of state prior to 3:30 p.m. on a school day to lessen loss of class time for such participation.
7. Official events that begin prior to 3:30 p.m. involving loss of class time.
8. Competition that is scheduled to begin prior to 3:30 p.m. on a school day in the academic areas of mathematics, science, social studies, language arts, or foreign language.
 - a. A student who participates in such competition shall be currently enrolled in courses of the academic area(s) involved and be selected for participation on the basis of outstanding achievement.
 - b. The actual time that a student shall be permitted to engage in such competition shall not exceed one school day or 5 ½ hours per school year.

D. Exceptions. One or more of the following circumstances shall be required before exceptions to the 3:30 rule may be granted, and then only for official district, region, or state events.

1. Facilities - If it is not possible to secure the needed facilities on a non-school day.
2. Scheduling of Events - If the essential activities involved in the event require more than one day's duration. Saturday must be used before requesting approval of an additional day during the school week.

3. Number of Participants - If there are more participants scheduled to compete than can be accommodated in one day. Saturday must be used before requesting approval of an additional day during the school week.
 4. Staffing - If a sufficient quantity of qualified officials, judges, etc. cannot be secured for the event on a non-school day.
 5. Financial - If the cost of officials, guest conductors, judges, etc. would be prohibitive to involve only non-school days.
 6. Weather related issues.
- E. The AAA takes NO JURISDICTION over the following events.
1. Field trips that do not adversely affect the eligibility of involved students.
 2. Events in which students who are not school-sponsored participate that are not sanctioned.
 3. Individual events in the core curriculum areas of math, science, social studies, or English, provided the following criteria are met.
 - a. The event is sponsored by independent organizations that are not sanctioned.
 - b. Students participating must meet qualifying standards or qualify through local or district competitions. Students of non-member schools must qualify for region or state competitions through local or district competitions outside AAA member school competitions unless approved by the administration of the AAA member school.
- F. **Junior High.**
1. There shall be no activities on the state level (state championship or statewide invitational) for junior high students except programs listed on the NASSP Advisory List of National Contests and Activities that permit junior high participation. (See Rule 9 – NASSP list.)
 2. Junior High Invitational events involving junior high schools outside of the host school's activity district are allowed provided that all participating schools are located in an activity district adjacent to the host school's activity district AND the event does not include schools from more than 3 activity districts. No statewide invitations may be issued.

Rule 7. CRITERIA FOR SANCTION (APPROVAL). The following criteria shall be considered for approving events:

- A. All invitational events must be scheduled to begin after 3:30 p.m. with no part scheduled to begin after 9:00 p.m. if held on weekdays, or may be scheduled any time on holidays or Saturdays.
- B. Invitational tournaments shall be scheduled to conclude in one week. Early rounds of such tournaments in athletics may begin on a Saturday if the finals are scheduled to be on or before the following Saturday.
- C. The purpose of an event shall not be in conflict with the purposes of the AAA and any social activities should conform to the student personnel policies of a majority of the participating schools.
- D. Worthwhile educational benefits resulting from the activity must be realized by students who are to participate
- E. Awards shall be appropriate in number, kind, and value. In non-athletics, equipment awards relating to the student's skills are acceptable. Scholarships are always recommended and cash awards are discouraged.
- F. Entry fees shall be proportionate to the total cost of conducting the event without a profit being realized at the expense of the student or school.
- G. Events will not be approved that are commercial in nature requiring special tour packages and/or theme park admittance fees.

Rule 8. APPLICATION FOR SANCTION (APPROVAL).

- A. An application for approval of a contest, festival, meeting, or other activity must be made in writing to the Executive Director at least **thirty (30) days** prior to the date of the event. An exception to this rule may be made with a penalty of \$200 if it can be determined that all involved administrators had knowledge thirty (30) days prior to the event and that all necessary preparation had been made prior to the request.
- B. An application for approval may be submitted by an authorized faculty representative of an affiliated student organization or a sponsor of an event and must be completed in full.

Rule 9. NASSP ADVISORY LIST OF CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES. The AAA Executive Director shall automatically approve any event or activity included in the NASSP Advisory List of National Contests and Activities. Those events for which the NASSP has taken no action or has not included in the list may

be approved if the host state's authorized association approves the event. If there is no organization in the host state authorized by the schools to have jurisdiction over an activity, the Executive Director may approve the event if it meets AAA criteria for approval.

Rule 10. ATHLETIC CAMPS/CLINICS. One site where three or more students or three or more school teams meet for the purpose of receiving instruction in basic skills in a sport.

A. Students may attend camps and clinics outside their chosen sport season during the school year provided:

1. The camp/clinic is not sponsored by a high school, and
2. The camp does not involve AAA member school coaches, and
3. There is no lost time from school for travel or participation, and
4. The students or their parents pay for these camps or clinics, and
5. There is no competition between the camps either during or after the camp(s).
6. Football camps may be held only between the final day of the spring term (May-June) and beginning of fall football practice (Week#5).

NOTE: *No school may participate in any athletic camps including 7-on-7 passing jamborees until the school has finished the required 178 instructional days including semester tests.*

B. Camps and clinics during the summer or extended holiday periods are permitted under the following conditions:

1. One site where three or more students or three or more school teams meet for the purpose of receiving instruction in basic skills in a sport.
2. There is no competition between the camps either during or after the camp (s), and
3. The Athletic Release Form must be used when a student attends a camp, clinic, or participates on a non-school team organized or supervised by a coach or representative from another school.

C. Private lessons paid for by the students or their parents are not considered an outside event. The students may attend private lessons at any time during the year, including the season of their chosen sport.

D. Students shall not violate the amateur rule as to receiving pay for coaching.

NOTE: *See Recruitment Rule (Article III, Section 1, Rule 5) and Athletic Release Form information.*

E. Football.

1. Helmets, shoulder pads, and upper body padding (arms, forearm, rib, etc.) may be worn in football camps. No padding shall be worn below the waist. Use of sleds or tackling machines is also prohibited.
2. 7-on-7 passing jamborees or contests require participation of three or more schools at the same site. Only footballs, football shoes, helmets, mouth protectors, and hand-held type dummies may be used.

F. The school is responsible for informing its students of the summer camp regulations and monitoring the activities of the camp.

G. A violation of these regulations may subject the school to a penalty for the sport involved throughout the following season and may cause a student to be ineligible for up to one year.

Rule 11. ALL-STAR CONTESTS.

A. AHSCA All-Star Game. The Arkansas Activities Association sanctions an All-Star football game, boys and girls basketball games, boys and girls soccer games, girls volleyball games, baseball games, and softball games.

B. The AHSCA Executive Committee is authorized to plan the details and mechanics for the All-Star Games and the coaching clinic subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the AAA.

C. Student All-Star Participation.

1. A student who is a member of a school team may not become a member of an all-star football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer or volleyball team, in season, without losing his eligibility in that sport for up to one year (365 days) from the date of such participation with the all-star team.
2. Following completion of high school eligibility in a sport and prior to graduation from high school, a student may not participate in an all-star contest that is not specifically approved by the AAA or participate in more than two such all-star football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, or soccer contests.

NOTE: *Violation of any of the above regulations may cause a student to be ineligible for the AAA-sanctioned AHSCA All-Star Games.*

Rule 12. SUNDAY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONTESTS. There shall be no interscholastic athletic contests on Sunday.

NOTE: *The executive director shall have the authority to schedule championship games on Sunday if inclement weather postpones an event.*

Rule 13. APPROVED SCOUTING AND VIDEO RECORDING.

- A. When hosting regularly scheduled competitive events, member schools shall grant admission to at least two scouting representatives from other member schools that are scheduled to compete with either of the participating schools at a later date.

No filming or videotaping by a third party member school shall be allowed unless both competing schools grant permission.

- B. Filming/Videotaping. Each school when engaging in regular events shall have the right to make films or videotapes for educational or historical purposes, and such films or tapes may be shared with other member schools for scouting purposes. The host school may also permit the use of non-commercial cameras and video recorders to record events for families and friends of participants.

Rule 14. BROADCAST AND TELEVISION RIGHTS.

- A. For regularly scheduled local interscholastic events, only the host school shall have the right to grant permission for public broadcast by radio, television, or audio/video webstreaming.
- B. Conference, Region, or State Events. The AAA shall have the rights and authority for controlling the scouting, filming, videotaping, or broadcasting, either by radio, television, or audio/video webstreaming, at all elimination events leading to a state championship endorsed or sponsored by the association, except those games approved by the AAA bylaws to be played as regularly scheduled events.

Rule 15. VENDORS. The AAA-approved merchandise vendor shall have exclusive rights to sell commemorative merchandise in connection with AAA regional and state championship athletic events involving all AAA-member schools. The AAA Board of Directors and staff will seek to identify responsible vendors and negotiate contracts with those vendors to produce and sell quality commemorative items and souvenirs for these events.

ARTICLE III ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1. ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

- A. Participation in competitive interscholastic activities as a part of a school's educational program is a privilege and not a right. The eligibility rules of this association are designed to promote the educational values derived from participation in interscholastic activities, prevent exploitation of youth by special interest groups, and to ensure that interscholastic activities shall remain an integral part of the educational program.
- B. Students wishing to participate in interscholastic activities shall have the opportunity to become eligible for these activities when they meet ALL eligibility rules. They will remain eligible for the opportunity to participate provided they do not: (1) exceed any limitations, (2) fail to meet any minimums, or (3) violate any other rules of the association. They may, however, regain their opportunity to participate at a later date by correcting any deficiencies that caused the ineligibility.
- C. Students who exceed the junior high age rule or junior high semester rule limitations may have the opportunity to be eligible for senior high activities.

NOTE: *Students who exceed the senior high age rule or the senior high semester rule limitations shall have no further opportunity to be eligible.*

- D. Eligibility rules apply to students in grades 7-12 inclusive; specific rules for junior high schools apply to students in grades 7-9 inclusive; specific rules for senior high schools apply to students in grades 9-12 inclusive. A ninth grade program is considered to be the varsity junior high team regardless of where the students are housed.

NOTE: In the rules that follow, the singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular as the context requires or permits. Where appropriate, personal pronouns refer to either gender.

Rule 1. DOMICILE.

A. Public Schools.

1. A student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics shall be in the public school district of the parent's domicile. Refer to other domicile and transfer rules for limitations and situations. The AAA recognizes only one domicile for eligibility. A change in domicile consists of a complete and bona fide move from one domicile to another.
2. A student may meet the domicile requirement at another AAA member school after attending said member school for one calendar year (365 days from initial enrollment).
3. A student shall also meet the domicile requirement if the student receives a legal transfer (school board to school board) from one public school to another. Board to board transfers must take place by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12.
4. For eligibility purposes, all transfers must take place by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12 for public schools or grades 7-10 for boarding schools and require that CSAP forms be signed for all transfers.
5. Students transferring after July 1 shall not be eligible for one calendar year (365 days) unless there is a bona fide move from one public school district into the public school district that the student will be attending.
6. When a public school is closed, any student from the closed school may transfer by school choice or legal transfer (school board to school board) by July 1 of the calendar year in which their resident district is closed and shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. If the transfer is by school choice, the CSAP form has to be completed and filed with the receiving district and AAA.

B. Nonpublic Schools.

1. Students who enroll at a nonpublic school must do so by July 1 before entering the 7th grade to be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation. When a nonpublic school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a nonpublic school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.
2. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade year, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a nonpublic school must make a bona fide move within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

C. Complete and Bona Fide Change of Domicile. Under the domicile rule, a complete (total) and bona fide change of domicile (move in good faith) shall occur when a student's parent(s) abandons their former home as a domicile and makes a permanent move into a home that is their sole domicile in another school district/attendance zone. A change of domicile shall be made with the intent that it is permanent.

Two legal domiciles shall not be allowed for eligibility purposes under the complete and bona fide change of domicile rule.

A change of domicile for the purpose of creating interscholastic athletic eligibility shall not be considered a complete and bona fide change of domicile and the student shall be declared ineligible at all AAA schools for one (1) calendar year.

Under the domicile rule, when a complete and bona fide change of domicile is made, the student may remain at the AAA school he/she has been attending and shall retain his/her eligibility, if he/she has been in attendance at the school for at least one (1) calendar year and has not enrolled in another school during this time.

Determination of what constitutes a complete and bona fide change of domicile shall depend upon the facts of each case, but in order for a change of domicile to be considered complete and bona fide at least the following facts shall exist:

1. The original domicile shall be abandoned as a domicile. It shall be either sold, in the process of being sold, or rented to a non-family member on a long-term lease (1 year).
2. It shall not be used as a domicile by any member of the family.

3. If the original domicile is not in the process of being openly advertised for sale or rent, the family shall have all the utilities disconnected in this domicile.
4. The parent(s) or family shall take all personal belongings, household goods, and furniture unless the original domicile is rented furnished and a legal lease agreement shall state exact furniture/ items to remain in the domicile.
5. The parent(s) shall change their mailing address to the new address, assess property in the new district, register to vote in the new district, change all records to the new address, secure insurance covering property at the new address, place utilities in their name at the new address, register automobiles and/or boats at the new address, change their drivers license to the new address, stop mail delivery at the previous address, and completely abandon their relationship to the previous domicile.

D. Legal Attendance.

1. A student's eligibility for interscholastic athletics with respect to the domicile rule may be in the public school that the student is legally attending provided the transfer was by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12 and the CSAP form has been completed and filed with the receiving district and AAA.
2. Domicile, transfer, and legal attendance rules apply only to students whose parents reside in the state of Arkansas, transfer within the state of Arkansas, or meet the Changing Schools / Athletic Participation (CSAP) guidelines. CSAP forms may only be used by schools within the state of Arkansas.

E. Transfers.

1. A student changing schools under the **Freedom of Choice** law, transferring other than a legal transfer (school board to school board) or any circumstance other than public school domicile rules 1 through 6 above, is assumed to have changed schools for athletic purposes if the student participated in athletics the previous year.
2. **Same Sport Season.** A student changing schools for any reason who has been a member of an athletic team may not participate in the same sport at the receiving school during the same defined sport season.
3. To gain eligibility through the legal attendance rule or the transfer rule, the following criteria must be met by using the CSAP (Changing Schools/Athletic Participation) form.

F. CSAP Forms. In accordance with ACT 768 of 2023, the following guidelines apply for CSAP forms.

1. A Changing Schools/Athletic Participation (CSAP) document stating that the student was not recruited and did not change schools for athletic purposes must be signed **prior to participation** by:
 - a. The superintendent of the previous school.
 - b. The superintendent of the new school.
 - c. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s), witnessed by the new (receiving) school's superintendent or a notary public.
2. CSAP forms may only be used for the eligibility of public school students who are enrolled in the receiving school by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12.
3. CSAP forms may only be used for the eligibility of boarding school students who are enrolled in the receiving school by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10.

G. JV CSAP Forms. A student meeting all eligibility requirements except the transfer requirements shall be eligible to participate in junior varsity competition as long as the JV CSAP form is signed by both school superintendents and parents before the student participates interscholastically.

H. Athletic Release Form. An **Athletic Release Form** must be completed prior to a student attending or participating in a camp, clinic, private or group instruction/training, or on a non-school team that is organized, led, or coached by any person affiliated with a AAA member school other than the school in which the student is currently enrolled. The Head Coach of each school team is responsible for ensuring every coach, registered volunteer or anyone who assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school team completes this form prior to working with any student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school. Failure to complete this form prior to working with a student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school may result in the school being placed on warning, probation or suspension and/or fined up to \$200.

I. Non-School Coach. Article III, Section 1, Rule 1, I. Non-School Coach. A coach, registered volunteer, or anyone who has assisted in any capacity with the coaching or training of a school team

(within the last 365 days) who also coaches a non-school team or assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of a non-school team, organized program, or individual training (within the last 365 days) is defined as a non-school coach. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved or for any reason is attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.

- J. **Return to Resident District** A student who transfers back to the public school district of his parent's domicile within the first eleven days of the fall or the spring semester of that district shall become eligible after attending one day of classes if the student would not be in violation of the Same Sport Season rule. (Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, Rule 1-6)

NOTE: *This rule does not apply to magnet, specialty, competitive entry, or public charter schools because they do not have specific attendance zones.*

- K. **Public Charter School.** For athletic eligibility purposes, a public charter school student must be enrolled by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12 and requires that CSAP forms be signed. Students enrolling after July 1 shall not be eligible for one calendar year (365 days).
- L. **Home School: Domicile District.** In accordance with ACT 1469 of 2013, a home school student shall be given the opportunity to try out for an athletic or non-athletic competitive activity or team in their resident public school district if the following criteria are met:
1. Inform the principal of the resident school district in writing of their request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the resident school district.
 2. Inform the principal in the request that the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining: a minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on The Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous (12) months, or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.
 3. In order to be eligible to participate, the student must be enrolled within the first (11) days of the fall or spring semester.
 4. Meets the same requirements as enrolled students in regards to practice times, required drug testing, permission slips, waivers, physical exams, and participation fees.
 5. The student cannot be required to be enrolled in more than (1) period per school day. The decision to require a student to be enrolled one period per school day is a school district decision. The student must be enrolled at least one period a day for the school to receive state funding and for the student to be covered by the catastrophic insurance.
 6. Be transported by the resident school district to and from interscholastic activities as the resident school district transports other students who are enrolled in the resident school district.
 7. If the student withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled, the student shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in the resident school district for a minimum of (365) days after the student withdraws from the member school.

Go to: <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/SearchCenter/Pages/historicalact.aspx> for a complete version of the ACT. Type in "1469" in the "Act Number " box and press enter.

- M. **Home School: Public to Public Transfer.** In accordance with ACT 592 of 2017, a home school student may participate in interscholastic activities at a public school other than the home-schooled student's resident public school by mutual agreement between the resident public school and any other public school where the home schooled student wishes to participate.
1. The home-schooled student may participate in an interscholastic activity that is not an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate.
 2. The student cannot be required to be enrolled in more than (1) period per school day. The decision to require a student to be enrolled one period per school day is a school district decision. The student must be enrolled at least one period a day for the school to receive state funding and for the student to be covered by the catastrophic insurance.
 3. The home-schooled student may participate in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity one (1) calendar year after being approved to participate.
 4. The home-schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to participate by July 1 of the school year the home-schooled student will be enrolled in the 7th grade.
 5. If the student withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled, the student shall not participate in an interscholastic activity for a minimum of (365) days

after the student withdraws from the member school.

- N. **Home School: Private School.** In accordance with ACT 453 of 2017, a home-schooled student may participate in interscholastic activities at private schools if:
1. The home-schooled student lives within a twenty-five miles radius of the private school.
 2. The student cannot be required to be enrolled in more than (1) period per school day. The decision to require a student to be enrolled one period per school day is a school district decision. The student must be enrolled at least one period a day for the student to be covered by the catastrophic insurance.
 3. The home-schooled student may participate in an interscholastic activity that is not an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate.
 4. The home-schooled student may participate in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity one (1) calendar year after being approved to participate.
 5. The home-schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to participate by July 1 of the school year the home-schooled student will be enrolled in the 7th grade or a grade that is the lowest grade offered by the private school.
 6. If the student withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled, the student shall not participate in an interscholastic activity for a minimum of (365) days after the student withdraws from the member school.

NOTE: Students who are dually enrolled as home schooled students and enrolled in non-member, non-public schools that; **A.** charge tuition or fees or **B.** have an administrative structure or **C.** require student attendance for onsite instruction or **D.** have a structure for grade promotion, would be considered a student of a non-member school and would not qualify for the opportunity to compete at AAA member schools as provided under Article III, Section 1, Rule L, M, N.

Rule 2. DISTRICT CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL. Any student that is enrolled in a public school approved as a school of innovation pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. SS6-15-2801 et seq. or authorized as a district conversion charter school pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. SS 6-23-101 et seq. may, at the discretion of the local school board of directors, be eligible to attend any class, academic program, or participate in any extracurricular activity or program offered by another school in the district, if the public school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the same or similar class, academic program, or extracurricular activity program.

The school of innovation or district conversion charter school shall participate at the same classification as the highest classified school in the district.

Rule 3. ELIGIBILITY IN OTHER SITUATIONS.

A. **Foreign Student Eligibility.** A foreign student attending an AAA member school may be eligible for competitive interscholastic participation for a maximum of one school year or two consecutive semesters under ONE, but not both, of the following circumstances.

1. **J-1 Visa.** A foreign student who holds a valid J-1 Visa and who is in a recognized exchange program must meet all eligibility rules except the domicile requirement, which shall be waived the first year of school attendance in the United States. Recognized exchange programs are those listed for the current year on the Council of Standards for International Education Travel (CSIET) Advisory List. Such students shall be eligible for only one school year beginning with their initial enrollment.
2. **F-1 Visa.** A foreign student who holds a valid F-1 Visa and who attends an AAA member school shall not be eligible for interscholastic competitive participation until he meets the domicile rule requirement established after attending said member school for one calendar year (365 days from initial enrollment). Such students shall be eligible for only the next two consecutive semesters. The student must also meet all other eligibility requirements.

NOTE 1: *Additional periods of eligibility shall not be recognized when a student extends school attendance under a different visa or for any other reason. Eligibility requirements also include: bona fide student, dropout, semester, age, amateur, tryout, and scholarship (academic) rules.*

NOTE 2: *A foreign student who has graduated in his home country shall not be eligible.*

NOTE 3: *Foreign student eligibility applies to athletic competition.*

NOTE 4: *The AAA will only recognize the legal adoption of a foreign student that occurs in a U.S. court.*

B. **Foreign Student Residency.** No member of the school's administration, coaching staff, or athletic director, paid or voluntary, shall serve as the host family for any foreign students who participate in athletics.

C. **Legal Adoption.** A student legally adopted and attending school in the district in which his adoptive parents reside meets the domicile requirement.

D. **Parental Custody.**

1. A student whose parents are divorced or legally separated meets the domicile requirement in the district in which the parent having primary legal custody resides.

2. In the case of joint custody, the student is eligible in the district of the parent with whom the student is living at the beginning of the school year.

NOTE 1: *A legal separation is one requiring court action by a judge.*

NOTE 2: *Legal guardianship cannot be used for eligibility purposes.*

E. **Boarding School.** A student residing at a school consisting 50% or more boarding students meets the domicile requirement when enrolling in school by July 1 prior to entering grades 7-10. If a student is coming from an Arkansas school, CSAP forms must be signed.

F. **Training Schools.** A student attending the training schools operated by the State of Arkansas or privately operated schools recognized by state courts or social services as serving the same purpose as a training school meets the domicile requirement on his initial enrollment in the public school assigned by these institutions.

G. **Arkansas Virtual Academy.** The eligibility for interscholastic athletics and activities for students of Arkansas Virtual Academy, Arkansas Connections Academy or any other virtual school located in the state of Arkansas and approved by the Arkansas State Department of Education shall be in the public school district of the parent's domicile provided the student meets all AAA eligibility rules with the exception of the bona fide student rule.

NOTE: *The student must be enrolled at least one period a day in the AAA-member public school district of the parent's domicile to be covered by the AAA catastrophic insurance.*

H. **School Board Actions Recognized.**

1. When a public school district has a School of Innovation that does not offer an athletics program, the public school district board of education may assign a student to compete at a school within the district with a specific attendance zone. Magnet, specialty, or competitive entry schools do not apply because they do not have specific attendance zones.

2. When a school's board of education discontinues a nonpublic school, a student meets the resident requirement in the district of his parent's domicile or at another private school in the area.

I. **Providing Incorrect Domicile Information.** If a parent or guardian either knowingly or unknowingly provides incorrect information concerning a student's domicile, the association may declare the student ineligible for athletic competition with any AAA member school for a period of up to 365 days from the date of the action on ineligibility.

NOTE: *If false domicile information is provided to the school, the school may not be required to forfeit games.*

J. **Transfers Involving Nonpublic/Nonmember Schools.**

1. **From Public to Nonpublic School.**

a. A student transferring from a public school to a nonpublic school may meet the domicile requirement and be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation if the student enrolls by July 1 before entering the 7th grade. When a nonpublic school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a nonpublic school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.

b. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a nonpublic school must make a bona fide move to within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

NOTE: *CSAP procedures as listed in the AAA Handbook (Bylaws, Art. III, Section 1, Rule 1G) must be followed if the student participated in athletics the previous year.*

2. **From Nonpublic to Nonpublic School.**

a. A student transferring from one nonpublic school to another nonpublic school may meet the domicile requirement and be immediately eligible for interscholastic athletic participation if the

student enrolls by July 1 before entering the 7th grade. When a nonpublic school does not offer enrollment for grades 7 and/or 8, the student may become immediately eligible by enrolling by July 1 prior to the lowest grade offered by that school provided the CSAP form is signed. Students enrolling in a nonpublic school after the period provided for immediate eligibility above shall be ineligible for 365 days.

- b. After July 1 prior to entering the 7th grade, a student whose parents live outside a 25-mile radius of a nonpublic school must make a bona fide move to within a 25-mile radius of the school that the student will attend to become eligible.

NOTE: *Students transferring to nonpublic schools who do not meet the nonpublic transfer rule, may become eligible after attending the nonpublic school for one year, (365 days).*

3. From Nonmember to AAA Member School.

- a. A student attending a non-member school in Arkansas (including a home-schooled student) who returns to the public school district of his parents' domicile shall become eligible immediately after attending one day of classes.
- b. A student meets the domicile requirement upon transferring to an Arkansas nonpublic member school if the student has attended one full year at the non-member school in Arkansas and if the transfer occurs by July 1 of that school year.

Rule 4. PENALTY FOR USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYER.

- A. The use of any ineligible participant/student in any interscholastic contest will result in one or more of the following actions based upon the facts and findings:
 - 1. Forfeiture of the contest
 - 2. The specific sport during which the ineligible player was used will be placed on probation status for up to one (1) calendar year
 - 3. The ineligible participant/student may be suspended from further competition and any activity, as determined by the Executive Director
 - 4. The school may be fined up to \$500.00
- B. In determining the penalty concerning the use of an ineligible participant/student, the Executive Director may consider whether the participant/student had a significant impact on the game. What is a significant impact will vary with the sport and circumstances of the contest; however, such facts as follows will be among the items considered:
 - 1. Amount of participation
 - 2. Whether the ineligible participant/student scored points or participated in other plays that had an impact on the winning or losing of the game.
 - 3. What the school could have or should have known
 - 4. Whether a school self reports

If the ineligible participant/student has provided the school false information upon which the student was certified to have been eligible, a penalty against the school may be set aside or modified. However, in the cases of transfer students, where legitimate errors or omissions in the official school transcript as received are proved, such player must be withdrawn from participation upon discovery of the error without penalty to the school.

Ineligible players may not dress out for interscholastic competitions.

Rule 5. RECRUITMENT.

NOTE: *The term administrator refers to superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, or assistant principal.*

- A. Recruitment of students or attempted recruiting of students for athletic purposes, regardless of their residence, is a gross violation of the spirit and philosophy of the AAA By-Laws and is expressly prohibited.
- B. "Athletic recruiting" is defined as the use of undue influence and/or special inducement by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an AAA member school in an attempt to encourage, induce, pressure, urge or entice a prospective student of any age to transfer to or retain a student at a school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
- C. Recruiting for athletic purposes is not only a violation by the student who has been recruited, but is also a violation by the school and/or the school personnel who recruited the student. It is a violation to recruit for athletic purposes regardless of a student's age or grade level. If proof is established that a

school has secured an athlete under any of the conditions set forth in this section, the superintendent shall be required to appear before the Executive Committee and the Executive Director to answer the allegations against his/her school and the student(s) may be ineligible to participate in athletics for one calendar year.

- D. If a student, parent, or any person regarding a student athlete transferring to a district contacts a coach or teacher, they must be referred to a school administrator immediately. A coach shall refrain from making any comments or gestures regarding a student athlete transferring to the district and participating in athletics.
- E. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school. If a student is to attend a camp, clinic, or tryout or participate on a non-school team with a school or school coach other than his or her domicile school, the student must have written permission from the coach and administrator of both schools using the AAA's Athletic Release Form.
- F. It shall be a violation of this rule for a student-athlete to receive or be offered remuneration or special inducement of any kind that is not made available to all applicants who apply to or enroll in the school.
- G. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved or for any reason is attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.
- H. The penalties for illegal recruiting of students may be one or more of the following:
 - 1. The school may be placed on probation in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred.
 - 2. The school may be fined not to exceed \$1,000 and billed for the cost of any investigation related to the violation.
 - 3. The school may be required to forfeit any contest(s) in which the student participated after the violation as determined by the executive director.
 - 4. A student found to be recruited in violation of this rule may be ineligible to participate in athletics for up to one calendar year (365 days).
 - 5. A coach or other licensed school personnel may be subject to a complaint for a violation of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators.
 - 6. Other penalties may be imposed on the school to a degree in keeping with the severity of the violation.
- I. **Guidelines.** Evidence of undue influence or special inducement of a student or the parents or guardians of a student by anyone connected directly or indirectly with an AAA member school includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - 1. Offer or acceptance of money or other valuable considerations such as free or reduced tuition during the regular school year and/or summer school
 - 2. Offer or acceptance of room, board, clothing, or financial allotment for clothing
 - 3. Offer or acceptance of pay for work that is not performed or is in excess of the amount regularly paid for such service
 - 4. Offer or acceptance of employment or assistance in securing employment or contractual arrangement of any kind for which compensation may be paid for the parents/guardian in order to entice the parents/guardian to move to a certain community. It makes no difference who makes the offer. The school is guilty because it plans to use the student to build a stronger team
 - 5. Offer or acceptance of a residence
 - 6. Offer or acceptance of free or reduced rent for parents' or student's housing, vehicles or other
 - 7. Offer or acceptance of cash or like items, such as credit cards, debit cards, gift cards, gift certificates or coupons
 - 8. Offer or acceptance of gift of clothing, equipment, merchandise or other tangible items
 - 9. Offer or acceptance of loans or assistance in securing a loan of any kind
 - 10. Offer or acceptance of free transportation by any school connected person
 - 11. Offer or acceptance of a privilege(s) not afforded to other students
 - 12. Offer or acceptance of payment for moving expenses of parent(s) or assisting parent(s) with a move
 - 13. Offer or acceptance of help in securing a college athletic scholarship
 - 14. Offer or acceptance of free admission to AAA interscholastic activities in which the school is participating where an admission is being charged
 - 15. Offer or acceptance of payments of fees to take the ACT and/or SAT examinations
 - 16. Offer or acceptance of any other privileges or consideration made to induce or influence the student to transfer from one school to another because of his/her athletic ability
- J. Other inducements or attempts to encourage a prospective student to attend a school for the purpose

of participating in athletics, even when special remuneration/inducement is not given, shall be a violation. It shall be a violation for a school to offer and/or grant special favors, privileges or inducements of any kind including payment of fees to a student-athlete(s) under any circumstances not offered and/or granted to a non-student-athlete(s) who attends the school.

- K. The following individuals shall be considered school-connected:
1. Employees of the school, including but not limited to the superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal(s), athletic director(s), guidance counselor(s), faculty coaches, and teachers
 2. Non-faculty coaches (paid or voluntary) that coach any sport at the school
 3. A student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program, such as a team manager, student trainer, etc., at that school
 4. The parents, guardians, or other relative of a student-athlete or other student participant in the athletic program at that school
 5. Relatives of a coach or other member of the athletic department staff at that school
 6. A volunteer worker in that school or that school's athletic program
 7. Members of the school's athletic booster club(s)
 8. Members of the school's alumni association
 9. Any independent person, business, or organization acting at the request or direction of the school to include students, parents, junior high coaches, former students, and other such individuals
 10. Any independent person, business, or organization that is otherwise involved in promoting the school's interscholastic athletic program
 11. Any independent person, business, or organization that is 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
 12. Any independent person, business, or organization that makes financial or in-kind contributions to the athletic department or to an athletic booster organization of that school
 13. Any independent person, business, or organization that contributes money to a school that is used to provide legal financial assistance to a student-athlete attending the school
- L. Specifically prohibited contact by school employees, athletic department staff members, and representatives of the school's athletic interests with a student who does not attend that school includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Visiting or entertaining the student or any of his/her relatives in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
 2. Sending, or arranging for anyone else to send, any form of written or electronic communication to the student or any of his/her relatives, in an attempt to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics.
 3. Suggesting or going along with any effort by any person, whether a school employee or other representative of the school's athletic interests, or any other person such as an alumnus of the school, a coach or other person affiliated with a non-school athletic program (e.g., AAU team, club team, travel team, recreational league team, etc.) a coach or recruiter for a collegiate athletic team, or a scout for a professional team, to pressure, urge, or entice the student to attend the school to participate in interscholastic athletics, or to direct or place the student at the school for the purpose of participating in interscholastic athletics.
 4. Making a presentation or distributing any form of advertisement, commercial or material that promotes primarily or exclusively the school's athletic program or implies the 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 that school.
 5. Answering an inquiry by the student or any of his/her relatives about athletic participation opportunities at the school with any response that pressures, urges or entices the student to attend that school. The student or his/her relatives instead should be immediately referred to the principal.
 6. Providing transportation to the student or any of his/her relatives to visit the school, to take an entrance examination for the school, to participate in an athletic tryout at the school, or to meet with a school employee, athletic department staff member or other representative or the school's athletic interests as part of an effort to pressure, urge to facilitate the student's attendance at that school to participate in interscholastic athletics.

7. A coach may not contact or be contacted by a student or the student's parents prior to enrollment in the school.
8. School-connected individuals shall refrain from statements to prospective student athletes such as, "we would like to have you play for us", "you would look good in our uniform", "you could make a difference for our team," etc. These types of statements are not normal or appropriate and could be considered recruitment.
9. Any prospective student or parent/guardian who visits an AAA member school may only meet with the school's administration or guidance counselor. Athletic directors and coaches, paid or voluntary, may not conduct tours of school facilities.

NOTE: *This rule attempts to provide a thorough explanation of the AAA recruiting rule. While there are many explanations involved, this rule does not cover every conceivable example of recruiting.*

Rationale - *Recruiting an athlete is a serious offense as it creates an unfair advantage.*

- M. **Tuition and Financial Aid Procedures.** If tuition is charged, it must be paid by parent, legal guardian, or other family member. If a parent, guardian, or other family member secures a loan for payment of tuition, it must remain an obligation of the parents, guardian, or other family member to repay the principal and interest in full with no exceptions. Financial aid will be allowed under the following conditions:
 1. Financial aid may only be awarded on the basis of need. Proof of need must be filed in the AAA office on forms approved by the Executive Director. In order to determine the basis for need, all schools awarding financial aid shall use one of the following agencies: Financial Aid Independent Review, Financial Aid for School Tuition, Private School Aid Service, School and Student Service for Financial Aid, Tuition Aid Data Services, and FACTS Grant in Aid Agency. The use of any unapproved agency is a violation of Rule 5, Recruitment and is subject to the penalties under Rule 5.
 2. Any loan program, grant program, educational foundation, scholarship, or similar program that is established and/or administered, in whole or in part, by a school or official of a school is considered financial aid.
 3. Schools shall remove any student from athletic eligibility whose accounts with the school are 60 days overdue.

All records pertaining to financial aid or tuition assistance shall be open to the AAA upon its request. Each school shall be responsible for securing necessary authorization to allow the AAA to review or audit such records.
- N. In addition, nonpublic member schools providing financial assistance programs for athletes shall present to the Executive Director of the AAA by October 1 of each year the following documents: Financial Aid For Non-public School Athletes and Financial Aid Form Supplemental List. Nonpublic member schools must also submit to the AAA a Student-Athlete Financial Aid Report Form for fall sports by December 7 of each year and a Student-Athlete Financial Aid Report Form for winter and spring sports by May 8 of each year.

Rule 6. BONA FIDE STUDENT.

- A. A student participating in interscholastic activities must be a bona fide student of the school; a bona fide student is one who has not graduated from a high school nor received a GED or equivalency of a high school diploma and who is enrolled in and regularly attending at least four academic courses in the school. These courses shall be from those identified in the Arkansas Department of Education Standards of Accreditation. If a student is enrolled in the school through an online program, the student must attend at least one period a day at the school.
- B. Concurrent college courses may be used to meet the bona fide student rule.
- C. A local school may make an exception for a student in the last semester of the senior year provided the student is enrolled in and attending regularly at least one academic course and is meeting all requirements for graduation.
- D. The Arkansas Activities Association in cooperation with the Arkansas Department of Education makes an exception to the bona fide student rule for students in the Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts.

Because the ASMSA is an ADE accredited school, is a boarding school located in the Hot Springs School District, and is a member of the Arkansas Activities Association, students from ASMSA may participate at Hot Springs High School in those sports or activities not offered by the Arkansas School for Math, Science and Arts.

Rule 7. DROPOUTS. A student dropping out of or leaving school, suspended with no credit, or expelled from school at any time during a semester must re-establish eligibility by returning to an Arkansas Activities Association member school and meeting the scholarship requirements for one full semester.

If, however, the last semester attended was completed, eligibility shall be based on that semester.

NOTE: *One full semester is considered to be either the fall or spring semester.*

NOTE 2: *If an expelled student accepts the school's offer to enroll in digital learning or alternative educational courses while expelled, the student remains ineligible to participate in activities throughout the duration of the expulsion. Furthermore, the student may regain eligibility upon satisfying the scholastic requirements through digital learning or alternative educational courses during the expulsion.*

Rule 8. SEMESTERS.

A. **Junior High.** A student has six semesters of opportunity for eligibility. A student repeating either the seventh or eighth grade for any reason shall not have the opportunity for eligibility during the complete year that is repeated.

B. **Senior High.** A student is limited to eight consecutive semesters of opportunity for eligibility beginning with the student's first enrollment in the ninth grade (or earlier as defined in Rule 9. Age, Note).

NOTE 1: *A ninth grade student may compete for the junior high or for the senior high in the same member school district with separate campuses with permission from the involved principals. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students.)*

1. If a ninth grade student competes for the junior high, the student may then compete at the senior high level after the completion of that junior high sport season. A ninth grade student may not compete for the senior high and return later to compete for the junior high in the same sport.

2. Semesters are applied toward the limitations regardless of the following:

- a. if the school doesn't offer a sport; or
- b. if the student doesn't participate, or
- c. if the student isn't eligible; or
- d. if the student's earlier enrollment was in a different school system.

NOTE: *The fifth and sixth semesters (normally the 9th grade) are applied toward both the junior and senior high limitations. This is due to the rule allowing the school's administration to permit a 9th grade student to participate at either level. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students.)*

3. A 7th or 8th grade student who is ineligible for junior high athletics due only to the age or semester rule may be eligible to participate in senior high. (Refer to Bylaws, Art. II, Section 7, Rule 1 - Classification of Students.)

4. A student is limited to a total of 12 semesters of opportunity for eligibility upon entering the seventh grade. The final eight semesters shall be consecutive.

Rule 9. AGE.

A. **Junior High.** A junior high student is not eligible for junior high competition if the student's 16th birthday is on or before August 1.

NOTE: *In the year a student in junior high school becomes too old for junior high participation, the student may be allowed to participate for the senior high if all other eligibility rules are met.*

B. **Senior High.** A senior high student is not eligible for interscholastic participation if the student's 19th birthday is on or before August 1.

Rationale - *The age rule and the semester rule are both attempts to equalize competition among athletes in AAA member schools as well as to encourage athletes to graduate with their class.*

Rule 10. AMATEURISM.

- A. The AAA endorses the general principle of amateur athletics that prompts an individual to participate in activities solely for the pleasure and physical, mental or social benefits derived from the activity.
- B. A student that violates the amateur rule in any AAA Sponsored Sport may lose eligibility in that sport for up to 365 days.
- C. **Violations.** A student may not:
 - 1. Compete under an assumed name.
 - 2. Directly or indirectly accept monetary awards or compensation other than the actual or reasonable cost of necessary meals, lodging or transportation in connection with participation.
 - 3. Directly or indirectly accept gifts, products, awards or monetary compensation for permitting his/her name, picture, or person to be used to advertise, promote or recommend a product, service, commercial venture or political venture.
 - 4. Compete for or directly or indirectly accept gifts, awards, or monetary compensation in any form for participation in an event except for those permitted in the amateur rules of the governing body of that specific sport.
 - 5. Student apparel or equipment to be used at a competition site may not be used to advertise, promote or recommend a product, service, commercial venture or political venture. Uniform and equipment manufacturer names, logos or marks are permitted.
- D. Students may receive reasonable fees or compensation commensurate for their duties performed for officiating, instructing, coaching or supervising events or athletic activities.

NOTE 1: *An athlete may be named a player of the week or game and be presented a certificate or plaque.*

NOTE 2: *Since it is impossible to cover all instances of possible violations to the amateur rule, it is suggested that the Executive Director be consulted in any questionable case.*

Rule 11. TRYOUTS – TEAM SPORTS.

- A. A student may not play with a college or a professional team without losing eligibility for up to one year in the sport played.
- B. A tryout consists of a sport specific demonstration in front of college or professional scouts. This does not include the playing of games where scouts are present. This would include placing students in front of college coaches or professional scouts to perform drills specific to that sport, independent of the playing of a game. A tryout may be conducted for athletes to be selected for a non-school team. This includes all sports. Try-outs held in connection with camps or clinics may be conducted only as permitted by the Athletic Camps rule (Bylaws, Article II, Section 8, Rule 11).
- C. The tryout rule does not prohibit an athlete from trying out in front of college coaches or professional scouts if:
 - 1. There is no cost;
 - 2. There is no loss of class time including travel, and
 - 3. The tryout is held outside of the sport season.

The tryout rule applies to team sports of football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball.

NOTE: *A tryout consists of athletic demonstrations relative to a specific sport in the presence of a coach, scout, or official representing an institution or club.*

Rule 12. SCHOLARSHIP (ACADEMICS).

- A. **Junior High.** A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets the academic eligibility (scholarship) requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets the academic eligibility requirements for the first semester.

The second semester eighth grade student and the first semester ninth grade student meet the academic eligibility requirements for junior high by successfully passing four (4) academic courses the previous semester as specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

First semester ninth grade students must pass four academic classes to be eligible second semester of the ninth grade.

Ninth grade students must meet senior high academic eligibility by the end of the second semester in order to be eligible to participate the fall of their tenth grade year.

Students who have finished two semesters of the ninth grade must follow all senior high (10-12) academic requirements.

NOTE: *After the second semester of the ninth grade, students who have not earned enough credits to be classified as a sophomore must meet the scholarship requirements for senior high (10-12) eligibility.*

B. Senior High. The requirement for senior high (10-12) eligibility shall include:

- Passing four academic courses; and
- A minimum semester GPA of 2.0 for the previous semester.

The student must have passed four academic courses in the previous semester. Any of these four courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher learning recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education.

1. Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP).

- a. To participate in interscholastic competition, students passing four academic courses but failing to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement must be enrolled in and attending 100 minutes per week a Supplemental Instruction Program meeting established criteria and approved by the AAA. The Supplemental Instruction Program must be submitted to the AAA office for approval prior to the start of the school semester.
- b. If a student's GPA drops below 2.0 at the end of any semester, the student must immediately enroll in and attend the SIP at the beginning of the next concurrent semester. If a student fails to enroll in the SIP at this time, the student must attain a 2.0 GPA to regain eligibility.
- c. In the first semester of SIP the student must meet the stated requirement (2.0) at the end of that semester in order to become fully eligible again OR meet the requirement to remain in the SIP one additional semester.
- d. To maintain eligibility under the Supplemental Instruction Program and be eligible to continue for a second semester, the student must show improvement of at least one tenth of one point in his/her GPA after the first semester of participation in the supplemental program. To continue to participate following the second semester in the SIP, the student must have reached the 2.0 GPA as well as passing four academic courses.
- e. Maximum participation in the SIP is two consecutive semesters. If the student does not achieve a 2.0 GPA within this period, the student will remain ineligible until a 2.0 GPA is achieved. A student who has been in SIP and regained eligibility by achieving a 2.0 GPA would be eligible to enter the SIP again later if passing four courses but not earning a 2.0 GPA.

2. Loss of Opportunity for Athletic Participation.

- a. During participation in the SIP, the student must have no unexcused absences for the current semester or its equivalent from the SIP or regular classes.
- b. The student must have no school disciplinary action for the current semester. The school may define school disciplinary action, but as a minimum the policy shall state that a student has been disciplined when being placed on suspension where the student is out of school for a period of time.
- c. The student must have no known felony convictions during a semester in which the student is in the SIP.
- d. If at any point the student falls out of compliance with any criteria listed above during the semester, the student will be immediately suspended from competition for the remainder of the semester. In order for the student to re-establish eligibility, he/she must pass four academic courses and achieve a 2.0 grade point average.
- e. If a student fails to participate in the supplemental instruction program during any semester, then eligibility can only be regained by the student passing four academic courses and earning a grade point average of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester

3. Limitation. A student is restricted to a maximum of two consecutive semesters in the SIP any time a student's GPA falls below a 2.0 for the previous semester.

4. Academic Course Defined. An academic course is one for which class time is scheduled, which can be credited to meet minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have state certification in the course, and which has a course content guide approved by the Arkansas Department of Education.

NOTE: *Each semester, P.E./Athletics in grades 9-12 can be used to satisfy AAA eligibility with passing the four academic courses and maintaining a 2.0 GPA.*

- C. **Alternate Course Credit.** A student may satisfy the requirement by successfully completing the course(s) failed or courses(s) needed or equivalent course(s) in a summer term(s) or a correspondence course(s) approved by the Arkansas Department of Education for granting credit for graduation requirements. Such credit shall be applied to the previous semester.

NOTE: *When the same course is repeated, the former grade may be replaced. When a substitute course is completed, the grade shall be added to the courses for the previous semester and the GPA recomputed.*

- D. **Special Education (Handicapped).** A student must have earned passing grades in four academic courses of the I.E.P. for the previous semester. There is no GPA requirement for special education students.
- E. **Becoming Eligible or Ineligible.** A student may regain or lose academic eligibility the first day of classes in a new semester. Eligibility shall be determined twice per year, once at the beginning of the fall semester (August/September) and once at mid-term (December/January).

Rule 13. INELIGIBLE IN ANOTHER STATE.

- A. A student who is ineligible in any sport under the rules of the state association in the state of the student's domicile will upon transfer to any AAA member school be ineligible for interscholastic competition.
- B. If Arkansas's rules are less restrictive than the rules of the state where the student has been attending, the student may become eligible to participate in interscholastic competition in Arkansas upon the approval of the Executive Director.

Rationale - *To prevent parents from shopping for a school in Arkansas when their child is ineligible in their home state.*

Rule 14. PARTICIPATION ON NON-SCHOOL TEAMS.

A. Team Sports.

1. A student who is a member of a school's athletic team and who has engaged in interscholastic competition may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with, or be a member of a non-school athletic team in the same sport, *in season*, without losing eligibility for up to a full year (365 days) from the date of such participation with the non-school team.
2. This limitation shall apply to the team sports of football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, and soccer. However, a member of an interscholastic baseball, softball or soccer team may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play. This exception for baseball, softball and soccer shall not apply in weeks the school team is involved in AAA-sponsored championship tournaments.
3. Participation on a non-school athletic team in the same sport *in season* shall define *in season* as the AAA established beginning date until the end of the state tournament in that sport for students in grades 10-12 and students in grade 9 who have participated interscholastically with the senior varsity team in the sports of football, volleyball, and basketball.
4. Students in grades 7-8 and students in grade 9 who have not participated interscholastically on a senior varsity team shall have the *end of season* defined as when their school's team is finished in each sport.
5. A member of an interscholastic spirit team may not compete on a non-school team during the interscholastic spirit season.

B. Non-School Teams.

1. During the school year, a school coach may not coach his or her school team in any out-of-season games.
2. Players from school teams may play in out-of-season leagues or games outside the season, but may not be school sponsored in anyway. These non-school teams may not use school equipment or uniforms. School transportation and facilities may only be used in accordance with school board policies as they relate to any other non-school groups using facilities or transportation.
3. A school team is defined as a team composed solely of players from one member school within a district or attendance zone, in the case of multiple junior or senior high schools within a district.
4. The definition of a non-school team includes one or more of the following:
 - a. A team affiliated with and scheduled for participation in an organized league.
 - b. A team participating against a team that meets criterion (1.) above.
 - c. A team identified by a name or a uniform, and which participates in contests independent from league affiliation.

NOTE: *The above rule does not apply to Special Olympics.*

Rule 15. NATIONAL TEAM, OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SPORT FEDERATION.

A. An exception to A1 above may be granted for participation:

1. With a national team (and the actual, direct tryouts for such), which is defined as one selected by the national governing body (NGB) of the sport on a national qualification basis, either through a defined selective process or actual tryouts, for the purpose of international competition which requires the entries to officially represent their respective nations, although it is not necessary that there be team scoring by nation; or
2. In an Olympic development program, which is defined as a training program or competition:
 - a. Conducted or sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC); or
 - b. Directly funded and conducted by the USOC member national governing body (NGB) on a national level (e.g. NGB national championship competition and the direct qualifications for such); or
3. Specifically authorized by a national governing body involving only athletes previously identified by the NGB as having potential for future participation in regional, national or international competition in the sport involved;
4. Provided in 1, 2, and 3 above:
 - a. Participation, if during the school year, is approved by the student's school administration, and the Arkansas Activities Association is notified in writing by the principal at least 30 days prior to the date of the program; and
 - b. The student makes prior arrangement to complete missed academic lessons, assignments, and tests before the last day of classes of the credit grading period in which that student's absence occurs; and
 - c. The student misses no AAA-sponsored athletic event involving a team in that sport.

Rationale – *The purpose of this rule is to prevent students from being adversely affected by conflicts in coaching philosophies during the school season and to prevent the health and well being of athletes from being negatively affected by over-participation.*

B. Participation in Individual Non-School Activities.

1. A student who is a member of a school's athletic program as a participant in a sport and who has engaged in interscholastic competition in that sport may enter non-school competition as an individual during or outside of the school season for that sport. These individual sports include: cross country, track, tennis, golf, swimming, wrestling, and bowling.
2. If a participant is school-sponsored, the activity must be sanctioned under Article II, Section 8, Rule 6, Sanction (Approval) of Events.

Rationale - *Athletes may participate on an individual basis without harm to a team since they compete by themselves. This provides opportunities for individuals to participate in a normally limited season. The health and safety of students and student athletes fall directly under school care.*

Rule 16. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. In any year that a student engages in interscholastic competition, the student shall be required to present to the coach verification of a physical examination prior to beginning practice.

NOTE: *A yearly physical shall reasonably be expected to be within 12-15 months.*

Rationale - *The coaches and school administration must be assured that the athletes are physically fit prior to beginning practice as well as competition. The health and safety of students and student athletes fall directly under school care.*

Rule 17. HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY. Upon petition from a student's school administrator, the Executive Director is authorized to waive the requirements of all eligibility rules except the age rule if the school develops acceptable proof based on the stated criteria for a hardship waiver. Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive. Documentation and correspondence must be through the voting representative of the school.

A. **Domicile Exceptions.**

1. After an investigation, a court of law has removed the student from the parents or guardians and subsequently assigned the student a place of domicile.
2. The student is an orphan or there is no record of the parent's whereabouts.

3. The student's parents are out-of-state residents and the student is attending school in a school district where the parents maintain a legal domicile (military, etc.).
4. The student's parent(s) have abrogated their responsibility toward the student as parents.
5. The student's parent's employment requires absence from home great portions of the time the student is at home, and the parent has arranged domicile with relatives or friends for the purpose of supervision.
6. The student is married and living with a spouse, has a parent with domicile in the school district or a spouse who had an established domicile in the district one year prior to the marriage.
7. A student who has lived three continuous years at any time as a bona fide member of a family may establish the family heads as substitute parents with respect to the domicile rule.
8. An extreme and unusual circumstance exists that is no fault of the student or the parents.
Example: Extreme medical or psychiatric conditions

NOTE 1: *The Executive Director is authorized to specify limitations or contingency conditions as needed when giving approvals, to ensure that such student shall not be induced to another school district or played under the pretense of being eligible should the eligibility status change.*

NOTE 2: *The petition shall not be authorized if the director obtains reliable information that the student is transferring to the petitioning school primarily for athletic purposes or as a result of inducement or recruitment.*

NOTE 3: *If a AAA member school drops a declared varsity team sport in which they participated in during the previous year, the domicile requirement may be waived and the students may become eligible to participate in the same varsity team sport at the nearest AAA member public school of the parent's domicile the offers the sport provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements. The student must attend and stay enrolled in all academic courses at their current assigned school. Due to the Same Sport Same Season rule, this exception does not apply if a member school drops a varsity team sport during the sport season. If the student's current assigned school resumes the sport the following year, the student must return to their current assigned school to participate.*

B. Exception To Other Eligibility Requirements.

1. **School Attendance Prevented.** There has been an extreme and unusual circumstance that is no fault of the student, the parent, or the school that has prevented school attendance sufficient to cause that student to be in violation of the dropout rule or the scholarship rule or the semester rule.
2. **Non-Recommended Courses.** The student has been identified as being in need of special education or other special programs of study as authorized by the Arkansas Department of Education regulation but is subsequently required by the school to participate in non-recommended courses.

SECTION 2. NON-ATHLETIC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

Rule 1. BONA FIDE STUDENT. (Same as athletic Rule 6.)

Rule 2. SCHOLARSHIP. (Same as athletic Rule 12.)

Rule 3. SEMESTERS. (Same as athletic Rule 8.)

Rule 4. AGE. (Senior High same as athletic Rule 9, Junior High none.)

Rule 5. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. A student involved in a vocational education youth organization need only be a bona fide student of a school and meet the scholarship rule. The student may not participate in an interscholastic event on or after the twenty-first birthday.

Rule 6. HARDSHIP CASES. (Same as athletic Rule 17.)

SECTION 3. NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TEAMS

Rule 1. ELIGIBILITY. A student participating as a member of a school's non-competitive cheer or dance team must meet eligibility requirements for interscholastic non-athletic competitive activities.

Exception: The semester rule for students in a 7-12 school shall be a total of twelve semesters.

Rule 2. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION. In any year that a student tries out for or participates as a member of the school's non-competitive cheer or dance team, the student shall be required to present to the coach a physical examination verification prior to beginning an organized practice or workshop for tryouts. A physical shall reasonably be expected to be within 12-15 months.

Rule 3. STUDENT PARTICIPATION.

- A. Only a school's cheer team members are authorized to participate on the sidelines, floor, or field during an athletic contest except when dance/pom teams are authorized by the school administration.
- B. An individual who is designated as a part of the spirit team to stand or perform with the team on the sidelines, floor, or field during an athletic contest or spirit competition (ex: mascot) must meet all eligibility requirements of cheer and dance team members.

Rule 4. CHEER TEAM LIMITATION AT REGIONAL/STATE EVENTS. No more than twelve members of a school's cheer team shall be permitted on the sidelines (floor) during play at regional and state basketball tournaments. The complete team may perform at full time-outs and between quarters and games.

Rule 5. OFFICIAL RULES BOOK AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. The official rules book for participation or competition is the current NFHS Spirit Rules Book.

Rule 6. MIDDLE SCHOOL-JUNIOR HIGH SAFETY RULES. The AAA requires all school teams to follow the NFHS Spirit Rules Book. In addition, middle schools and junior high schools must follow the following additional rules as published by the USA Cheer (formerly AACCA) which include the following:

- A. Basket tosses, elevator tosses, and similar multi-based tosses are prohibited.
- B. The total number of twists in a dismount from stunts cannot be greater than one rotation. Exception to this rule: Side facing stunts (i.e. Arabesque, Scorpion, etc.) may add a one-quarter twist in order to cradle to the front.

Rule 7. NON-COMPETITIVE SPIRIT TEAM ADVISORS.

- A. Full time faculty members, certified or non-certified, employed by the school for a minimum of three periods a day may be assigned the responsibility for the non-competitive cheer and/or dance program(s) of the school. The school must submit a Non-competitive Spirit Team Advisor Verification form each year for each advisor.
- B. A Registered Volunteer who is designated by the school to be responsible for a school spirit team(s) must meet the requirements of Act 1012 of the 1997 Arkansas General Assembly. These requirements include:
 - 1. Cannot receive any financial compensation for services
 - 2. Must provide to the school a current criminal background check (finger printing) prior to coaching
 - 3. Must participate in a minimum of six hours of in-service related to the advisor's duties and responsibilities.
 - 4. Must be listed on the "Non-Competitive Spirit Team Advisor" form that must be submitted annually to the AAA office.
 - 5. Must submit a Registered Volunteer enrollment form to the AAA office in any year that they serve in that capacity.
- C. Viewing of an online spirit rules presentation is required annually by an advisor from each member school for each program conducted by the school (cheer and/or dance). Non-attendance shall cause the school to incur penalties for each program not represented as stated in Bylaws, Art. IV, Sec. 3, Rule 3.
- D. Each cheerleading advisor must be currently safety certified by the American Association of Cheerleading Coaches and Administrators. A school's safety certified cheer advisor must be present at any practice, game, or performance where any members of the team will be learning, practicing, or performing partner stunts or tumbling.
- E. The USA Cheer (formerly AACCA) safety certification remains in effect for each certified individual for a period of four consecutive years, and an advisor can recertify by repeating the course.
- F. All cheerleading participants in AAA member schools shall be grounded until their advisor has successfully completed the USA Cheer (formerly AACCA) Safety Certification course.

- G. In case of a violation, the cheer team will not only be grounded but shall incur a \$50 fine for a team stunting without a certified supervising advisor. For further violations penalties may be assessed against the school as provided in the AAA Handbook.

SECTION 4. OTHER SPIRIT GROUPS

Rule 1. BONA FIDE STUDENTS. (Same as athletic Rule 6.)

NOTE: *Members of other spirit groups shall remain in the designated spectator areas during an athletic contest. This does not include pregame, halftime, or postgame activities authorized by the school administration.*

Rule 2. OFFICIAL RULES BOOK AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS. (Same as Non-Competitive Spirit Teams, Rule 5.)

ARTICLE IV ADMINISTRATION OF SPORTS

In compliance with Acts 958 and 959 of the 93rd General Assembly Regular Session of 2021— Kindergarten through twelve (K-12) public schools shall lead or broadcast a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by one (1) minute of silence at the commencement of each school-sanctioned after school assembly and each school-sanctioned sporting event. However, if any part of two (2) or more school-sponsored sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, a public school may choose to lead or broadcast a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by one (1) minute of silence at only one (1) of the school-sanctioned sporting events.

Each school district board of directors shall adopt a policy requiring each public kindergarten through twelve (K-12) school to broadcast “The Star Spangled Banner” at the commencement of each school-sponsored sporting event. However, if any part of two (2) or more school-sponsored sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, a public school may choose to lead or broadcast “The Star Spangled Banner” at only one (1) of the events.

In Compliance with Act 91 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003 – ATTENDING CLASSES AND PROGRAMS NOT OFFERED BY AN ASSIGNED SCHOOL - Any student who is enrolled in a public school in a school district that is administratively consolidated by Act 60 of the Second Extraordinary Session of 2003 may, at the discretion of the local school board, be eligible to attend any class or academic program or participate in any extracurricular activity or program offered by another school in the administratively consolidated district, if the public school to which the student is assigned does not offer the same or similar class, academic program, or extracurricular activity or program.

SECTION 1. TEAMS

- A. Any student who is enrolled in a middle school (7th or 8th grade) that is consolidated administratively with other middle schools may, at the discretion of the administration, be eligible to attend any class, academic program or participate in any extracurricular activity or program offered by another school in the administratively consolidated district or system, if the middle school in which the student attends does not offer the same or similar class, academic program or extracurricular activity or program. A middle school is defined as one containing 7th and/or 8th grade. A junior high school is defined as one containing 7th up to 9th grade. A senior high school is defined as one containing 9th up to 12th grade.
- B. A member school may sponsor separate teams for students of each gender where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport. If a school sponsors a team in a particular sport for members of one gender, but sponsors no such team for members of the other gender, members of the excluded gender may be allowed to try out for the team offered.

NOTE 1: *AAA rules permit girls to play on the football and baseball teams.*

NOTE 2: *Arkansas birth certificates state the sex of the person. The birth certificate is the document the AAA relies upon to determine participation in girls or boys activities where applicable. The AAA will accept a changed birth certificate concerning sex which is allowed under ACA Sec. 20-18-307.*

- C. If a sport is offered for members of each gender, athletes must participate with members of their own gender in district, region, state, or overall competition, except for female athletes who must choose prior to the district/conference tournament to waive their opportunity to compete in girls state competition in order to compete on a boys team in a district/conference or state competition.
- D. No athlete will be allowed to compete in both boys and girls district/conference or state competition in individual sports. Individual sports are bowling, golf, tennis, cross country, swimming, wrestling, and track.
- E. **Dead Weeks.**
 - 1. **Summer Dead Period.** All AAA member schools will observe an annual mandatory two-week athletic dead period running the week prior to July 4th and the week of July 4th. During this time coaches (licensed teacher coaches and registered volunteers) shall be prohibited from engaging in any type of activity involving student athletes whether it be practice, training, weight lifting, competition, or travel. Further, school athletic facilities will be closed to student athletes during this period. Schools that have the only baseball and softball fields in the community may allow the community to use the school fields during the dead period as long as no school teams are playing and no school coaches are coaching the teams.
 - 2. **Christmas Dead Period.** All AAA member schools will observe a 3 consecutive day athletic dead period during Christmas Break. Member schools shall select 3 consecutive days from December 23 – 27 to observe the 3 day Christmas dead period. During this time (licensed teacher coaches and registered volunteers) shall be prohibited from engaging in any type of activity involving student athletes whether it is practice, training, weightlifting, competition, or travel. Further, school athletic facilities will be closed to student athletes during this period.
- F. **Summer Competition Days.** School teams are limited to a maximum of eight (8) days of competitive activities during summer break. Individual students are limited to a maximum of eight (8) days of competitive activities per sport during summer break. This includes but is not limited to camps, tournaments, 7 on 7, jamborees, etc. The days selected at the discretion of each specific sport season as set by the AAA calendar do not count against the eight (8) allowable competitions. (Regular season or benefit games)

This rule applies to school teams only and does not regulate the number of games played per day.

Once a team begins competition, it counts as a day of competition regardless of whether the activities are postponed, rescheduled, or cancelled due to extenuating circumstances. (weather, etc.)

Rule 1. COED TEAMS.

- A. Coed teams shall be defined as any team having one or more members of the opposite gender.
- B. All coed teams except spirit must participate in the boys games, tournaments, meets, etc.
- C. Cheer coed teams must compete in a coed division.

Rule 2. VARSITY AND NON-VARSITY TEAMS.

- A. A varsity team is a member school's principal team. A school may have only one varsity team in each sport for each junior high, senior high, boys, girls, or coed.
- B. Non-varsity teams are composed of students who do not participate in varsity games except as permitted under the basketball "five-quarter rule."
- C. All middle schools having a separate AAA school membership may play in one tournament that does not count against the total number of allowable tournaments for a junior high in each team sport.
 - 1. No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments including junior high and middle school.
 - 2. This includes the sports of volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, and soccer.

Rule 3. MULTIPLE JUNIOR HIGH TEAMS.

- A. The Board of Directors may approve a junior high school having more than one varsity team if the school can demonstrate the teams are organized under the following conditions:
 - 1. The teams shall be selected from student populations determined by geographical zones within the school district.
 - 2. The student populations shall be relatively equal in number.
 - 3. The school shall organize teams for all sports sponsored, boys', girls', and coed teams.

4. Separate staffs shall be employed to coach each team in the sport of football, basketball, and track.
 5. The teams shall have uniforms that are contrasting in colors.
 6. Non-varsity teams as defined in other rules shall be organized from the same student populations as the varsity teams.
 7. The number of non-varsity teams for 7th and 8th grades shall be determined by the school's administration.
 8. The Board of Directors may impose further requirements that are specifically designed to ensure fairness of competition with other member junior high schools.
- B. If the junior high school is zoned to supply to more than one senior high school, both varsity teams shall be classified according to the largest high school.

Rule 4. AAA JURISDICTION.

- A. The Arkansas Activities Association's jurisdiction includes the following amateur sports:
- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Baseball | Girls Softball |
| Basketball | Girls Volleyball |
| Bowling | Golf |
| Competitive Cheer | Outdoor Track & Field |
| Competitive Dance | Soccer |
| Cross Country | Swimming/Diving |
| Decathlon/Heptathlon | Tennis |
| Football | Wrestling |
- B. The Board of Directors has the authority to add to or delete from the above listed sports.
- C. The association also has jurisdiction over spin-off skills or athletic activities using skills necessary for these sports.

Rule 5. REGISTERED OFFICIALS.

- A. The Board of Directors is authorized to require member schools to use registered officials in any of the sports for which state championship events are conducted.
- B. Junior high and senior high varsity contests must have AOA registered officials. *By mutual agreement* schools may make an exception to this requirement for all other contests, as necessary, and use non-registered officials in the designated sports. Schools are not permitted to pay non-registered officials for their services.

NOTE 1: *Violation of this rule could result in a forfeit to the school that contracted the non-registered official.*

NOTE 2: *The sports presently authorized as requiring the use of registered officials are football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, soccer, track, and wrestling.*

- C. Schools that knowingly or unknowingly use officials in a varsity contest that are not registered with the AOA will be subject to the following penalties:
1. First offense—school will be placed on warning for the remainder of the sport season
 2. Second offense—school will be placed on probation
 3. Third offense—school will be placed on probation and must forfeit the contest
- D. Any official who officiates a contest with a non-registered official will be subject to penalties that may include, but not limited to, a warning to possible probation for the specified sport season.
- E. A person who is not registered with the AOA and officiates a contest will not be allowed to register with the AOA for one calendar year.

NOTE: *All registered officials will be listed on DragonFly. It is the responsibility of the school's coach, athletic director, and administration to verify that all officials are registered with the AOA either by checking DragonFly or contacting the AAA office.*

SECTION 2. SEASONS AND LIMITATIONS

Rule 1. END OF SEASON. The interscholastic season for sports shall be defined in the Seasons and Event Limitations Chart. The end of the season shall be as follows:

A. Senior High.

1. For football, basketball, and volleyball — Ends with the completion of the state championships for students in grades 10-12 and students in grade 9 who participated interscholastically with a senior varsity team.

2. For baseball, softball, and soccer — Ends with the school's failure to advance to the next level of competition for a state championship.

NOTE: *End of season is when a varsity baseball, softball or soccer team has completed their regularly scheduled conference season and has not qualified for post-season competition.*

- B. **Junior High.** For students in grades 7, 8, and students in grade 9 who have not participated on a senior high varsity team, when their school's junior high sport season is finished.

Rule 2. PRESEASON / POSTSEASON EVENTS. There shall be no preseason or postseason interscholastic events approved for any sport except the catastrophe insurance fund benefit events.

NOTE: *The National Federation of State High School Associations endorses the UCA and UDA Nationals in addition to the NCA and NDA Nationals; therefore, these are the only national cheer and dance competitions Arkansas high school teams are allowed to enter. Teams cannot register for both NCA and UCA in cheer or NDA and UDA in dance.*

Rule 3. PRACTICE EVENTS. No interscholastic scrimmage or practice events are allowed.

NOTE 1: *Practice is an activity involving members of a boys program or members of a girls program from only one member school.*

NOTE 2: *Any event between two or more school teams with or without officials or scorebook or uniforms shall count toward the maximum events permitted and is subject to season limitations.*

Rule 4. EXTENDED SEASON. The Executive Director may authorize extending the season by no more than two weeks for junior high teams in basketball and volleyball for school districts having multiple junior high schools, provided:

- A. Each exception desired is presented annually;
- B. Competition between schools is limited to the schools within the school district;
- C. The request does not provide greater opportunity for participation of individuals or teams in numbers of events than is available to other AAA member schools of the same classification;
- D. All AAA eligibility rules and participation requirements for interscholastic events are followed that are not specified in the request.
- E. The school district specifies an individual responsible for monitoring the exception and making such reports as may be required by the director.

Rule 5. MINIMUM PARTICIPATION FOR CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS.

- A. No state champion shall be declared in a sport for boys, girls or coed teams if fewer than four conferences or districts enter teams. No conference or district organization may certify teams to a state tournament, meet, etc., if fewer than four teams participate in the certifying competition.
- B. In sports that require no conference or district certification to state competition, no state champion shall be declared if fewer than four teams participate in that classification.

Rule 6. EVENT LIMITATIONS. The number of events allowed per team in each sport is found on the Seasons and Limitations chart.

Rule 7. SEMESTER TESTS. Whether to schedule interscholastic competitive events during semester tests shall be determined by each local school district.

SECTION 3. GAME RULES

Rule 1. OFFICIAL RULES BOOKS. The Board of Directors shall designate an official rules book published by the NFHS or by other organizations for game rules in sports/activities as indicated below.

Baseball – NFHS Baseball Rules Book

Basketball – NFHS Basketball Rules Book

Bowling – US Bowling Congress

Football – NFHS Football Rules Book

Golf - The Rules of Golf, United States Golf Association, Arkansas Activities Association Golf Handbook

Soccer- NFHS Soccer Rules Book

Softball – NFHS Softball Rules Book

Spirit – (Cheer/ Dance) – NFHS Spirit Rules Book

Swimming & Diving – NFHS Swimming & Diving Rules Book

Tennis - USTA Yearbook, United States Tennis Association; Arkansas Activities Association Tennis Handbook

Track & Field/Cross Country – NFHS Track & Field and Cross Country Rules Book

Volleyball – NFHS Volleyball Rules Book

Wrestling -- NFHS Wrestling Rules Book

Rule 2. DEVIATIONS FROM RULES BOOKS. The Board of Directors may authorize differences or deviations from rules if approved by the National High School Federation. The Board of Directors may also authorize differences if the board determines a rules change by the NFHS or other appropriate rules writing agency works an undue financial hardship on AAA member schools.

Rule 3. RULES MEETINGS.

- A. When the Board of Directors deems there is sufficient interest in the participation rules of a specific sport or activity, a program of education to teach such rules shall be initiated. The AAA, in cooperation with the AOA, shall develop procedures, requirements, etc. for officials in each sport.
- B. Online rules presentations for football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, track, softball, soccer, wrestling, golf, tennis, cross country, competitive cheer, competitive dance, sideline cheer, sideline dance and swimming/diving must be completed by the head coach by the dates listed on the website requirements in the AAA Handbook. SIP Rules Presentation must be completed by the school SIP director. Failure to do so will result in a \$50.00 fine. If a school fails to comply the following year, the school shall also be issued a warning in that sport or activity which may require forfeiture of events during that school year.
- C. Consideration may be given for violations caused by extenuating circumstances upon receipt of a written request from the school's administration.

SECTION 4. SPORTS MEDICINE

Rule 1. CONCUSSION GUIDELINES.

- A. Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training on concussions once every three years per Arkansas Law.
- B. Every student athlete and parent/guardian must read and sign a "Concussion Fact Sheet for Athletes and Parents." (These forms should be kept annually for each sport)
- C. Any student athlete who is "suspected" by their school's personnel, school medical staff, or game official of having a concussion should not return to play or practice on the same day per Arkansas Law.
- D. Any student athlete suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by a qualified healthcare professional (QHP) trained in the signs, symptoms, and management of a concussion prior to returning to practice or play: (Neuropsychologist, MD, DO, Advanced Practice Nurse, Certified Athletic Trainer, or Physician Assistant).
- E. Any student athlete that has been clinically diagnosed by a QHP with a concussion must then be medically cleared prior to beginning the Graduated Return to Play Protocol (GRTP).
- F. The 5 step (Day) GRTP protocol for delayed return to play:
 - 1. Student athlete must exhibit a resolution of concussion symptoms back to or near pre-injury baseline levels for a minimum of "**24 hours**" prior to the student athlete being cleared by their QHP to initiate and proceed through the GRTP

2. If school is in session: the student athlete that has been diagnosed with a concussion **MUST** attend a **FULL DAY** of school (within the normal school year) without symptoms or classroom modifications prior to that athlete beginning the GRTP (student athletes that are only attending a partial day or currently have classroom modifications in place due to their concussion are not eligible to begin GRTP)
3. If school is not in session: (Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring Breaks, AMI or a regularly scheduled non-school day) the GRTP may be administered by the direction of the QHP overseeing the student athlete's healthcare
4. There should be at least 24 hours between each step of the GRTP
5. If any symptoms significantly increase during these activities, stop the workout immediately
6. The student athlete should then rest until symptoms return back to or near pre-injury baseline levels for 24 hours then return to the previously completed stage of the GRTP
7. If symptoms persist or worsen, seek medical attention by referring the student athlete back to the QHP that is overseeing their healthcare
8. Once the student athlete has successfully completed the 5-day GRTP they are eligible to return to full participation on Day 6. **(not eligible to return to play on the 5th day of the protocol)**
9. In the absence of a Certified Athletic Trainer a designated school employee may administer the GRTP under the AAA Guidelines set forth by this document and following the direction of the QHP in charge of the student athlete's healthcare
10. The GRTP paperwork must be fully completed, signed, dated by the individual that completes the step wise protocol.
11. **THE ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SCHOOL THEN KEEPS THE MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS FOR A MINIMUM OF 3 YEARS FOR DOCUMENTATION.**

Rule 2. SUDDEN CARDIAC GUIDELINES.

- A. Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training on prevention of sudden cardiac death every three years.
- B. Every athlete and parent must read and sign "Cardiac Screening for Athletes and Parents" Information Sheet (contained in Sports Medicine Fact Sheet).
- C. Any athlete experiencing syncope (fainting), chest pains, shortness of breath that is out of proportion to their level of activity or an irregular heart rate should not return to practice or play until evaluated by an appropriated healthcare professional (MD, DO, PN, Certified Athletic Trainer).
- D. The referred athlete must be medically cleared by an appropriated healthcare professional prior to return to play/practice.

Rule 3. EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN AND PROCEDURES FOR HOT WEATHER PRACTICE. In accordance with Act 1214 of 2011, each member school must develop emergency action plans for each individual athletic venue and procedures for hot weather practices. The emergency action plans should be reviewed each year with staff and local EMS provider. The emergency action plans and procedures for hot weather practices must be completed by August 1st or six weeks prior to the beginning of their season. (Communicate Emergency Action Plan information with appropriate personnel.)

Rule 4. REQUIRED SPORTS MEDICINE TRAINING. Every three years all coaches of member schools are required to receive training on concussion, heat illness, and communicable disease (sudden cardiac required by 2019-2020 school year).

Rule 5. SPORTS MEDICINE FACT SHEET. Parents and students must read and sign the Sports Medicine Fact Sheet each year.

Rule 6. PRE-SEASON HEAT ILLNESS MEETING. Football teams must have an annual parent meeting concerning heat illness.

Rule 7. RECOMMENDED USE OF WET BULB GLOBE THERMOMETER. In 2019 the Arkansas Activities Association approved the Wet Bulb Globe Thermometer (WBGT) as the recommended measurement device for measuring acceptable heat/humidity levels for practices. The WBGT device is a measurement tool that uses ambient temperature, relative humidity, wind and solar radiation from the sun to get a measure that can be used to monitor environmental conditions during exercise. The American College of Sports Medicine has recommended WBGT guidelines that dictate modifications in activity (work:rest ratios, hydration breaks, equipment worn, length of practice) at given WBGT

temperatures to prevent Exertional Heat Stroke. The table below is to be used when the WBGT reaches an unsafe level. The table represents modified guidelines from the American College of Sports Medicine in regard to:

1. The scheduling of practices at appropriate WBGT levels
2. The ratio of workout time to time allotted for rest and hydration at various WBGT levels
3. The WBGT levels at which activities should be terminated

| | |
|------------------|--|
| WBGT UNDER 82.0 | Normal activities. Provide separate rest breaks each hour of practice. Breaks should equal 10 minutes per hour. |
| WBGT 82.0 - 86.9 | Use discretion for intense or prolonged exercise; watch at-risk players carefully; Provide at least three separate rest breaks each hour for a minimum of 4 minutes in duration for each. |
| WBGT 87.0 - 89.9 | Maximum length of participation within this range is 2 hours. <u>Football</u> : players restricted to helmet, shoulder pads, and shorts during practice, protective equipment must be removed for conditioning activities. <u>All Sports</u> : there must be 20 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of participation. |
| WBGT 90.0 - 92.0 | Maximum length of participation with this range is 1 hour. <u>Football</u> : no protective equipment may be worn. no conditioning activities. <u>All Sports</u> : there must be 30 minutes of rest breaks distributed throughout the hour of participation. |
| WBGT OVER 92 | No outdoor workouts. Delay practice until a cooler WBGT level is reached. |

The National Weather Service created a web page for Arkansas schools to use to learn about heat stress, wet bulb globe temperatures, and forecast wet bulb globe temperatures across Arkansas. The page contains information on: heat and your body, current heat index values across Arkansas, how wet bulb globe temperatures are monitored, current estimated wet bulb globe temperatures across Arkansas, and a wet bulb globe temperature 3 day forecast for planning practices and preparing for events. The link to the web page "Heat Stress" can be found on the AAA website or at <https://www.weather.gov/lzk/hwave.htm#wbg>

A scientifically-approved instrument that measures the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) should be utilized at each practice when the temperature is greater than 80 degrees Fahrenheit. The instrument should be set up 30 minutes prior to practice and should be read 15 minutes prior to the start of practice. WBGT readings should be taken every 30 minutes during practice. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for recalibration.

Practices are defined as: the time period that a participant engages in a coach-supervised, school approved sport or conditioning-related activity. Practices are timed from when players report to the practice/workout area until the players leave the area. If a practice is interrupted for a weather related reason, the "clock" on the practice will stop and will begin again when the practice resumes.

Conditioning activities include things as weight training, wind-sprints, timed runs for distance, etc., and may be a part of the practice time. A walk-through is not a part of the practice and may last no longer than one hour. Walk-through activities may not include conditioning activities or contact drills. No protective equipment may be worn during a walk-through, and no full-speed drills may be held.

Rest breaks may not be combined with any other type of activity and players must be given unlimited access to hydration. Breaks must be held in a "cool zone" where players are out of direct sunlight.

For regularly scheduled competitions; use appropriate EAP for high temperatures and humidity, consider altering start time, ensure athletes are properly hydrated and acclimatized, and provide extra time outs for rest and hydration.

BASEBALL

SECTION 5. BASEBALL

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

A. **Classification.** Classification of schools for baseball shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A

Class 1A

B. **Conferences.**

6A – Two conferences

5A – Four conferences

4A – Six conferences

3A – Eight conferences

2A – Number of conferences based on participation

1A – Number of conferences based on participation

The conference tournament shall be scheduled at least one week prior to the scheduled start date for the regional tournament and two weeks prior to the scheduled start date for the state tournament for class 4A-1A.

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than February 28th. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster must be posted on DragonFly by February 28. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

C. **Reporting Schedule.** High school team schedules are required to be entered annually on DragonFly no later than February 1. If the schedules are not entered and complete by this date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed on the offending school. Such fine must be paid by the beginning of the sport season.

D. **Reporting Game Scores.** All scores for baseball must be entered on ScoreBook Live within 12 hours of the completion of each contest. A fine of \$50 will be imposed if the scores are not entered by the deadline.

E. **Pitch Count.** All results must be entered on ScoreBook Live no later than noon of the day following completion of a contest. A fine of \$50 will be imposed if the pitch count is not entered by the deadline.

Rule 3. LIMITATIONS. A student who is a member of a school's team may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with a non-school team during the school's season, except he/she may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play.

Rule 4. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION.

6A – Top six from each conference will qualify for playoffs

5A – Top four from each conference will qualify for playoffs

4A – Top four from each conference will qualify for three regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

3A – Top four from each conference will qualify for four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

2A – Number of qualifiers from each conference tournament based on participation. Will qualify to four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

1A – Number of qualifiers from each conference tournament based on participation. Will qualify to four

regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

Teams will be placed on a rotating bracket. Schools must play against all schools assigned to their conference to compete for a conference championship and to qualify for the state championship.

- A. Regional tournaments shall be played during week #34 and state tournaments shall be played during weeks #35 and week #36.
- B. The seeding of the championship tournament brackets shall be placed on a rotating or constant bracket for all classifications.
- C. The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization, administration and assignment of sites of regional and state tournaments and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting these tournaments including finances.

Rule 5. TIEBREAKING PROCEDURES. Determining conference champions/play-off representatives:

- A. If two teams are tied from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be:
 - 1. Head to head in regular season conference play.
 - 2. If the two teams have split, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of five runs per game.
 - 3. If the two teams are still tied, all winning conference game runs, with a maximum of five runs per game.
 - 4. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive five runs per game when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties.
 - 5. If the two teams are still tied, a coin flip by the Arkansas Activities Association's Executive Director will decide seeding.
- B. If three teams are in a three-way tie from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be: Head-to-head competition. If one team has been defeated by one of the other teams twice, they would be eliminated. The two remaining teams would go to step two listed above for two teams that are tied. If step two does not break the tie, step three would follow, then step four.
- C. If three teams are tied and each team has split (or a perfect triangle), tiebreaker procedures will be: Margin of victory in all conference games, with a maximum of five runs per game.
- D. After tabulating the sum of the winning margins, all teams except the two with the greater sum shall be eliminated and the selection process shall begin again with paragraph (A).
- E. If four or more teams were tied, the margin of victory in all conference games would be used, with a maximum of five runs per game. Head-to-head competition would decide the two teams with the most runs. If these teams had split victories, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of five runs per game. If the two teams remain tied, the team with the most total runs would receive the place for the first team (if both tied with the same number of runs, a coin toss would be used to decide the first team). This procedure would continue until all places were filled.

Rule 6. GAME/TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- A. Certifying teams to the region or state tournaments shall be determined by the number of conferences.
- B. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments, and is authorized to formulate rules and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting baseball tournaments. The seeding of the championship tournament brackets shall be placed on a rotating or constant bracket for all classifications.

Rule 7. SUSPENDED GAME. During conference, district, regional and state play any game suspended without the required number of innings played to be considered a complete game shall be resumed at the point of interruption.

Rule 8. NUMBER OF EVENTS.

- A. Senior high varsity baseball/softball teams may play a maximum of 30 games. All games played other than district, region, or state tournament games count towards the 30 game limit. .
- B. Games played in a double header shall count separately against the season limitations.
- C. Middle schools that have a separate AAA membership may play in one tournament that does not count against the total number of allowable tournaments for a junior high.

No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments including junior high and middle school.

Rule 9. CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKETS. For all district, regional, and state tournaments, the higher seed will automatically be the home team. If two teams have the same seed, the team on the top of the bracket will be designated as the home team. This will include state finals.

BASKETBALL

SECTION 6. BASKETBALL

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

A. **Classification.** Classification of schools for basketball shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A

Class 1A

B. **Conferences.**

6A – Two conferences

5A – Four conferences

4A – Six conferences

3A – Eight conferences

2A – Number of conferences based on participation

1A – Number of conferences based on participation

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than October 18 for non-football schools and no later than November 8 for football schools. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster must be posted on DragonFly by October 18 for Non-football schools and by November 8 for football schools. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

C. **Reporting Schedule.** High school team schedules are required to be entered annually on DragonFly no later than June 1. If the schedules are not entered and complete by this date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed on the offending school. Such fine must be paid by the beginning of the sport season.

D. **Reporting Game Scores.** All scores for basketball must be entered on DragonFly/ScoreBook Live within 24 hours of the completion of each contest. A fine of \$50 will be imposed if the scores are not entered by the deadline.

Rule 3. NUMBER OF SENIOR HIGH VARSITY EVENTS.

Senior high varsity basketball teams may play a maximum of 30 games for football schools and 36 games for non-football schools. All games played other than benefit, district, region or state tournament games count toward the limitation.

Rule 4. LIMITATIONS.

A. A school not participating in football may start its basketball season and play games as specified in Article IV, Section 2, Rule 1, and the Seasons and Event Limitations chart.

B. A school participating in football may start its basketball season and play games as specified in the Seasons and Limitations chart.

C. **Five-Quarter Limitation.** A player is eligible to participate in five (5) quarters the SAME day by playing in the varsity and non-varsity games. The non-varsity game must be played on the same day as the varsity game for the 5-quarter rule to apply.

- D. **Junior-Senior Basketball Competition.** The playing of a junior team against a senior team is permissible and shall count in the number of allowable games.
- E. 7th and 8th grade basketball teams may play multiple games on Saturday during the season. Each game played will count toward the total number of allowable games.
- F. Tenth grade and junior varsity basketball teams may play multiple games on Saturday during the season. Each game played will count toward the total number of allowable games.

NOTE: *End of season is when a school's team has completed their regularly scheduled conference season and has not qualified for post season competition.*

Rule 5. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION.

- 6A – Top six from each conference will qualify for playoffs
- 5A – Top four from each conference will qualify for playoffs
- 4A – Top four from each conference will qualify for three regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.
- 3A – Top four from each conference will qualify for four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.
- 2A – Number of qualifiers from each conference tournament based on participation. Will qualify to four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.
- 1A – Number of qualifiers from each conference tournament based on participation. Will qualify to four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

Rule 6. TIEBREAKING PROCEDURE.

- A. If two teams are tied from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be:
 - 1. Head to head in regular season conference play.
 - 2. If the two teams have split, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of 10 points per game.
 - 3. If the two teams are still tied, all winning conference game points, with a maximum of 10 points per game.
 - 4. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive 10 points when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties.
 - 5. If the two teams are still tied, a coin flip by the Arkansas Activities Association's Executive Director or his designee will decide seeding.
- B. If three or more teams are in a tie from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be:
 - 1. Head-to-head competition
 - 2. If a team has been defeated by one of the other teams twice (or once when a single round robin is used), they will be eliminated.
 - 3. If two teams remain, the teams would go to step two listed above in Paragraph A.
 - 4. If step two does not break the tie, step three would follow, then step four, then five. If three teams remain, the teams would go to Paragraph C.
- C. If three or more teams are tied and each team has split (or a perfect triangle), each position will be decided using the two team tie-breaking procedure in Paragraph A to determine which two teams go head to head for the first available position. First, tabulate the margin of victory in all conference games (up to 10 points per game). The two teams with the greatest margin of victory in conference games shall utilize the procedure in Paragraph A to determine the first position available. Use the same process to determine the second position available and all other positions available for the teams involved in a three or more team perfect triangle tie.

Rule 7. GAME/TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATION.

- A. By adoption as permitted by the National High School Federation, a running clock will be used when, after the end of the third quarter, there is a point differential of 30 points or more. The clock will be stopped only under the following conditions:
 - 1. Charged time-out.
 - 2. Injury time-out.
 - 3. To confer with scorers or timers, if necessary.
 - 4. Because of unusual delay in getting dead ball live.
 - 5. To administer all technical, intentional, flagrant and disqualifying fouls.
 - 6. For any emergency.
 After these stoppages, the clock will begin to run again with normal play resuming procedures.

B. Invitational Tournaments.

1. Number of Invitational Tournaments.

- a. Invitational tournaments may be played from the beginning of basketball season (week #16 for non-football schools and week #19 for football schools) through week #34.
- b. Junior boys team and junior girls team are permitted two tournaments each.
- c. Junior varsity teams may enter invitational tournaments as replacement teams when an invited school drops out or cannot attend the tournament. The JV team must be from the host school or a team participating in the tournament.
- d. Junior high schools may enter a third invitational basketball tournament if the following conditions are met:
 - i. Three games are excluded from a non-football school's maximum number of regular scheduled games. $(22 - 3 = 19)$
 - ii. Two games are excluded from a football school's maximum number of regular scheduled games. $(18 - 2 = 16)$
- g. Junior varsity basketball teams may participate in two (2) invitational tournaments.

2. A single elimination plan is to be used in all tournaments of more than eight (8) teams unless the tournament is played during a holiday period without loss of school time and is completed in one week. This does not prohibit the two losers of the semifinals from playing for third and fourth places. Consolation play may be used in tournaments with eight (8) teams or less with the use of a bracket that would allow all eight (8) places to be determined.

Single round-robin tournaments of four or fewer teams are permissible if there is a method of selecting a champion.

3. **Number of Games in Tournament Play.** No team shall play more than two games per day, and beginning game times must be at least five hours apart.

NOTE: See definition of TOURNAMENT

4. Invitational Tournaments on a College Campus.

- a. It is recommended that all such tournaments be under the control of an elected Board of Directors composed of high school administrators and coaches. The Board of Directors should be elected by ballot from among the interested schools of that area.
- b. The chairman of the Board of Directors should be a high school superintendent elected annually by the Board of Directors.
- c. At the first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors, all members of the elected committee should draw by lots for staggered terms of office. Thereafter, ballots should be for terms of office that are expiring. All vacancies occurring in unexpired terms of office may be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
 - i. All proceeds from such tournaments above operating expenses, determined and approved by the Board of Directors, should be apportioned among all participating teams on a share and mileage basis.
 - ii. All bylaws, regulations, and procedures of such tournaments should be approved and written consent given by the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Activities Association.

C. CONFERENCE TOURNAMENTS.

1. Except as provided in Article II, Section 6, Rule 3, conferences shall hold tournaments necessary to certify varsity teams (senior boys, senior girls) to state tournaments. Each of the conferences of all classifications are authorized to formulate rules and regulations necessary to conduct and schedule such tournaments. Conference tournaments for other varsity teams (junior boys, junior girls) are permissible.
2. Crowd Interference. In conference, regional, and state tournament basketball games, spectators shall not be permitted to interfere on the playing floor during play. In the event an overcrowded condition exists on a regulation floor, the game should be held up until the floor is cleared.

If a game is permitted to continue under conditions not meeting this regulation, there is no basis for a protest to the AAA. The conference committee, along with the tournament manager, shall be held responsible for this rule being enforced.

3. In the event a conference uses round robins for seeding tournaments, the teams shall be seeded by order of standing as follows:

TOURNAMENT SEEDING ORDER

4-Team Bracket

| Line | Order in Standings |
|------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1st |
| 2 | 4th |
| 3 | 2nd |
| 4 | 3rd |

8-Team Bracket

| Line | Order in Standings |
|------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1st |
| 2 | 8th |
| 3 | 4th |
| 4 | 5th |
| 5 | 2nd |
| 6 | 7th |
| 7 | 3rd |
| 8 | 6th |

16-Team Bracket

| Line | Order in Standings | Line | Order in Standings |
|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1st | 9 | 2nd |
| 2 | 16th | 10 | 15th |
| 3 | 8th | 11 | 7th |
| 4 | 9th | 12 | 10th |
| 5 | 4th | 13 | 3rd |
| 6 | 13th | 14 | 14th |
| 7 | 5th | 15 | 6th |
| 8 | 12th | 16 | 11th |

32-Team Bracket

| Line | Order in Standings | Line | Order in Standings |
|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1st | 17 | 2nd |
| 2 | 32nd | 18 | 31st |
| 3 | 16th | 19 | 15th |
| 4 | 17th | 20 | 18th |
| 5 | 8th | 21 | 7th |
| 6 | 25th | 22 | 26th |
| 7 | 9th | 23 | 10th |
| 8 | 24th | 24 | 23rd |
| 9 | 4th | 25 | 3rd |
| 10 | 29th | 26 | 30th |
| 11 | 13th | 27 | 14th |
| 12 | 20th | 28 | 19th |
| 13 | 5th | 29 | 6th |
| 14 | 28th | 30 | 27th |
| 15 | 12th | 31 | 11th |
| 16 | 21st | 32 | 22nd |

NOTE: If conferences have fewer than eight (8) or sixteen (16) teams, a bye(s) shall replace the lowest order in the above standing, next lowest, etc. as needed to reduce the bracket to the number of teams in the tournament.

4. Teams shall play a round robin or the minimum number of games or in the conference tournament to be eligible for certification to the state tournament.
5. In the event a conference does not formulate rules and regulations for the purpose of conducting tournaments, the procedures below shall be followed for those items listed:
 - a. **Meetings.** The president shall notify all schools in the conference of the date, time, and place of the meeting.

- b. **Voting.** The schools responding to the notice by attendance at the meeting shall constitute a quorum. The majority of schools attending shall rule. Each school shall have one voting delegate, which shall be a superintendent, principal, or representative bearing written authorization from the principal or superintendent.
- c. **Site of Tournaments.** Schools wishing to host tournaments shall submit bids or invitations in writing at the meeting. Tournaments shall be placed by a vote of the schools that will participate in the tournament.
- d. **Seeding.** Teams entering shall be seeded by conference record. In the event the conference record of any school is not determinable, this school may be seeded by vote.
- e. **Game Officials.**
 - i. School representatives shall decide the number of officials needed.
 - ii. Officials shall be nominated by school representatives.
 - iii. Officials shall be chosen by votes of representatives, each school having the number of votes equal to the number of officials being selected.
 - iv. The official receiving the most votes shall be designated first choice, the one receiving the next greatest vote second choice, etc. until all nominated have been ranked. (In the event more than twice the number of officials needed are nominated, two ballots shall be taken. The first shall be used to reduce nominees to twice the number needed and the second to rank the officials.)
 - v. The president shall designate a person responsible for hiring officials and require that the employment be attempted in the same sequence as the rankings indicated by the schools' preference; he shall have the authority to write contracts on behalf of the conference.
 - vi. Officials shall be paid a fee for each game worked as determined by the school representatives.
 - vii. Bench officials shall be nominated by the host school and approved by a committee composed of conference officers. Fees paid bench officials shall also be subject to the approval of this committee.

- 6. **Other Business.** Division of tournament proceeds, allowances for expenses, and such other matters of business necessary shall be the responsibility of the school representatives present and may vary from year to year. Any such business item shall be considered upon a motion and second by the school representatives present.

D. **REGIONAL AND STATE TOURNAMENTS.**

- 1. Regional tournaments shall be played during week #34 and state tournaments shall be played during week #35 and week #36.
- 2. The seeding of the championship tournament brackets shall be placed on a rotating or constant bracket for all classifications.
- 3. The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization, administration and assignment of sites of regional and state tournaments and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting these tournaments.

Rule 8. GYMNASIUM SAFETY STANDARDS. It is recommended that schools hosting interscholastic play provide a safe facility and competition area for participation. Obstructions at player level in the competition area should have appropriate padding to provide adequate protection for participants. Such obstructions are those that are in significant proximity to the playing area. It is recommended that such padding be a minimum of one inch in thickness.

Rule 9. MINIMUM GYMNASIUM SPECIFICATIONS FOR HOSTING A REGIONAL OR STATE TOURNAMENT.

- A. Four dressing rooms, each with showers, hot water, toilets, and washbasins.
- B. Two rest rooms for public use.
- C. Floor dimensions equal to or in excess of 48 x 84 feet.
- D. There shall be at least three feet of unobstructed space outside the court adjacent to the sidelines and at least five feet of unobstructed space outside the end lines.
- E. There shall be a time clock visible from both directions of the playing court.
- F. Minimum gymnasium safety standards (Bylaws, Article IV, Sec. 5, Rule 3) shall be met.
- G. There shall be the following minimum seating capacities for the respective classifications:

NOTE: *Seating capacity is based on a minimum width of 18 inches. Using the formula of number of feet times 12 divided by 18.*

REGIONAL

- 1A- Seating capacity for 800
- 2A- Seating capacity for 1000
- 3A- Seating capacity for 1200
- 4A- Seating capacity for 1400

STATE

- 1A- Seating capacity for 1200
- 2A- Seating capacity for 1500
- 3A- Seating capacity for 1500
- 4A- Seating capacity for 1800
- 5A- Seating capacity for 2000
- 6A- Seating capacity for 2200

BOWLING

SECTION 7. BOWLING

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION. Classification of schools for bowling shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A and 3A Combined

Class 2A and 1A Combined

- A. Competition will be held for students in grades 9-12 in all participating AAA member schools.
- B. The Board of Directors is authorized to determine the date and site of the state bowling tournament.
- C. An advisory committee may be appointed by the AAA to make recommendations to the AAA Board of Directors.

NOTE: *The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of meets and is authorized to formulate rules and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting such meets including finances.*

CROSS COUNTRY

SECTION 8. CROSS COUNTRY

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION. Classification of schools for cross country shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A

Class 1A

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS. Online rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than August 23. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

Rule 3. The AAA Board of Directors may sponsor a state cross country meet upon the recommendation of the Track & Field Advisory Committee.

NOTE: *The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport including finances.*

DECATHLON-HEPTATHLON

SECTION 9. DECATHLON-HEPTATHLON

The AAA may sponsor a decathlon for boys and a heptathlon for girls after the close of the track season. The Track & Field Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to be approved by the AAA Board of Directors.

NOTE: *The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport including finances.*

FOOTBALL

SECTION 10. FOOTBALL

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

A. **Classification.** Classification of schools for football shall be as follows:

Class 7A **8-Man FB (1A-2A Only)**

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A

B. **Conferences.**

7A – Two conferences

6A – Two conferences

5A – Four conferences

4A – Six conferences

3A – Six conferences

2A – Number of conferences based on participation

8-Man — Number of conferences based on participation

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than August 30. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster must be posted on DragonFly by August 30. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

C. **Reporting Schedule.** High school team schedules are required to be entered annually on DragonFly no later than April 1. If the schedules are not entered and complete by this date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed on the offending school. Such fine must be paid by the beginning of the sport season.

D. **Reporting Game Scores.** All scores for football must be entered on DragonFly/ScoreBook Live within 24 hours of the completion of each contest. A fine of \$50 will be imposed if the scores are not entered by the deadline.

Rule 3. LIMITATIONS.

A. Participants are prohibited from participating in more than five (5) quarters per calendar day.

B. Week #1 of the football season is Week #9 of the AAA Calendar. Teams are allowed to schedule a zero week game Week #8 of the AAA Calendar. Benefit games may be played Week #7 or #8 of the AAA Calendar. Schools may schedule up to ten regular season games from week 0 through week 10 of football season. Furthermore, schools that have fewer than 7 conference games due to forfeiture may schedule a non-conference opponent to replace the lost opportunity to play AND accept the forfeit for conference standings.

NOTE: Schools that have fewer than seven conference games may schedule up to ten regular season games from Week 0 through Week 10 of football season. Furthermore, schools that have fewer than 7 conference games due to forfeiture may schedule a nonconference opponent to replace the lost opportunity to play **AND** accept the forfeit for conference standings.

Rule 4. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION. Each conference shall certify their representatives to the state play-offs. The AAA tiebreaker system will be used for all ties.

7A — Take top six to play-offs from each conference

6A — Take top six to play-offs from each conference

5A — Take top four to play-offs from each conference

4A — Take top five to play-offs from each conference

3A — Take top five to play-offs from each conference

2A — Take top four to play-offs from each conference

A. **Play-off Representatives.** Conferences shall certify their representatives to the state play-offs by a method accepted by a majority of the schools within that classification.

B. **Play-off Dates.** First round games for all classes shall be played in calendar week #19.

C. **Play-off Sites.** Brackets as adopted by each classification shall be published annually in the AAA's Football Play-off Brochure on the AAA website.

NOTE: The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport including finances.

Rule 5. TIEBREAKING PROCEDURE.

A. If two teams tie, and one of the teams has defeated the other in a regular schedule conference game, the winner shall be declared the conference play-off representative. Three or more tied teams shall first be considered in sets of two-way ties.

NOTE: If three or more teams are tied, use head to head record among the tied teams (a mini-conference) to break ties for seeding. Only utilize points to break ties among teams when the ties are a perfect triangle with each team having the same record among the tied teams (mini-conference).

B. If two teams tie and the tied teams split or have not played each other in a conference game (no round robin) the team with the greater sum of winning margin using the following point system, shall be the play-off representative.

C. If more than two teams remain tied after applying (A) above, the following point system shall be used to eliminate all but two teams. Tabulate the sum of the winning margins of each team's conference games as indicated in the following:

1. If the margin of victory is more than 13 points only 13 points shall count.

2. Losses shall be tallied as 0 (zero) points.

3. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive 13 points when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties.

D. After tabulating the sum of the winning margins, all teams except the two with the greater sum shall be eliminated, and the selection process shall begin again with paragraph (A).

E. If teams remain tied after the above procedures are applied, the play-off representative shall be determined by a coin toss. The coin toss, supervised by the Executive Director, shall be used to eliminate all but two teams and then begin again with paragraph (A).

F. In the event the conference is eligible for more than one play-off representative, each subsequent play-off representative shall be chosen by reapplying the procedures above.

G. All conferences will use the AAA adopted procedures for breaking ties that occur in the order of standings when round robin schedules are completed.

Rule 6. GAME ADMINISTRATION.

A. **Non-Declared.** A school not declared for varsity high school football cannot play a varsity high school team and cannot play on Friday.

B. **Sportsmanship-Timing Rule.**

NOTE: By authority of the NFHS Football Rules Committee, states may adopt a "running clock" when a designated point differential is attained. Arkansas' adoption is as follows.

After the first half, upon reaching a score differential of 35 points or more, the game clock will be stopped only when:

1. An official's time-out is called.
 - a. When a first down is declared.
 - b. Following a change of possession.
 - c. To dry or change the game ball.
 2. A charged time-out is called.
 3. At the end of a period.
 4. A score occurs.
- C. The clock will continue to run in all other situations.

NOTE: *The use of this rule does not preclude the use of NFHS Rule 3-1-3, which reads: "A period or periods may be shortened in any emergency by agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee. By mutual agreement of the opposing coaches and the referee, any remaining period may be shortened at any time or the game terminated."*

Rule 7. GAME-ENDING PROCEDURES FOR CONFERENCE & NON-CONFERENCE FOOTBALL GAMES.

- A. **Non-Conference Games.** If a senior or junior high non-conference football game is interrupted and has not completed the first half of play due to events beyond the control of the administrative authority, it shall be considered a "no contest." Neither team will be issued a win or loss. If a game is suspended at any time after the end of the first half, the game will be considered "complete" and the existing score will stand.
- B. **Conference Games.** The following are options for conference game-ending procedures:
1. Games that are resumed shall be from the point of interruption. (time, score, down, distance, etc.)
 2. Games may be terminated with the existing score upon agreement of both school's administrative authority. Conference games may not end in a tie.
 3. All postponed or suspended games will be rescheduled for the immediately following Saturday between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM at a time agreed upon by both school's administration. If the administration cannot agree on the game time, then the game must start at 7:00 PM on that Saturday.
 4. If a postponed or suspended game cannot be rescheduled for the immediately following Saturday because of inclement weather, the game will be rescheduled for 7:00 PM on the following Monday.
- C. **Tied Conference/Non-Conference Games.**
1. Senior high and junior high conference and non-conference games that end in a tied score shall be extended for the purpose of breaking the tied score.
 2. The NFHS ten-yard line overtime procedure shall be utilized for the purpose of resolving all tied scores. Also, the try for extra point shall be a part of the overtime procedure in the event either team scores by a touchdown.

Rule 8. FOOTBALL PRACTICE.

- A. Between the end of the football season and the beginning of the next season's conditioning period, football practice may continue using footballs, football shoes, helmets, mouth protectors, and dummies only. However, practice activities that require physical contact work are specifically prohibited.
1. Each member school football team will be required to conduct an annual preseason meeting with parents and students to review how to identify and treat heat illness.
 2. Football practice may begin on Monday of Week #5.
 3. Practice on days 1 and 2 of Week #5:
 - a. Shall be conducted without any contact equipment except helmets and dummies.
 - b. One practice with a maximum of three (3) hours in length
 - c. No contact
 - d. One (1) hour walk through is permitted following practice but must be separated by a one (1) hour rest and recovery period
 4. Practice on days 3-5 of Week #5
 - a. Shall be conducted with helmets and shoulder pads as the only contact equipment
 - b. One (1) practice with a maximum of three (3) hours in length
 - c. Contact can be with blocking sleds/dummies only
 - d. One (1) hour walk through is permitted following practice but must be separated by a one (1) hour rest and recovery period

5. Practice after day 5
 - a. Schools can practice with full equipment
 - b. Schools cannot have consecutive days of “two-a-day” practices
 - c. Student athletes shall not engage in more than three (3) hours of practice activities on those days during which one practice is conducted
 - d. Student athletes shall not engage in more than five (5) hours of practice activities on those days when more than one practice is conducted
 - e. The maximum length of any single practice session is three(3) hours
 - f. On days when more than one practice is conducted, there shall be, at a minimum, a one-hour rest/recovery period between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice

Any team or student that starts practice after Day 1 of Week #5 must follow the procedures above for practice on Days 1-2, Days 3-5, and after Day 5.

When determining how to count time spent as practice activities, please consult the following chart:

| What Counts | What Doesn't Count |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Actual on-field/court practice | Meetings |
| Sport specific skill instruction | Weight training |
| Mandatory conditioning | Film Study |
| Voluntary conditioning | Water breaks |
| | Rest breaks |
| | Injury treatment |

No activities (including meetings, weight training, and film study) can occur during the one hour rest/recovery time between the end of one practice and the beginning of the next practice (on days when more than one practice is scheduled). **This time is exclusively for students to rest/recover for the following practice session.**

B. Football Contact Rules.

1. **Full Contact Defined.** Full contact is defined as any practice or game in which participants are taken or knocked to the ground. It is allowable to dress in full pads for protective purposes and practice at a “thud pace” without the practice counting as a “full contact” practice.
2. **Preseason Guidelines.** Schools cannot have consecutive practices of full contact after Day 5 unless there is a full calendar day (i.e. Sunday) between practices in which no practices are conducted.
3. **In season Guidelines.** Teams can have three days of full contact per calendar week. Junior varsity and varsity level contests are included in the three day limitation. This period shall begin six days prior to the first regular season contest and continue through the state championships.
4. **Spring Guidelines.** Teams are allowed three full contact practices per week with no full contact practices occurring on consecutive days. A spring game will count as a full contact practice.

C. Spring Practice. During AAA Calendar Weeks #37 through the last day of school for students, football schools may select four (4) consecutive weeks for spring football practice for a maximum of ten practices using regulation equipment for full contact drills. The four consecutive weeks selected must be reported to the AAA Office.

1. Practices shall be conducted on week days, Monday through Friday, for a maximum of 20 hours per school for students in grades 9-11.
2. Practice may not exceed two hours per day total.
3. A maximum of ten practices using regulation equipment for full contact drills for grades 9-11 may be conducted during the designated four-week period.
4. Full contact practices may not occur on back-to-back days.

Rule 9. AAA FOOTBALL PLAY-OFF RESPONSIBILITIES.

- A. Officials. The Arkansas Activities Association will be responsible for assigning and paying all officials working play-off games.
- B. The following shall be admitted without charge:
 - 1. Cheerleaders in uniform.
 - 2. Band members in uniform.
 - 3. Authorized AAA passes.
 - 4. Other groups in uniform authorized to perform on the field.

Rule 10. PLAY-OFF ADMINISTRATION. Expenses, Receipts and Disbursements.

- A. The host school shall be responsible for the administration of the play-off game and expenditures incurred in conducting the game. Both schools shall share the allotted time between halves of the game. In the event the game is to be at a neutral site, each school shall be equally responsible for the game administration and expenses. The host school shall receive all receipts for the sale of programs and concessions, except in the event the AAA furnishes programs, the host shall receive a fee for selling such programs.
 - B. The gross receipts will be disbursed as follows:
 - 1. 5% of the first round games to each of the participating schools' conferences.
 - 2. 30% of the first round games to host schools and 30% of subsequent games.
 - 3. 40% of the first round games to visiting school and 40% of subsequent games.
 - 4. 20% of the first round games and 30% of subsequent games to the AAA from which the awards and officials shall be paid.
 - C. The Board of Directors may schedule all football play-off finals at one site to be played over three weekends. In the event the committee chooses to arrange for one site for all football finals, the proceeds shall be distributed as follows:
 - 1. Expenses for stadium rental, officials' fees and officials' travel shall be retained and paid by the AAA.
 - 2. Each school shall be reimbursed the following per diem on mileage:

| One Way Mileage | Per Diem | 2A/3A/4A | 5A/6A/7A |
|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Less than 50 miles | 1 | \$300 | \$500 |
| 50 to 75 miles | 1 1/2 | \$450 | \$750 |
| 76 to 100 miles | 2 | \$600 | \$1000 |
| 101 to 200 miles | 3 | \$900 | \$1500 |
| Over 200 miles | 4 | \$1200 | \$2000 |
 - 3. All schools shall receive \$.50/mile for round trip travel with \$50.00 minimum.
- NOTE:** *The above allowances shall be prorated if gate receipts are not sufficient to pay in full.*
- 4. Net receipts after payments of items 1 & 2 above shall be paid at 20% to AAA and 80% to participating schools. Each school's share of the 80% shall be computed as follows:
 - a. Gross receipts for each classification's finals game shall be totaled separately in order to establish a per game gate receipt total.
 - b. All classifications' finals games gross receipts, including pre-sold tickets, shall be totaled separately. All finals participating schools will then receive their pro-rata share based on finals receipts. After expenses, schools shall receive money on a 20% to AAA, and 80% to member school based on presold tickets, and a 20% to AAA and 40% to each participating school on walk-up ticket sales.
 - c. Each school participating shall receive one-half of the amount obtained by multiplying the percent established in 4b. above multiplied by 80% of the net receipts.
 - 5. The AAA shall retain all radio and TV rights income

Rule 11. STADIUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOTBALL PLAY-OFFS.

- A. A school shall have the following minimum facilities to host a football play-off game:
 - 1. Separate dressing rooms for each team, each with hot showers, toilets, and washbasins.
 - 2. Two rest rooms for public use.
 - 3. Bleachers having masonry or metal understructure with footboards and seating properly maintained for both visitor and home fans.
 - 4. Total bleacher linear feet for seating of fans shall be at least equal to or greater than:
 - 2500 ft. for Class 2A (1500 capacity)
 - 2500 ft. for Class 3A (1500 capacity)

2700 ft. for Class 4A (1600 capacity)
3000 ft. for Class 5A (1800 capacity)
3400 ft. for Class 6A (2000 capacity)
3400 ft. for Class 7A (2000 capacity)

5. An automatic scoreboard and clock plainly visible to officials, players, and fans.
6. Working 40/25-second clocks.
7. A fenced facility with controlled access.
- B. Also recommended for hosting a play-off game:
 1. Five yards of unobstructed space outside the playing field along the sideline and end zone.
 2. Restraining cables, fences, walls, etc. from goal line to goal line to separate fans from each team area along the sideline.
 3. Press box facilities with 50 square feet of floor space equipped with a public address system.
- C. In the event the play-off school assigned the site fails to have minimum stadium facilities, the Executive Director shall require the school to make arrangements for a stadium of their choice that meets minimum requirements.
- D. In the event a school is uncooperative in administering the above requirement, the Executive Director may award the opponent school the site for the game, or arrange for another stadium and charge the expense to the host school's share of the play-off game gate receipts.

NOTE: A decision regarding the play-off venue must be made by noon Tuesday of the game week.

Rule 12. FORFEITED GAMES. Schools may not use victories for conference records when substitute games are scheduled after receiving a forfeit after the season begins.

Rule 13. END OF SEASON.

- A. Junior high season shall end with the final season event.
- B. The end of season for senior high shall be the end of the state play-offs.

GOLF

SECTION. 11. GOLF

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

- A. **Classification.** Classification of schools for golf shall be as follows:

Class 6A
Class 5A
Class 4A
Class 3A
Class 2A
Class 1A

- B. **Conferences.**

6A – Two conferences
5A – Four conferences
4A – Six conferences
3A – Six conferences
2A – Six conferences
1A – Six conferences

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS. Online rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than August 2. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

Rule 3. LIMITATIONS. Golf teams are allowed twelve (12) regular season events of which six (6) may start before 3:30 PM on a school day.

Rule 4. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION.

6A Boys – All teams from each conference will participate in the two-day 36-hole state tournament. The top half of all teams (including ties), plus the next top eight individual scores (including ties), would play 18

holes the second day. Both day's scores will be combined to determine the championship and medalist. If there are an uneven number of teams who play on the first day, the number of teams that advance would be rounded up. For example, if there were 13 teams, seven teams would advance. In the state tournament, teams may have four or five players with the four lowest scores determining team score.

6A Girls – All teams from each conference will participate in the two-day 36-hole state tournament. The top half of all teams (including ties), plus the next top eight individual scores (including ties), would play 18 holes the second day. Both day's scores will be combined to determine the championship and medalist. If there are an uneven number of teams who play on the first day, the number of teams that advance would be rounded up. For example, if there were 13 teams, seven teams would advance. In the state tournament, teams may have three, four or five players with the three lowest scores determining team score.

5A Boys – Top three teams from each of the four conference tournaments plus the three individuals with the lowest score that are not a member of a qualifying team not to exceed a total of 18 participants. In the state tournament, teams may have five players with the four lowest scores determining team score.

5A Girls – Top three teams from each of the four conference tournaments plus the three individuals with the lowest score that are not a member of a qualifying team not to exceed a total of 18 participants. In the state tournament, teams may have three or four players with the three lowest scores determining team score.

4A Boys and Girls – Top two teams from each of the six conferences plus the four individuals with the lowest score who are not a member of a qualifying team not to exceed a total of 12 participants. In the state tournament, teams may have three or four players with the three lowest scores determining team score.

3A Boys and Girls – Top two teams from each of the six conferences plus the four individuals with the lowest score who are not a member of a qualifying team not to exceed a total of 12 participants. In the state tournament, teams may have three or four players with the three lowest scores determining team score

2A Boys and Girls – Top two teams from each of the six conferences plus the four individuals with the lowest score who are not a member of a qualifying team not to exceed a total of 12 participants. In the state tournament, teams may have three or four players with the three lowest scores determining team score.

1A Boys and Girls – Top two teams from each of the six conferences plus the four individuals with the lowest score who are not a member of a qualifying team not to exceed a total of 12 participants. In the state tournament, teams may have three or four players with the three lowest scores determining team score

Rule 5. Individual qualifiers (not on a qualifying team) must shoot at or below a qualifying score at the conference golf tournament to advance to the state tournament. The qualifying score is the third place conference finishers score at the conference tournament plus 15 strokes OR a score equal to or less than the score indicated in the table below for each classification. WHICHEVER NUMBER IS HIGHER.

| | Boys | Girls |
|----|------|-------|
| 6A | 90 | 105 |
| 5A | 90 | 105 |
| 4A | 95 | 110 |
| 3A | 100 | 115 |
| 2A | 105 | 120 |
| 1A | 105 | 120 |

Rule 6. STATE TOURNAMENT MECHANICS. The State Boys Golf Tournament shall be conducted on week #14. The State Girls Golf Tournament shall be conducted on Week #13. Each conference shall certify its entries directly to the Arkansas Activities Association at least one week prior to the state tournament.

NOTE: The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments, meets, etc. and are authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport.

Rule 7. TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS AND MEDALIST.

- A. There shall be both individual and team championships in golf. A school may enter one team. No team champion will be declared in any meet that has fewer than four teams competing.
- B. Medalist. The individual with the lowest score will be the medalist in each classification.

A school without a team may enter an individual player in a conference tournament to compete for medalist honors at the state tournament even if the school team is not represented.

MEET OF CHAMPS

SECTION 12. MEET OF CHAMPS

The AAA may sponsor a Meet of Champions after the close of the track season. The Track & Field Advisory Committee shall make recommendations to be approved by the AAA Board of Directors.

SOCCER

SECTION 13. SOCCER

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

- A. **Classification.** Classification of schools for soccer shall be as follows:

- Class 6A**
 - Class 5A**
 - Class 4A**
 - Class 3A and below**

- B. **Conferences.**

- 6A – Two conferences
 - 5A – Four conferences
 - 4A – Number of conferences based on participation
 - 3A – Number of conferences based on participation

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than February 28. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster must be posted on DragonFly by February 28. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- C. **Reporting Schedule.** High school team schedules are required to be entered annually on DragonFly no later than February 1. If the schedules are not entered and complete by this date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed on the offending school. Such fine must be paid by the beginning of the sport season.
- D. **Reporting Game Scores.** All scores for soccer must be entered on DragonFly/ScoreBook Live within 24 hours of the completion of each contest. A fine of \$50 will be imposed if the scores are not entered by the deadline.

Rule 3. LIMITATIONS.

- A. **Number of Events.**

- 1. Senior high varsity soccer teams may play a maximum of 24 games. All games played other than benefit, district, region, or state tournament games count towards the game limitation.
 - 2. Junior high teams may participate in 16 regular season playing dates and two invitational tournaments.

- B. **Three-half Limitation.** A player may participate in three (3) halves the SAME day by playing in the varsity and non-varsity games. The non-varsity game must be played on the same day as the varsity game for the three-half rule to apply.
- C. A student who is a member of a school's team may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with a non-school team during the school's season, except the student may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play, except during the week of AAA sponsored championship tournaments.
Note: *Students are only allowed to try out for or practice with the non-school team. Practice is an activity involving the players of only one school's team.*
- D. **Season.** Begins on week #35 and ends with the school's failure to advance to the next level of competition for a state championship..
- E. **Invitational Tournaments.**
 - 1. Middle schools that have a separate AAA membership may play in one tournament that does not count against the total number of allowable tournaments for a junior high.

No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments including junior high and middle school.

Rule 4. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION.

- 6A – Top six from each conference qualify for playoffs
- 5A – Top four from each conference qualify for playoffs
- 4A – Top four from each conference qualify for playoffs
- 3A and below – Top four from each conference qualify for playoffs

Rule 5. TIEBREAKING PROCEDURE.

- A. If two teams are tied from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedure will be
 - 1. Head to head in regular season conference play.
 - 2. If the two teams have split, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of three (3) goals per game.
 - 3. If the two teams are still tied, all winning or tied conference game goals (winning margin), with a maximum of three (3) goals per game in a win, and one (1) goal for tied conference games, and zero (0) for a loss.
 - 4. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive three (3) goals when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties. Teams will receive no goals for tied conference games.
 - 5. If two teams are still tied, a coin flip by the Arkansas Activities Association Executive Director or his designee will decide seeding.
- B. If three or more teams are in a tie from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be:
 - 1. Head-to-head competition.
 - 2. If a team has been defeated by one of the other teams twice, or has been defeated and tied by one of the other teams (or defeated once when a single round robin is used), they will be eliminated.
 - 3. If two teams remain, the teams would go to step 1 listed above in paragraph A.
 - 4. If step one does not break the tie, step two would follow, then step three, then four, then five. If three teams remain, the teams would go to paragraph C.
- C. If three or more teams are tied and each team has split (or a perfect triangle), each position will be decided using the two team tiebreaking procedure in paragraph A to determine which two teams go head to head for the first available position. First, tabulate the margin of victory in all conference games (up to 3 goals per game winning margin and 1 goal per game for a tie). The two teams with the greatest margin of victory/tie goals in conference games shall utilize the procedure in paragraph A to determine the first position available. Use the same process to determine the second position available and all other positions available for the teams involved in a three or more team "perfect triangle" tie.

Rule 6. GAME ADMINISTRATION.

- A. **Ties During Regular Season (Conference and Nonconference).** If two teams are tied at the end of a regular game, the game will officially be declared a tie.

1. For calculating points towards conference standings, a win = 3 points, a tie = 1 point, and a loss = 0 points.

B. State Tournament Tiebreaking Procedure.

1. There shall be a five (5) minute intermission between the end of regulation play and the first overtime period. The interval between the first overtime period and a second overtime period shall be two minutes.
2. The first overtime will be a ten (10) minute sudden victory overtime. During the play of the overtimes, the team that scores the first goal is declared the winner.
3. The second overtime will be a ten (10) minute sudden victory overtime. It will be played if no team scores during the first overtime. The team that scores the first goal is declared the winner.
4. If no goals are scored, the match is decided by kicks from the penalty mark.

C. Soccer Sportsmanship Timing Rule.

1. At the end of the first half of play, if a goal differential of six (6) goals or greater exists, the duration of the second half of play shall be reduced by one-half. Clock stoppages shall remain unchanged. At any point in the second half that the goal differential reaches six (6) or greater, the remaining time shall be reduced by one-half.
2. Once implemented, there shall be no change in the duration of the second half should the goal differential fall below six (6).

D. Procedures for Suspended Game(s). In the event a game must be suspended because of conditions that make it impossible to continue play, the head referee shall declare it an official game if one complete half or more of the game has been played. If less than one half of the game has been played, the game will resume from the point of interruption.

Rule 7. TOURNAMENT SUPERVISION. The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments and is authorized to formulate procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting soccer tournaments.

Rule 8. END OF SEASON. See Seasons and Event Limitations Chart for senior high.

Junior high season shall end with the final season event or tournament for their school.

NOTE: *End of season is when a school's team has completed their regularly scheduled conference season and has not qualified for post season competition.*

SOFTBALL

SECTION 14. SOFTBALL

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

A. Classification. Classification of schools for softball shall be as follows:

Class 6A
Class 5A
Class 4A
Class 3A
Class 2A
Class 1A

B. Conferences.

6A – Two conferences
5A – Four conferences
4A – Six conferences
3A – Eight conferences
2A – Number of conferences based on participation
1A – Number of conferences based on participation

The conference tournament shall be scheduled at least one week prior to the scheduled start date for the regional tournament and two weeks prior to the scheduled start date for the state tournament for class 4A-1A.

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than February 28th. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster must be posted on DragonFly by February 28. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- C. **Reporting Schedule.** High school team schedules are required to be entered annually on DragonFly no later than February 1. If the schedules are not entered and complete by this date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed on the offending school. Such fine must be paid by the beginning of the sport season.
- D. **Reporting Game Scores.** All scores for softball must be entered on DragonFly/ScoreBook Live within 24 hours of the completion of each contest. A fine of \$50 will be imposed if the scores are not entered by the deadline.

Rule 3. LIMITATIONS. A student who is a member of a school's team may not try out for, practice with, or otherwise participate with a non-school team during the school's season, except he/she may try out for or practice with a non-school team on days when the school team does not practice or play.

Rule 4. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION

6A – Top six from each conference will qualify for playoffs

5A – Top four from each conference will qualify for playoffs

4A – Top four from each conference will qualify for three regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

3A – Top four from each conference will qualify for four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

2A – Number of qualifiers from each conference tournament based on participation. Will qualify to four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

1A – Number of qualifiers from each conference tournament based on participation. Will qualify to four regional tournaments with the top four advancing from the regional tournament to the state tournament.

Teams will be placed on a rotating bracket. Schools must play against all schools assigned to their conference to compete for a conference championship and to qualify for the state championship.

- A. Regional tournaments shall be played during week #34 and state tournaments shall be played during weeks #35 and week #36.
- B. The seeding of the championship tournament brackets shall be placed on a rotating or constant bracket for all classifications.
- C. The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization, administration and assignment of sites of regional and state tournaments and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting these tournaments.

Rule 5. TIEBREAKING PROCEDURES. Determining conference champions/play-off representatives:

- A. If two teams are tied from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be:
 - 1. Head to head in regular season conference play.
 - 2. If the two teams have split, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of five runs per game.
 - 3. If the two teams are still tied, all winning conference game runs, with a maximum of five runs per game.
 - 4. Forfeited games. Offended teams shall receive five runs per game when tabulating the sum of the winning margins for breaking conference ties.
 - 5. If the two teams are still tied, a coin flip by the Arkansas Activities Association's Executive Director will decide seeding.

- B. If three teams are in a three-way tie from regular season conference play, tiebreaker procedures will be: Head-to-head competition. If one team has been defeated by one of the other teams twice, they would be eliminated. The two remaining teams would go to step two listed above for two teams that are tied. If step two does not break the tie, step three would follow, then step four.
- C. If three teams are tied and each team has split (or a perfect triangle), tiebreaker procedures will be: Margin of victory in all conference games, with a maximum of five runs per game.
- D. After tabulating the sum of the winning margins, all teams except the two with the greater sum shall be eliminated and the selection process shall begin again with paragraph (A).
- E. If four or more teams were tied, the margin of victory in all conference games would be used, with a maximum of five runs per game. Head-to-head competition would decide the two teams with the most runs. If these teams had split victories, margin of victory between the two teams, with a maximum of five runs per game. If the two teams remain tied, the team with the most total runs would receive the place for the first team (if both tied with the same number of runs, a coin toss would be used to decide the first team). This procedure would continue until all places were filled.

Rule 6. EXTRA-INNING TIEBREAKING PROCEDURE. While using the tiebreaker, each half-inning shall begin by placing a runner on second base. That runner shall be the player in the batting order that precedes the lead off batter in that inning. The game shall then proceed a full inning until a winner is determined in that inning.

This procedure shall be used in games that are tied after seven innings of a single game or five innings of a doubleheader.

Rule 7. SUSPENDED GAME. During conference, district, regional and state play any game suspended without the required number of innings played to be considered a complete game shall be resumed at the point of interruption.

Rule 8. NUMBER OF EVENTS.

- A. Senior high varsity baseball/softball teams may play a maximum of 30 games. All games played other than district, region, or state tournament games count towards the 30 game limit. .
- B. Games played in a double header shall count separately against the season limitations.
- C. Middle schools that have a separate AAA membership may play in one tournament that does not count against the total number of allowable tournaments for a junior high.

No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments including junior high and middle school.

Rule 9. CHAMPIONSHIP BRACKETS. For all district, regional, and state tournaments, the higher seed will automatically be the home team. If two teams have the same seed, the team on the top of the bracket will be designated as the home team. This will include state finals.

SPIRIT

SECTION 15. SPIRIT

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATIONS. Classification of schools for spirit groups shall be as follows:

| <u>All Girl Cheer</u> | <u>Co-ed Cheer</u> | <u>Game Day Cheer</u> | <u>Dance</u> | <u>Game Day Dance</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Class 6A | Number of | Class 6A-5A | Class 6A | Number of |
| Class 5A | classifications | Class 4A-3A | Class 5A | classifications |
| Class 4A | based on | Class 2A-1A | Remaining | based on |
| Class 3A & below | participation | | classifications | participation |
| | | | based on | |
| | | | participation | |

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach for competitive cheer, sideline cheer and dance no later than August 16. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster for competitive cheer and competitive dance must be posted on DragonFly by August 16. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

Rule 3. INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION.

- A. Competition will be held for students in grades 9-12 in all participating AAA member schools.
- B. The Board of Directors is authorized to determine the date and site of the state spirit competitions.
- C. The state spirit competitions will involve teams only; there will be no solo or small ensemble competition. The minimum number to constitute a team is five. Because of safety issues, the maximum number of athletes competing on a competitive cheer team will be 36.
- D. A member of an interscholastic spirit team may not compete on a non-school team during the interscholastic spirit season.
- E. Senior high school spirit teams may participate in five invitational competitions before the state competition.
- F. Junior high school spirit teams may compete in five invitational competitions.
- G. No cheer team shall be eligible to enter any cheer competition unless the coach has successfully completed the USA Cheer (formerly AACCA) Safety Certification course and attended the current year's spirit rules meeting.
- H. In case of a violation, the cheer team will not only be grounded but shall incur a \$50 fine for a team stunting without a certified supervising coach. Further violations penalties may be assessed against the school as provided in the AAA Handbook.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

SECTION 16. SWIMMING AND DIVING

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION. Classification of schools for swimming and diving shall be as follows:

Class 6A
Class 5A
Class 4A & below

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach for swimming and diving no later than November 1. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster for swimming and diving must be posted on DragonFly by November 15. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

Rule 3. ADMINISTRATION.

- A. The Board of Directors is authorized to determine the date and site of the state swimming and diving meet.
- B. An advisory committee may be appointed by the AAA to make recommendations to the AAA Board of Directors.

NOTE: *The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of meets and is authorized to formulate rules and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting such meets including finances.*

TENNIS

SECTION 17. TENNIS

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION. Classification of schools for tennis shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A and below

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS. Online rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than August 16. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

Rule 3. LIMITATIONS. A player may not represent the school in both singles and doubles.

NOTE: *Each school is limited to two singles and two doubles in the state tournament.*

Rule 4. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION. Each conference may certify the following number of singles players and doubles teams to the state tournament:

6A – Six singles players and six doubles teams

5A – Four singles players and four doubles teams

4A, 3A, 2A and below – Two singles players and two doubles teams if there are seven (7) or more conferences. If there are six conferences, two from each conference, singles players and doubles teams, plus four chosen at-large by the seeding committee. If there are five conferences, there shall be three qualifiers from each conference (singles players and doubles teams). If there are four conferences, there shall be four qualifiers from each conference. The seeding committee may extend at-large bids to third place district finishers. The at-large bids shall not cause any event to exceed a 16-team draw.

Rule 5. STATE TOURNAMENT MECHANICS.

A. The best two of three sets shall determine the winners in both singles and doubles.

B. No Ad scoring will be used. The twelve-point tiebreaker will be used if the score should reach six games each. One point is awarded for each match won in singles and doubles through the quarterfinal rounds and one point is awarded for a bye if the first match is won. Two points are awarded for a semifinal win and three points for a championship.

NOTE: *Under these scoring mechanics, there shall be a singles, doubles and a team champion.*

C. The top four may be seeded in both singles and doubles with the rest of the bracket filled by draw. No entries from the same school are placed in the same half of the bracket.

D. The state tournament shall be held on calendar week #15. Each conference shall certify its entries directly to the AAA office at least one week prior to the state tournament.

NOTE: *The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments, meets, etc. and are authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport including finances.*

TRACK AND FIELD

SECTION 18. TRACK AND FIELD

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

A. **Classification.** Classification of schools for track and field shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A

Class 1A

B. Conferences.

6A – Two conferences

5A – Four conferences

4A – Six conferences

3A – Up to eight conferences and qualifiers based on participation

2A – Up to eight conferences and qualifiers based on participation

1A – Up to eight conferences and qualifiers based on participation

Note: *Number of conferences or districts may be adjusted as necessary.*

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS. Online rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than February 21. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

Rule 3. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION. The number of participants to be certified to state meets by a classification group per conference shall be recommended by the Track & Field Advisory Committee and approved by the AAA Board of Directors. The board shall be guided by the number of conferences in a classification, but shall not recommend more than 24 participants per event.

A. Each conference/district by classification shall certify the following number of entries to the state meet.

6A — Each conference shall advance the top eight finishers in each event to the state meet

5A — Each conference shall advance the top four finishers in each event to the state meet

4A — Each conference shall advance the top three finishers in each event to the state meet

3A — Each conference shall advance the top two finishers in each event to the state meet

2A — Each conference shall advance the top two finishers in each event to the state meet

1A — Each conference shall advance the top two finishers in each event to the state meet

B. A track handbook recommended by the Track and Field Advisory Committee and approved by the AAA Board of Directors shall include all procedures for administering the conference, district, and state meets.

Rule 4. ADMINISTRATION.

A. Sites shall be approved by the AAA Board of Directors.

B. Qualifying meets shall be completed at least one week prior to the state meet at sites determined by conference organizations.

C. The order of events and time schedule shall be recommended by the Track and Field Advisory Committee and approved by the AAA Board of Directors.

D. Conference and other qualifying meets shall follow the state order of events but may deviate from the time schedule and may make other modifications as needed to accommodate the level of competition.

Rule 5. RECORDS. The establishment of a state record will be recognized when set in the official State Track Meet. Meet of Champions records shall be set in the Meet of Champions only and shall be listed in addition to, and not in lieu of records established in any state track meet. Overall state records shall be the best performance from any state meet or Meet of Champs.

VOLLEYBALL

SECTION 19. VOLLEYBALL

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION AND CONFERENCES.

A. **Classification.** Classification of schools for volleyball shall be as follows:

Class 6A

Class 5A

Class 4A

Class 3A

Class 2A & below

B. Conferences.

- 6A – Two conferences
- 5A – Four conferences
- 4A – Four conferences
- 3A – Number of conferences based on participation
- 2A and below – Number of conferences based on participation

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than August 23. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster must be posted on DragonFly by August 23. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- C. **Reporting Schedule.** High school team schedules are required to be entered annually on DragonFly no later than April 1. If the schedules are not entered and complete by this date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed on the offending school. Such fine must be paid by the beginning of the sport season.
- D. **Reporting Game Scores.** All scores for volleyball must be entered on DragonFly/ScoreBook Live within 24 hours of the completion of each contest. A fine of \$50 will be imposed if the scores are not entered by the deadline

Rule 3. LIMITATIONS FOR REGULAR SEASON EVENTS.

- A. Junior varsity teams may enter invitational tournaments as replacement teams when an invited school drops out or cannot attend the tournament. The JV team must be from the host school or a team participating in the tournament.
- B. Senior high varsity teams may play 30 regular season matches. All matches played other than district, region, or state tournament matches count towards the match limit. Junior high varsity teams shall be limited to 20 matches and two invitational tournaments or 18 matches and three invitational tournaments. Middle schools are limited to 18 matches.
- C. The state volleyball finals will be played during week #17. In years when the national ACT date will conflict with the state volleyball finals, member schools should schedule volleyball athletes to take the ACT on an earlier or later date to avoid a conflict.
- D. Middle schools that have a separate AAA membership may play in one tournament that does not count against the total number of allowable tournaments for a junior high. No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments including junior high and middle school.
- E. One benefit event for the AAA Catastrophe Insurance Fund may be played between varsity teams only during weeks #7 through #16.
- F. In order to facilitate travel or scheduling, a team may play two events on the same day if, in doing so, there is no violation of the rule concerning AAA sanction of events. Such events may also be scheduled on a Saturday. However, only for dual contests (not tri-meets) may the school schedule two events on the same weekday.

NOTE: *End of season is when a school's team has completed their regularly scheduled conference season and has not qualified for post season competition.*

Rule 4. CONFERENCE CERTIFICATION. The conference tournament shall be scheduled at least one week prior to the scheduled start date for the state tournament.

- 6A – Each conference shall advance six teams to the state tournament.
- 5A – Each conference shall advance four teams to the state tournament.
- 4A – Each conference shall advance four teams to the state tournament.
- 3A – Number of qualifiers based on participation.
- 2A and below – Number of qualifiers based on participation.

NOTE: *The AAA Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of tournaments, meets, etc. and is authorized to formulate policies and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting the sport including finances.*

Rule 5. VOLLEYBALL TIEBREAKING PROCEDURE. The breaking of ties that occur in the order of standings when round robin schedules determine the placement at the next level of competition shall be resolved by use of the AAA-adopted tiebreaker.

A. 2-way tie. When conference records are tied, the higher seed shall be determined by the first of the tiebreakers in which one team prevails.

1. Head-to-head (2 matches) When team A or B has defeated the other in both conference matches, that team shall be the higher seed. (Note: If the tied teams have only played each other once, the winner of that match shall be the higher seed.)
2. Head-to-head (2 matches - split)
 - a. Match #1 – A defeated B
 - b. Match #2 – B defeated A
 - c. Teams are still tied.
3. Set count
 - a. A defeated B: 3-1
 - b. B defeated A: 3-2
 - c. A shall be the higher seed because A won in fewer sets.
4. Point Differentials
 - a. In A's total sets, the point differentials are +5, +3, +2 and -2 = 8 points
 - b. In B's total sets, the point differentials are +2, +7, +4 and -2 = 11 points
 - c. B would be the higher seed because the margin of victory is greater.
5. If the tie is not broken by any of the above steps, the tie shall be resolved with a play-off match (3/5-high school, 2/3-junior high) between the two teams.
6. If both tied teams mutually agree not to play a play-off match, the tie shall be resolved by a coin toss administered by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association or his designee.

B. 3-way tie.

1. Head-to-Head - Perfect Triangle
 - a. Teams A, B, and C have identical conference records and are tied for seeding to the state tournament.
 - b. If one team has lost to another tied team twice, that team is eliminated. In a perfect triangle each team has split with the other two, thus all are still tied for the highest conference seed.
2. Head-to-Head - Set Record with No Ties
 - a. Ranking is determined by which team won in fewer sets.
 - b. Sample:
 - (1) Match A-B: B wins in fewer sets.
 - (2) Match B-C: C wins in fewer sets.
 - (3) Match A-C: C wins in fewer sets.
 - c. Results:
 - (1) C is the #1 seed.
 - (2) B is the #2 seed
 - (3) A is the #3 seed.
3. Head-to-Head - Set Record with a Tie
 - a. Sample:
 - (1) Match A-B: A wins in fewer sets.
 - (2) Match A-C: Set count is tied
 - (3) Match B-C: C wins in fewer sets
 - b. Results:
 - (1) A and C are still tied for higher seed.
 - (2) B is eliminated from higher seed by set record against A and C
 - (3) B is the #3 seed.
 - (4) The margin of victory must be determined between A and C.
4. Determine Point Differentials between A and C Using Set Scores
 - a. C had the greater point differentials
 - b. C is the higher seed
 - c. A is the next higher seed
 - d. As determined in Ex. B-3, B is the third higher seed
5. If the tie is not broken by any of the above steps, the tied teams shall resolve the tie with a play-off match (3/5-high school, 2/3-junior high) between the tied teams.

6. If a three-way tie is not broken by the steps above, the teams shall draw for the number 1,2, and 3 that shall identify each team to begin the play-off, with 1 playing 2 and 3 playing the winner. The winner of the final match will be the highest conference seed with the opponent being the 2nd highest seeded team. The loser of the first play-off match shall be the 3rd highest seed for tournament position(s) available.

| A's Wins | Point Differentials | C's Wins | Margin |
|----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|
| 25-22 | +3 | 25-21 | +4 |
| 23-20 | +5 | 25-18 | +7 |
| 25-23 | <u>+2</u> | 28-26 | <u>+2</u> |
| 23-25 | -2 | 23-25 | -2 |
| Total | +8 | Total | +11 |

7. If the tied teams mutually agree not to play a play-off match, the tie will be resolved by a coin toss administered by the Executive Director of the Arkansas Activities Association or his designee in the same manner as the play-off procedure.

NOTE: *The same procedure shall be applied in the same manner if four teams are tied. After drawing numbers, 1 would play 4 and 2 would play 3, after which winners would play one another for the first seeded position. The loser of this match will be the second seeded position. If more than two teams are to advance to the state tournament, further elimination play would be conducted for third and fourth seeded positions.*

Rule 6. ADMINISTRATION (EVENTS DEFINED).

- A. Dual. Contest between varsity and non-varsity teams of two schools, or between varsity teams only.
- B. Tri-Meet. Round-robin event involving only varsity teams from three schools. Each match counts separately toward the season limitations.
- C. Jamboree. A full or partial round robin event involving more than three varsity teams with no player playing in more than five (5) games. Within this limitation a jamboree counts as one event.
- D. Tournament. An event where teams are placed in a bracket through which an eventual champion is named.
 - 1. Tournaments can include preliminary sets for the purpose of seeding teams into bracket play. Up to six teams per seeding group are permitted. Teams should play no more than ten total 25-point sets in preliminary play. Preliminary play does not count toward the limit of 30 matches.
 - 2. A play day/jamboree in which no awards are given but which exceeds the maximum play for one regular season event shall be considered an invitational tournament.
 - 3. In out-of-state tournaments, Arkansas teams may follow the designated tournament format.

Rule 7. FORFEITS. The score of a forfeited game shall be 25-0 (15-0 in the deciding game of a match) if the game has not started. If the game is in progress, the offending team shall be awarded its acquired points and the opponent awarded at least 25 points (15 points in the deciding game) or a sufficient number to reflect a two-point advantage.

WRESTLING

SECTION 20. WRESTLING

Rule 1. CLASSIFICATION.

- A. **Boys Classification.** Classification of schools for boys wrestling shall be as follows:
 - Class 6A**
 - Class 5A**
 - Class 4A**

- B. **Girls Classification.** Classification of schools for girls wrestling shall be as follows:
Number of classifications based on participation.

Rule 2. WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.

- A. **Online Rules Presentation.** Rules presentation must be viewed on DragonFly by the head coach no later than November 15. If not completed by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.
- B. **Team Roster.** High school team roster must be posted on DragonFly by November 15. If not posted by the deadline date, a fine of \$50 will be imposed.

Rule 3. ADMINISTRATION.

- A. Competition will be held for all students in grades 9-12 in all participating AAA member schools.
- B. The Board of Directors is authorized to determine the date and site of the state wrestling tournament.
- C. An advisory committee may be appointed by the AAA to make recommendations to the AAA Board of Directors.
- D. The state tournament will consist of three divisions, 6A, 5A, and 4A and below. State championships for each division and individual state champions will be awarded for each of the 14 weight classes.

NOTE: *The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization and administration of meets and is authorized to formulate rules and procedures not otherwise provided for in conducting such meets including finances.*

RELATIONSHIP OF AAA TO THE ARKANSAS OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION AND GAME OFFICIALS

The Arkansas Activities Association believes that officiating is an important and necessary part of the athletic program. For this reason, considerable time, effort, and money are spent on clinics, audio-visual materials, and other methods designed to increase the knowledge and improve the mechanics and techniques of officials.

In athletics the officials represent the integrity of the game. For all actions, on and off the field, the official must earn the confidence and respect of players, coaches, fans, and media. This should be accomplished through unquestionable honesty, demonstrated ability, obvious devotion, and full understanding of all aspects of the game.

REGISTRATION AND TRAINING. To promote uniformity and efficiency of rules administration, the AAA staff shall supervise registration and training of athletic officials that will include the following:

- A. AOA registration and annual renewal through the AAA office.
- B. Provision for promotion in accordance with points earned through a written examination, successful experience in a specified number of games, attendance at meetings, and other selected activities.
- C. A statewide series of clinics or interpretation meetings scheduled by the AOA and conducted by one or more persons appointed by the state office.
- D. AAA bylaws require that member schools use only officials who are registered with the Arkansas Officials Association in the sports of football, basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, baseball, softball, soccer, and wrestling.
- E. Use of National Federation interpretations when such are needed to supplement the rules provisions for distribution of such interpretations.
- F. Distribution of the rules books and other publications published by the National Federation.
- G. Assignment of all major officials in events conducted by the AAA.
- H. Formation of advisory and ad hoc committees as needed for each designated sport. Such committees may include administrators, coaches, and athletic officials to serve as advisors and assist in experimentation and in making recommendations to national rules committee.
- I. AAA bylaws prohibit member schools from paying a fee for officiating services to an official who is not duly registered with the Arkansas Officials Association.
- J. Eligibility for officiating football play-offs and basketball tournaments.
 - 1. Only Division 1 officials may work football play-offs.
 - 2. Basketball Tournaments
 - a. Invitational - Senior - Divisions 1,2, & 3*
 - b. Invitational - Junior - Divisions 1,2 & 3**
 - c. Conference - Divisions 1,2 & 3*
 - d. Region and State Division 1 only

* with one year of experience and AOA and school approval.

** with one year of experience

DEFINITIONS

ACADEMIC COURSE - Those high school (grades 9-12) courses that:

- A. Can be credited to meet minimum requirements for graduation
- B. Are taught by a teacher required to have state licensure in the course or granted a written waiver by the Arkansas Department of Education
- C. Have a course content guide approved by the Arkansas Department of Education
- D. Have class time scheduled

ATTENDANCE AREA - The boundaries of a school district when only one public high school is contained therein, or the boundaries of a school attendance zone/area as established by the local board when more than one public school is in the district.

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE - An official voting representative of the AAA member school.

CAMP - A site where three or more students or school teams meet for the purpose of receiving instruction in basic skills in a sport. Football camps may be held only between the final day of the spring term (May-June) and beginning of fall football practice (Week #5).

NOTE: *A violation of the Summer Camp Rule or the All-Star Rule may cause the student to lose eligibility for up to one year.*

COMPETITION - Students from two or more schools competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, criticism or qualification for additional competition.

NOTE: *Eligibility rules apply to all students competing in athletic or non-athletic activities.*

CORE CURRICULUM - Refers to 7th and 8th grade classes in math, science, English, and social studies.

DE NOVO - Heard anew. Where a decision by the Executive Director is appealed “de novo” to the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors is not in any way bound, restricted, or limited by the findings or conclusions of the Executive Director and may render whatever decision it deems appropriate based on its own review of the facts and circumstances.

DOMICILE - The place at which a person is physically present and that the person regards as home; a person’s true, fixed, principal, and permanent home.

FIELD TRIP - Individual students or groups of students invited to programs or events when there is no competition and the students are not interacting with each other for the purpose of planning, qualifying, or arranging for future programs or for the purpose of receiving recognition. Schools may provide transportation.

INTERSCHOLASTIC - Events involving interaction between students from two or more schools.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES - Athletic/non-athletic/academic activities in which middle/junior high or senior high (7-12) school students compete on a school vs. school basis. Performance activities such as band, speech, drama, etc. may be viewed as competitive arenas both internally (ratings by individual schools) and externally (comparisons of individual or school ratings with a view toward determining an ultimate winner).

INVITATIONAL - Any activity which is not an official activity or subdivision of an official activity.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL - A school that contains 7th grade up to 9th grade.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - A school containing 7th and/or 8th grade.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT - In team sports, middle schools that have a separate AAA membership may play in one tournament that does not count against the total number allowable for a junior high. No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments including junior high and middle school.

OFFICIAL ACTIVITY - Any interscholastic activity which the AAA sponsors or interscholastic activity on the state level by an official AAA recognized club or organization in which the students receive benefits based on the goals and objectives of the club or organization.

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATIONS - The only official interpretations are written responses to written requests. If there is a question concerning the eligibility of a participant in any interscholastic activity, the Executive Director should be contacted in writing for an official interpretation of the rule in question.

PARTICIPATION - Students from two or more schools meeting and interacting in predetermined programs concerning a specific club or organization. Students combining or interacting for a performance for a particular group with the purpose of entertaining or educating when there is no competition involved.

PRACTICE - An activity involving the players of only one AAA member school.

NOTE: *Practice is an activity involving members of a boys program or members of a girls program from only one member school.*

PRE-SEASON - From the beginning of the semester until the sport season begins.

SANCTIONED - AAA approved for participation by specified students of member schools

SCHOOL-SANCTIONED EVENTS - Events sponsored by a AAA member school. Sponsorship or co-sponsorship by any organization or individual other than a member school requires sanctioning by the AAA office

SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP - When the responsibility of the actions for the students are assumed by the school administration or an official representative of the school.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL - A school containing 9th grade up to 12th grade.

SUBDIVISION OF AN OFFICIAL ACTIVITY - Any interscholastic activity that qualifies or certifies a student to an official activity in a specifically defined area or planning is taking place for an official activity. The activity must be sponsored by the AAA or sponsored or supervised by an official AAA recognized club or organization.

TOURNAMENT - Organized competition in which many participants play each other in individual games. After each game, each participant is either dropped from the tournament, or advances to play a new opponent in the next "round." Usually, all the rounds of the tournament lead up to the "finals," in which the only remaining participants play, and the winner of the finals is the winner of the entire tournament.

An event with a method of determining a champion.

TRANSFER - Changing from one school to another without a bona fide move by the parents.

Seasons and Event Limitations

| Season Beginning Week # | Sport | Maximum Permissible Events | | | | Week # of State Events |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----|----------|----|---------------------------|
| | | Sr. High | | Jr. High | | |
| | | Varsity | JV | Varsity | JV | |
| 5 | GOLF (boys) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 14 |
| 5 | GOLF (girls) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 13 |
| 6 | TENNIS | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 15 |
| 7 | COMPETITIVE CHEER | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 24 |
| 7 | COMPETITIVE DANCE | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 19 |
| 8 | VOLLEYBALL | 30 | 18 | 18/20 | 18 | 17 |
| 8 | FOOTBALL | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 22/23 |
| 9 | CROSS COUNTRY | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 18 |
| 16 | BASKETBALL (non-FB) | 36 | 28 | 22 | 22 | 36 |
| 18 | SWIMMING AND DIVING | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 34 |
| 19 | BASKETBALL (FB schools) | 30 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 36 |
| 20 | WRESTLING | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 | 32 |
| 21 | BOWLING | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 32 |
| 34 | TRACK & FIELD (outdoor) | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 44 |
| 35 | SOCCER | 24 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 46 |
| 35 | BASEBALL | 30 | 22 | 12 | 12 | 46 |
| 35 | SOFTBALL | 30 | 22 | 12 | 12 | 46 |
| | DECATHLON/HEPTATHLON | | | | | 46 |

NOTE: Football schools may schedule basketball games earlier than week #19 if the football season is shortened but may not begin before week #17, nor play additional games.

Senior high varsity **baseball/softball** teams may play a maximum of 30 games. All games played other than district, region, or state tournament games count towards the 30 game limit.

Senior high **volleyball** varsity teams may play 30 regular season matches. All matches played other than district, region, or state tournament matches count towards the match limit.

Senior high **soccer** varsity teams may play 24 regular season games. All games played other than district, region, or state tournament games count toward the game limit.

Spirit teams may participate in five invitational events.

In team sports, middle schools that have a separate AAA membership may play in one tournament that does not count against the total number allowable for a junior high.

No middle school athlete may compete in more than three total tournaments including junior high and middle school.

BENEFIT GAMES

Each varsity team of AAA member schools may participate in ONE interscholastic benefit game that does not count toward the season limitation for that sport. The school must agree to give the stated percentage of proceeds from such benefit events to the AAA Catastrophe Insurance Fund.

SPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR BENEFIT GAMES

- **Football** games may be played only during Weeks #7 or #8 and shall not start before 5:30 on weekdays.

- **Basketball games for non-football playing schools** may be played during Week #15 or any time during the regular season.
- **Basketball games for football playing schools** may only be played during the regular basketball season or on the Saturday immediately following the last regular season football playing date.
- For All **Basketball Benefit Events:** When playing only one game, play may not begin before 6:30 p.m. on school nights. When two games (jr. high and/or sr. high) are played on the same night, play may not begin before 5:30 p.m. on school nights. Jamborees involving three or more schools may not begin before 5:30 p.m. on school nights.
- **Volleyball** matches/games may be played from Week #7 or any time during the regular season. Volleyball games may not begin before 5:30 p.m. on weekdays.
- **Baseball and Softball** games may be played from Week #34 or any time during the regular season and may not begin before 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.
- **Soccer** matches may be played from Week #34 or any time during the regular season and may not begin before 3:30 p.m. on weekdays.

NUMBER OF BENEFIT GAMES OR MATCHES

There shall be only one game or portion of a game per varsity (sr. boys, jr. boys, sr. girls, jr. girls) squad allowed. NO JR. VARSITY OR "B" TEAM GAMES.

Baseball, Softball, Soccer, Football and Basketball Jamborees, where several schools play each other a portion of a game, are permissible provided no school plays more than the equivalent of a full game.

Volleyball Jamborees, where several schools play each other a portion of a match, are permissible provided no player participates in more than five games.

Obtain Benefit Game forms at www.ahsaa.org
Click on Forms & Resources

AAA Calendar of Numbered Weeks (Sunday - Saturday)

| WEEK | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | 2025-2026 | 2026-2027 | 2027-2028 | 2028-2029 | 2029-2030 |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | 7/3-7/9 | 7/2-7/8 | 7/7-7/13 | 7/6-7/12 | 7/5-7/11 | 7/4-7/10 | 7/2-7/8 | 7/1-7/7 |
| 2 | 7/10-7/16 | 7/9-7/15 | 7/14-7/20 | 7/13-7/19 | 7/12-7/18 | 7/11-7/17 | 7/9-7/15 | 7/8-7/14 |
| 3 | 7/17-7/23 | 7/16-7/22 | 7/21-7/27 | 7/20-7/26 | 7/19-7/25 | 7/18-7/24 | 7/16-7/22 | 7/15-7/21 |
| 4 | 7/24-7/30 | 7/23-7/29 | 7/28-8/3 | 7/27-8/2 | 7/26-8/1 | 7/25-7/31 | 7/23-7/29 | 7/22-7/28 |
| 5 | 7/31-8/6 | 7/30-8/5 | 8/4-8/10 | 8/3-8/9 | 8/2-8/8 | 8/1-8/7 | 7/30-8/5 | 7/29-8/4 |
| 6 | 8/7-8/13 | 8/6-8/12 | 8/11-8/17 | 8/10-8/16 | 8/9-8/15 | 8/8-8/14 | 8/6-8/12 | 8/5-8/11 |
| 7 | 8/14-8/20 | 8/13-8/19 | 8/18-8/24 | 8/17-8/23 | 8/16-8/22 | 8/15-8/21 | 8/13-8/19 | 8/12-8/18 |
| 8 | 8/21-8/27 | 8/20-8/26 | 8/25-8/31 | 8/24-8/30 | 8/23-8/29 | 8/22-8/28 | 8/20-8/26 | 8/19-8/25 |
| 9 | 8/28-9/3 | 8/27-9/2 | 9/1-9/7 | 8/31-9/6 | 8/30-9/5 | 8/29-9/4 | 8/27-9/2 | 8/26-9/1 |
| 10 | 9/4-9/10 | 9/3-9/9 | 9/8-9/14 | 9/7-9/13 | 9/6-9/12 | 9/5-9/11 | 9/3-9/9 | 9/2-9/8 |
| 11 | 9/11-9/17 | 9/10-9/16 | 9/15-9/21 | 9/14-9/20 | 9/13-9/19 | 9/12-9/18 | 9/10-9/16 | 9/9-9/15 |
| 12 | 9/18-9/24 | 9/17-9/23 | 9/22-9/28 | 9/21-9/27 | 9/20-9/26 | 9/19-9/25 | 9/17-9/23 | 9/16-9/22 |
| 13 | 9/25-10/1 | 9/24-9/30 | 9/29-10/5 | 9/28-10/4 | 9/27-10/3 | 9/26-10/2 | 9/24-9/30 | 9/23-9/29 |
| 14 | 10/2-10/8 | 10/1-10/7 | 10/6-10/12 | 10/5-10/11 | 10/4-10/10 | 10/3-10/9 | 10/1-10/7 | 9/30-10/6 |
| 15 | 10/9-10/15 | 10/8-10/14 | 10/13-10/19 | 10/12-10/18 | 10/11-10/17 | 10/10-10/16 | 10/8-10/14 | 10/7-10/13 |
| 16 | 10/16-10/22 | 10/15-10/21 | 10/20-10/26 | 10/19-10/25 | 10/18-10/24 | 10/17-10/23 | 10/15-10/21 | 10/14-10/20 |
| 17 | 10/23-10/29 | 10/22-10/28 | 10/27-11/2 | 10/26-11/1 | 10/25-10/31 | 10/24-10/30 | 10/22-10/28 | 10/21-10/27 |
| 18 | 10/30-11/5 | 10/29-11/4 | 11/3-11/9 | 11/2-11/8 | 11/1-11/7 | 10/31-11/6 | 10/29-11/4 | 10/28-11/3 |
| 19 | 11/6-11/12 | 11/5-11/11 | 11/10-11/16 | 11/9-11/15 | 11/8-11/14 | 11/7-11/13 | 11/5-11/11 | 11/4-11/10 |
| 20 | 11/13-11/19 | 11/12-11/18 | 11/17-11/23 | 11/16-11/22 | 11/15-11/21 | 11/14-11/20 | 11/12-11/18 | 11/11-11/17 |
| 21 | 11/20-11/26 | 11/19-11/25 | 11/24-11/30 | 11/23-11/29 | 11/22-11/28 | 11/21-11/27 | 11/19-11/25 | 11/18-11/24 |
| 22 | 11/27-12/3 | 11/26-12/2 | 12/1-12/7 | 11/30-12/6 | 11/29-12/5 | 11/28-12/4 | 11/26-12/2 | 11/25-12/1 |
| 23 | 12/4-12/10 | 12/3-12/9 | 12/8-12/14 | 12/7-12/13 | 12/6-12/12 | 12/5-12/11 | 12/3-12/9 | 12/2-12/8 |
| 24 | 12/11-12/17 | 12/10-12/16 | 12/15-12/21 | 12/14-12/20 | 12/13-12/19 | 12/12-12/18 | 12/10-12/16 | 12/9-12/15 |
| 25 | 12/18-12/24 | 12/17-12/23 | 12/22-12/28 | 12/21-12/27 | 12/20-12/26 | 12/19-12/25 | 12/17-12/23 | 12/16-12/22 |
| 26 | 12/25-12/31 | 12/24-12/30 | 12/29-1/4 | 12/28-1/3 | 12/27-1/2 | 12/26-1/1 | 12/24-12/30 | 12/23-12/29 |
| 27 | 1/1-1/7 | 12/31-1/6 | 1/5-1/11 | 1/4-1/10 | 1/3-1/9 | 1/2-1/8 | 12/31-1/6 | 12/30-1/5 |
| 28 | 1/8-1/14 | 1/7-1/13 | 1/12-1/18 | 1/11-1/17 | 1/10-1/16 | 1/9-1/15 | 1/7-1/13 | 1/6-1/14 |
| 29 | 1/15-1/21 | 1/14-1/20 | 1/19-1/25 | 1/18-1/24 | 1/17-1/23 | 1/16-1/22 | 1/14-1/20 | 1/13-1/19 |
| 30 | 1/22-1/28 | 1/21-1/27 | 1/26-2/1 | 1/25-1/31 | 1/24-1/30 | 1/23-1/29 | 1/21-1/27 | 1/20-1/26 |
| 31 | 1/29-2/4 | 1/28-2/3 | 2/2-2/8 | 2/1-2/7 | 1/31-2/6 | 1/30-2/5 | 1/28-2/3 | 1/27-2/2 |
| 32 | 2/5-2/11 | 2/4-2/10 | 2/9-2/15 | 2/8-2/14 | 2/7-2/13 | 2/6-2/12 | 2/4-2/10 | 2/3-2/9 |
| 33 | 2/12-2/18 | 2/11-2/17 | 2/16-2/22 | 2/15-2/21 | 2/14-2/20 | 2/13-2/19 | 2/11-2/17 | 2/10-2/16 |
| 34 | 2/19-2/25 | 2/18-2/24 | 2/23-3/1 | 2/22-2/28 | 2/21-2/27 | 2/20-2/26 | 2/18-2/24 | 2/17-2/23 |
| 35 | 2/26-3/4 | 2/25-3/2 | 3/2-3/8 | 3/1-3/7 | 2/28-3/6 | 2/27-3/4 | 2/25-3/3 | 2/24-3/2 |
| 36 | 3/5-3/11 | 3/3-3/9 | 3/9-3/15 | 3/8-3/14 | 3/7-3/13 | 3/5-3/11 | 3/4-3/10 | 3/3-3/9 |
| 37 | 3/12-3/18 | 3/10-3/16 | 3/16-3/22 | 3/15-3/21 | 3/14-3/20 | 3/12-3/18 | 3/11-3/17 | 3/10-3/16 |
| 38 | 3/19-3/25 | 3/17-3/23 | 3/23-3/29 | 3/22-3/28 | 3/21-3/27 | 3/19-3/25 | 3/18-3/24 | 3/17-3/23 |
| 39 | 3/26-4/1 | 3/24-3/30 | 3/30-4/5 | 3/29-4/4 | 3/28-4/3 | 3/26-4/1 | 3/25-3/31 | 3/24-3/30 |
| 40 | 4/2-4/8 | 3/31-4/6 | 4/6-4/12 | 4/5-4/11 | 4/4-4/10 | 4/2-4/8 | 4/1-4/7 | 3/31-4/6 |
| 41 | 4/9-4/15 | 4/7-4/13 | 4/13-4/19 | 4/12-4/18 | 4/11-4/17 | 4/9-4/15 | 4/8-4/14 | 4/7-4/13 |
| 42 | 4/16-4/22 | 4/14-4/20 | 4/20-4/26 | 4/19-4/25 | 4/18-4/24 | 4/16-4/22 | 4/15-4/21 | 4/14-4/20 |
| 43 | 4/23-4/29 | 4/21-4/27 | 4/27-5/3 | 4/26-5/2 | 4/25-5/1 | 4/23-4/29 | 4/22-4/28 | 4/21-4/27 |
| 44 | 4/30-5/6 | 4/28-5/4 | 5/4-5/10 | 5/3-5/9 | 5/2-5/8 | 4/30-5/6 | 4/29-5/5 | 4/28-5/4 |
| 45 | 5/7-5/13 | 5/5-5/11 | 5/11-5/17 | 5/10-5/16 | 5/9-5/15 | 5/7-5/13 | 5/6-5/12 | 5/5-5/11 |
| 46 | 5/14-5/20 | 5/12-5/18 | 5/18-5/24 | 5/17-5/23 | 5/16-5/22 | 5/14-5/20 | 5/13-5/19 | 5/12-5/18 |
| 47 | 5/21-5/27 | 5/19-5/25 | 5/25-5/31 | 5/24-5/30 | 5/23-5/29 | 5/21-5/27 | 5/20-5/26 | 5/19-5/25 |
| 48 | 5/28-6/3 | 5/26-6/1 | 6/1-6/7 | 5/31-6/6 | 5/30-6/5 | 5/28-6/3 | 5/27-6/2 | 5/26-6/1 |
| 49 | 6/4-6/10 | 6/2-6/8 | 6/8-6/14 | 6/7-6/13 | 6/6-6/12 | 6/4-6/10 | 6/3-6/9 | 6/2-6/8 |
| 50 | 6/11-6/17 | 6/9-6/15 | 6/15-6/21 | 6/14-6/20 | 6/13-6/19 | 6/11-6/17 | 6/10-6/16 | 6/9-6/15 |
| 51 | 6/18-6/24 | 6/16-6/22 | 6/22-6/28 | 6/21-6/27 | 6/20-6/26 | 6/18-6/24 | 6/17-6/23 | 6/16-6/22 |
| 52 | 6/25-7/1 | 6/23-6/29 | 6/29-7/5 | 6/28-7/4 | 6/27-7/3 | 6/25-7/1 | 6/24-6/30 | 6/23-6/29 |

Week # Event

- 5 Football practice begins Monday (no pads)
- 5 Golf Season begins
- 5 Saturday – Football practice in full equipment
- 6 Tennis season begins
- 7 Benefit Volleyball events begin
- 7 Cheer/Dance seasons begin
- 7/8 Benefit Football events
- 8 :First Volleyball matches/Football Zero Week
- 9 Football Week 1
- 9 Cross Country Season begins
- 13 State Girls Golf tournament
- 14 State Boys Golf tournament
- 15 Overall Golf
- 15 State Tennis tournament
- 16 ** First BB game for non-FB schools
- 16 Overall Tennis
- 17 State Volleyball tournaments
- 18 Swimming/Diving Season begins
- 18 * State Cross Country Meet
- 18 Football season ends
- *** Begin Football play-offs

Week # Event

- 19 State Dance
- 19 First BB game for FB Schools
- 20 Wrestling season begins
- 21 Bowling season begins
- 22-23 Football finals
- 24 State Cheer
- 32 State Wrestling
- 32 State Bowling tournaments
- 34 * State Swimming/Diving meet
- 34 Regional Basketball tournaments
- 34 Track Season Begins
- 35 State Basketball tournaments
- 35 Baseball/Softball Seasons begin
- 35 Soccer Season Begins
- 36 State Basketball Finals
- 38 Spring Break
- 44 *State Track
- 45 *Meet of Champs
- 45 State BA/SB/SO

- 46 State Baseball/Softball/Soccer Finals
- 46 Decathlon and Heptathlon
- Dead Weeks-Week prior to July 4th & Week of July 4th
- *Traditional date - Board of Directors has authority to assign date.
- **Football schools may begin basketball the week following the last regularly scheduled football game, week #18 or after.
- ***All football play-offs shall be scheduled on Fridays except by mutual agreement of participating schools or assignment by AAA

Arkansas Activities Association

AAA Staff E-Mail Addresses

Balboa, Amber amber@ahsaa.org
Brodell, Don..... don@ahsaa.org
Clark, Kristy kristy@ahsaa.org
Cunningham, Nicole nicole@ahsaa.org
Foreman, Gabriel.....gabriel@ahsaa.org
Harvey, Julia julia@ahsaa.org
Langley, Michelle.....michelle@ahsaa.org
Lasker, Nick..... nick@ahsaa.org
Mays, Jenniferjennifer@ahsaa.org
Parker, Christyal.....christyal@ahsaa.org
Roberts, Steve..... steve@ahsaa.org
Swofford, Bobbybobby@ahsaa.org
Taylor, Lance W lance@ahsaa.org
Walters, Joey.....joey@ahsaa.org

Visit the AAA website at www.ahsaa.org!

◆ Like us on Facebook ◆

◆ Follow us on Twitter ◆



Building Citizenship Through Activities Participation

Questions? Look on the AAA's homepage for direct links by subject matter.

Arkansas Activities Association Staff Responsibilities

Before calling the Arkansas Activities Association with a question or just simply seeking information, please check the listings below for the director or administrative assistant in charge of that particular sport or organization.

AAA phone number is 501-955-2500; fax number is 501-955-2600.

Accounts Payable – Jennifer Mays
Accounts Receivable – Jennifer Mays
Accounting Questions – Jennifer Mays
Active Scholar – Christyal Parker
Advertising – Bobby Swofford
AHSCA (coaches) registration/passes – Julia Harvey
AHSAAA (athletic directors) registration/passes – Gabriel Foreman
All-Star Coaches (baseball) – Don Brodell
All-Star Coaches (football, softball) – Steve Roberts
All-Star Coaches (basketball, soccer) – Joey Walters
All-Star Coaches (spirit) – Christyal Parker
All-Star Coaches (volleyball) – Nick Lasker
All-Star Secretary – Julia Harvey
AOA Registration/Records – Kristy Clark
Artwork and Design – Nicole Cunningham
Awards (medals, ribbons, plaques) – Christyal Parker
Baseball – Don Brodell
Basketball – Joey Walters
Board of Directors – Lance Taylor
Bookkeeping (accounts/school fees) – Amber Balboa / Jennifer Mays
Bowling – Christyal Parker
Bulletin – Bobby Swofford
Calendar – Christyal Parker
Certificates – Gabriel Foreman
Clinic Registration (AHSCA) – Julia Harvey
Clinic Registration (AOA) – Kristy Clark
Clinic Registration (AHSAAA) – Gabriel Foreman
Clinic Exhibitors (AHSCA/AD's) – Nicole Cunningham
Coaches Education/Registered Volunteers – Nick Lasker
Coaches Education/Registered Volunteers (records, enrollment, schedule) – Gabriel Foreman
Corporate Sponsors – Steve Roberts/Bobby Swofford
Cross Country – Nick Lasker
CSAP forms – Michelle Langley
Decathlon – Nick Lasker
Directory (school) – Bobby Swofford
Directory Production (school) – Nicole Cunningham
Eligibility – Lance Taylor, Don Brodell, Joey Walters, Nick Lasker, Steve Roberts
Ejection of Players – Don Brodell
Event Programs – Bobby Swofford
Football – Steve Roberts
Golf – Joey Walters
Graphic Reproduction/Supplies – Nicole Cunningham
Hall of Fame Program – Bobby Swofford
Hall of Fame Tickets/Reservations – Nicole Cunningham

Hardships – Lance Taylor
Heptathlon – Nick Lasker
Media – Bobby Swofford
Media Assistant – Nicole Cunningham
Meet of Champions – Nick Lasker
Non-Athletic Events – Christyal Parker
Passes (administrator, school board member, activity advisor) – Jennifer Mays
Passes (athletic director) – Gabriel Foreman
Passes (officials) – Kristy Clark
Passes (coaches) – Julia Harvey
Passes (media) – Nicole Cunningham
Passes (registered volunteer) – Gabriel Foreman
Radio Broadcast Rights – Nicole Cunningham
Registered Volunteers/Coaches Education – Nick Lasker
Sanctioning – see specific sport/activity
Schedule Book (football/basketball/volleyball) – Bobby Swofford
Scheduling Office Meeting Space – Jennifer Mays
School Kits – Christyal Parker
School membership – Jennifer Mays
Soccer – Joey Walters
Softball – Steve Roberts
Spirit – Christyal Parker
Sports Records – Bobby Swofford
Sportsmanship Awards – Christyal Parker
Supplemental Instruction Program – Christyal Parker
Swimming – Nick Lasker
T-Shirts/Event Merchandising – Christyal Parker
Television Broadcast Rights – Nicole Cunningham
Tennis – Joey Walters
Tickets/Ticket Forms – Jennifer Mays
Track and Field – Nick Lasker
Transfers – Lance Taylor
Volleyball – Nick Lasker
Webmaster – Amber Balboa
Web Site Questions – Jennifer Mays
Wrestling – Don Brodell



AAA FORMS





Arkansas Activities Association * 3920 Richards Road * North Little Rock, AR 72117
501-955-2500 * Fax 501-955-2600 or 955-2521 * www.ahsaa.org

Must be submitted
every year that this
individual coaches.

Date: _____ (Ex. 2022-2023)

HOME SCHOOL TEAM COACH VERIFICATION

EACH ACTIVE HOME SCHOOL COACH MUST BE CREDENTIALLED THROUGH THE AAA-NFHS COACHES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Completing and submitting this form states that all specified documents are ON FILE WITH THE HOME SCHOOL COACH. This form is required for each Home School Team participating against AAA member schools. **No verification forms will be accepted after APRIL 1 of the current school year.**

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Name (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name) | | Social Security Number (Mandatory) | | |
| Mailing Address | City | State | Zip | Home Telephone Number |
| School | Sports to be coached | | Email Address | |

The coach is required to have the following confirmed credentials

1. The school is required to have the following confirmed credentials prior to the individual having contact with student athletes, including practice.
2. DO NOT SEND THIS FORM UNTIL EVERYTHING IS COMPLETED.

Check to the left indicating each item is ON FILE with the Home School coach. Do not send items below to AAA.

- | | | |
|-------|---|--|
| _____ | 1 | Certificate of Completion – NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching (online at www.nfhslearn.com – state rules exam included) |
| _____ | 2 | Current Certificate of Completion – NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety (online at www.nfhslearn.com - recertification required every 2 years)* |
| _____ | 3 | Certification – CPR (recertification upon expiration) |
| _____ | 4 | Certification – AED (defibrillator - recertification upon expiration) |
| _____ | 5 | Concussion Training - NFHS Concussion Course (online at www.nfhslearn.com) |
| _____ | 6 | Heat Illness Training - available through Arkansas IDEAS at http://ideas.aetn.org/ |
| _____ | 7 | Communicable Diseases - available through Arkansas IDEAS at http://ideas.aetn.org/ |
| _____ | 8 | Sudden Cardiac Arrest (online at www.nfhslearn.com) |
| _____ | 9 | Certification of Completion - NFHS Sport Specific Fundamentals course, if available, for each sport coached |

Check the course(s) completed: (online at www.nfhslearn.com)

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Baseball |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Basketball |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Soccer |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Softball |
| _____ | Certificate of Completion - Coaching Volleyball |

I certify that all specified requirements have been completed by the above named individual and that the school has all required documentation on file at the school. I understand that documentation must be available upon request.

Signature of Home School coach _____ Date _____

email to gabriel@ahsaa.org or mail to the AAA office

Coaches Endorsement Requirements for Arkansas by category

The specified AAA required documents must be ON FILE AT THE SCHOOL and submitted through the DragonFly digital platform each year for each category. Page 1

| License Teacher (with Endorsement on teaching license) | License Teacher/Waiver from ADE and/or Competitive Spirit Team | Registered Volunteer and/or Competitive Spirit Team | Non-Competitive Spirit Team Advisor | Registered Volunteer Activities Advisor |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Concussion Training | Teaching license | Background Check (with Fingerprints) | Background Check (with Fingerprints) | Background Check (with Fingerprints) |
| Heat Illness Training | NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course | NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course | CPR and AED | CPR and AED |
| Communicable Disease Training | NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety Course | NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety Course | NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse | NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse |
| Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training | CPR and AED | NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse | NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention |
| | NFHS – Protecting Students from Abuse | NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | Concussion Training | Concussion Training |
| | NFHS – Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | CPR and AED | Heat Illness Training | Heat Illness Training |
| | Concussion Training | Concussion Training | Communicable Disease Training | Communicable Disease Training |
| | Heat Illness Training | Heat Illness Training | Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training | Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training |
| | Communicable Disease Training | Communicable Disease Training | Six hours of in-service training | Six hours of in-service training |
| | Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training | Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training | USA Cheer Spirit Safety Certification | Letter from Adm regarding representing the school in named activity |
| | NFHS Sport Specific Fundamental Course | NFHS Sport Specific Fundamental Course | | |
| | NFHS - USA Cheer Spirit Safety Certification (only if coaching Cheer) | NFHS - USA Cheer Spirit Safety Certification (only if coaching Cheer) | | |
| | | Must be 22 years of age | | |

How often must I complete the Coaches Endorsement Requirements?

| | |
|---|---|
| Background Check with Fingerprints | - Every 5 years |
| Communicable Disease Training | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| Concussion Training | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| CPR/AED Certification | - As often as certification expires (generally 1 to 2 years) |
| Heat Illness Training | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety Course | - Every 2 years- MUST be taken on NFHSLearn.com |
| NFHS Fundamental of Coaching Course | - 1 Time |
| NFHS Protecting Students from Abuse | - 1 Time |
| NFHS Sports Specific Course | - 1 Time |
| NFHS Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention | - 1 Time |
| Sudden Cardiac Arrest | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| NFHS USA Cheer Spirit Safety Certification | - Every 4 years |

CONTRACT BETWEEN SCHOOLS

DO NOT SEND TO AAA

THIS CONTRACT IS MADE AND SUBSCRIBED BY THE ADMINISTRATORS OF

| |
|---|
| _____ HIGH SCHOOL and _____ HIGH SCHOOL for _____ CONTESTS IN _____ (No. of) (Name of Sport) |
|---|

| | <u>City</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Hour</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| CONTEST #1 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| CONTEST #2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| CONTEST #3 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| CONTEST #4 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

1. The rules of the Arkansas Activities Association are a part of this contract.
2. The official eligibility list shall be entered by the schools authorized representative on the AAA website. The administration of the schools involved will be held strictly responsible for the eligibility of participating players.
3. (a) A forfeit of \$_____ shall be paid by the school failing to keep this contract. The contest shall also be forfeited to the offended school and reimbursement paid for other reasonable financial obligations.
 (b) This contract shall be automatically canceled if:
 1. Either school is suspended from AAA membership or
 2. A coach removes a team from the playing area or
 3. Either school proposes to use a player declared ineligible by the AAA but for whom an individual or group of individuals has instituted litigation to have the courts set aside the ruling of the AAA. (Restitution Rule – Penalty Section) Otherwise, this contract cannot be canceled except by mutual agreement or by the authority of the AAA board of Directors.
 4. Only officials registered with the AAA shall be used if the game is played in Arkansas. The officials employed shall be selected by mutual agreement before the beginning of the season or no later than _____ (date).

FINANCIAL TERMS: _____

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| _____ Superintendent or Principal | _____ School | _____ Date |
| _____ Superintendent or Principal | _____ School | _____ Date |

DO NOT SEND TO AAA

**OFFICIAL CONTRACT
BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND OFFICIALS**

The _____ High School and _____
(Official's Name and Address)
_____, an official registered with the Arkansas Officials Association, hereby enter into the following agreement. The said official agrees to be present and officiate _____ contest(s) as follows:

| DATE | DAY TIME | CONTEST | (Ref., Umpire Lines., Judge) | PLACE | FEE | TRAVEL |
|----------|-------------|---------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

1. The said school shall pay the said official the amount stated above for his services as an independent contractor. The obligation of the school shall cease if and when the official ceases to be registered with the Arkansas Officials Association.
2. If the contest is cancelled, the official shall be paid if he fails to secure another game on this date.
3. If the contest is postponed and re-scheduled, the official shall be given first chance at the new date; if he cannot accept the new date, this contract shall be void.
4. If this contract is made during a given school year for a contest to be played during the next school year and if, in the meantime, there is a change in the school administration, this contract may be cancelled by the incoming administrator if he does so before the start of the sports season involved.
5. This contract may be voided by mutual agreement confirmed by an exchange of correspondence between the school and official.
6. The school may cancel this contract when a schedule change becomes necessary to be in compliance with changes of regulations adopted by the AAA. The Executive Director must approve such cancellations.
7. If either party fails to fulfill the obligations of any part of the contract, that party shall pay the other party the sum of \$ _____ as damages, the remainder of the contract shall not be binding, and the breach of contract shall be reported to the Arkansas Activities Association.

Supt. / Prin. / A.D. _____ Date signed _____

Official _____ AOA Card # _____ Date signed _____

IMPORTANT!

TO: AAA Voting Representative/Athletic Directors

FROM: Lance W. Taylor, Executive Director

RE: Criteria for Changing Domiciles

The following is a suggested list of items that **may be used** to determine if parents have changed domiciles.

If the parents HAVE:

- 1) Sold their previous home
- 2) Leased or rented their previous home to a non-member of the family on a long term basis
- 3) Registered to vote in the new district
- 4) Assessed property in the new district
- 5) All records changed to the new address
- 6) Insurance covering property at the new address
- 7) Utilities including a telephone in their name at the new address
- 8) Registered automobiles and/or boats at new address
- 9) Changed their driver's license to the new address
- 10) Stopped mail delivery at the previous address
- 11) Turned off all utilities and have no furniture in the previous home
- 12) Completely severed their relationship to the previous home
- 13) Changed their church affiliation (in a new town)

The following is a suggested list of items that may indicate the parents ***have not*** made a change of domiciles.

If the parents HAVE NOT:

- 1) Sold their previous home
- 2) Leased or rented their previous home to a non-family member on a long-term basis
- 3) Changed their mailing address
- 4) Turned off their utilities or changed the name on the billing at the previous home
- 5) Insured their new address or personal property at the new address
- 6) Had a phone installed in their name at the new address
- 7) Changed their voting precinct
- 8) Changed their address on licenses
- 9) Completely severed their relationship to the previous home

NOTE: These suggested criteria are not intended to be the only means of making a determination as to a change in domiciles.

NOTE: The Arkansas individual Income Tax Booklet defines Domicile in this way "This is the place you intend to have as your permanent home, the place you intend to return to whenever you are away. You can have only one domicile".

APPLICATION FOR HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS

A waiver of the AAA eligibility rules is possible under Rule 17, Hardship Exception for Eligibility, and may be considered if conditions exist or existed causing a student to be in violation of a rule. There cannot be an exception made for the Age Rule. Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive. Documentation and correspondence must be through the voting representative of the school.

Please complete the form below and furnish the additional information needed to develop acceptable proof that the student should be considered for this waiver.

1. Name of student _____
2. School applying for exception _____
Address _____
3. Name of supt./principal applying for exception _____
Phone Number _____
4. List the name, address and phone number of last school attended and principal's name if a transfer student

5. For which rule are you requesting an exception? (Check One):
Residence/Transfer _____ **Semester** _____ **Scholarship** _____ **Drop Out** _____
6. Include a transcript and attendance record.
7. Include a brief narrative explaining the situation and why you feel this student should be considered for the exception. Keep in mind the items on the back that must be considered in granting such an exception.
8. Include written statements from individuals that have **personal knowledge** of the facts. We need those persons in authoritative positions such as; school officials, including principals, superintendents, counselors, etc., doctors, social workers, employers, ministers, etc. Include their names and phone numbers.
9. Include written statements from the parents and provide their address and phone number.
10. If necessary can you bring the student to the AAA office for a personal interview?
_____Yes _____No

Signature of Superintendent or Principal

Date

Rule 17. HARDSHIP EXCEPTIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY. Upon petition from a student's school administrator, the Executive Director is authorized to waive the requirements of all eligibility rules except the age rule if the school develops acceptable proof based on the stated criteria for a hardship waiver. Hardships must be applied for and approved by the Executive Director before a student participates in interscholastic competition. Hardships shall not be retroactive. Documentation and correspondence must be through the voting representative of the school.

A. Domicile Exceptions.

1. After an investigation, a court of law has removed the student from the parents or guardians and subsequently assigned the student a place of domicile.
2. The student is an orphan or there is no record of the parent's whereabouts.
3. The student's parents are out-of-state residents and the student is attending school in a school district where the parents maintain a legal domicile (military, etc.).
4. The student's parent(s) have abrogated their responsibility toward the student as parents.
5. The student's parent's employment requires absence from home great portions of the time the student is at home, and the parent has arranged domicile with relatives or friends for the purpose of supervision.
6. The student is married and living with a spouse, has a parent with domicile in the school district or a spouse who had an established domicile in the district one year prior to the marriage.
7. A student who has lived three continuous years at any time as a bona fide member of a family may establish the family heads as substitute parents with respect to the domicile rule.
8. An extreme and unusual circumstance exists that is no fault of the student or the parents. Example: Extreme medical or psychiatric conditions

NOTE 1: *The Executive Director is authorized to specify limitations or contingency conditions as needed when giving approvals, to ensure that such student shall not be induced to another school district or played under the pretense of being eligible should the eligibility status change.*

NOTE 2: *The petition shall not be authorized if the director obtains reliable information that the student is transferring to the petitioning school primarily for athletic purposes or as a result of inducement or recruitment.*

NOTE 3: *If a AAA member school drops a declared varsity team sport in which they participated in during the previous year, the domicile requirement may be waived and the students may become eligible to participate in the same varsity team sport at the nearest AAA member public school of the parent's domicile that offers the sport provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements. The student must attend and stay enrolled in all academic courses at their current assigned school. Due to the Same Sport Same Season rule, this exception does not apply if a member school drops a varsity team sport during the sport season. If the student's current assigned school resumes the sport the following year, the student must return to their current assigned school to participate.*

B. Exception To Other Eligibility Requirements.

1. **School Attendance Prevented.** There has been an extreme and unusual circumstance that is no fault of the student, the parent, or the school that has prevented school attendance sufficient to cause that student to be in violation of the dropout rule or the scholarship rule or the semester rule.
2. **Non-Recommended Courses.** The student has been identified as being in need of special education or other special programs of study as authorized by the Arkansas Department of Education regulation but is subsequently required by the school to participate in non-recommended courses.

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (CSAP Form)

Previous School (Home District or Nonpublic)

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that to the best of my knowledge _____ was not recruited
Name of Student

or is not changing school for athletic purposes. Student's Grade level in school _____

Superintendent's Signature Date

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (CSAP Form)

Receiving School/New School

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that _____ was not recruited or is not attending this
Name of Student

school for athletic reasons.

Superintendent's Signature Date

Revised 6-2023

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (CSAP Form)

Parent Form

I _____ parent of _____
Parent Name of student

do stipulate that _____ was not recruited by or is not attending
Name of student

_____ because of athletics.
Name of school

Parent's signature Date

Witnessed by: Notary or School Superintendent

Signature Date

(CSAP form must be signed by a notary or the superintendent of the receiving school.)

In accordance with ACT 768 of 2023, the following guidelines apply for CSAP forms:

- CSAP forms have to be completed in full and filed with the receiving district and AAA before the student is eligible.
- CSAP forms may only be used for the eligibility of public school students who are enrolled in the receiving school by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-12.
- CSAP forms may only be used for the eligibility of boarding school students who are enrolled in the receiving school by July 1 before a student enters grades 7-10.

Revised 6-2023

Schools\csapform.doc

JUNIOR / SUB-VARSITY

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (JV CSAP Form)

Previous School (Home District or Nonpublic)

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that to the best of my knowledge _____ was not recruited
Name of Student

or is not changing school for athletic purposes.

Superintendent's Signature Date

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION (JV CSAP Form)

Receiving School/New School

I _____ of _____
Superintendent School

stipulate that _____ was not recruited or is not attending this
Name of Student

school for athletic reasons.

Superintendent's Signature Date

New 6-2023

JUNIOR / SUB-VARSITY

CHANGING SCHOOLS/ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

(JV CSAP Form)

Parent Form

I _____ parent of _____
Parent Name of student

do stipulate that _____ was not recruited by or is not attending
Name of student

_____ because of athletics.
Name of school

Parent's signature Date

Witnessed by: Notary or School Superintendent

Signature

Date

(CSAP form must be signed by a notary or superintendent of the receiving school.)

- CSAP forms have to be completed and filed with the receiving district and AAA.

ATHLETIC RELEASE FORM

An **Athletic Release Form** must be completed prior to a student attending or participating in a camp, clinic, private or group instruction/training, or on a non-school team that is organized, led, or coached by any person affiliated with a AAA member school other than the school in which the student is currently enrolled. The Head Coach of each school team is responsible for ensuring every coach, registered volunteer or anyone who assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of the school team completes this form prior to working with any student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school. Failure to complete this form prior to working with a student who is not enrolled in your school or feeder school may result in the school being placed on warning, probation or suspension and/or fined up to \$200.

*** PLEASE FILE A COPY & SEND A COPY TO THE AAA OFFICE ***

_____ who is enrolled as a student at _____
(Name of Student) (School)

is released to attend/participate in an activity, as described above with

_____ of _____
(Coach or Person Affiliated) (AAA Member School)

_____ (Coach Requesting Permission) _____ (Administrator of Requesting School)

_____ (Coach of Releasing School) _____ (Administrator of Releasing School)

(Parent or legal guardian of student athlete)

Effective Start Date _____ Effective End Date _____

Article III, Section 1, Rule 1, I. Non-School Coach. A coach, registered volunteer, or anyone who has assisted in any capacity with the coaching or training of a school team (within the last 365 days) who also coaches a non-school team or assists in any capacity with the coaching or training of a non-school team, organized program, or individual training (within the last 365 days) is defined as a non-school coach. A school that allows a student to participate who has transferred, moved or for any reason is attending a new school where the student's non-school coach is a school coach is subject to action against the school through one of the following penalties: warning, probation, suspension, or expulsion.



Arkansas Activities Association Sports Medicine Fact Sheet for Parents and Students

This document has been created by the Arkansas Activities Association Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. The committee's mission is to ensure Arkansas Activities Association member schools provide sound and consistent medical information to enhance the safety of their athletic programs. The AAA Sports Medicine Committee is committed to offering information and guidance to member schools on topics which impact the welfare of all those involved in interscholastic competition. The topics included in this fact sheet are: Exertional Heat Stroke, MRSA, Concussion, and Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The following pages contain important sports medicine information for parents and students. Please read the information and sign to acknowledge that you have received and reviewed the information.



Arkansas Activities Association Exertional Heat Stroke Facts

WHAT IS EXERTIONAL HEAT STROKE

Heat stroke is a severe heat illness that occurs when a child's body creates more heat than it can release, due to the strain of exercising. This results in a rapid increase in core body temperature, which can lead to permanent disability or even death if left untreated.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF HEAT STROKE

- Increase in core body temperature, usually above 104°F/40°C (rectal temperature)
- Central nervous system dysfunction, such as altered consciousness, seizures, confusion, emotional instability, irrational behavior or decreased mental acuity.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Headache, dizziness or weakness
- Hot and wet or dry skin
- Increased heart rate, decreased blood pressure or fast breathing
- Dehydration
- Combativeness

TREATMENT

- Locate medical personnel immediately. Remove extra clothing or equipment. Begin aggressively whole-body cooling by immersing in tub of cold water. If a tub is not available, use alternative cooling methods such as cold water fans, ice or cold towels (replaced frequently), placed over as much of the body as possible
- Call emergency medical services for transport to nearest emergency medical facility.

WHEN SHOULD I PLAY AGAIN?

No one who has suffered heat stroke should be allowed to return until appropriate healthcare personnel approves and gives specific return to play instructions. Parents should work with medical professionals to rule out or treat any other conditions or illnesses that may cause continued problems with heat stroke. Return to physical activity should be done slowly, under the supervision of appropriate healthcare professionals.



Arkansas Activities Association MRSA Facts

WHAT IS MRSA

MRSA is methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, a potentially dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics and may cause skin and other infections. As with all regular staph infections, recognizing the signs and receiving treatment for MRSA skin infections in the early stages reduces the chances of the infection becoming severe. MRSA is spread by: having contact with another person's infections, sharing personal items such as towels or razors, that have touched infected skin, touching surfaces or items, such as used bandages, contaminated with MRSA.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS MRSA

Most staph skin infections, including MRSA, appear as a bump or infected area on the skin that may be:

- Red
- Swollen
- Painful
- Warm to the touch
- Full of pus or other drainage
- Accompanied by fever.

WHAT IF I SUSPECT MRSA SKIN INFECTION

Cover the area with a bandage and contact your healthcare professional. It is especially important to contact your healthcare professional if signs and symptoms of an MRSA skin infections are accompanied by fever.

HOW ARE MRSA SKIN INFECTIONS TREATED

Treatment may include having a healthcare professional drain the infection and, in some cases, prescribe an antibiotic. Do not attempt to drain the infection yourself— doing so could worsen or spread it to others. If you are given an antibiotic, be sure to take all of the doses (even if the infection is getting better), unless your healthcare professional tells you to stop taking it.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY FAMILY FROM MRSA SKIN INFECTIONS

- Know the signs and symptoms
- Get treated early
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean
- Encourage good hygiene
- Clean hands regularly
- Discourage sharing personal items such as towels and razors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL

1-800-CDC-INFO OR visit www.cdc.gov/MRSA



Arkansas Activities Association Concussion Facts

WHAT IS A CONCUSSION

A concussion is an injury that changes how the cells in the brain normally work. A concussion is caused by a blow to the head or body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. Even a “ding,” “getting your bell rung,” or what seems to be mild bump or blow to the head can be serious. Concussions can also result from a fall or from players colliding with each other or with obstacles, such as a goalpost.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION

Observed by the Athlete

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Bothered by light
- Bothered by noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Difficulty paying attention
- Memory Problems
- Confusion
- Does not “feel right”

Observed by the Parent / Guardian, Coach, or Teammate

- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows behavior or personality changes
- Can’t recall events after hit or fall
- Appears dazed or stunned

WHAT TO DO IF SIGNS/SYMPTOMS OF A CONCUSSION ARE PRESENT

Athlete

- TELL YOUR COACH IMMEDIATELY
- Inform parents
- Seek medical attention
- Give your self time to recover

Parent / Guardian

- Seek medical attention
- Keep your child out of play
- Discuss play to return to play with coach
- Address academic needs

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

- Center for Disease Control
www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadUp/youth.html
- NFHS Free Concussion Course
<http://nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=15000>

RETURN TO PLAY GUIDELINES

1. Remove immediately from activity when signs/symptoms are present.
2. Release from medical professional required for return (Neuropsychologist, MD, DO, Nurse Practitioner, Certified Athletic Trainer, or Physician Assistant)
3. Follow school district’s return to play guidelines and protocol



Arkansas Activities Association Sudden Cardiac Facts

WHAT IS 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. The information presented below is to provide you with the knowledge you need to help the coach keep your child safe at practices and games.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

- Fainting or seizures during exercise
- Unexplained shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Dizziness
- Racing heart beat
- Extreme fatigue

GUIDELINES FOR REMOVAL OF A STUDENT FROM ACTIVITY

- Every coach and registered volunteer must receive training every three years on prevention of sudden cardiac death.
- Every athlete and parent must read and sign the AAA Sports Medicine Fact Sheet containing information on sudden cardiac arrest.
- Any athlete experiencing syncope (fainting), chest pains, shortness of breath that is out of proportion to their level of activity or an irregular heart rate should not return to practice or play until evaluated by an appropriate healthcare professional (MD, DO, APN, Certified Athletic Trainer).
- The referred athlete must be medically cleared by an appropriate healthcare professional prior to return to play/practice.

SIGNATURES

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the attached AAA Sports Medicine Fact Sheet for Athletes and Parents. I also acknowledge and I understand the risks of injuries associated with participation in school athletic activity.

Athlete's Signature

Print Name

Date

Parent / Guardian Signature

Print Name

Date

MEDICAL RELEASE FOR GRADUATED RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL

Student Name _____ Date of Birth _____ Grade _____ Date of Injury _____

Sport Injury Details _____

Student is cleared to initiate and proceed through the protocol as detailed below after a full day of normal activity with no symptoms. Follow the gradual and progressive steps of the training sequence below. There should be at least 24 hours between each step. If any symptoms return at any time during these activities, stop the workout. Rest until symptom-free for 24 hours then return to the previous asymptomatic step. If symptoms return or worsen, seek medical attention.

Other information _____

Completed by (print name) _____ Signature _____ Date _____

_____ Neuropsychologist _____ MD _____ DO _____ Nurse Practitioner _____ Certified Athletic Trainer _____ Physicians Assistant _____

GRADUATED RETURN TO PLAY PROTOCOL / SUPERVISED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL

| STEP | DATE COMPLETED | ACTIVITY | COMMENTS |
|--|----------------|--|----------|
| 1. Light general conditioning exercises (Goal: Increase heart rate). | | *Begin with sport specific warmup. Do 15-20 minute workout: stationary bicycle, fast paced walking or light jogging, rowing or freestyle swimming *Attend full day of school if in session. | |
| 2. Moderate general conditioning and sport specific skill work; individually (Goal: add movement, individual skill work). | | *Sport specific warm-up. Slowly increase intensity and duration of workout 20-30minutes. Begin sport specific skill work within the workout. No spins, dives or jumps. *Attend full day of school if in session. | |
| 3. Heavy general conditioning, skill work; individually & with teammate. NO CONTACT. (Goal: Add movement, teammate skill work). | | *Continue with general conditioning up to 60 minutes. Increase intensity and duration. Begin interval training -Continue individual skill work -Begin skill work with partner-no contact. -Continue with individual skill work as in Step 2. *Attend full day of school if in session. | |
| 4. Heavy general conditioning, skill work and team drills. No live scrimmages. VERY LIGHT CONTACT (Goal: Team skill work, light static contact). | | *Resume regular conditioning and duration of practice. -Increase interval training and skill work as required -Gradually increase skill level of spins, dives, jumps -Review team plays with no contact. -Very light contact and low intensity on dummies *Attend full day of school if in session. | |
| 5. Full team practice with body contact | | *Participate in a full practice. If a full practice is completed, discuss with the coach about getting back in next game. *Attend full day of school if in session. | |

I verify Graduated Return to Play Protocol has been completed. Signature _____ Date _____

**Request for Waiver of Academic Standards for
Senior High Eligibility for Student
Participation in Competitive Interscholastic Activities**

The local School Board of _____ High School, by way of this form and the required attachments, requests a waiver to the Arkansas Activities Association Standard for Senior High Eligibility for Student Participation in Competitive Interscholastic Activities by establishing a supplemental instruction program as set forth in the rules and regulations adopted by the Arkansas Activities Association on July 22, 2002.

The required school plan for establishing and implementing a supplemental instruction program must be included with this waiver form.

In order for the waiver request to be considered, the following signatures are required as assurances that the program is designed and will be implemented according to the established Arkansas Activities Association rules and regulations.

The coordinator must be a state-certified classroom teacher.

SIP Coordinator Name

SIP Coordinator Email

SIP Coordinator Phone Number

The following signatures also certify that an official copy of this rules and regulations has been given to all sponsors of interscholastic competitive activities.

School Board President Signature

Date

Superintendent Signature

Date

High School Principal Signature

Date

Ejection Appeal Form

May be filed by mail, fax or email.

Name of Athlete Ejected _____ School _____

Date of Ejection _____ Sport _____ Opponent _____

School's Authorized Representative/Position _____

Referee(s) _____

Description of Ejection

Ejection Appeal – An appeal of ejection must be filed through the **school's authorized representative** in writing on the ejection appeal form to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will review the video on the next business day after the appeal is filed. A ruling on the appeal will be made within three business days of the filing. The ruling of the Executive Director or designee is final and may not be appealed to the Board of Directors. All periods of ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect until such time that a ruling is rendered by the Executive Director or designee in writing. The school's authorized representative must also provide video or access to the video specific to the ejection. Video from outside sources may be utilized but must be submitted through the school's authorized representative.

Video Review

Only video involving an ejection may be reviewed.

Reviewable ejections are limited to physical actions.

Video review may be used to properly identify and eject the participant in a situation where it is possible that misidentification occurred.

Video review may be used to identify participants in situations involving multiple participants involved in a fight, confrontation or ejection where circumstances prevent accurate reporting of the individuals involved. This could include identifying and ejecting individuals not previously identified or reported, including contest participants, non-participants, or coaches who enter the playing area during the incident.

Video review may be used to assess the level of involvement in an incident.

Video review must provide indisputable evidence to overturn the ejection.

School's Authorized Representative Signature

Email

Date

Action by AAA

Appeal Approved _____ Appeal Denied _____

AAA Representative _____ Date _____

INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

(To be included with the list of eligible athletes)

Please complete all blanks

NOTE: Foreign students in a recognized exchange program may be eligible only the first year they are in the U.S.

Name of Student _____ Date of Birth _____
First Middle Last

Current grade in school _____ Last date of attendance at home school _____

Has student graduated in his home country? YES _____ NO _____

Student enrolled on the first day of classes in our school? YES _____ NO _____

Has student previously attended school in the U.S.? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, when? _____ and where? _____

Does student meet all AAA eligibility requirements other than residence? YES _____ NO _____

Name of sponsoring organization (Check one)

NOTE: Students must be participating in an exchange program on the approved list of the Council on Students for International Educational Travel (CSIET).

_____ AFS _____ YFU _____ ROTARY

_____ Other (please list the organization with name, address and phone number of contact person)

Indicate the type of VISA issued to student F-1 _____ J-1 _____ Other _____

NOTE: If the student is not participating in one of the programs listed in the CSIET, give the reason for attendance in a U.S. school: _____

Signed (Superintendent or Principal) _____ School _____ Date _____



SPORTSMANSHIP MANUAL

A

A

A



Arkansas Activities Association
3920 Richards Road
North Little Rock, AR 72117
Phone: 501-955-2500 • Fax: 501-955-2600
www.ahsaa.org

The Arkansas Activities Association is committed to promoting the ideals of sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics at all levels of interscholastic competition. It is the responsibility of each member school to establish policies for sportsmanship and ethical conduct consistent with the educational mission and goals of that school and to continually educate students, coaches, teachers, parents, and all involved about those policies.

A. **General**

1. The Arkansas Activities Association defines sportsmanship as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others.
2. Good sportsmanship is abiding by the rules of a contest and accepting victory or defeat graciously and to treat opponents with fairness and courtesy.
3. Interscholastic activities are an integral part of the educational curriculum and experience.
4. Education based activities provide an arena for participants to grow, to excel, to understand, and to value the concepts of sportsmanship. They provide an opportunity for coaches and school staff to teach citizenship, to build school pride, and to increase student involvement which translates into improved academic performance.
5. **Sportsmanship must be taught, modeled, expected, and reinforced in all education based activities.**
6. Removing a team from a contest which causes the event to be ended prematurely for any reason other than an emergency is prohibited. A coach who orders any team to cease play before an interscholastic event is completed unless agreed upon by both schools' administrations shall be suspended for the next comparable event.
7. Schools hosting events shall require officials such as scorers, judges, etc. to exhibit fairness by accomplishing their responsibilities in a competent manner without exhibiting emotion or becoming argumentative while observing recommendations of the AAA and AOA.
8. A student, coach, or spectator who physically assaults an official shall be expelled from the activity immediately and banned from further participation or coaching in all sports for one year from the date of the offense.
9. Any school representative who publicly criticizes an event official or an event official who publicly criticizes the performance of a school representative shall be subject to a penalty issued by the Arkansas Activities Association that could include warning, suspension, or probation. Public comments include all media outlets and social media platforms.

B. **Administrators**

1. Teach that secondary school activities are a vital part of the educational experience.
2. Have a plan for teaching, emphasizing, promoting and supporting good sportsmanship.
3. Should be alert and prepared to confront unsportsmanlike actions as they arise and are prepared to expel and/or prosecute any person who commits a misdemeanor or criminal act under the statutes of Arkansas or when such action at an event constitutes unsportsmanlike conduct.
4. Should prepare in advance to ensure proper seating arrangements for opposing students, support groups and fans to minimize potential conflicts.
5. Attend events and serve as a role model of good sportsmanship.
6. Communicate expectations regarding acceptable behavior before and during an event.
7. Maintain control of spectators, students and support groups.
8. Provide a safe environment for all education based activities.
9. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.
10. Maintain a safe environment for officials from the time they arrive until they have departed.

C. **Coaches**

1. Head Coaches are responsible for the conduct of all persons in the bench, sideline, or team area.
2. Should exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership in support of the

mission of education based activities. .

3. Maintain strict adherence to the rules of the game.
4. Exercise self-control in a competitive environment..
5. Shall not publicly criticize game officials.
6. Shall not display antics clearly designed to incite the crowd in a negative manner.
7. Demonstrate that you care about all students, not just your own students.
8. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.

D. **Student-Athletes**

1. Exercise self-control in a competitive environment.
2. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
3. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.
4. Avoid offensive gestures or language.
5. Show respect for public property and equipment.
6. Understand that the sportsmanship expectations extend from pre-game through post-game interactions.

E. **Spectators**

1. Engage in positive encouragement and support of their team without being rude, negative or derogatory to opponents.
2. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools.
3. Shall not wear full face paint or mask. Small logos or insignias are allowed.
4. Shall not wear derogatory or suggestive slogans on apparel.
5. Stay off the playing area.
6. Shall not participate in negative, demeaning, or obscene yells.
7. Show respect for public property and equipment.
8. Must wear shirts. No bare chests are permitted.
9. Shall not throw any objects on the playing area.

F. **Support Groups (Band, Cheer, Dance, PEP, etc.)**

1. Engage in positive encouragement and support of their team without being rude, negative or derogatory to opponents.
2. Demonstrate respect and appreciation for game officials and the difficulty of the jobs they perform for our schools
3. Shall not participate in negative, demeaning, or obscene yells.
4. Show respect for public property and equipment.
5. Arrange performance times and expectations in advance.

G. **Officials**

1. Should embrace the competitive nature of the activity and demonstrate respect for all participants.
2. Should accept your role in an unassuming manner.
3. Should know the rules and apply them equitably at all times.
4. Should never show emotion, or argue with a player, coach or fan.

H. **Outdoor Venues**

1. Bands are not to be used to disrupt an opponent's play. At football games, bands and any component thereof, shall not play when either team is inside the twenty yard line.
2. The use of school controlled sound systems and school controlled noisemakers shall be restricted to pregame, halftime, postgame, after a score and timeouts.
3. The use of individual handheld noisemakers that do not require an external power source is allowed.
4. No handheld signs or balloons are allowed.

I. **Indoor Venues**

1. Bands, school controlled sound systems and school controlled noisemakers shall be

restricted to pregame, between quarters or sets, halftime, postgame and timeouts.

2. The use of artificial noisemakers is not allowed.
3. No handheld signs, balloons, poms, towels, megaphones, etc. are allowed.
4. Poms properly used by school spirit squads are allowed.

J. Public Address Announcers

1. Announcers shall not attempt to be bigger than the game or event by doing play-by-play or by providing commentary in an effort to draw attention to themselves.
2. Announcers shall understand that cheers and antics designed to incite the crowd for the purpose of gaining an advantage are inappropriate.
3. Announcers shall promote good sportsmanship by what they say and how they act.
4. Announcers shall treat the opponents and their fans as guests, not the enemy.
5. Announcers shall respect the individuals who are responsible for the conduct and administration of athletic games and events, such as coaches, officials, and administrators, and avoid making any comments that reflect positively or negatively on them.
6. Announcers shall be competent. This means following approved announcing guidelines, expectations and policies, such as emergency procedures, provided by the administration or the host facility.
7. Announcers shall be prepared, such as being familiar with the correct pronunciations of the participants' names, knowing the rules of the sport, the officials' signals and how the game is played.
8. Announcers shall exhibit professional behavior and represent their school, organization or association with respect and dignity at all times by what they say, how they act, and how they appear.

EJECTIONS

- A. A participant/coach/administrator/spectator is prohibited from participation and/or attendance (see notes 1, 2, and 3 below) from the point of ejection plus:
 1. Football — next four (4) consecutive full quarters of comparable events.
 2. All other sports — next comparable event
- B. Second offense in same season:
 1. Football – next eight consecutive full quarters of comparable events.
 2. All other sports – next two comparable events.
- C. Third offense in same season: Prohibited from participation for the remainder of same sport season and school placed on probation or warning. If there are fewer than 3 comparable games remaining in the season, the prohibition of participation carries over to the next same sport season to total at least 3 games.

Comparable event is defined as an event in the same sport that has already been scheduled and is at the same level of competition. If ejected from a varsity event, penalty shall be served at the next scheduled varsity event in that sport. If ejected from a JV event, penalty shall be served at the next scheduled JV event in that sport. If ejected from a benefit game, penalty shall be served at the next scheduled benefit game in that sport.

NOTE 1: Any student-athlete who is ejected may attend but may not participate in the next comparable event in that sport while serving the ejection penalty.

NOTE 2: Any coach who is ejected may not be present at the next comparable event venue or perform any coaching duties during the comparable event in that sport while serving the ejection penalty.

NOTE 3: Any spectator who is ejected may not attend the next comparable event in that

sport while serving the ejection penalty.

Ejection Appeal

An appeal of ejection must be filed through the school's authorized representative in writing on the ejection appeal form to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will review writing on the ejection appeal form to the Executive Director. The Executive Director or designee will review the video on the next business day after the appeal is filed. A ruling on the appeal will be made within three business days of the filing. The ruling of the Executive Director or designee is final and may not be appealed to the Board of Directors. All periods of ineligibility (suspensions) remain in effect until such time that a ruling is rendered by the Executive Director or designee in writing. The school's authorized representative must also provide video or access to the video specific to the ejection. Video from outside sources may be utilized but must be submitted through the school's authorized representative. Submitted video should include only clips specific to the ejection. Full game films submitted will not be reviewed.

Video Review

- Only video involving an ejection may be reviewed.
- Reviewable ejections are limited to physical actions.
- Video review may be used to properly identify and eject any participant in a situation where it is possible that misidentification occurred.
- Video review may be used to properly identify participants in situations involving multiple participants involved in a fight, confrontation or ejection where circumstances prevent accurate reporting of the individuals involved. This could include identifying and ejecting individuals not previously identified or reported, including contest participants, non-participants, or coaches who enter the playing area during the incident.
- Video review may be used to assess the level of involvement in an incident.
- Video review must provide indisputable evidence to overturn the ejection.

Penalty for any violation of the sportsmanship manual may include forfeiture, warning, probation or suspension.

EJECTION-FREE CERTIFICATES

A worthwhile goal for every school athletic program is to conclude the season ejection-free. This is a matter of good sportsmanship and pride to the school administration and the individuals involved in that sports program. The Arkansas Activities Association believes this accomplishment should be encouraged and recognized. With the help of the member schools this can be done.

What to do: When any sports team concludes the season without any ejections being assessed to a coach, participant, school official, parent or other fan, the school submits the request form for an "Ejection-Free Certificate" for a specific sport. The request may be submitted by the coach but must also be signed by a school administrator (superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal or assistant principal) or by the athletic director.

Ejection-free programs requesting certificates will be recognized in the AAA Bulletin.

Mail the request to:

Sportsmanship: Ejection-Free
Arkansas Activities Association
3920 Richards Road
North Little Rock, AR 72117

OR

E-mail request to:

christyal@ahsaa.org

Best wishes for a productive school year and many ejection-free seasons!

Sample Certificate



EJECTION-FREE CERTIFICATE REQUEST

What to do: When any varsity sports team concludes the season without any ejections being assessed to a coach, participant, school official, parent or other fan, the school submits this request form for an “Ejection-Free Certificate” for a specific sport . The request may be submitted by the coach but must also be signed by a school administrator (superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal or assistant principal) or by the athletic director.

AOA registered team sports include: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling

SCHOOL _____

SPORT _____

CHECK ONE: ☐ BOYS ☐ GIRLS

Administrator's Signature

Date

Mail to

Sportsmanship: Ejection-Free
Arkansas Activities Association
3920 Richards Road
North Little Rock, AR 72117

OR

E-mail request to:
christyal@ahsaa.org

ACADEMIC STATE CHAMPIONS

The Academic State Championships recognize teams in football, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls track, softball, baseball, volleyball, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls golf, boys and girls swimming, boys and girls bowling, boys and girls wrestling, competitive cheer, and competitive dance who have achieved academically. It is based on each team member's cumulative grade point average for the most recent official grading period. The team with the highest grade point average in each sport will receive a banner to display in their school.

Academic State Champions will be determined by the following procedure:

1. List every student who participated at the **varsity** level by the reporting date in each sport. All students who participate in a varsity contest at any time during the season are considered varsity athletes. Only **full** teams in each sport will be considered for the award
2. List each student's cumulative GPA figured on a **standard 4.0 scale**. Include the last full grading period in which credit was earned.
3. Round GPAs off to the nearest **thousandth** — Example: 3.255, , not to exceed 4.0
4. Complete and submit applications to the AAA before the deadline for each season.
5. Use a separate form for each sport. Do not combine girls and boys teams. The form must be signed by both the coach and principal.
6. In individual sports, a minimum of **four (4)** team members will be required to be eligible for the award.

DEADLINES

Fall Sports — January 15

Winter Sports — April 1

Spring Sports — June 15

Failure to follow the above guidelines will automatically disqualify a team.

E-mail application to:
Christyal@ahsaa.org



ACADEMIC STATE CHAMPIONS APPLICATION

The Academic State Champions in each AAA-approved sport will be determined by the team's average GPA. To be considered for an academic state championship, the school must submit each team member's **cumulative grade point average (unweighted, standard 4.0 scale)** for the most recent official grading period. Team GPAs must be submitted on this form. The team with the highest grade point average in each sport will receive a banner to display in their school

SCHOOL _____

CLASSIFICATION _____ CONFERENCE _____

SPORT _____

| PLAYER'S NAME | GPA |
|---------------|-----|
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| PLAYER'S NAME | GPA |
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| 49. | |
| 50. | |

| PLAYER'S NAME | GPA |
|---------------|-----|
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| PLAYER'S NAME | GPA |
|---------------|-----|
| 81. | |
| 82. | |
| 83. | |
| 84. | |
| 85. | |
| 86. | |
| 87. | |
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| 109. | |
| 110. | |

A. Total of GPA column _____

B. Number of players listed _____

C. $A \div B =$ _____ Team's Average GPA

Coach's Signature _____

Date _____

Principal's Signature _____



SPORTSMANSHIP PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sample Pre-Game Announcements:

Good evening. (Name of school) welcomes you to (name of stadium/field/gymnasium) for tonight's game. We remind you that interscholastic events are an extension of the classroom, and that lessons are best learned when respect is shown to all. Please, let your good sportsmanship show during the game. And now let's meet the starting lineups...

Good evening. (Name of school) welcomes you to (name of stadium/field/gymnasium) for tonight's game. One of the goals of high school athletics is learning lifetime values. Sportsmanship is one such value that makes these games an educational experience. Remember, be a good sport! And now let's meet the starting lineups...

Good evening. (School name) welcomes you to today's game between (team names). The educational value of this event is more important than its outcome. Respect for others, including opponents and officials, is one of those values. So, please be a Good Sport today—the teams are counting on it! And now let's meet the starting lineups...

We are pleased to welcome you this evening to (name of school). Good sportsmanship is one of the primary purposes of the high school interscholastic athletic program. Our athletes recognize that judgment calls are made in good faith and that they must abide by the decisions of the officials. Spectators can support their high school interscholastic program by refraining from derogatory or intemperate remarks or cheers. We hope you will enjoy the game and support your athletes in a positive and sportsmanlike manner. And now let's meet the starting lineups...

This competition is being played according to the rules of the Arkansas Activities Association. These rules provide for fair competition among players. Spectators can help promote good sportsmanship by observing the rules of fair play. Everyone is requested to take a personal responsibility for keeping this game at a high level of fair, clean, wholesome competition by exhibiting good sportsmanship.

Ladies and gentlemen, in the spirit of sportsmanship, (name of school) and the Arkansas Activities Association ask that all fans act responsibly and courteously to those around you. Vulgar, abusive, or demeaning language or disorderly conduct is unacceptable and unwelcome at (name of school). Let's afford the student-athletes, coaches, officials, and your fellow fans the respect they deserve. The throwing of objects on the playing area is strictly prohibited. (Name of school) stands for class and dignity and your help is appreciated in carrying on this great tradition.

Sample announcements for use after lineups are introduced—introduce officials

The officials for tonight's game are (names of officials). These individuals are registered by the Arkansas Officials Association. Their experience qualifies them to administer the rules of the game. An attitude of good sportsmanship should be upheld by all spectators, players, and coaches, no matter what their personal feelings or loyalties may be in this contest.

Sample announcement after the National Anthem

The team, coaches, cheerleaders, student body, and fans of _____ High School extend to each of you a big welcome! We are pleased that you could be here (tonight/today) as our guests. _____ High School and _____ High School are members of the Arkansas Activities Association and abide by the rules and regulations as set forth by the association to maintain and improve high standards of conduct, competition, and relations with member schools. These are high school athletes who are performing here (tonight/today). They are friendly rivals as members of opposing teams; they are not enemies. This basically is the theme of interscholastic activities...the idea of friendly competition. This attitude of sportsmanship should be reflected by all spectators, no matter what their personal feelings of loyalty may be to one of the other teams in (tonight's/today's) contest.

Sample In-game Announcements

Please remember that sportsmanship is a top priority of our school and the Arkansas Activities Association. Your admission to this event entitles you to enjoy the skills of our student-athletes in an educational setting. Please give all athletes your positive support and encouragement. Booing, taunting, or derogatory remarks directed towards opponents and/or officials is unsportsmanlike and unacceptable.

Admission to interscholastic events is a privilege, and with that privilege comes responsibility—responsibility to conduct oneself that keeps the game an enjoyable experience for everyone. (Name of school) reminds you to practice good sportsmanship at all times.

As members of the Arkansas Activities Association, we remind you that the educational objectives of our school, which include the development of good sportsmanship, are a top priority. Your support of the values of respect and good citizenship is appreciated.

Fans, did you know that good sportsmanship equals good performance? High school athletes know it. Fans in the stands applaud it. Respect for players, coaches, fans, and officials sends a message athletes carry with them on and off the field of competition. Let's support our team with good sportsmanship.

Win or lose, the name of the game is sportsmanship in high school athletics. "Good sports are winners no matter what the score" is the lesson learned on the playing field and in the stands. Support high school athletics with good sportsmanship.

Good sports are winners, no matter what the score. And good sportsmanship is everyone's responsibility. You keep the standards high and the game enjoyable for all by showing respect for players, coaches, and officials. (Name of school) thanks you for being good sports.

Coaches Endorsement Requirements for Arkansas by category

The specified AAA required documents must be ON FILE AT THE SCHOOL and submitted through the DragonFly digital platform each year for each category.

Page 2

How often must I complete the Coaches Endorsement Requirements?

| | |
|--|--|
| Background Check with Fingerprints | - Every 5 years |
| Communicable Disease Training | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| Concussion Training | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| CPR/AED Certification | - As often as certification expires (generally 1 to 2 years) |
| Heat Illness Training | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| NFHS First Aid, Health and Safety Course | - Every 2 years |
| NFHS Fundamental of Coaching Course | - 1 Time |
| NFHS Sports Specific Course | - 1 Time |
| Sudden Cardiac Arrest | - Every 3 years (State Law) |
| USA Cheer Spirit Safety Certification (all cheer coaches/advisors) | - Every 4 years |